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DISAPPOINTMENTS

What AGAIN?

Her Shipley didn't come in



Petoot power. Shipley has a blast blasting through her routine.

Julie Shipley went out with a bang, barely training for what she was telling friends would be her last Fitness America-related event yet earning her best-ever finish with a runner-up slot at the Fitness Universe Pageant on June 30. For Shipley fans, who have watched the lady weather three third-place finishes in a row at major contests, it was another disappointment. Observers I spoke with thought the show was hers but admitted that while her physique, like most of the others, was softer than at recent contests, she was still the hardest competitor onstage. The lady herself seemed to be less unhappy about the outcome than she's been in the past. She had a blast at the show, according to reports, and she was said to be concentrating on her August wedding to former NFL tight end **Jason Childs** and contemplating a switch to—or is that back to?—the more toned lineups of the NPC in the not too-distant future.

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MORE PAGEANTRY

Speaking of the FIP-FAP-FUP

Germany's **Ruscha Kouril** (below), who now claims Massachusetts as her home, took first at the Fitness International Pageant on June 17 in Rimini, Italy, before jetting to Miami Beach for a fifth-place landing at the Fitness International. Talk about flipping around onstage.



STANDOUTS



"Woof."

Not So Routine

These babes have real animal magnetism

Creativity gets a lot of points from routine-weary fitness pundits, and the routines folks were buzzing about after the Fitness Universe—other than the obvious—included those of Hungary's **Ildiko Szekerez**, who swam onstage in a mermaid costume and

flipped in her fins awhile before stripping down to the essentials. Another lass who had the crowd howling was **Stacy Cravens**, who got a leg up on the competition in a velour Dalmatian costume. They finished 14th and 13th overall, respectively. Ladies, you deserve to take a bow-wow.

Fishing for trophies: Stacy Cravens (above) and Ildiko Szekerez.



WTF

NOT Just Another Pretty Gal in a Bikini



Better late than never. Gina Oakes of Burlington, North Carolina, was the Overall winner at the WTF (formerly Women's Tri-Fitness) national qualifier last September.