

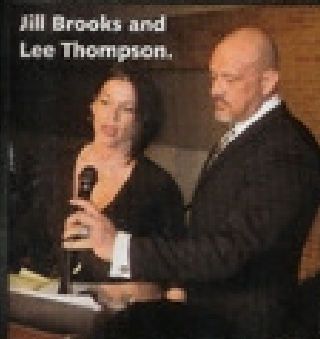


Tamar El-Guindy.

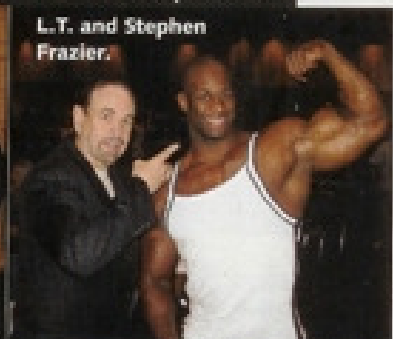
Scott Turner.



Lone Star winners (back row, from left): Jessica Brichta, Jaime Davila, Holly Chambliss and Ali Taktak. Front row: Stephanie Irick.



Jill Brooks and Lee Thompson.



L.T. and Stephen Frazier.



Scenes from the tragedy in Plano (from left): Dave Jacobs' nutrition store; Jacobs' house, where the murder-suicide took place; and a local-news van.

the Lifter could be accurate for the first time in 2008.

In the light-heavyweight class I'm going with **Al Augusto**, but I also like the chances of **Curtis Bryant**, who was overlooked at last year's Nationals but came out west to take the Excalibur, which put him back into title contention. Actually, I really like Bryant, since he has heeded my advice and is moving down a class to bring in the razor-sharp definition he'll need to best Augusto and the boys.

Azzarian agrees with my selection of Atoyan, is high on **Erich Blancallor** in the heavies, and likes folks such as **Tamar El-Guindy** in the light-heavyweights (Tamar was second to **Jose Raymond** in the middleweight class last year at the USA), **Scott Hutchinson** in the middles and **Scott Turner** in the welterweights.

One guy who is an uncertainty at this point is **Trey Brewer**, he of the monster wheels, who was scheduled to compete in the Junior Nationals on June 21 (the same day as my Junior Cal), and I imagine he'll make his decision about the rumble in the desert after that.

For the record—and in case you don't get this issue by game day—this column is being written in early June.

ADD NPC Shows

LONE STAR CLASSIC—The show must go on, even in times of tragedy, and that's what happened at **Prince Harrison's** Lone Star Classic in Plano, Texas, on June 7. If you read my blog on the show (at IronManMagazine.com), you know I titled it "Somber Weekend at Lone Star Classic." A day before I boarded the plane to emcee the show, the horrible news that pro figure star **Amanda Savell** and on-again/off-again boyfriend **Dave Jacobs** had been found shot to death in Jacobs' Plano home had pushed the **Craig Titus-Kelly Ryan** plea deal to the bottom of the message boards. What's more, according to police reports, Jacobs was the one who pulled the trigger, firing several shots into Savell before taking his own life.

I won't go into too much detail here; you've no doubt read the various theories of what went down. Although he was always very pleasant around me, the 35-year-old Jacobs was from all reports an extremely jealous boyfriend whose life was spiraling out of control. Since he'd been arrested during a highly publicized steroid bust a little more than a year earlier, Dave had lost his Supplement Outlet nutrition store in Plano. Plus, people who he counted as close friends weren't returning phone calls, and his relationship with Savell was on the rocks much of the time. Based on what the police confiscated from his home after what they have called murder-suicide (let's start with 146 vials of steroids, four containers of raw materials and scales), the man who avoided prison time by agreeing to cooperate fully with authorities might still have been in the business of making and selling steroids.

I opened the show on Saturday night by dedicating it to Amanda's memory. Later in the evening NPC Texas Chairman **Lee Thompson** came to the podium for a tribute to Savell, then asked for a moment of silence.

Amanda's close friend **Jill Brooks** followed Thompson to the mike and shared some personal stories about Savell.

