

Jakaranda off to Rio in day or two

THE yawl *Jakaranda* will be back in the Rio race to-morrow or Saturday, according to skipper Bruce Dalling.

"I'm a sublime optimist," he said, standing bare-chested next to the dark-blue yawl in her cradle next to the Sturrock dry dock after dismantling her damaged rudder for repairs. Cape Town engineers were last night making a solid stainless-steel rudder stock to replace the damaged one that sheered right through on Sunday, 434 km (270 miles) from Cape Town.

At 2.55 p.m. yesterday

Jakaranda came alongside the floating crane and was hoisted into the air by a hook attached amidships, watched by a large crowd of dock workers, journalists and the public.

As she came out of the water the damaged rudder was visible. Like a strange large blue seabird, she swung over the heads of watchers and was slowly lowered into her cradle, guided by Dalling and the crew, who received a spontaneous round of applause from the watchers.

"What a mess," was crewman Cliff Leigh's judgment as crew, assessors and engineers

inspected the damage. The lines holding the rudder centred were undone and work began as Dalling and the crew used chisels and hammers to chip away the skeg to remove the rudder and stock. By 4.15 the rudder had been removed and Dalling discussed a replacement with engineers, drawing pencil diagrams on the top of an oil drum.

The hollow 76 mm (3 in.) diameter stock had sheered through to form a jagged edge. The skeg, which supports the rudder, was also damaged by the rudder working against it.

A crack was visible on the skeg, but Dalling said this was only surface damage and not serious. Another crack in the leading edge of the keel was visible. The *Jakaranda's* bow rail, which was bent when she came alongside the floating dock, is also being repaired.

Dalling said last night that specifications for a new rudder stock had been approved by Lloyd's assessors. After the stock had been made it would be inspected by the assessors before being approved for installation.

If they sail on Friday, Dalling estimated they will be

at least 1 609 km (1 000 miles) behind the leaders.

Other encouraging news was the return of the Cape Town sloop *Stormkaap*, skippered by Dave Abromowitz, to the race after a two-day delay at Port Nolloth for rudder repairs.

The senior lighthouse keeper there said yesterday that repairs were completed at 3 p.m., but the yacht waited for high tide at 5.30 to leave the tricky harbour.

"People lined the shore to cheer *Stormkaap* on her way out — it was a beautiful sight."