



Three arbiters give instructions at the start of motoball match to two of France's most active cycling football teams, Courbevoie (left) and Avignon.



Can the goalie stop this dead-on shot? Here's one in the net for a score. A la Leo Durocher, the Avignon captain's in a rhubarb. Poor goalie needs a rest!



One of the Courbevoie forwards boots a good shot directly at the overworked Avignon goalie again, but his teammates may be able to stop this one in time.

FOOTBALL on Wheels

Photos: Sadovy from Globe



ONE OF THE MORE popular team sports in France these days is motoball, a sort of football played on motorcycles. If American football is rugged and exciting, motoball with its stepped-up speed is even more so, and the fans seem to like it better every year. In addition to their light two-speed bikes, the players are equipped with helmets and protective boots and gloves.

Of the 37 clubs active in France, most of the major ones play scheduled contests in a national federation, and the sport is also gaining popularity in Belgium, Russia, and Germany.