

NZ CORNER

By Lisa Menzies

NABBA NORTH HARBOUR:

BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA?

It came as a surprise but it has made a radical impact on bodybuilding in New Zealand. Peter Hardwick, NABBA's Auckland organizer, shook things up by running the NABBA North Harbour, as one-show on October 31, 2009. It attracted a large field of 60 athletes.

While Australian bodybuilding organisations have always run one-show formats with great success for many years, the concept is still pretty unknown and new to New Zealand.

In New Zealand, novice athletes usually have the most amount of supporters during the competition. Once they have seen their friends compete in novice classes, they clear the venue immediately, leaving it virtually empty for when the really awesome figures and physiques in the open classes come out. This is a real let down for the open athletes.

Peter's cunning plan to present the Shape, Junior, Senior Men and Women, and Open classes before half-time, proved successful. It allowed the crowd to appreciate the lineup of some great physique. The likes of which included the muscled body of Lucie Thompson, who followed up her Open Short win at the Nationals with another Open Class win and Overall Title for this show.

The Open Figure was a 'David-versus-Goliath' battle between the short statured Janine Haywood and the tall

timber of Lisa Bellingham and Eve Dombrowski. Eve was in great condition with amazing cut legs that unfortunately overpowered her top half while Lisa had the x-factor but not the muscularity. Janine's structure, symmetry and condition resulted in her win for the Open Figure title and the Overall Title.

The Open Men title saw seasoned Stan 'The Man' Tautalanoa compete in his thirteenth (record breaking) show and was up against his training partner, Mateo Vuihu. It was a close call between the two, with Mateo matching Stan in mass and conditioning but Stan just has that extra edge with a better V-taper, and went on to also win the Overall Title.

There was no doubting Steve Papps win in the Open Athletic class and Overall Title, with his well-defined and conditioned physique over Myer Rose and Darryl Barrett.

It was all worth it for the patient crowd who waited in anticipation for the Novices after half-time. Highlights included the extremely competitive Novice Athletic Short class of five with Shaun Stockman and Lee Stewart as the standouts for their definition but Shaun had that extra mass to take the title.

Novice Figure saw seven gorgeous girls on stage but it was down to Kirstine Nelson, Jolene Morrison and Vini Rangiheta to fight for the top prize. Though each girl had mass, it was Vini who came out lean, ripped in great condition in her first ever show.

Could 2010 bring about more changes in NABBA competitions in New Zealand? Only time will tell. ♦♦

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Novice Physique Men's class



Open Figure, Janine



Stan Tautalanoa (left) and Mateo Vuihu (right)