

NATAL YACHTS SHAPE UP IN CAPE

By Tommy Ballantyne

FOR the first time in years, Natal yachts have been at the forefront of the annual Rothmans Week Regatta in Cape waters, and will be returning home with a good share of the silverware.

The weather has been a predominant factor in this year's regatta.

Gale-force winds and huge seas have caused one day's racing to be abandoned, there have been several dismastings, and some of the contenders had to retire.

Natal's chief hope is the Durban yacht, *Gwaap*, skippered by Peter Morgenrood and well-placed to win the prestigious IOR One Design class.

Morgenrood took two second places and two fourths in the series of round-the-buoy races. He was lying third overall behind Dave Abramowitz's *Assegai* and Keith Turner's *Archangel* at the start on Friday of the 282-km race to

Saldanha Bay and back.

It is 11 years since Natal skipper Gordon Neil's *Golden Fleece* won the Rothmans Trophy for this class in 1975, the inaugural event.

However, this year success has already come in the RCOD class: Arthur Goldsmith's *Sun Tonic* shares the honours with the Cape yacht, *Ariel*, each of them with two wins and two seconds to their credit.

Another Natal yacht, *Stormbird*, with Peter Collins at the helm, has come third in the L26 class, behind *Omega Hea-twave* and *Judron*.

Although the ultra-light *Gwaap*, the smallest yacht in her class, has handled superbly in the boisterous conditions of the past week, when the fleet in the final race turned for home early yesterday, she was three hours behind the leaders.

First five at the halfway mark: 1 *Chan-son de la Mer* (Cape, Baltic 43) 0108; 2 *Assegai* (Cape) 0109; 3 *Medicare* (Cape) 0117; 4 *Nutcracker* (Cape), 5 *Say When* (Cape).

Durban boat set fair to capture share of regatta booty