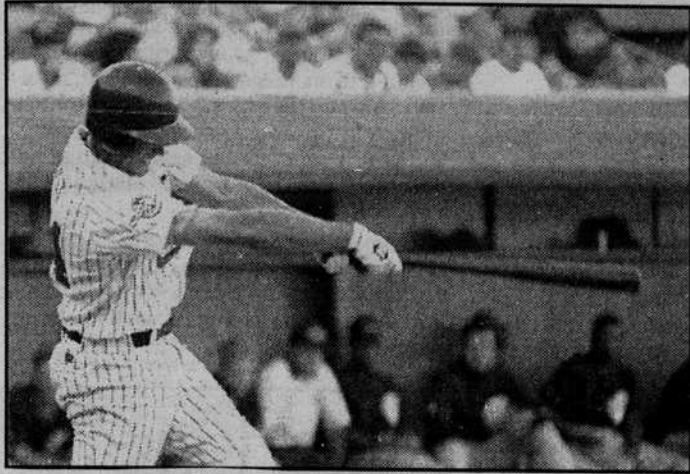


Ems clip Hawks' wings to stay within reach of first place



Chris Hansen
Freelance Reporter

After losing three close games to division-leading Boise, the last two in extra innings, the Eugene Emeralds had had enough. So on Wednesday night at Civic Stadium, the Ems scored early and often and, more importantly, got a great pitching performance out of starter Andrew Cochran, who improved to 4-0, to beat the Hawks 8-4 and come within two games of first place.

The game was not without a fair share of drama, though, as the Hawks jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Rob Neal was singled home by Matt Curtis after Neal's two-out double.

The Ems bounced right back, jumping all over starter Tommy Darrell, scoring two in the second inning on a Brian Rust two-run blast, his sixth of the year, that brought

home Corey Pointer.

It was Rust again in the fourth, smashing a double off the centerfield wall scoring Pointer and Gavin Brown, giving the Ems a 4-1 lead.

"I got some good pitches at the plate tonight and some nice, easy swings," said Rust, who went 2-for-3 at the plate with four RBI. "Every game has been a nail biter. It felt pretty good to finally get these guys. Especially at home."

The Ems scored one more in the fourth and one in the fifth on Steve Hacker's ninth home run of the season to take a 6-1 lead.

After the first inning, Cochran was set on cruise control, yielding only four hits to the powerful Hawk line-up. But Boise made it a game in the eighth, scoring three runs including two when Neal hit a two-run

■ **BASEBALL:**
Eugene moves within two games of the South division lead



MARK MCTYRE/Emerald
Third baseman Brian Rust connects for his sixth home run of the year in the second inning, giving the Ems a 2-1 lead.

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Olympic hero sidelined from all-around finals

■ **GYMNASTICS:** Kerri Strug's injury too severe for her to continue in the Summer Games

By **Jaime Aron**
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Turns out Kerri Strug has a gold medal from an event she never set her sights on. And she'll have to sit out the one event she came to the Olympics to win.

Her painful vault to history left Strug with a sprained left ankle, two torn ligaments — and out of Thursday's all-around finals.

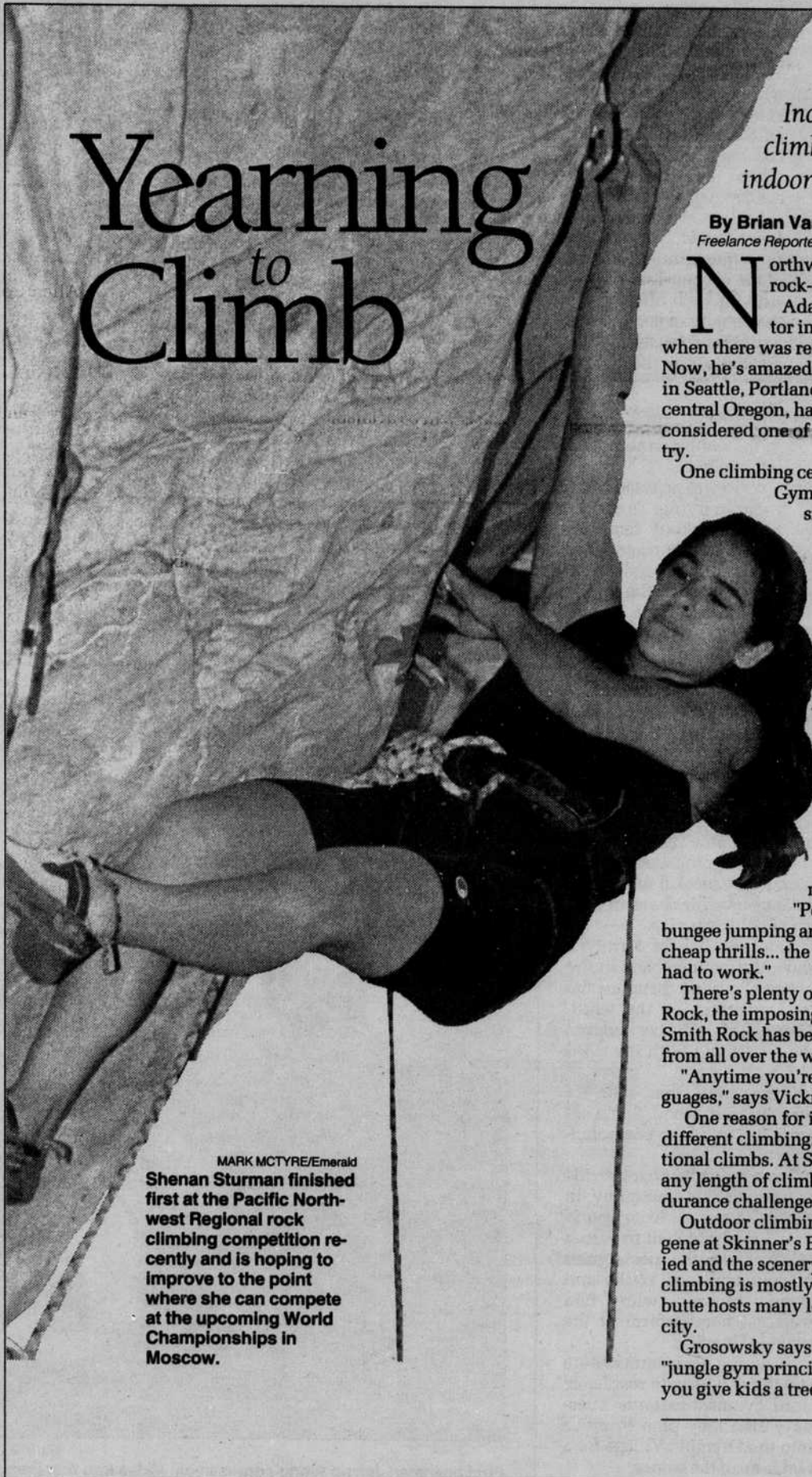
"I'm going to skip the all-around. I'm going to try and get my ankle healed so I can compete maybe in the event finals," she told CNN. "I'm a little bit down, but I'm still excited that we won the gold."

