

# Demolition in Table Bay

## Water Sport Correspondent

CAPE TOWN: Two top Cape yachts were among the 10 casualties when gale-force winds and collisions wreaked havoc on the first day of the Rothman's Week Regatta in Table Bay.

One visiting competitor described racing yesterday — with 50-knot winds gusting to 55 knots — as more conducive to a demolition derby than yacht racing.

Title holder Spilhaus, skippered by Teddy Kuttel, was among the first yachts to withdraw after he collided with another yacht rounding the first marker in the 22-mile race.

Spilhaus's back stay was snared in the accident, which broke the mast at about two thirds of its length. The crew battled to get her torn sails under control as she made for the breakwater.

Soon after arriving at the Royal Cape Yacht Club the crew had the mast off for repairs to compete in today's race.

Cowes Week top runner Three Spears,

damaged in a collision, followed her in.

She has not had a fortunate start. She was put back in the water less than two hours before the starter's gun was fired yesterday after having her rudder refitted at daybreak.

The gale spread the yachts out over the triangular course soon after the starting gun was fired.

The Durban yacht Indibilish broke her mast off at the base and had to be towed into port by the Howard Davis.

Numerous other yachts broke gear and when the race ended, their crews went straight to work on repairs.

The handicap winner of the IOR Class 1 event was Archangel (Keith Turner), followed on handicap by line honours winner Assegai (Dave Abromowitz), while Nutcracker (D.Mielke) was third.

IOR Class 2 winner was Misty (Jerry O'Sullivan), followed by Ultimate Pea (B. James) and Halali (K. Bromage).

The L26 Class winner was Omega Heat-wave (N.J. Baikoff).