

~~Picking out the sporting highlights~~ --- here, in France ~~in~~ the cross-country cycling season has started. Eighty competitors took part in the International at Mount Valerien ~~near~~ Paris --- only to find out how deep is my valley. ~~X~~ --- It was rough, tough going all the way. The winner was the Frenchman Jodet. In Germany --- in the Hartz Mountains not far from Hanover --- they held the German Bobsled Championship of 1954.

The winners were the Olympic champions, Nieberl and Ostler. There were plenty of crashes --- but no one was badly injured.

At the Millrose Games in Madison Square Garden, New York --- the pole-vault winner for the eighth time running was the jumping parson, Bob Richards. In the high jump, Herman Wyatt just failed at six-foot-nine. Now --- the half-mile. This was won in spanking time by an air force bombardier, ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ Mal Whitfield. It also gave him the Wanamaker Trophy, as the meeting's outstanding competitor.

Now to Belgium --- where there were nearly forty starters for a three thousand seven hundred metres cross-country. Chief interest in the race was a question-mark.....would Reiff, the Belgian world-record-holder, stave off the challenge of Britain's wonder boy, Gordon Pirie? The answer was --- "No!" The twenty-three-year-old British ~~xxxxxxx~~ athlete, won in his own wonderful way --- Peerless Pirie.