

Jakaranda 2nd round Fastnet in big yacht race

From a Staff Reporter

PLYMOUTH, Tuesday.

THE South African yacht Jakaranda was reported last night to be the second boat concerned with the Admiral's Cup to round the Fastnet Rock in the 605-mile Fastnet race. She was seen rounding the rock at 10.36 pm South African time.

The big American yacht American Eagle was leading the race last night with another non-Cup entry, the Australian Apollo second, some three hours behind.

American Eagle was reported to have rounded the Fastnet Rock (off the south west coast of Ireland) at 5.41 pm. First of the actual Admiral's Cup boats to

pass the rock was another Australian, Ragamuffin, timed at 9.31 pm, an hour ahead of Jakaranda. A British non-Cup boat was lying fourth.

Mercury, too, was reported earlier to be going well among a bunch of Cup boats trailing the leaders.

But the naval planes and frigates shadowing the Admiral's Cup fleet were unable to give exact placings and times with visibility fading.

However, with a Force 3 to 4 south-west wind forecast, the going should improve today when the yachts will be racing for Plymouth where American Eagle, if she maintains her present speed, should arrive tonight.

It was a day of confusion at the race information centre here with reported Cup boat sightings few and far between, and then only 50 or 60 miles from Fastnet. There was no word of Omuramba, nor for that matter, of Mr Edward Heath's Morning Cloud, for whom the planes had been keeping a special look out.

GOOD RESULT?

Conditions today should favour Jakaranda if the forecast holds.

Mr Guy Reynolds, manager of the South African team, said last night: 'Jakaranda could be the fastest Cup boat in such conditions and I am just hoping that the wind lives up to the forecast.'

'Mercury seems to be doing well, too, and I think the South Africans might get a good result.'