

Globe leader passes the half-way mark

By ROGER WILLIAMS

TITOUAN LAMAZOU in Ecureuil d'Aquitaine, still leading in the non-stop Globe Challenge yacht race around the world, yesterday passed the half-way mark on the fleet's 24 000 nautical-mile course — Cape Leeuwin in south-west Australia.

But while Cape Leeuwin, second of the great capes to be passed in the race, was basking in summer sunshine, Lamazou, some 1 200 miles south, reported howling winds and freezing conditions.

The French single-hander has increased his lead in the past two days to more than 500 miles ahead of second-placed Lada Poch, skippered by Loick Peyron. And he now appears well set to finish the race in less than 120 days.

36.15 Met (Jean-Luc van den Heede) is still in third place, with Credit Agricole, skippered by top BOC Challenge star Philippe Jeantot, only 25 miles behind fourth-placed TBS (Pierre Follenfant).

● In Cape Town, Bertie Reed's Grinaker which retired from the Globe Challenge last week with steering problems, is to be moved today to the Elbow Berth in the Victoria Basin, where work will begin to prepare the maxi for the two-handed transatlantic race and the 1990/91 BOC Challenge single-handed race around the world starting from Newport, Rhode Island, in September.



HALF-WAY THERE . . . France's Titouan Lamazou, who reached the half-way mark in the Globe Challenge non-stop yacht race around the world yesterday. Lamazou, 33, a novelist, painter and photographer, has been leading most of the way.