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Jakaranda, Stormy in lead fight

WHILE LIGHT winds slowed the whole of the Rio-bound fleet yesterday, Bruynzeel's Stormy and Bobby Bongers' Jakaranda were wrestling for the lead, far to the north of the main body.

Across an overcast front of 180 miles, Dabulamanzi, Ondine and Voortrekker were all within reach of a leading position. With Stormy farthest north and Voortrekker farthest south, the fleet seemed to be converging on a west-north-west course, the line taking them somewhere between St. Helena and Ilha Trindade.

The leaders were 540 miles from Cape Town when they reported positions towards noon and the stragglers within 330 miles of the start.

Although they reported positions within 60 miles

bottle stores," he said. "No whales but a whale of a time."

HIC III, the only German entry, is back in the race.

After several delays and considerable help from South African yachtsmen, the tiny sloop sailed out of Table Bay basin yesterday to take up where she was forced to leave off when dismasted in a squall at the start on Saturday.

HIC III's new masts is a discarded mizzen from Jakaranda.

From

GAVIN STEWART,

the "Mercury's" man aboard
SAS Tafelberg.

apart, the British yacht, Matchless and Durban's Mainstay were in fact within sight of one another.

"This morning she was about 200 yards from us," Mainstay's David Cox said. "But we're on different courses, drawing slowly apart."

Matchless was working westward, her bow about level with Mainstay, three or four miles off by Cox's estimate.

"We have had a number of spinnaker changes," Cox said. "We're trying to get the maximum from the boat. At sunset on Monday Omuramba passed about 200 metres astern of us and went off to the west."

Aboard Johannesburg's Racker, the only ferrocement boat in the Rio race, Alan Dando and his crew were putting the final touches to a three-day repair on their bow. Soon after the start Racker slammed into Italy's Koala Tre.

"An area about 100 centimetres by 150 centimetres caved in," Dando reported in his first radio interview since the start. "It was on the waterline. We had to move out all the food, the sails and the crew to the stern."

Using quick-drying cement, gleaned from the mines, and then epoxy, Racker's crew stopped the leak.

SHOWERS

Koala Tre reported no damage at the start, but the crew of Gordon Rennie's Dabulamanzi were busy sewing ripped spinnakers.

Aboard Lynn's Victory spinnaker repairs were impossible. "We blew out our big, colourful spinnaker two days ago. It's beyond repair." Quinton van der Merwe said.

Chris Cairncross on Tub's radio took a more spirited view: "We're broaching our