

It's back to school for Rio yachtsman

By MOGAMAT TOFFAR

SIERAJ Jacobs, the most talked about personality in the recent Cape to Rio Yacht Race, is back at home in Grassy Park.

Sieraj, the youngest-ever yachtsman to take part in the race, was part of the Parker Pen Ltd crew who came second to Broomstick in the record-breaking event.

"It was the most exciting experience of my life," said the 13-year-old yachtsman at a welcome home reception for the crew at the Royal Cape Yacht Club last week.

"I will certainly take part again if given the opportunity," added Sieraj, who hasn't change one bit. He answered questions in the very same fashion as the day he left Cape Town for the gruelling 3 600 mile Trans-Atlantic crossing, without a remote sign of excitement.

According to his mother, Mrs Juwayda

Jacobs, Sieraj has a withdrawn personality, keeping his feelings to himself.

On the race itself Sieraj told the Southern Mail that they were never in any real danger, except for a few storms when "waves were as high as double-storey buildings".

"We knew all along that Broomstick was ahead and tried everything to gain ground, only to cut down on the time difference," said Sieraj.

Parker Pen Ltd is, however, set on vengeance. Its MD Geoff Garbett announced at the reception that Parker Pen Ltd had already been entered for the 1996 Cape to Rio race.

A new boat is envisaged for the assault on the 15-day barrier. Mr Garbett also announced that Parker Pen Ltd had decided to honour its "line honours" promise of a R50 000 18ct gold Duofold Parker Pen set for

skipper Bruce Tedder. The rest of the crew including Sieraj received a Parker Duofold sterling silver set worth R2 000.

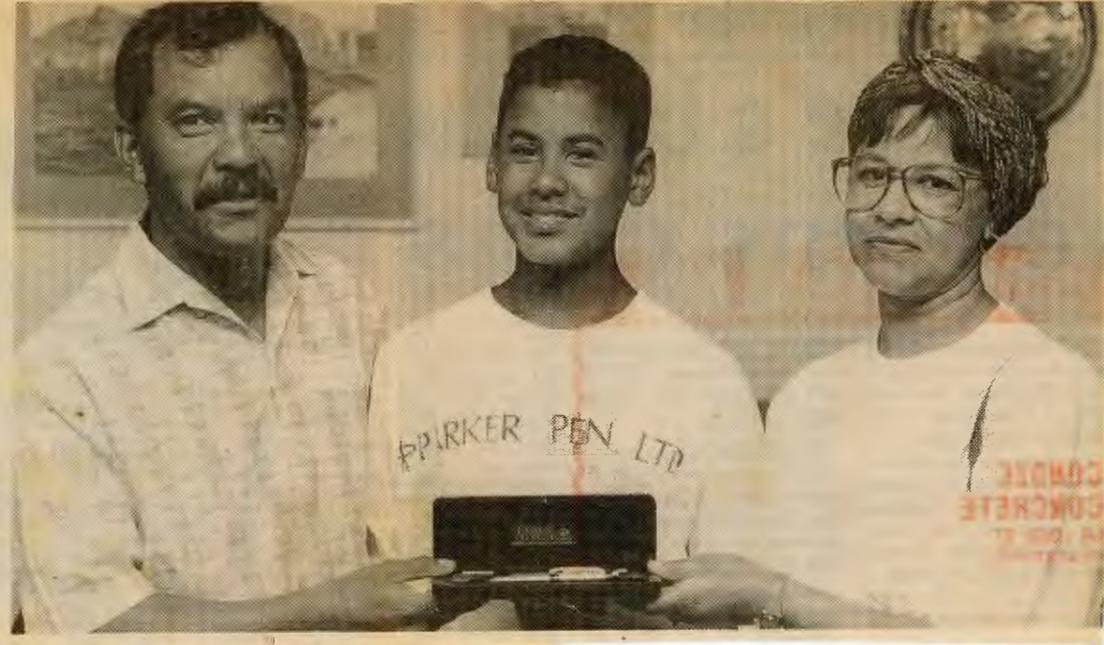
MEMORABILIA

Asked what he would do with his prize, Sieraj said he wouldn't use it, but would rather keep it in their display cabinet as memorabilia.

Commenting on Sieraj Tedder said: "Because of his age, taking on Sieraj was not without an element of risk. He was seasick on the first night which he spent sleeping outside in his oilskins, but ater a salt water shower the next morning was right as rain.

"He performed well and while the experience taught him a lot about sailing, he learned more about human relationships which is very important."

Sieraj started his high school career at South Peninsula High School last week.



● SPORTING his sterling silver Duofold Parker Pen worth R2 000 at the welcome home reception last week was Sieraj Jacobs (centre), the youngest-ever to take part in the Cape to Rio race. With him were his parents, boat-builder father, Mr Fuad and mother Mrs Juwayda Jacobs.