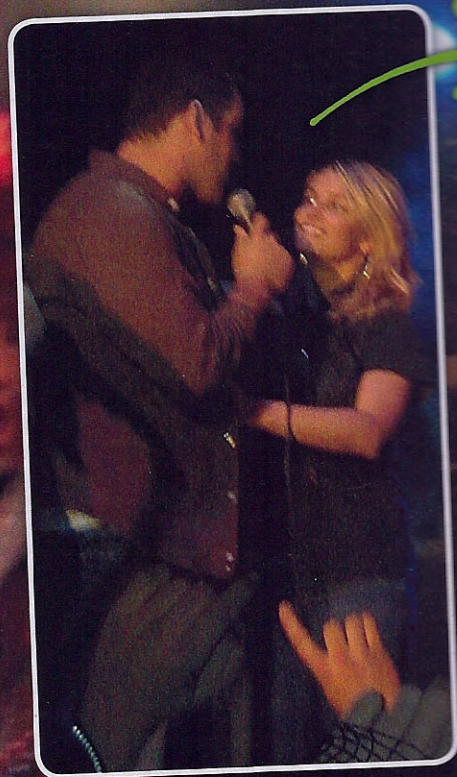


WEEKLY IN TOUCH



Initially, Tony was shy about getting onstage at the Key Club, where glam parody band Metal Skool was playing, but Jessica convinced him.



After a string of disappointing romances, Jessica Simpson is able to show her true colors around new beau Tony Romo

just the

He missed out on the Super Bowl this year, but as Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo enjoyed a romantic night out with his girlfriend, Jessica Simpson, it was clear he still felt like a winner. "They were kissing throughout dinner," says a witness, who saw the couple sharing a \$1,200 meal of white truffle pasta and lobster salad, which included an \$800 bottle of wine, at LA's Il Sole on January 28. The witness adds: "Tony had arranged for the restaurant to put rose petals on their table before they got there. They seemed very much in love."

And according to insiders, they are. Unlike Jessica's past relationships, where she worked hard to be the perfect woman — and wound up unhappy — Tony likes her just as she is.

She's more confident

After their dinner, Tony agreed to sing with Jessica at LA's Key Club. Casually dressed and with her blond locks loose, Jessica seemed more at ease than she has in a long time. "She's finally gotten back to who she really is," style expert Danna Weiss observes.

Tony, 27, has had a very good effect on Jessica's self-esteem. "They are two peas

in a pod," says a pal. "They share the same sense of humor and the same interests, and have similar goals. She isn't insecure with Tony. He makes her feel great."

That feeling is mutual. Although insiders say they hit a rough spot after the Cowboys were eliminated from the playoffs, the pair is now firmly back on track. In fact, Tony is so serious about Jessica, 27, that she is his guest of honor at the NFL Pro Bowl in Honolulu on February 10. They will attend the annual all-star game played at Aloha Stadium showing the world that, despite some previous tension, they are rock-solid now.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY HUNT/GETTY IMAGES; STYLING BY JESSICA SIMPSON