

Solo sailor plans new trip

By RYAN CRESSWELL

LONE sailor Anthony Steward, back home after completing two thirds of his round-the-world voyage, disclosed this week that he plans another world first.

Vereeniging-born Steward says that as soon as he has completed his circumnavigation — which will make him the first person to sail around the world in a small, open boat — he will sail from Durban to Cape Town in a dinghy.

In Durban this week, he bought a second-hand Finn dinghy, which does not have a proper keel. Solo yachtsmen keep such boats upright using only their body-weight. Steward, 28, also plans to try to race the dinghy in the Barcelona Olympics next year.

Wrecked

He is now waiting out the cyclone-season in Durban before continuing his epic 26 000 nautical mile voyage.

American Webb Chiles came closest to making the voyage but, after taking five years to get three-quarters of the way, he was wrecked off Saudi Arabia.

Steward suffers from a potentially deadly disease, angio-oedema, which attacks the lymph system.

After he fell ill last year,



BACK HOME . . . open boat hero Anthony Steward tries his luck with a toy boat

Picture: HORACE POTTER

his doctor ordered him to give up his dream voyage.

But Steward was adamant and set sail in the **NCS Challenger** from Cape Town in February this year.

Within days, he became extremely ill and, by the

time he sailed into St Helena, he had lost 12kg.

The Atlantic crossing took 52 days.

Then Steward tackled the Pacific Ocean and sailed through the Caribbean during the hurricane season.

"I capsized so many times I can't remember exactly how many. It wasn't the capsizing, but the tension of waiting for the next one that got to me. I didn't sleep for three days," he said.

He is now preparing to tackle the Indian Ocean.

"The next part is going to be the worst," he said. "The Indian Ocean is the toughest sea and the last part will be the real proving ground."

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