

**Spiritual Blessings no longer satisfy
the Rev. Robert Richards**

Up to now, we were under the impression that, usually, only a certain class of cyclists or boxers specialized in turning professional after the Olympic Games had taken place ! We believed them to be the only ones who could turn their athletic exploits into

money. We now find that we were mistaken, since we have heard that the Rev. Bob Richards, twice Olympic Pole-Vault Champion (Helsinki 1952 and Melbourne 1956) has decided to give up his amateur status. This news was confirmed in September by the firm 'Union Oil of California' who is going to finance the Television Programme on which Bob Richards is to appear. This will be a weekly feature, it seems, and will consist of a series of interviews of distinguished athletes and personalities in the sporting world conducted by the champion.

Today, Richards is 31 years old. He

expressed his regret at having to give up his amateur status but he added, that in his opinion, his television programme would actually serve the cause of sport. He proposes, however, to continue to 'discharge his religious duties within the church of the Brethren of whom he is the minister. Of course, if the proceeds of his reporting and Television work are distributed amongst the poor of his parish, we can but bow before the Rev. Richards' fine decision who has chosen to sacrifice his quality of amateur in order to serve the cause of Charity, a fact which would really be to his credit.