

Albatros consolidates lead—18 yachts home

15.2-71
RIO DE JANEIRO.—Eighteen of the 57 yacht fleet which set off from Cape Town for Rio on January 16 have crossed the line and the South African sloop Albatros II has consolidated her position as apparent outright winner of the Cape-to-Rio race.

The 12.8-m (42-ft.) sloop, skippered by John Goodwin, 41, breezed into Rio de Janeiro early on Friday and took the lead with a corrected time of 529 hr. 33 min. 34 sec.

A member of the race committee yesterday calculated that only one yacht could challenge Albatros II—the British masthead sloop Barbette. But the 9-m (30-ft.) Bar-

bette, skippered by A. Clackson, will have to cross the line by 7 p.m. (SA time) to-day to snatch the prize from the South Africans, he said.

The chances of the British sloop pulling off a "photo-finish" win were considered slim. Her last reported position was at 6 p.m. on Saturday at 583 miles from Rio, which means that she would have to sail at an average of more than ten knots.

Two more yachts arrived here yesterday morning to complete the 6 115-km (3 800-mile) ocean race, but were well behind Albatros II.

U.S.A. ENTRY

Soon after midnight the first United States entry to finish the race crossed the line. The 14.6-m (48-ft.) yawl Xanadu II, skippered by E. B. McKee, had a corrected time of 573 hr. 20 min. 34 sec.

She was followed less than an hour later by another South African entry, the 12.8-m (42-ft.) sloop Mercury from Durban with a corrected time of 568 hr. 2 min. 26 sec. — (Sapa-Reuter.)

The positions of the yachts in the Cape-Rio race, as reported yesterday (the 29th day of the race) confirm that John Goodwin's Albatros II is the winner. Eighteen of the competitors have now reached Rio and it is unlikely that any of the others can possibly make up Albatros's handicap lead.

The French ketch Striana is the winner of Class II and the Argentine Fortuna winner of Class I.

STORMY THIRD

Bruynzeel's Stormy is 3rd over-all, Golden City 4th, Tabarly's Pen Duick 5th, Outburst (Bobby Bongers) 7th, Glickman's Raph 8th and Ken Warr's Omuramba is 9th.

● Nothing has been heard from Molly Warr on Sprinter since February 1, and nothing from the Durban Point ketch Ingwe since January 25.