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WORLD OF SPORT:

Seventy seven crack riders from nine countries, including the greatest of all, Geoff Duke No. 50, are keyed up for the Senior International T.T. Race on the Isle of Man. 264 miles of twisting mountain road ahead of them demanding the utmost from man and machine.

Duke is away on his Italian Gilera. A strange race this, with foreign bikes specially made for the event competing against British factory-line models. Duke, Armstrong, Kavanagh and other British ace riders ride Italian mounts because Britain's are not fast enough for them.

The British machines are doing valiant work, but in the first lap Geoff Duke is already leading. Everyone wishes him well, because since his last Senior T.T. win in 1951 bad luck has persistently robbed him of victory.

Duke and team-mate Armstrong roar down from the mountains to take first and second place. Armstrong crosses the line first, but Duke's the winner because of the staggered start. So for a great rider it's congratulations from Mrs. Duke and from all of us.

From miles per hour to inches per bicep, Mr. Universe for 1955 is being selected in London - superman physiques from all over the world. Muscles that seem to be able to go for walks on their own. This chest, belonging to Manohar Aich of India, uses 47 inches of tape measure.

But this one reaches 51½, which should be enough for anyone - it belongs to America's 31 year old Glancy Ross. And the judges declare Mr. Ross the winner of the professional class.

You can't argue with the figures - especially with figures like Mr. Universe.

American Universities Yale and West Point meet Oxford and Cambridge at the White City. In the 440 yards from a staggered start British skipper D. Johnson of Oxford forges ahead to overtake Orrell-Jones of Cambridge, Kern Van Horn of Yale, and Bob Skerrett of Yale.

And with plenty to spare, England's skipper comes home for a tidy win at forty-eight point three seconds.

On their marks for the hundred yards - they're away. Two Americans, two British, with no time for tactics, no time for anything but one fantastic burst of speed - and Kyasky of West Point streaks to the tape in ten point one seconds.

But the big surprise is yet to come, in the special 2000 metres invitation event. Chris Chataway takes it fairly easily to start with, and soon settles down into fourth place to bide his time. No official British record is recognised for this distance, but till now the best British time is held by Gordon Pirie at 5 minutes 9.8 seconds. No signs yet of any attempt to beat that unofficial record.

But 23-year-old Finchley Harrier Eric Shirley is setting a cracking pace, which inspires Chataway to let rip.

A supreme effort puts Chataway in the lead, with Shirley second and the rest nowhere. Sixty yards ahead, Chris Chataway breaks the tape and he's smashed Pirie's British record by four tenths of a second.

For Chris's friend Roger Bannister (the world's first four-minute miler), a great occasion of another kind - his marriage to Swedish artist Moyra Jacobson in Basle, Switzerland.

Basle athletes form a guard of honour as a compliment to the town's distinguished visitor and his bride. Earlier in the day, the 26 year old couple had a civil wedding in Basle's 17th century register office.

From the church, Dr. and Mrs. Bannister drive to the hotel of the Three Kings for the reception.

The cake is four feet high, but there are 300 guests waiting for some - not to mention all the absent friends who would like a piece to put under their pillows.