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5/23.

ENGLISH CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

At Arrows Park, Birkenhead, Gordon Pirie loosens up while the Mayor wishes him luck before the start of the English cross-country championships over a course of nine and two third miles. And off they go - 440 of them. Somewhere of the middle of the hugh field is Pirie, who already holds the championship title. The three-mile track which they have to race round is one of the most difficult in the country. But its no surprise to find Pirie quickly in the lead.

As the race reaches the half-way stage, Ken Norris, the Southern Champion, is hot on Pirie's heels, and he's trying to draw level.

Still plugging on with the rest of the pack is Jim Peters, number 225, but they all might as well go home - there's only one man in the race - Pirie, going like a machine. The twenty-three year old champion who holds two world, two European and six Empire records, broke his track training schedule so that he could defend his cross-country title. Up he comes to the finishing line, a hundred and fifty yards ahead of them all. Ken Norris takes second place and Frank Sando is third.

Gordon Pirie, Britain's greatest athlete, keeps a tight hold on his cross-country title.
