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### CYCLE MARATHON ENDS OLYMPICS

105 hardy cyclists line up in Windsor Great Park, where the Duke of Edinburgh is waiting to send them off on a 120 mile road marathon - a thrilling finale to the Olympic Games. After two weeks of athletics, rowing, swimming and a dozen other sports, it's cycling that is given the honour of seeing out the Olympiad's closing stages.

Handicapped by a head-on wind and driving rain, the cyclists will break no records. With 17 gruelling seven-mile laps ahead of them, they are taking it easy and are riding together, wheel to wheel, in a tightly bunched field. But already minor mishaps and punctures are beginning to take their toll.

Two Dutchmen - Jaanhof and Vorting - make an early breakaway, but the main group is chasing them hard. The pace is warming up, casualties are becoming more frequent.

At Black Nest Gate, the slippery surface causes more crashes. The field is thinning out.

With three laps behind them, several good teams are already out of the running.

Racing on to aptly-named Break Heart Hill, the field has lost half its riders, and more are falling out every minute. And when a minor difference of opinion crops up in the heat of the chase, who will quibble, if for a brief moment the Olympic spirit droops a little.

Meanwhile - at the park finish - Joseph Beyaert, a 22-year-old French shoemaker races home to win the Olympic cycling marathon. Only 31 out of 105 riders complete the course. To winner Beyaert goes a Gold Medal - the cheers of the crowd and a handshake from the Duke.