

Remote possibility of being beaten

ALBATROS HAS RIO

RACE IN THE BAG

13.2.71

THE 12.8-m (42-ft.) Knysna sloop Albatros II has won the Cape-to-Rio race subject only to the remotest possibility that one of four other South African yachts could catch up.

Albatros crossed the finish line of the 3 600-nautical-mile race at 6.38 a.m. (SA time) yesterday, and was the first of the 35 South African participants to finish.

Albatros, owned by the well-known South African industrialist of Knysna, Mr. Stanley Thesen, arrived four days after Ocean Spirit had crossed the line, but her corrected time of 529 hr. 33 min. 34 sec. was six hours faster than that of the French ketch Striana, which was at that stage the overall leader.

A jubilant crew celebrated their victory even before getting off the yacht at the Rio de Janeiro Yacht Club as they opened champagne bottles, drank and waved them at the large crowd on the pier.

Bearded skipper John Goodwin said after the race that if it had not been such an important race he would have turned back after Albatros had damaged a mast 1½ hours after the start of the race on January 16.

"We decided however to continue and we tied a bar to both ends of the curve in the mast and used a winch-like apparatus to straighten out the mast. We lost five hours in the process and also lost a cross-tree, but a magnificent effort of team work pulled it off", Goodwin said.

The radio aboard Albatros worked well and this enabled the crew to plot the positions of other yachts.

'All excited'

"When we learnt that we were in the lead we were all very excited and regularly changed sails to get the most out of the wind and chose a course according to the wind in each of the zones we crossed", Goodwin said.

He paid tribute to the crack Dutch designer Ricus van der Stadt, and said that the Albatros was a great boat and that her achievement underlined the outstanding work done by the designer.

Albatros maintained a lead on corrected time during the race for a period of 16 days and, except for the first day

when she was in 27th position, she never dropped farther back than to fourth place. On actual distance covered during the race she led for about a week and, except for the first day, when she was 25th, she stayed among the first eight.

The handicaps, which are controlled by internationally recognized measurers, are the result of a highly complicated computerized calculation designed to test the sailing skill of the skipper and crew with allowance for the inherent speed of the size and design.

Skipper John Goodwin is among South Africa's most experienced yachtsmen and has now crossed the Atlantic six times, including two single-handed attempts.

Crew member Arthur Holgate has built two boats, the Titch and Lorraine, which are still being used for charter work in the West Indies.

The navigator, Brian Lello, is a leading yacht designer and also editor of *S.A. Yachting*. He first crossed the Atlantic in 1939.

With Heath

Another crew member, John Green, made the trip to Cape Town in the British ketch Ocean Spirit, which crossed the line first in the race. He has also sailed with the British Prime Minister, Mr. Heath, and has considerable sailing experience in the English Channel.

Hal Thesen and John Allen make up the rest of the crew.

If Albatros wins she will sweep the cream of the trophies in the race. She will receive the R2 500 solid-gold and silver South Atlantic

Trophy donated by the Chamber of Mines, the Royal Cape Yacht Club Trophy for yachts in Class 3, the Southern Cross Trophy for the best-placed South African yacht, the Royal Natal Yacht Club Trophy for the first South African yacht across the line, and the Trophy of Capricorn for the best-placed South African yacht whose hull was built or finished in South Africa.

For the owners of Albatros II, Thesens, this was a memorable occasion. For the second time within three years they featured prominently on the international yachting scene.

In 1968 they were responsible for the building of Voortrekker, the yacht which Bruce Dalling sailed to second place in the trans-Atlantic single-handed race.

Thesens entered Albatros II in the race to mark the centenary of the family's arrival in South Africa from Norway in Albatros I.

Jan Pott

The German sloop Jan Pott also arrived in Rio early yesterday, the eighth yacht in the race to cross the finishing line.

The Jan Pott came in at 15.00 hours 4 minutes and 22 seconds GMT, the racing committee announced, reports Sapa.

The 14.4-metre German sloop's exact finishing position, on a corrected time basis, was not immediately clear, though it will be well behind that of Albatros II.

This was the corrected time, by classes, for the eight yachts which have reached Rio:

Class I

	d.	h.	m.	s.
1. Fortuna (Arg)	22	17	55	11
2. Raph (Fr)	22	20	26	32
3. Ocean Spirit (Br)	23	18	40	47
4. Graybeard (Can)	26	13	26	23

Class II

1. Striana (Fr)	22	7	24	33
2. Stormy (Hol)	22	9	58	00
3. Pen Duick (Fr)	22	15	37	14

Class III

1. Albatros	22	1	33	34
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On corrected time, the result for the yachts which have reached Rio is:

1. Albatros	5. Fortuna
2. Striana	6. Raph
3. Stormy	7. Ocean Spirit
4. Pen Duick	8. Graybeard

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