Return to bodybuilding is a successful effort for Vernonia man

Terry Fultz first became interested in bodybuilding while in his early teens. It wasn't until he reached his mid-30s, however, that he became accomplished enough to enter contests for competitive bodybuilders. In just a few years, from 1982 to 1987, Fultz accumulated 14 titles, including Mr. Pacific Coast, Mr. North Coast, Mr. Rocky Mountain States and Emerald Cup Champion.

In 1986 Fultz entered the record books by becoming the only bodybuilder in the history of the sport to win both the Mr. Oregon Open Class, competing against contestants from all age groups, and the Mr. Oregon Masters Class, where competition is limited to those over 40.

Following that feat, in March of 1987, he made a successful run at the National level and placed as First Runner-up Mr. America.

After retiring from Bodybuilding to devote more time to his family, Fultz, his wife, Gail, and son, Kelly, moved to Vernonia in 1992. In 1997, while helping Kelly get back into shape after being injured in an auto accident, Fultz dug out some of his old weights to start Kelly on a weight training program in the backyard. Then, when winter came and it started to rain, Kelly wanted to move the weights into the barn. That simple act triggered the fulfillment of Fultz's lifelong dream of having his own gym.

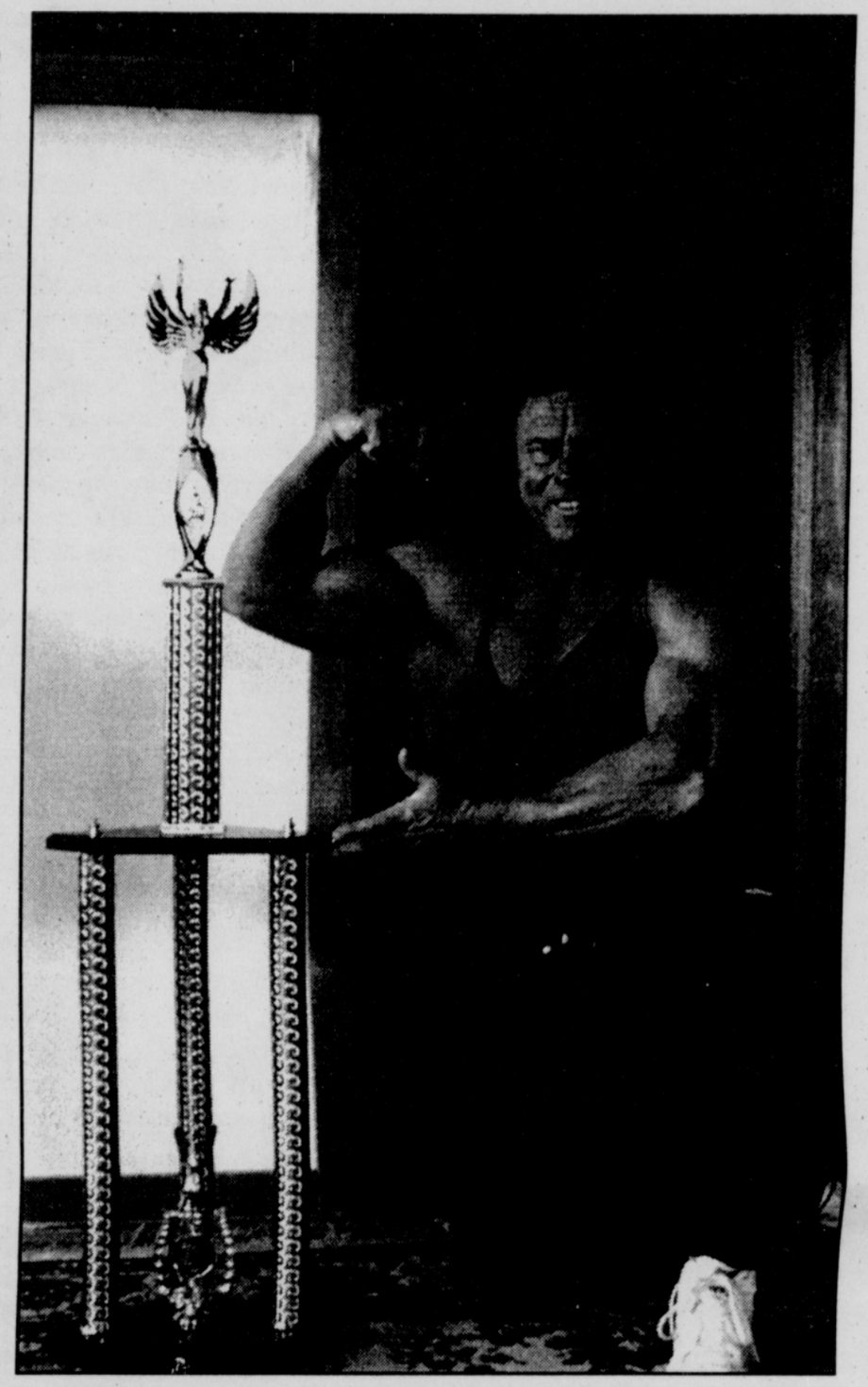
Five years later, after a lot of hard work and determination, Kelly was ready to be a competitive bodybuilder—with one exception. Kelly said he would compete only if his father also competed. So, in September of 2002, father and son competed in the Northwest Championship in Portland. The result??

Kelly won First place in the Novice Class while Fultz placed First in the Over Forty Class.

Bitten, once again, by the competitive bug, Terry Fultz entered the Bill Pearl Classic on November 2, 2002, at Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville. Vying with eleven other competitors from California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Washington and Oregon, Fultz brought home the First Place trophy.

With the two recent regional victorys under his belt, Fultz is now considering returning to competition at the national level.

Asked if he had anything to say about his current success, Fultz replied, "I would like to give a special thanks to all the members here at our club for their support. A special thanks to my diet consultant, my cook, and my best friend – my wife Gail. A big thank you to my training partner Tony Gilbertson, who has stuck with me over this last year and helped me prepare for these last two contests and, most of all, the biggest thank you to my son, Kelly."



Terry Fultz displays championship form and the first place trophy he earned at the Bill Pearl Classic earlier this month.

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