

## ● YACHTING

# Sutherland celebrates

6/6/1994 CASE TIMES

By DALE GRANGER

CRAIG Sutherland celebrated in sailing style over the weekend after winning both the IMS and PHRF prizes at the 130 mile Portugal Day race to become the first yachtsman to clinch the CASA Offshore Sailing Series.

In a heavy weather race characterised by southerly winds gusting up to 25 knots, the fleet sailed from Granger Bay to a mark 50 miles west, a tight spinnaker reach to Dassen Island and a tough beat home. Sutherland made a crucial tactical decision on the last leg which swept Ballyhoo to victory over Alan Geeling on the rival Simonis 35, Scatterling.

"It was testing trying to hold the spinnaker to Dassen Island, but we managed to keep it up and made a few gains although we broached a few times. At Dassen Island we were about third or fourth and had to decide whether the wind would switch south-east and come in inshore off Milnerton or stay south-west and sail to the seaward side of Robben Island".

The westerly course paid handsome dividends for Sutherland who crossed the line third only about a mile astern of the scratch boat, Thunderchild, co-skippered by Rhett and Glenn Goldswain, and Three Jumps Ahead (Craig Middleton).

The slowest boat in the fleet, the Charger 33, Irish Mist, skippered by Norjohn Kennedy, was third on PHRF followed by the Navy's Voortrekker 1, skippered by Roly Brown.

After two victories in the six race series, Sutherland said it was "great" to be the first Offshore Series champion and attributed the winning criteria to "consistency and entering all the races".

Thunderchild, who seem to have grown in stature in each unfurling race, were second overall in the series with Geeling third on Scatterling.