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ELEVATION & ESCALATION

Extreme evening for Noida gentry

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NOIDA: Think of them as artistic gymnasts on rollerblades, skateboards, cycles and motorcycles. The extreme sports athletes who came from all over the world to strut their stuff in the second leg of the Mountain Dew Xtreme Tour in Noida compete for accolades such in competitions like the X-Games. And just like the gymnasts one finds in the Olympics, how well they do is subject to a panel of judges who rate them based on how high they can jump and how creative they can get while doing it.

In the parking lot of the Great India Place mall in Noida, however, there were no judges. Unless, of course, you count the enthralled crowd who waited for two hours for the event to start.

Eito and Takeshi Yasutoko, in-line rollerbladers spun up to three times while shooting up as high as ten feet above the highest point of a concave ramp. Andy MacDonald and Sandro Dias, the skateboarders did similar spins with their feet off the board as they shot up in the air and then tried to land without falling on their knees. Simon Tabron, the BMX



■ Jimmie McGuire was one of the bikers who impressed.

star upped the ante further.

It was left to the freestyle motocross riders, though, to take things to another level. Five riders on 250cc Yamaha and Honda machinery, sped onto a ten-foot high ramp to attempt 75 foot jumps while getting as high as 30 feet off the ground.

The riders defied the laws of physics as they pulled off tricks where their feet came clean off their foot-pegs and in front of the handlebars while in mid-air. The ultimate crowd-pleaser was a 360 degree back-flip.

The wind started to play spoilsport however, as it meant that riders could manage no more than 10 minutes of ramp jumping. Still, for those who put up with the two-hour delay, it was a night to remember.