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WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE

Young gun:
Sean McColl on
Titanthrope in
Kalymnos, Greece.



» profile

Wonder boy

You could say that Sean McColl's climbing career got off to an early start. Nine months after his first visit to an indoor wall at age 10, the Vancouver native entered a climbing competition, and won not just his beginner category, but the event overall. Since then, he's never slowed down.

Last August, the now 19-year-old McColl won his fifth World Junior title at the Youth World Championships in Imst, Austria. And in recent years he's also proven that he's no slouch outdoors. In 2004 he completed the second ascent of the 5.14c *Superman* in Squamish, B.C., first climbed by Canada's Sonnie Trotter in 2002—who at the time called it the country's hardest route. Last summer, McColl toured Europe with the invitational Petzl RocTrip, a climbing roadshow featuring some of the world's top rock jocks.

Currently taking a year off university to tackle more 14c routes outdoors, McColl says climbing has taught him "everything," including how to handle being a pro athlete before he could drive. "I'm still learning how to climb better. I learn every day."

—Lynn Martel