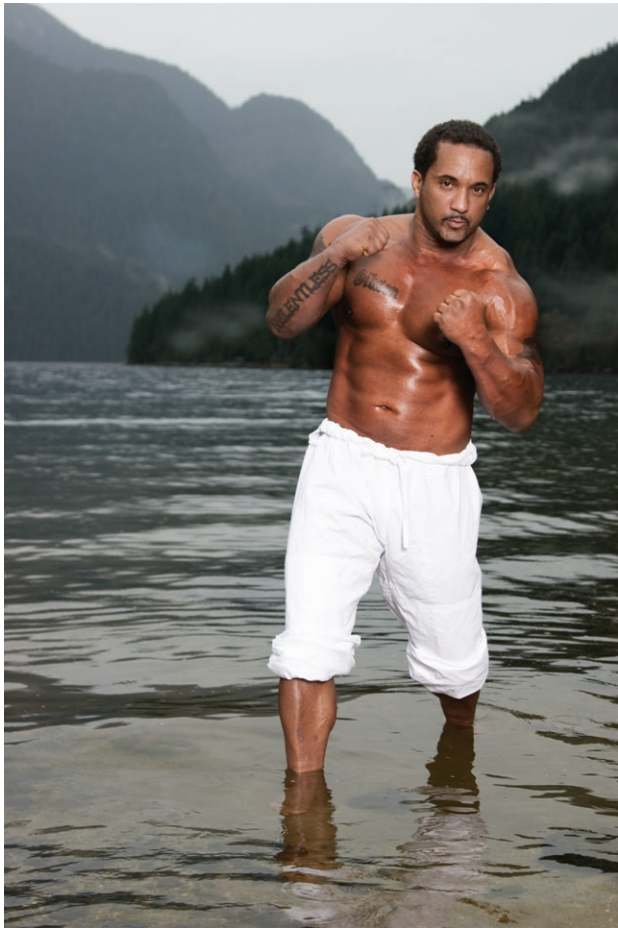
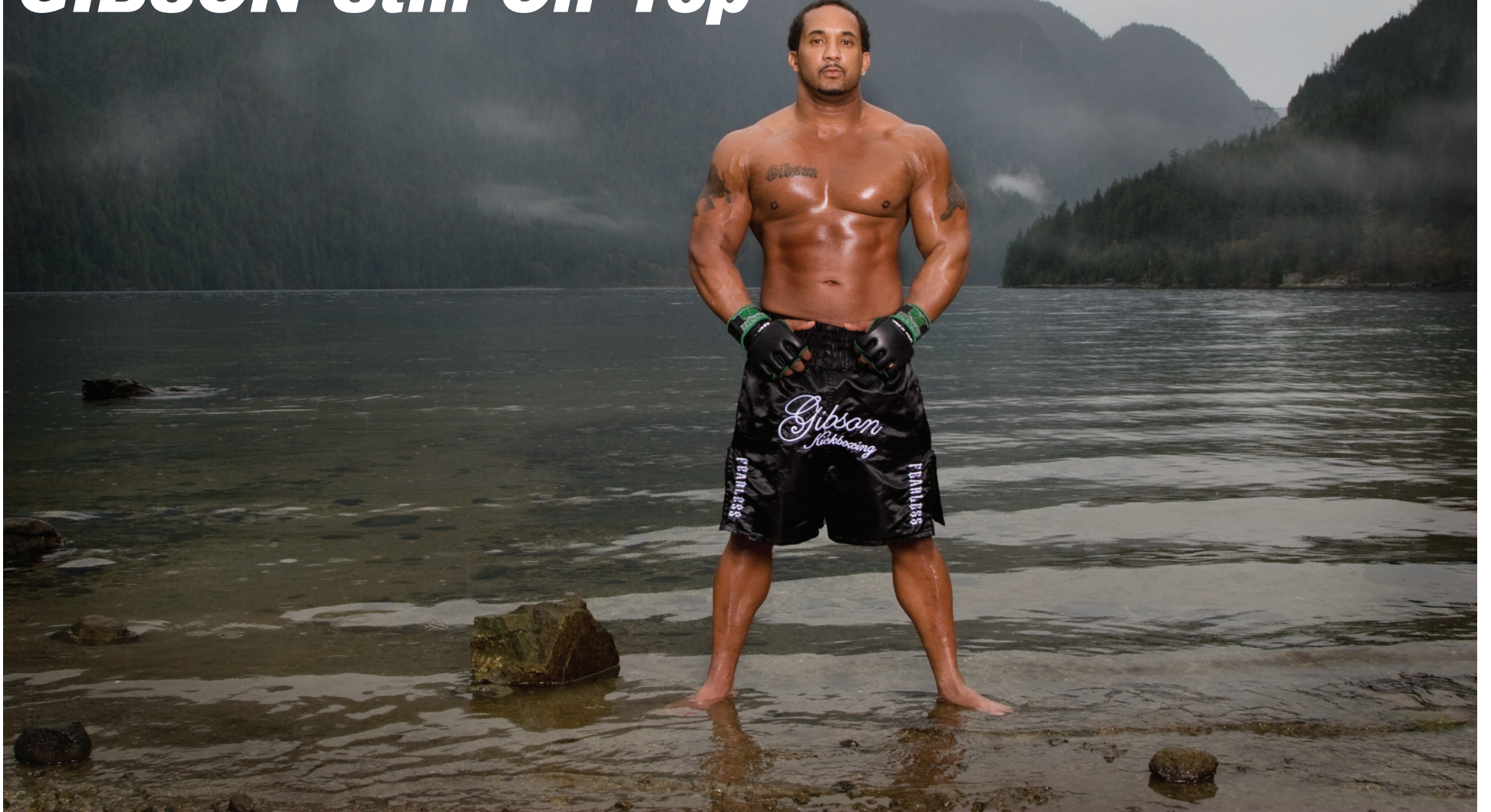


