

Voortrekker second monohull to finish

London Bureau

VOORTREKKER II sailed into Plymouth Sound to finish as the second monohull in the Round Britain and Ireland yacht race at 8 23 a m (S A time) yesterday.

First place in the monohull fleet went to Thursday's Child, which had led throughout, but in the final leg from Lowestoft, Voortrekker II reduced Thursday's Child's lead from 20 hours to 15.

The largest monohull in the fleet, Quail of Wight, was lying third at Lowestoft but a good 24 hours behind Voortrekker II.

She is skippered by Donald Parr, a commodore of the Royal Ocean Racing Club.

This has been a generally slow race and the

record set by Voortrekker II in the last race in 1982 has not been broken by Thursday's Child.

In the multihull fleet, Apricot has won, but again the race record has not been broken. She was more than 15 hours ahead of Moor Energy (second) and Marlow Ropes (third).

Development

British Airways 1, skippered by Robin Knox-Johnson, after improving to second place at Lowestoft, dropped back to finish the race fourth.

Red Star Night Star, which was fifth, won the 1982 race as Colt Cars and set the multihull record that still stands.

She finished this year's race more than 21 hours behind the winner, Apricot, which indicates the level of technological de-

velopment that has taken place in multihull design and construction since she won in 1982.

In the frustratingly calm conditions of the first leg, Voortrekker II was actually overtaken by smaller monohulls and multihulls being rowed by their two-man crews.

In the last leg she was virtually becalmed for 10 hours in the Dover Straits and almost needed to anchor when the tide turned against her.

For the remaining three race legs, she returned good average speeds of 9.5, 8.5 and 8.75 knots. Voortrekker II has raced well and she finished the 2000-nautical-mile race undamaged.

Skipper John Martin acknowledged that Thursday's Child had proved she was a hard boat to catch.