Make that an historic gold — the first U.S. women's team Olympic gold.

Strug's hoping physical therapy and electronic stimulation will fix up her leg in enough time to compete in the vault finals Sunday and the floor exercise on Monday.

The 4-foot-9 1/2, 80-pounder qualified seventh for the all-around finals, an event Mary Lou Retton says determines "the queen of gymnastics." She should know;

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Yearning to Climb

Outdoors

Increased interest in rock climbing has brought the sport indoors and to a new generation

By **Brian Vanneman**
Freelance Reporter

Northwest adventurers are sending the rock-climbing scene sky high. Adam Grosowsky, a climbing instructor in Eugene, remembers five years ago when there was relatively little interest in the sport. Now, he's amazed by rock-climbing gyms popping up in Seattle, Portland, and even Eugene. Smith Rock, in central Oregon, has become extremely popular and is considered one of the top climbing areas in the country.

One climbing center in Eugene is The Crux Rock Gym, an indoor cavern filled with a smattering of colorful rock faces and color-coded climbing routes. Ron Vickrey, founder of Crux, says climbing is becoming more mainstream as people realize that it can be enjoyed safely and is no longer an "extreme sport."

He advocates an European attitude, where "mom and dad and the kids and grandpa go out to the crags at night, after dinner to do some climbing." However, while climbing is safe, Vickrey warns people against taking foolish chances while out on the mountains.

Vickrey says people are also getting into climbing because it's rewarding.

"People... are starting to realize that bungee jumping and all these kinds of things are just cheap thrills... the payoff is much greater if you've had to work."

There's plenty of hard work to be done at Smith Rock, the imposing towers East of the Cascades. Smith Rock has become a destination for climbers from all over the world.

"Anytime you're there, you'll hear ten different languages," says Vickrey.

One reason for its status is that it offers a variety of different climbing: vertical faces, cracks, and traditional climbs. At Smith Rock, climbers can also do any length of climb, from 50 yards to an all day endurance challenge.

Outdoor climbing is also available in central Eugene at Skinner's Butte, although the rock is less varied and the scenery slightly less breath-taking. The climbing is mostly short cracks, but on weekends the butte hosts many looking for a getaway within the city.

Grosowsky says that climbing's appeal is due to the "jungle gym principle," which is his theory that "if you give kids a tree or jungle gym, they'll try to get to

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MARK MCTYRE/Emerald
Shenan Sturman finished first at the Pacific Northwest Regional rock climbing competition recently and is hoping to improve to the point where she can compete at the upcoming World Championships in Moscow.



SWIMMING
Michelle Smith of Ireland won her third gold of games, in 200 individual medley; Denis Pankratov of Russia set world record in winning 100 butterfly; Janet Evans, hoping for fifth career Olympic gold, qualified for Thursday's finals in 800 freestyle.

DREAM TEAM
U.S. men's basketball team defeated Lithuania 104-82, improving to 3-0.

SOCCER

U.S. men's team eliminated from medal contention after tying Portugal 1-1 before crowd of 58,012, largest ever for sporting event at Washington's RFK Stadium.

BASEBALL

Mark Kotsay hit two of United States' four home runs, and had a double and four RBIs, in 15-3 victory over Italy.

MEDALS

United States led with 28 (10-14-4); Russia next with 23 (11-7-5); France (6-3-7) and China (5-5-6) 16 each.