

Stormkaap ^{24.1.71} now needs a good blow to catch up

By a Staff Reporter

WITH Cape Town's crack yacht Stormkaap now back in the Cape-to-Rio race, skipper Dave Abromowitz (28) will be hoping for a good down-wind blow to help him make up for his two-day stopover at Port Nolloth for repairs to his rudder.

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Stormkaap arrived at the West Coast port at 6.30 p.m. on Monday and hoisted her sails for Rio at 5.30 p.m. yesterday. She looked good as she struck out to chase the fleet.

Yachting pundits feel she could be one of the fastest yachts in the race, given strong winds. But Abromowitz said in Cape Town before his departure she had responded well to light winds during his months of preparation with her off the Peninsula.

GOING WELL

If all goes well for Stormkaap now, Abromowitz and his keen-as-mustard crew should have no difficulty in overtaking the smaller and older yachts in the South Atlantic.

But the 'big banger' leaders such as Ocean Spirit and Graybeard are a different proposition. They are spreading their sails and going well.

Stormkaap's 'first cousin,' Kees Bruynzeel's Stormy, is in fifth place (actual) and 13th place (handicap), according to last night's computer analysis. The hulls of the two 'storm' yachts are from the same mould, but they are differently rigged.

Stormy is a two-masted ketch, while Stormkaap is a single-masted sloop. It is interesting that Stormkaap has a slightly more favourable handicap. Her time factor and correction is 0.9198 compared with Stormy's 0.9298.

This is the factor by which the yacht's final elapsed time is multiplied to find a final corrected time.

OLD SEA-DOG

Yachtsmen are watching the relative performances of the two yachts with much interest. Among the factors involved are sharp contrasts in their skippers. Kees Bruynzeel is an old sea-dog, one of the most experienced yachtsmen in the race, a man whose racing successes go back to the thirties.

Dave Abromowitz is much less experienced -- but his proven skill and enthusiasm brought him the reward of the command of Stormkaap, an honour for someone of his age.

Of the other South African yachts in the race, Voortrekker was best placed on actual position, according to the computer. She was seventh (actual) and 17th (handicap).

John Goodwin's Knysna entry, Albatros II, was going well, too, placed eighth (position) and fourth (handicap).

The computer had good news for old-timer Cariad I's many well-wishers. The 75-year-old ketch was placed in eighth actual position -- but 35th on handicap.

SEA SCOUTS

Meanwhile, Eric Porzig's Sea Scout crew were lying 36th on both actual and handicap positions in their cutter Active. Whether they improve their positions or not, the boys are bound to be having a splendid time out on the ocean.

Also fascinating for yachtsmen is the private race between Bobby Bongers's Outburst (Cape Town) and Bunny Curran's Port Rex. They are sisters, both built by Bobby at Zeekoevlei, with Port Rex having a slightly more favourable rating.

Last night's computer put Port Rex ahead of Outburst on both actual and handicap positions.