

Tough as Nails Mini Cryptic #13—Explanations

ACROSS

1. ABBA (“Eurovision winner”) is a palindrome (“either way you look at it”).
4. TRAPS (“muscles”) is a reversal (“bring about”) of PART (“task”) plus S (“small”).
5. BETS (“wagers”) is also BET’S (“cable channel’s”) in this double definition.

DOWN

1. ALTO (“singer”) is RIALTO (“theater district”) with the first two of its letters removed (“cut off a third of”).
2. BRACE (“Prepare to lift”—you’ve got to brace your abs before taking on a heavy barbell!) is RACE (“run”) “after” the letter B (“Butt-Head,” as in the “head,” or first letter, of BUTT).
3. AS IS (“without modifications”) is BASIS (“foundation”) minus its first letter (“after the commencement”).