

SA sailors not all at sea

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ATLANTA. - South Africa's yachting contingent at the Olympic Games won't be bringing home any medals, but they will have plenty of memories, writes **GARY LEMKE**.

They competed in the seaside town of Savannah, five hours' drive from the central Games venue, where Hurricane Bertha hit three weeks ago, threatening to reduce millions of rands worth of vessels to a pile of matchsticks.

Yesterday, they finished the first nine races of 10 in the Sol-

ing class, 10 out of 11 in the Finn class and all 11 in the Laser class.

Dave Hibberd finished 22nd in a fleet of 56 in the Lasers.

That left him in 19th position overall, his highest placing in 11 races being an eighth spot recorded in the fifth day's racing.

Hibberd's list of finishing positions was: 10th, 10th, 20th, 20th, 8th, 17th, 31st, 13th, 29th, 18th and 22nd.

In the Finn category, probably the most successful from a South

African point of view, Ian Ainslie remained in medal contention until just a few days ago.

He had been lying third overall after a string of impressive results, but a second bad day at the office - each sailor is allowed to discard his worst result - ruled him out of medal contention.

Ainslie returned results of 25th, 10th, 7th, 2nd, 10th, 10th, 14th, 2nd, 26th and 17th from his first 10 forays out into the Savannah sea.

Good going, but that 26th posi-

tion was the one that cooked his goose.

However, having ended 18th at the 1992 Olympics, there is no doubt the 31-year-old Amanzimtoti teacher had a better Games this time around.

As for the Soling trio of Bruce Savage, Rick Mayhew and Clynton Wade-Lehman, they sailed well without a lot of luck.

Their results sequence coughed up a 17th, 2nd, 17th, 11th, 11th, 20th, 15th, 10th, 11th and ... well, at this stage your guess is as good as mine ...