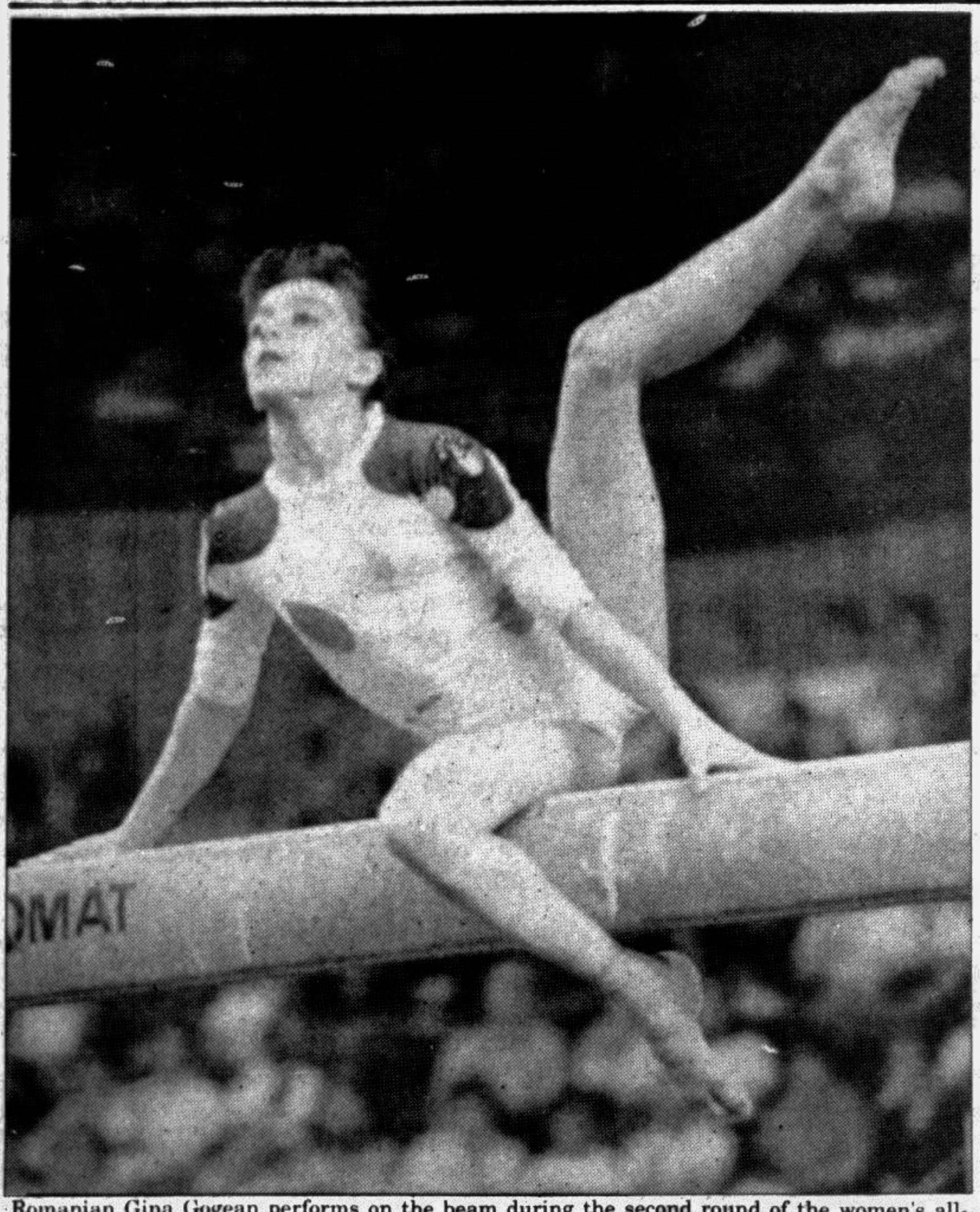


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Romanian Gina Gogean performs on the beam during the second round of the women's all-around competition at the 1994 World Gymnastics Championships in Brisbane yesterday. Gogean was leading competition.

— AFP photo

Holyfield hungry as ever



LAS VEGAS, Apr 22: Evander Holyfield has found success tastes even sweeter when it follows failure, reports AP.

"You appreciate the title better the second time around because you know you can lose it," the heavyweight champion said.

"After I won the title the first time I was looking for reasons to get out. It was kind of a drag. I had one foot in the ring and one foot out."

Now, the 31-year-old Holyfield feels rejuvenated.

"I think I have the skills to be champion through 1996," he said.

He would like to be champion when the Olympics are staged in his hometown of Atlanta. He wants to become undisputed champion again and he would like to be champion when Mike Tyson gets out of prison and resumes his career.

First, he must beat unbeaten Michael Moorer, who

will try to make boxing history Friday night and become the first left-handed heavyweight champion.

Holyfield was a 2-1 favourite to retain the IBF and WBA titles in the 12-round bout outdoors at Caesars Palace and move a step closer to a fight with WBC champion Lennox Lewis.

Moore is 34-0 with 30 knockouts but has fought only 12 times as a heavyweight.

According to trainer Teddy Atlas, he has a fragile psyche despite his tough-guy image.

"If you're abandoned as a kid, you're not going to be secure under pressure," Atlas said.

His father left home when Moore was a child.

Moore has been arrested three times on assault charges and twice was put on probation. In one of the incidents he broke the jaw of a policeman in Monessen, Pa., where he grew up.

Holyfield will get about \$12 million and Moore about \$15 million for the bout, scheduled to begin at about midnight GMT.

Holyfield watched tapes of his loss to Moore and decided, "I'm not old. Yes, I did make

mistakes, but I decided I could comeback."

He was trained by Emanuel Stewart, another former Moore trainer, for his first two comeback fights, wins over Alex Stewart and Bowe.

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Each fighter weighed 214 pounds (97.3 kilograms).

Testing time for Ireland

DUBLIN, Apr 22: Their clubs read like a who's who of the royalty of English soccer — Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Aston Villa, reports Reuter.

The manager's name also has a ring of class — Jack Charlton, who savoured the ultimate success as a member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning side.

But for all the pedigree the names suggest, Ireland's team heading for the World Cup finals in America in June is a disparate group featuring several cats-offs from other nations.

Charlton's men are drawn from the British mainland — where England, Scotland and Wales all failed to qualify — but many of them appear only by courtesy of Irish ancestry.

"Big Jack," already regarded as an honorary Irishman taking Ireland to the finals for the first time in their history four years ago in Italy, has worked the miracle a second time by moulding another successful team from a small pool of talents.

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But the lack of resources have been cruelly exposed by the loss through injury of Manchester City striker Niall Quinn, the big target man so crucial to the team that struggled to score in Italia '90.

Ireland stunned many observers by reaching the 1990 World Cup quarter-finals, particularly as they scored only two goals. After three draws in their group games they beat Romania on penalties in the second round before losing to

They will have to cause a few more shocks if they are to get beyond the first round this time. Drawn in a tough group with Italy, Norway and Mexico, the fact that a win will be

highest scorer with Quinn on three.

With Quinn out, Charlton is likely to play Chelsea's restless 31-year-old striker Tony Cascarino up front alongside Aldridge.

There are wags at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea's home ground, who wear stickers saying 'I've seen Cascarino score' — he has managed 11 goals in 47 appearances for Ireland and has been far from prolific for the London Premier league side.

He is, by his own admission, not totally match-fit after a season in and out of the first team because of injuries and operations and a spell on the transfer list.

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