

Maple Ridge Chrysler
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Sports

Rock climbing

Local climbers compete in Ecuador

by Amy Judd
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Christy Spurrell and Jaylene Pratt are in Ibarra this week competing at the first ever Pan-American youth climbing championship.

Both Maple Ridge natives will be competing in a six-day competition starting today in three disciplines; bouldering, difficulty and speed.

Until Monday, they were training in Quito, the capital city of Ecuador, with the national team.

The competition site in Ibarra presents a challenge for even these experienced climbers, as the walls are outside and weather will be a factor if it rains. The city is also situated at an altitude of 2,225m and climbers have to get used to this elevation.

Both Spurrell, 17, and Pratt, 19, come from an oxygen-rich sea level environment and normally train on walls between 20' and 40' in height so they travelled early to the region to train their bodies as best they could before the competition started.

Quito, situated at 2,850m, was the perfect place for the team to allow their bodies to acclimatize to altitude.

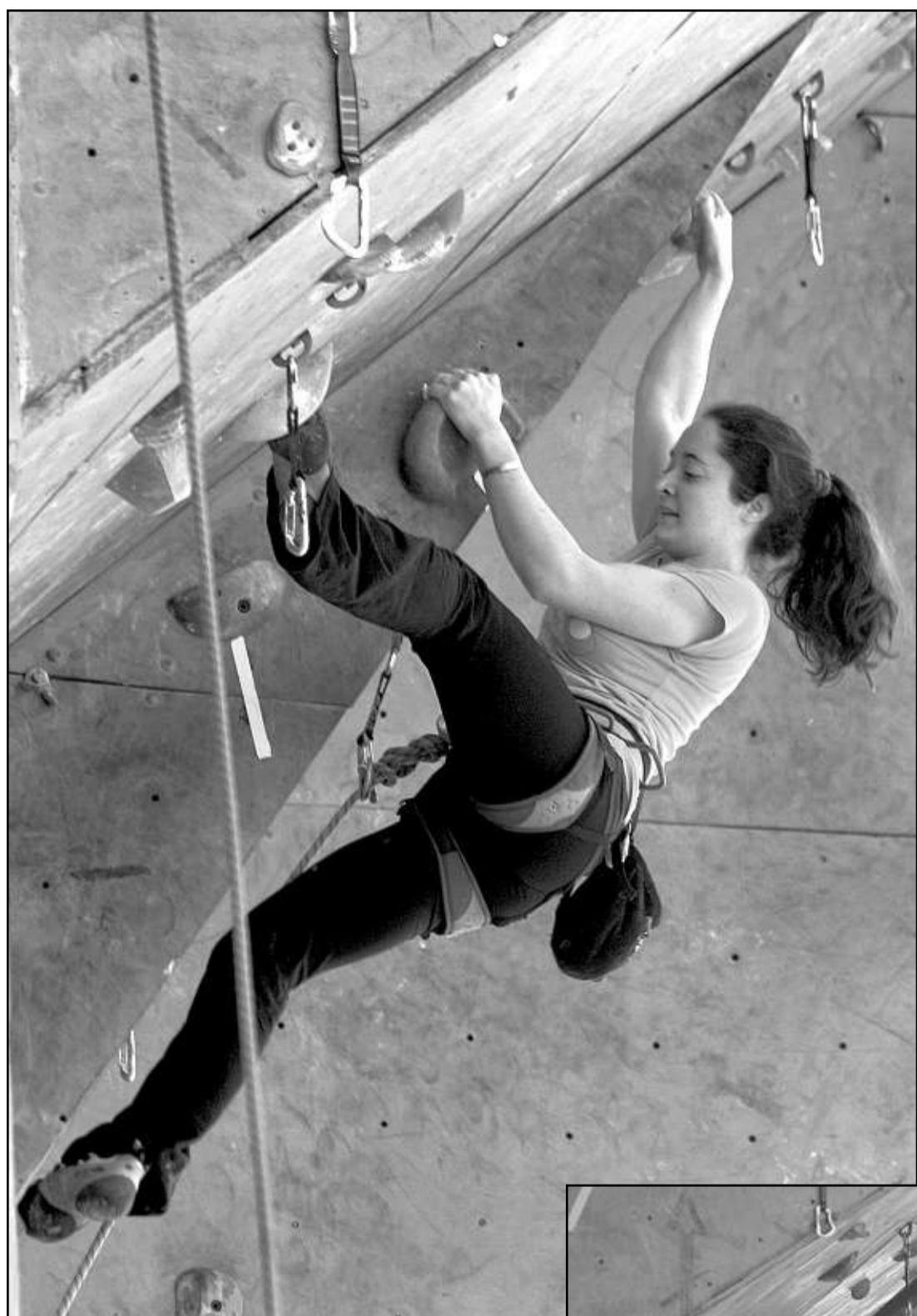
The climbing wall in Quito is also very similar to the competition wall in Ibarra, both coming in at 60' in height with steep overhanging walls.

Spurrell does have a slight edge as she is the only member of the Canadian team that has competed at the Ibarra site before in 2007 at the World Youth Championships.

Both these girls are experienced competitive climbers and train at Maple Ridge's Rock Wall.

They have previously represented Canada in many big international events and will compete this time against the USA, Mexico, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina and Ecuador.

Competitors are facing a unique challenge however as Ecuador announced a



Jaylene Pratt trained hard ahead of the Pan-American Youth Climbing Championships in Ecuador, as did Christy Spurrell (below).

Photo contributed

couple of weeks ago that Sunday, Nov. 28 will be National Census Day.

This means that by law, no one can leave their house and visitors cannot leave their hotels between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. while the census officials will travel door to door.

Sunday Nov. 28 is the day that the completions, difficulty finals, awards

and closing ceremonies are scheduled.

The International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) and the competition organizers are in negotiations with the government to try to get an exception, but so far there is no change.

• Stay tuned to The TIMES for more on the local girls' involvement this competition.



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On Deck

Flames melt Ice

The Ridge Meadows Flames beat Mission Icebreakers 2-0 on Friday, but were unable to defeat the Abbotsford Pilots on Saturday.

The Flames faced some tough competition over the weekend, and while they managed to shut out Mission, they couldn't do the same to the top-of-the-league team, losing 2-6.

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Photo contributed

Mateo Le Van (on the right) ran with the ball during a game against the South Sound Starz.

Lacrosse players headed south

Mateo Le Van, a student at Highland Park Elementary in Maple Ridge, was a member of the Burnaby Mountain Selects U12 Elite fall touring team that travelled south of the border earlier this month to compete in an exhibition series hosted by the South Sound Starz.

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Referees wanted

Anyone with a knowledge of basketball could make some extra money refereeing at Pitt Meadows Secondary.

The secondary school is looking for anyone with some knowledge of basketball but they are willing to train those who come forward.

Any interested individual can contact Rich Goulet at 604-465-7141, or by email: rgoulet@sd42.ca.

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