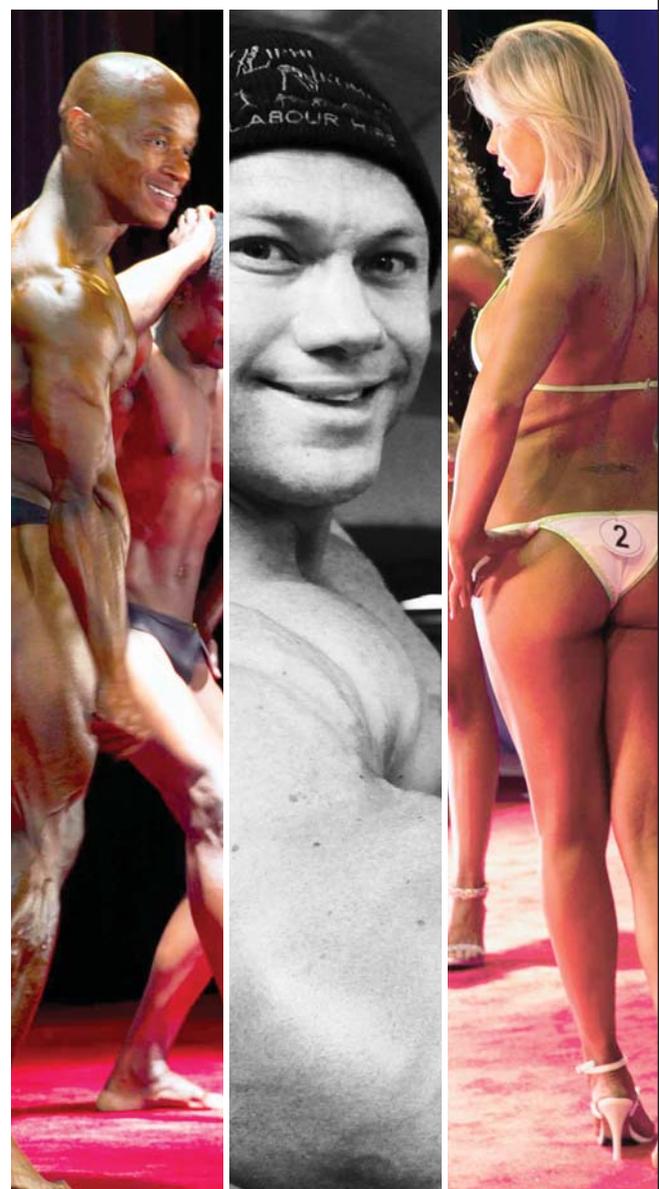


SPORT

Sculptured Beauties & Muscle Men in Rustenburg



Each competitor walked on stage and not only showcased their chiselled bodies and pulsating confidence, but they amazed the crowd. The Overall Winner Darabile Botshelo is a true example of how body builders are sculptors of our time and how their bodies demonstrate their works of art. (Photo Courtesy of Roderick MacLeod)



Rustenburg – Hundreds of spectators, muscle enthusiasts, members of government and top athletes caught North West's most chiselled champs on stage in the opening tournament of the 2011 IFBBSA Bodybuilding Championships in Rustenburg (6 August 2011). The 2011 IFBBSA Bodybuilding Championships flexed its way into our Platinum city of Rustenburg this past weekend. With a phenomenal 65 athletes competing across 14 categories, the event saw young and old, large and little, experienced and newcomers strut their stunning physiques across the stage at the North West provincial championships. Hundreds of spectators and muscle enthusiasts flocked to the breathtaking Royal Bafokeng Civic Centre, just a stone's throw from Rustenburg's Impala Platinum Mines and overlooking the city's World Cup Soccer Stadium to catch the tournament.

IFBBSA North West Chairman Michael Maritz, who has been involved in the bodybuilding arena for over 21 years now, and received a standing ovation at the show, was bursting with pride at the prestigious event. "This event has been phenomenal," Maritz said, "It is amazing how much the sport has grown and it is so exciting to see youngsters getting more involved, seeing them getting healthy and training hard". Maritz attributes a lot of the success of the event to the involvement of the local government, "The proactive involvement of the North West sports department

has helped us so much," Maritz added. Director of Communications for the NW Department of Sport, Arts and Culture Miss Shirley Montsho, who caught all the action from her front-row seat and personally handed out a few prizes to winning competitors, said bodybuilding was one the main sports helping with development in the province.

"North West is the province of champions," Montsho said, "This [IFBBSA] federation is helping with nation building and transformation, and we will continue to support them." Montsho also expressed her pride in the female competitors, "In this August woman's month, it is great to see woman involved in an ongoing and sustainable sport like bodybuilding. They are so confident, have beautiful bodies, they show feminine beauty... there is pride in what they are doing."

"I hope to make Rustenburg proud," proclaimed 25-year-old bikini beach competitor and Rustenburg local girl Tebogo Inayat. Sprouting from the rural village of Tweelaagte near Sun City, Tebogo is one of the talented dozens of body fitness beauties that took to the stage this weekend. With a sassy smile on her face, her confident words reassured us why she is set to be one really interesting contestant; "You need to be fit, sexy, have stage presentation and be yourself... and I've got it all."

The Sport, Arts and Culture District Director Alex Sekati also enthusiastically took part in the proceeding handing out prizes and joining guest poser John Leslie on stage, saying, "Next year I will be half his size," to cheers from the crowd.

Also making a guest appearance at the event, Mr. Olympia

qualifier Marius Dohne, shared his inspiring story of how he overcame kidney failure to raise the coveted Tampa Pro title in the USA earlier this year. With his words of encouragement and quick improvised pose for the crowd, the show truly picked up and all competitors upped their game tenfold.

With five judges from across the country having completed the pre-judging earlier during day, the competitors were free to do their best poses on stage to their choice of music. Head scrutiniser for the event Maria Enlezakis explained what the judges looked for, "Overall appearance, personality and every muscle is looked at in the judging. The pre-judging is very strict and the judges are all highly trained and experienced."

Showing that North West can truly produce some the finest bodybuilding talent in the country, overall winner for the event Darabile Botshelo was definitely the 'overall' package. With rippling muscles from top to bottom, 27-year-old Darabile is looking forward to competing in the SA nationals taking place in October alongside the 21 other competitors chosen at the North West event to compete. "I think if I stick to my diet and train hard until then, I can win it," Darabile said.

This prestigious event was also covered by Supersport Blitz, Sowetan Live, Times Live, Radio 702, Highveld Stereo as well as 5fm.

Next Show Dates
2nd Show: Aug 13 – Free State Provinces | **3rd Show:** Aug 14 – Eastern Province Provincials | **4th Show:** Aug 20 – Natal Provincials | **5th Show:** Aug 27 – Sedibeng Provincials | **6th Show:** Sept 3 – Gauteng North Provincials | **7th Show:** Sept 7 – SA Championships Cape Town | **8th Show:** Oct 9 – Muscle Evolution Jhb

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