## **RECREATION** Center

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1997

# George soars to new heights

## BY CHRIS MAYER

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TAFF WRITER Once-in-a-lifetime opportuni-tizes are rare. And the ones that do sneak up on us are usually ilificult to ignore. Rob George knows how quick-ly the direction of one's life can change. The 24-year-old Franklin, Mich., native, just six years removed from his days at Birminghem Seaholm High School, has discovered aerial aki sumping and it appears to aeroe jumping and it appears to agree with him.

Jumping and it appears to egree with him. Surrounded by more well-known U.S. Preestyle Ski Team members, George placed 12th overall out of 21 jumpers in the man earial competition at the 1997 U.S. Preestyle Ski Cham-plonahips held this past March in Maine. It was quite an accom-plishment considering George was not a member of the U.S. national team, his limited back-ground in the sport and the fact he did not have trainer the past year.

George's two jumps earned him a combined 131.86 points, and some well-deserved atten-tion. So much in fact that George recently learned he has been granted "special" status within the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team newman

been granted special status within the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team program. "I called veryone in my family and gave them the good news," George said. "It means I can train with the national squad and I'll get invited to do pretty much what they do. And in the winter if I land my jumps and do well at national team camps, I could get a hot to go to the Olympic qualifiers. "I guess you could say I'm on sort of a developmental team. I wan't going to ask for this, but I'm so glial it happend." Aarials is acrobatic ski jump-ing and there are two forms: upright and inverted. Upright acrials are not

where the competitors are not allowed to flip. Maneuvers are



Flying high: Franklin native Rob George has taken to the thrilling – and sometimes dangerous – sport of inverted aerial jumping. Shown here upside down du ing a jump. George placed 12th in the men's aerial event at the 1997 U.S. Freestyle Championships. during a jump, utcorge process a event at the 1997 U.S. Freest creative combinations of acissor-locations of acissor-locations of the other hand, deals with invorted serials. These involve multiple flips and twists performed on skie at heights of more than 40 foot from the ground. To reach this height, aerialists ski down an inrun and ski off precisely uppers that appear to launch them straight up, uppers that happear to launch them straight up, uppers that happear to launch the straight up, uppers that happear to launch the straight up, uppers that happear to launch work heights. Usually, the competitors got multiplied by the maneuver's dogree of difficulty, while the jump is weighted 20 percent takeoff, 50 percent execution and 30 percent landing, The exercise gauge the landing, and the high and low exerces are

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style Championships. throw out Incidentally, freestyle was a demonstration sport in the 1988 Winter Olympics and has now received full-medal status for article and mogula. George, whose prior skiing reprinted included a stint on he Seabloun boys team, became on organized with serial jumping when he attended a summer when he statended a summer hurde the statended a summer because the statended a summer state attended a summer state college in New Hamp-hire. 'I found myself driving three-and a-half hours to do it.

I was catching on quickly." George moved to Lako Placid one year ago where his dedica-tion continues to be unrivaled. In fact, the 1,927 jumps he attempted one summer is an all-time record at the Lake Placid training facility. George made the transition to snow, and this past winter com-pated in men's averial competi-tions in Lake Placid and Quebec City. Quebec as nart of the

snow, and this past victure com-preted in men's acriel compar-tions in Lake Placia and Quèbec City, Quebec as part of the North American Charlen of the North American Charlen of the information of the second (NORAM) circuit. He captured third in Quebec, despite icy con-side after and hand and wound of comparisons. In the final NEAM standard the sixth and finaning 17th overall out of do comparisons in the final NEAM standard the sixth and finance of the top finance, so i just want-de to go out and have fun and do he bost I could. And I really andled ay second jump." George in any in a wait-and-see mode. He'll stay in Lake out, and continue the job working at a local Holiday In and, of course, training. "You can't believe what an opportually this could be," George said. You sacrifice a lot be to finance, training. "Bard and it can wear on you. Ut I'm goig to keep going and keep practicing these jumps." "Bard and it can wear on you. Ut I'm going to keep going and keep practicing these jumps." "Bard and be use furned are no silver medalist at the World Freestyle Ski Cham-jonahing in Iizuna Kogen, Japan in February, was one of the ment of the med to the 'A' squad by Coach Wayne Hilterbrand.

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The Women's Metropolitan Golf Association conducted its third tournament of the season Wednosday at Pine Valley, Joong-Sook Yoo of Bloomfield Hills carded an 81 for the low score (low gross) in the champi-onship flight.

### Championship Flight

Champlonabla Filshi Champlonabla Filshi Low Gross - Jeong-Sook Yoo (Bloomfield Hills), 42-33-31; Second - Karen Huebner (Grosso IIo, 42-41-83; Low Net -Gail Trepicone (Northvillo), 85-1-35: 1-35

## 2nd Flight

Low Gross - Rosa Devine (Fraser), 45-45:90; Second -Sandra Burns (Warren), 46-45-91; Low Not - Karren Condino (Warren), 94-23-71.

(Warten), 94-25-71. 3rd Flight Low Gross - Beverly Suddath (West Bloomfield), 52-50-102; Second - Esther Ridas (Port Huron), 52-51-103; Low Net -Virginia Keragis (Washington), 104-27-77.

(Next: June 4 at Faulhwood Shores)

# WOMEN'S SUBURBAN <u>GOLF ASSOCIATION</u> (At Hilkop GC)

(At Hiltop GC) <u>ist Fight</u> Low Gross - Caroline Bininger, 87; Pat Meyors, 89; Low Net - June Wright and Kathy Heinlen, 74; Diane Warner 76 Wazney, 76.

Znd Flight Low Gross - Sue Beaton, 101; Pat Henke, 106; Low Net -Peggy Osip, 76; Pat Wilson, 78.

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HOLES-IN-ONE • Robert Fryo aced the third hole at Beech Woods Golf Course in Southfield and shot 48 for the round. • Richard Thomas scored an ace on fith hole at Evergreen Hills in Southfield. He shot 49 for nine holes.

• Ralph Battle accd the sev-enth hole at Evergreen Hills en route to a nine-hole round of 52;



• The Eccentric publishea the "Recreation Center" every Sunday in Sports in our Birmingham - Biocomfield, Farmington, Southfield-Lathe-rup, West Biocmfield, Lakes, Troy and Rochester oditions.

• This page focuses on non-school-rolated adult activities in hopes of provid-ing our roaders with an active, upbest look at the community recreation and fit-ness scene.

• To submit results of com-petition, items for the Roc Roundup or local story ideas, call staff wither Chris Mayor at (248) 901–2589, fax him material at (248) 644–1314 or wille him at: The Eccontric Sports Dopartment, 605 E: Maple, Birmingham, 48009.

• Photos, with complete identifications including addresses and phone mul-bers of those picture are encouraged. Only the towns of residence will be pub-lished.

Please participate in the Recreation Center and let us know what, you think of what's presented. We wel-come your suggestions on content.

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