

Cape boats triumph at Crystic Week

Yachting by **ROB MEEK**

A RESOLUTE Gwaap, skippered by Geoff Meek, snatched Ernst vander Laan's hope of a hat-trick with Up-Tite (the Class One winner of Rothman's Week and Algoa Bay Week) during the recent Crystic Ocean Challenge off Durban.

The light north-easterly winds favoured the Lavranos-designed half-tonner above the German 3/4-tonner and Gwaap managed to stay just

ahead throughout the week.

In Class 2 there was really tight racing between the Cape boat, Royal Flush, designed specially for the 1982 Lipton Cup by Lavranos, Natal's Fuel Free and the Transvaal's Sweet Pea. Each had won a race after the first three days but Royal Flush, skippered by Rob Meek, won the last two races and finally clinched Class 2.

The L26 fleet had combined their class nationals with Crystic Week and fielded a strong Fleet of 19 boats.

Peter Hishens, sailing B & G, walked off with all the silverware, with veteran Finn sailor Ernie Shaw second and Sandy Ord, skippering Co-ordination, third.

In the Stadt 23 Class, Fireball sailor Alex (Bones) Stone had three Dabchick sailors who joined his crew as a prize in the Dabchick Nationals. This young dinghy combination made a clean sweep and after the discard held four boats.

A brisk 25-knot north-easter greeted the Class One boats at the start of Crystic's long-distance race to Richards Bay and back and the fleet had a hard bash against the wind and current up to the turning mark.

Up-Tite was the first to Richards Bay but it was First Lady, the brand new imported Beneteau 345, skippered by Lex Ras, that took line honours back in Durban after making an off-shore route. The overall winner on handicap was once again Geoff Meek on Gwaap.



Class II winner Royal Flush, one of the four Cape Town boats which dominated the Crystic Ocean Challenge held off Durban this month.

Picture: Di Meek