

Provoyeur finds icebergs 'scary'

By DALE GRANGER

SIGHTINGS of icebergs by three sailors in the BOC Challenge around-the-world race were reported yesterday — as the yacht of American David Scully fleetingly became a submarine and Australian Alan Nebauer was nursing injuries from a knockdown.

"I was scared this morning when, right in my tracks, was this huge iceberg," said South African J J Provoyeur, lying fourth in Class One on Novell South Africa, 580 miles behind the race leader, Frenchman Christophe Auguin, on Sceta Calberson.

"It is scary to see, and one realises that one is sailing side by side with danger," the Capetonian said from 57 15 South and 124 25 West with Novell South Africa's radar still rendered useless.

Some 200 miles behind Provoyeur, Scully, on Coyote, was almost upside down as the result of a knockdown. The American said: "The Southern Ocean is doing what it is supposed to do. Enormous waves, snow squalls and plenty of breeze."

The fierce battle for the honours in Class Two has raged non-stop since September, and yesterday Italian Giovanni Soldini, on Kodak, and Australian David Adams, on True Blue, were separated by only 72 miles — and both spotted icebergs.

"I will be very happy once we're out of the ice zone," Soldini said from 58 09 S. "David gained 15 miles on me because I came north. The water is warmer, and maybe there is less risk." Despite having spotted an ideberg, Adams plunged below the 59th parallel in his quest to overhaul Soldini.