Somehow, someway, we all got through the evening fairly smoothly—even though we got off to a rocky start when Harrison himself had to

man the music area until a kind volunteer from the audience donated his services. That Harrison is one all-around fella!

As always, the Lone Star produced some outstanding winners (this is where I met **Kristy Hawkins** in 2003, when she took the overall). **Jaime Davila** was in great shape en route to winning the men's overall crown; **Holly Chambliss** muscled her way to the overall in the women's division; and **Jessica Brichta** was a "brick...house" as she led the way in an extremely competitive figure contest.

Cute-as-a-bug **Stephanie Irick** defended her crown in fitness as well as winning the A division in figure, and **All "Baba" Taktak** was more than impressive in winning the novice men's overall. Look for this cat as a challenger in the open class in '09.

Another Rising Star featured in this issue, **Stephen Frazier**, joined **Victor Martinez** as the evening's guest posers. I'm picking Frazier to take the superheavy-weights and earn pro status at the Nationals. So don't make me look bad, Stephen, or it will be "Down goes Frazier."

Martinez, who had knee surgery in January, looked pretty good, especially for a guy who'd been back in training for only a month. He admitted, however, that it's highly doubtful he'll be able to challenge **Jay Cutler** for the Olympia crown this year and instead will concentrate on his rehab in preparation for the '09 Arnold Classic.

Despite the grave atmosphere surrounding the event, I enjoyed seeing the folks who've become friends over the years. **Prince Fontenot**, a week out from his own production in San Antonio, was on the judging panel, while his wife, **Debbie**, was sleeping, er, cheering, in the stands. **Bob** and **Laura Johnson** were at their usual post for *Posedown Muscle & Figure Magazine*; **Jen Cook** looked great as usual and said she's gotten her master's degree from the University of Texas, Arlington, and has been deejaying and doing some fitness modeling. Jen certainly has the look.

Last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to **June** and **Katie Munroe**, who provided chauffeur service for the weekend. That June—is anybody on the go more than the owner of Flexstar's New Age Nutrition? She is to "keep moving" what **Yogi Avidan** is to "keep eating." I did get a bit nervous when Katie, the toy pischer, wanted to take the wheel but, hey, it's better than taking the bus. And she's still the best dresser at any show.

Congrats to all involved with the event at such a tough time—Harrison, his staff, the competitors, judges and the appreciative fans.

Same time, same place, next year.

A TRICKY PRODUCTION—Ricky "Tricky" Jackson is more than a star bodybuilder; when he's not competing in the new 202-pounds-and-under pro contests, the Lexington, Kentucky, Lexus puts on his promoter's cap. And he's been successful in that capacity as well for quite a while now.

Tricky's next event is the NPG Bluegrass Muscle Classic Bodybuilding and Figure Championships, which is set for Saturday, October 11, in Lexington. **Johnnie Jackson**, who qualified out of the chute for the Olympia at our season-opening *IRON MAN Pro*, is the featured guest poser.

For more info go to www.TrickyJackson.com, or call (859) 221-4959.

RIBBON-CUTTING DEPT.—On May 17 I traveled to Muscle Beach, Venice, for the grand reopening of the weight pen. Thanks to **Russ DeLuca**

L.T. and Jen Cook.



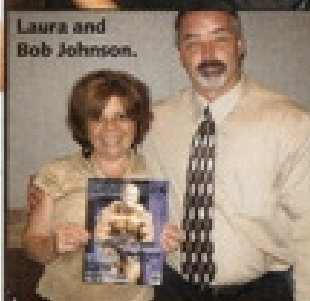
Prince Harrison.



The Munroes, June and Katie.



