

The opening day of the stadium Games closed with an exhibition of bicycle polo at six o'clock; a match in which the Irish Bicycle Polo Association beat the Deutscher Radfahrerbund from Germany. The journalists headed off to lodge their copy for the next day's papers. *Vanity Fair's* reporter concluded that the Americans were likely to sweep the board in hammer throwing, weight throwing, the sprint and the hurdle races and the high jump: 'Indeed, it looks to us at present as if the sports would be a triumph for the United States and their severe methods of training. Yet the English made a good beginning ...'²⁰

The *World's* reporter was more robust. His headline was:

YANKEES WIN FIRST BLOOD IN OLYMPIC GAMES



The Irish playing the Germans in an exhibition match of bicycle polo on the opening day of the Games – a recently invented sport, the brain child of R. J. Meccredy, the editor of the Irish Cyclist. The Irish won 3-1.