

48 hours — and not a Rio crossing

12.2.71

NO MORE Cape-to-Rio yachts crossed the finishing line in almost 48 hours, according to position reports received by 4 p.m. yesterday. Albatros (John Goodwin), which had 245 miles to go when she last reported on Wednesday, is expected to reach Rio next—eighth in line.

The seven yachts already at Rio are Ocean Spirit (Britain), Graybeard (Canada), Fortuna (Argentina), Stormy (Netherlands) and Pen Duick, Striana and Raph (all France).

The ketch Striana seemed certain to be declared overall winner, Sapa reports from Rio. The fifth yacht to cross the finishing line, she has a corrected time of 535 hr. 23 min. 33 sec.

Albatros was the only yacht capable of overtaking Striana, but to do so she had to finish by 5 a.m. to-day. At 2.30 p.m. Albatros was plotted 245 miles out of Rio, having averaged 10 knots in the preceding 20 hours.

At this pace she was not expected at Rio till 11 a.m. to-day—well outside the limit.

The skipper of the French schooner Pen Duick, Eric

Tabarly, has claimed that he has won Class 1, and not come third in Class 2. His claims have been officially rejected by the race committee in Rio.

The committee ruled that his objection should have been lodged before the race, not after the winner of Class 1 had been decided.

Tabarly claimed he sailed under the conviction he was in Class 1 and had crossed the line believing he had won the race. He said he would appeal to the International Yacht Racing Association.

Winner of Class 1 was the Argentine Navy yawl Fortuna with a corrected time of 545 hr. 55 min. 11 sec — 2 hr. 18 min. slower than Tabarly.

Of the 49 yachts still racing to Rio, 17 failed to report yesterday. Among them were Howard Davis, Baleia, Golden City and Applemist, all of which were well up in front on Wednesday, with less than 450 miles to go.

Of the yachts which reported, Breezand was running 8th in line, 6th on handicap, with 365 miles to go. Only 28 miles behind her was Adamastor, running 9th and 15th on handicap.

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