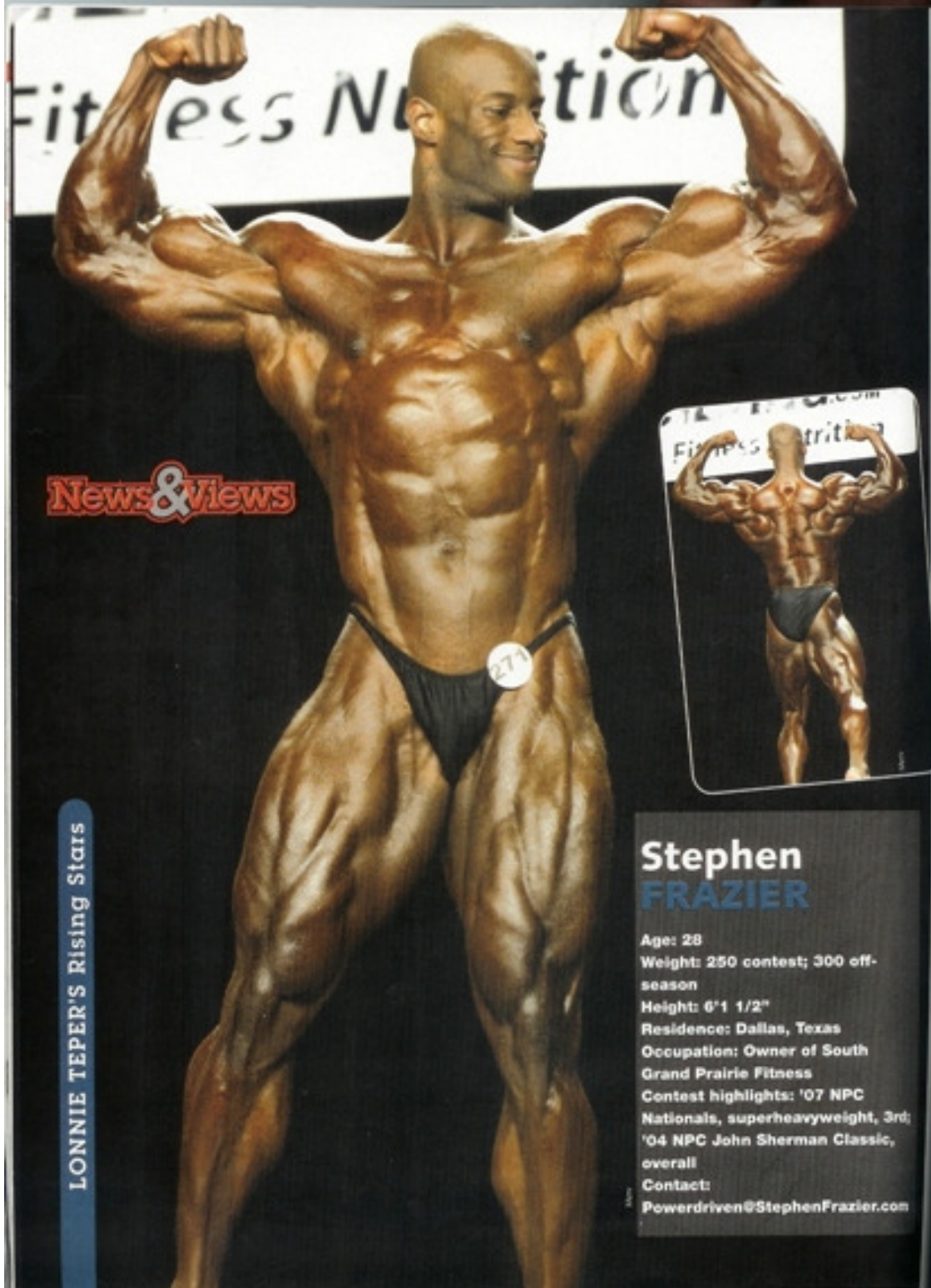
Debbie and Prince Fontenot.



Laura and Bob Johnson.



Tricky Jackson.



News & Views

Lonnie Teper's Rising Stars

Stephen FRAZIER

Age: 28
Weight: 250 contest; 300 off-season
Height: 6'1 1/2"
Residence: Dallas, Texas
Occupation: Owner of South Grand Prairie Fitness
Contest highlights: '07 NPC Nationals, superheavyweight, 3rd; '04 NPC John Sherman Classic, overall
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