2007/2008 BEST OF VANCOUVER LIST

FEATURE HEADLINE ARTICLE GIBSON Still On Top



Through all life's battles, it's the fights outside the ring that are often the most damaging. How many champion fighters have we seen with their personal life in shambles? Scraped and scarred, bruised but not beaten, character intact, Lance Gibson has achieved the kind of success most can only dream of, and he's just getting started.

A devastating car accident in 1990 left him paralyzed, physicians said he was done. He'd been top of his game as stuntman and bodybuilder, now he had nothing. Never one to give up, he faced the impossible challenge head on. With the loving support of his parents, he completely defied the odds and rebuilt himself through perseverance and indomitable spirit. That same spirit would propel him into the biggest arenas for the toughest fights, where time and time again he would be victorious.

After extensive training with such notables as; Matt Hume, Maurice Smith, Josh Barnett, Haru Shimanishi, Ivan Salaverry, Dennis Hallman, Jeff Munson, and the legendary Kimo, Lance went on to compete at the highest levels on the planet.

Straight into the fire, Lance Gibson's first pro fight at Hawaii's SuperBrawl wowed the crowd with him choking out the 6 time FutureBrawl champion Peter Matutia in the first round. Outweighed by 80 lbs, Lance took down this Goliath and won not only the respect of the Hawaiians, but the nickname they bestowed upon him - "Fearless."

The fight world took notice, Gibson's phone was ringing off the hook with opportunities. UFC Hall of Fame icon and

Champion Dan "the Beast" Severn battled Lance Gibson on the island of Guam, in what a stunned crowd called a 27 minute war. Japan's prestigious Shooto organization pitted Lance against #5 ranked fighter in the world, Akihiro Gono. Lance Gibson utterly destroyed him. Moving up the Shooto ranks Lance was feared by many fighters for his vicious and technical fighting style. Most just flat out refused to fight him. Finally, #2 ranked fighter Masanori Suda agreed to fight. Lance Gibson rocked Tokyo by annihilating their hero. From then on, nobody in Shooto dared to face him, it was time to answer the call of the UFC.

In UFC 24 Lance defeated Jermaine Andre via a vicious knee knockout in the third round which has been immortalized on DVD Ultimate Knockouts 1 and 2. This was the first time in UFC history that someone had left the Octagon on a stretcher. To focus on business, Lance retired from competition as the #1 Shooto Fighter in the world and to this day receives calls to fight in the UFC and around the globe.

Film and television saw the Gibson name flourishing as actor, fighter, and stuntman. We've all seen him in roles like his character Spike in the epic battle with Wolverine in X-Men 3. Running parallel to his rise in show business was the fame of his school. Lance's passion for teaching lead to the success of Gibson Kickboxing & Pankration, also a favorite with film stars like Jessica

Alba. Of course you don't have to be a celebrity to train there, as its popularity with men, women and children, testifies. Over the past 10 years Gibson Kickboxing & Pankration has continued to be a leader in the mixed martial arts industry. Lance Gibson has produced many provincial, national, North American and world champions in Muay Thai and MMA. Many of the local stars you see fighting internationally were once students of Mr. Gibson.

Success is not without its price, and Lance's journey has been tough. Being a world famous fighter, actor and trainer, attracts many people, both good and bad. Reminiscent of the life of Christ, Lance speaks of the closest trusted friends and the wounds of cruel betrayal. More than one Judas has pierced Lance, but choosing not to dwell in that darkness, he emerges a better man, dedicated to higher spiritual and peaceful values.

It is here and now that Lance Gibson focuses more on creating, not only fighters and athletes but better people in society. Upon entering his gym you discover a place filled with respect, honour and integrity, qualities this culture is starving for, hence the club's continual growth.

Asking Lance if his life journey has been worth it, he replies with Shakespeare "a coward dies a thousand times, a soldier dies but once". *by Jeremy Matthew aka TURTLE TIME*



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