

Politics sinks yacht race

CAPE TOWN — A single-handed yacht race from South Africa to South America across the Atlantic has been scuppered by political pressure, the organisers said yesterday.

The finishing point of Punta del Este in Uruguay has been scrapped and the yachts will now

race north-west from the Cape, round the island of St Helena, and back to the Cape.

“The basic reason for this decision is the desire to avoid the deep embarrassment to ourselves, the participants, the sponsors and our good yachting friends in Uruguay should prob-

lems arise in finishing the race there due to international political considerations,” said Gordon Webb, chairman of the Cruising Association of South Africa.

Anti-apartheid pressure has effectively isolated South Africa from most international sporting events. — Sapa