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Winter sports bring thrills

Switzerland: High above the clouds in the brilliant sunshine of an Alpine day, the last big event before the Winter Olympics, ~~includes~~ ^{includes} ~~top~~-skiers from thirteen countries.

This was the Downhill Competition in the 26th International Lauberhorn Ski Races at Wengen, with the ~~wide~~ ^{wisely} ~~spread~~ lower slopes proving a hazardous test for ~~the~~ the most skilled competitors..

Besides being a blow to your pride - a fall means the loss of valuable seconds, in a race decided on time-aggregate, over a steeply-graded 2 1/2 mile course.

A pointer for Olympic honours • Austria filled the first three places - with victory going to No..21, Toni Sailer - who ~~averaged~~ averaged over forty miles an hour. Some going!

Meanwhile, at Innsbruck, ski-jumpers, too, were gearing up to Olympic heights. ~~Among a field of international acers -~~

With a jump of over 260 feet ^{A RUSSIAN} leapt right into the forefront of ~~gold~~ ^{gold} medal speculation.

Over in America - there's ^{DIFFERENT} speculation. ~~Will he...? Ooch...he did!~~

The fans see the joke - the competitors in the Sixth Annual ~~Barrel~~ World's Barrel-Jumping Championships see that long line of obstacles - and they touch wood....in no uncertain manner

The winner was Leo Label of Lake Placid - and he won the title sitting down.....