



'Let me ask you a question: Do you believe in God?'

“Well do you?” Wrestling duo the Style Cartel, made up of Jarvis Solid and Morning Star Victor Lucid, is out to change the way professional wrestling is perceived in New Zealand.

Lucid and Solid are part of the Impact Pro Wrestling collective who have developed a burgeoning following. Their monthly events at the Lynfield YMCA attract baying crowds of 300 or more.

They form part of the A-List, a larger squad who are out to bring a sense of fashion to a scene they say is mired in 80s clichés. Solid says that for them it's a higher calling.

“We're on a mission from God. This business has been over-run by spandex wearing, leg shaving, chest waxing clowns. These guys have muscles on their muscles, muscles in places we don't even

have muscles.”

The Style Cartel want to shake the image of professional wrestlers as lycra-clad buffoons, and Lucid says they don't need titles to know they're the best.

“We're the best looking group out there. That's a title all to itself.

“We're the military fashion police; we wage war on anyone who's not stylish.”

The pair met in school and always had an interest in wrestling, but they joined forces only recently, says Lucid.

“We actually started out feuding, but after getting our asses kicked for a while it seemed far better to combine forces.”

Lucid is passionate about his sport, and will truck no argument from those who claim the fights are staged, or that it is somehow a joke.

“Our organisation has seen compacted vertebrae, a broken wrist, a spiral frac-

ture of the shin and snapped ligaments. It takes weeks to recover from a bout.”

Solid believes that those who have a problem with the fact the fights might be rehearsed need to change their perspective on the sport.

“Let me ask you a question. Do you believe in God? Come to the show with an open mind, I guarantee you'll have a good time.”

At last Saturday's meet the A-list had a successful night. The group had two wins, with only Morning Star Victor Lucid going down to a superb display of technical wrestling by arch-nemesis (and spandex fan) H.A.V.

Impact Pro Wrestling grew out of a now defunct

organisation, and has gained a small but fanatical following.

Their ultimate ambition is to make it on to television, but Solid says that until then they want to encourage as wide an audience as possible to come to their events.

“What's our blood worth? A \$10 ticket gets you an amazing night.

“It's like the circus: You might like the strong men; if you don't like the strong men you'll like the acrobats; if you don't like them you'll like the clowns; and if you just want to perv at a couple of great looking guys, then here we are.”

*Text: Duncan Greive
Photos: Sarah Kaci*



“Compacted vertebrae, a broken wrist, a spiral fracture of the shin.”



“We're the best looking guys out there. That's a title all to itself.” – Solid (left) and Lucid.

