

STAR

23 - 5 - 70

Yachting

Kiwis win 8-month odyssey

SOUTHAMPTON — The yacht Steinlager 2 was serenaded by jazz bands, fireworks and New Zealand's national anthem as it won the final leg of the 33 932-nautical mile Whitbread Round-the-World race yesterday, completing its sweep of all six legs.

Skipper Peter Blake sprayed champagne over his 14 crewmen as Steinlager wrapped up a 35-hour victory in the eight-month odyssey. The 25 m ketch completed its 3 837-nautical mile journey on the final leg from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in slightly more than 17 days — just 36 minutes ahead of another Kiwi yacht, Fisher and Paykel.

Steinlager won the overall race, which began on September 2 in Southampton, by 35 hr 37 min 52 sec over Fisher and Paykel. The Swiss boat Merit finished third in the leg and third overall, more than two days behind Steinlager.

The Soviet yacht Fazisi was struck by tragedy when its skipper, Alexei Gryshenko, wandered away from port in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in October and was found two days later hanging from a tree.

The other death occurred at sea in November when Anthony Phillips of the British ship Creightons Naturally was swept overboard and never regained consciousness after spending 47 minutes in the cold, stormy Atlantic Ocean.

— Sapa-Reuter.