



HOPEFULS: The fabulous five to do battle in the J22 regatta on the Vaal Dam — from left — Leanne Gallard, Josie Franklin (back), Marion Cole (skipper), Penny Deel-Smith and Dessie Moon (centre front).

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Cole plans a new tack with all-woman crew

ALAN SIMMONDS

THE old adage: "separate the men from the boys" might well apply to Western Province sailing star Marion Cole.

Cole knows which way the wind is blowing when it comes to handling a yacht off Cape Town's hazardous coastline and will do the same at the SA National J22 Regatta in the more placid waters of the Vaal and later in the year at the world championships in La Rochelle, France.

Cole will take a final selection of four women, a reserve and a manager with her to the Transvaal and France.

Her present squad has been training on different yachts in and around Cape Town as there is no J22 available for them.

But they have logged many nautical miles and built up considerable sailing experience.

Cole has the touch. She has al-

ready skippered in four "Double Cape" races, winning twice on handicap and has won a Rothmans Week in Class II in *Royal Flush*.

Add three Lipton Cup weeks as a skipper, competing against the best and proof of her pedigree can be seen. This is the first time she will have an all-woman crew.

The SA nationals are to be held on the Vaal Dam from May 28-31 and Western Province's finest will be competing against two women's teams from Natal and another two from Transvaal.

Going with Cole to the Transvaal will be Leanne Gallard, Josie Franklin, Penny Deel-Smith and Dessie Moon.

The world championships are from July 27-August 7.

Sponsorship for both events remains a problem and anyone able to help may telephone (021) 453577 or fax (021) 689 8625.