

21-12-90



JOHN MARTIN celebrates victory in the second leg of the BOC Challenge.

## John Martin wins second leg

**SYDNEY:** South African John Martin cruised through Sydney Heads today to win the second leg of the BOC Challenge around-the-world yacht race in record time.

He slashed two days off the previous record for the 7 000-mile leg as his boat, Allied Bank, crossed the finish line just after dawn, Australian time.

The 36-year-old looked relaxed after his 26-day solo crossing from Cape Town to Sydney.

His nearest rival, Frenchman Christophe Auguin, sailing Groupe Sceta about 150 miles behind, was expected in Sydney late tonight.

Auguin was awarded first place in the first leg from Newport on the east coast of the United

States to Cape Town after line honours winner fellow Frenchman Alain Gautier was penalised 16,5 hours for being late for start formalities.

Gautier, sailing Generali Concorde, was in third position about 200 miles from the finish. Unless he can reach Sydney within 12 hours, Martin, who was awarded second place for the first leg, will take the outright lead.

Martin, sailing his second BOC challenge, said he was pleased with his performance as he had based his whole strategy around the second and third legs of the 27 000-mile race.

"The BOC is won or lost in the second and third legs," he said after docking in Sydney.

"The second leg four years ago was a very big problem for me. I virtually built my whole BOC race around the second leg this time to crack that sportsman's barrier — to say, 'yes it's possible to take the Southern Ocean and do well'."

In 1986 Martin's boat was tossed 360 degrees by a giant wave and his self-steering mechanism failed, forcing him to helm his boat continuously from Perth in Western Australia to Sydney.

Again faced with gale-force winds and 20-metre swells, Martin's boat, probably the most radical of the 21-boat fleet at 18 metres long and six metres wide, proved itself. — Sapa-Reuter