

Missoula Loves Their Glacier States Bodybuilding Competitions



MISSOULA, MT

- As I crossed the state line into Montana,

huge dark mountains dusted with

powdery snow greeted me. With a stomach that was hungry for food, they reminded me of chocolate bundt cakes drizzled with icing.

Excitement was all through the air in the city of Missoula on Saturday, September 25, 2004 as the World Federation of Natural Athletes (WFNA) hosted their Glacier States Natural Bodybuilding and Figure Competition at the University of Montana. This was a pro qualifier so the competitors came with one goal in mind, beat the competition and move a step closer to Pro level. The evenings events were emceed by the talented, witty, and often humorous, Jerry McGowan, who looked classy in his tux and knew how to work a crowd.

The Novice Division started the show with two very energetic competitors, Clarence Burns and Justin Stands. Both young men looked impressive for their first time out. Justin sported size while Clarence displayed more striations. They gave each other a run for their money and they would have to work for a victory. The winner turned out to be Clarence and I was informed that he lost 80 pounds to compete in the show.

Next on stage came the Masters Men and all three competitors represented their class



JESS EDENS

KEN MERIWETHER

JUDY GLENN

CLARENCE BURNS

BECKY CONVERY

Damaskos, Scott Bloom, and Kim Agnew had some difficult choic-

fast and the caliber of contestants was getting even better. People

was over, the entire packed audience stood up and gave him a standing ovation. I haven't met anyone yet who has his showmanship.

The final class was the Mens Open and they filed out on stage, 5 great built guys and one huge gladiator. That gladiator happened to be Ken Meriwether (one of the Montana boyz). The changes Ken made from last year were incredible and he was going to make sure there was no doubt in the judge's eyes. Enormous legs, tight washboard abs, big shoulders, and massive biceps made this warrior stand out from the rest.

The division also included Richard Rife III, Jon Paul Souliere, Michael Crull, Daniel Hutchinson, and Allen Beck. All of them supported lean physiques and were very cut. The judges had a very difficult time trying to pick second place because they were all so close. Many times everyone had to keep repeating mandatory poses for the judges and I salute all of them for giving it their best.

Ken stood on stage like the first class warrior he is and with his sword, cut down his fellow competitors to take the Mens Open as well as the Overall title.

After the show, contestants, judges, and members of the audience gathered together at The Montana Club for beverages, good food, and conversation and to discuss their scores with the judges.

I want to give a special thanks

to compete to compete in the show.

Next on stage came the Masters Men and all three competitors represented their class well. Standing alone, each man could be a number one winner. However, they were competing against each other and only one could take the number one spot and that would be the competitor who did his homework and trained the hardest and was the most cut. Jess Edens caught Scott Mcacham and Tim Richards off guard. This 47-year-old man who has been training for years, decided at the last minute to enter his first show. Jess looked remarkable with his lean muscular build and very defined as well. It was no wonder he took first place. Scott came in second and Tim placed third. Despite their placing, these gentlemen showed the audience what terrific shape you can be in your forties.

The judges, Bill Anderson, Troy Bertelsen, Sherry Randolph, Brad

Damaskos, Scott Bloom, and Kim

Agnew had some difficult choices to make in the Figure Women Division. The final decision was between Lisa Pine and Judy Glenn. While I didn't have the opportunity to meet Judy, Lisa did share with me that she's the mother of two children, one 8 years old and the other 5 years old. Lisa loves the outdoors, enjoys water and snow skiing and gives thanks to the lord for all his help. Judging was based on symmetry & proportion (45%), 2-piece suit (45%), and fitness question (10%). After careful analysis, Judy Glenn was the evening's figure winner.

After the first round of figure, the audience was treated to a very creative guest poser, Shauna Dutton. Shauna performed her rendition of Blue Boy and did a great job. The audience certainly enjoyed her excellently choreographed number

The pace of the evening was

fast and the caliber of contestants was getting even better. People were in awe as the Open Women Division appeared on stage. Stacey Salyer and Sarah Woltanski were formidable competition for Becky Convery. Sarah did a wonderful routine to "Puttin on the Ritz" but unfortunately was no match for the dynamic Becky Convery. Becky was muscular, lean, cut, confident, you name it she had it! Not to mention the energy of 10 people and a great personality to boot. It was no surprise that Becky was the Womens Open winner.

Before the Mens Open Division came out, the audience was again in store for a real treat. This time the spectacular Terry Baldwin did a guest posing routine. When Terry performs he becomes master of the stage. He captures his audience not just by flashing big muscles but by getting inside your hearts and soul. Indeed, his performance brought many to tears and when it

food, and conversation and to discuss their scores with the judges.

I want to give a special thanks to the General Manager of the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Missoula, Dan Carlino, for the wonderful accommodations I had. The service was excellent and their Sunday brunch fantastic. I definitely recommend the hotel if you're visiting and you can reach them at 406-728-3100 or www.doubletree.com.

The weekend was over and it was time to head back to Los Angeles. As I drove I could see that autumn was busy etching her finishing touches to the landscape while I discovered that a number of special people left a permanent etching in my heart.

Photos & text : Michael Hall

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