



PICTURE: ALAN COXON

**CIRCUM-NAVIGATORS:** Skipper Felix Scheder-Bieschin (front) and his crew celebrate their arrival in Durban last night. 19/10/1997 DAILY NEWS

# German round the world yacht sails into Durban

## DAILY NEWS REPORTER

CROSSING the finishing line at Durban's Point Yacht club last night the Norddeutsche Vermogen Hamburg became the first yacht to stop over in Durban in a round-the-world-yacht race.

The 17m yacht, skippered for the leg by Felix Scheder-Bieschin, a German ship owner and member of the Point Yacht Club, crossed the line at 7.24pm eight days after leaving Mauritius. The other five yachts taking

part in the Hong Kong Challenge are expected to arrive in Durban this evening and tomorrow depending on weather conditions.

The fleet had generally experienced good conditions since leaving London on October 23. The Norddeutsche Vermogen Hamburg made speeds of more than 20 knots on its way from Mauritius to Durban, achieving 284 mile in a 24 hour run.

Mr Scheder-Bieschin said the nine crew members worked the boat really hard, pushing it at

night and keeping it going in the gale force south-westerly they faced approaching Durban. Despite suffering gear failure, breaking two winches, shredding a strong wind spinnaker and breaking a spinnaker control line, the crew said they were very lucky to have had following winds for most of the trip and never had more than 12 hours without the spinnaker flying.

The race will resume on June 24 and is expected to finish in London during September.