

# Vital race in America's Cup series

NEWPORT (Rhode Island), Friday.

**T**HE defending American yacht Intrepid and Australia's challenger Dame Pattie were hauled from the water today for drying out before their fourth race tomorrow which could decide the current best-of-seven America's Cup series.

Dame Pattie's skipper, Jock Sturrock, asked for the rest-day after Intrepid raced yesterday to her third straight victory. But it is now virtually certain that the cup will stay in America, which has held it since its inception 116 years ago.

Lighter winds are Sturrock's only chance of avoiding a "four-

straight" defeat like those inflicted on two British post-war challengers, but American skipper Emile 'Bus' Mosbacher is confident of victory regardless of the conditions.

"I think Intrepid might be the best 12-metre in the world," he said.

Sturrock told a Press conference that Dame Pattie had been built to give of her best in 12-14 knot winds but might in fact perform better in eight to 10-knot conditions.

He believed Dame Pattie's hull structure was the main factor in the results.

Stiff breezes have whipped the America's Cup course in all three races so far. Intrepid's winning margins have been 5min. 58sec. (Tuesday), 3min. 36sec. (Wednesday) and 4min. 41sec.

## HEAD SEAS

During yesterday's race winds of up to 20 knots were blowing over the 24.3-mile course.

Both yachts were constantly doused with water as they hurred through head seas to windward. Aboard Dame Pattie three men were pumping the bilges for most of the races.

Intrepid survived near disaster in a dramatic incident 20 minutes after the start. Mosbacher had to veer course sharply to avoid a capsized sailing boat but still managed to stay in front of Dame Pattie. — Sapa-Reuter.