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## YACHTING

# All aboard the Orion Express

■ BY DAVE BEATTIE

Orion Express, the classy 40-footer that finished second in last year's Rothmans Week regatta, is fast assuming the role of the boat to beat in this year's event, which starts in Cape Town on December 16.

Piloted by co-skipper Bruce Savage and Howard Edwards, Orion Express has competed on the American East Coast circuit before moving on to Hong Kong for the Corum Cup.

The yacht then returned to South Africa for modifications that included the fitting of the latest sails, keel alterations, and the addition of a scoop that gives her another two feet in length.

"She is more competitive, now," said Savage.

But it will be no cakewalk. Perhaps most interest centres on the new MUMM 36, to be skippered by last year's Rothmans Week winner, Chris King. And quality sailors such as Geoff Meek, Jan Reuvers and Greg Davis will also have a say in the outcome of a weeklong event that takes in round-the-buoys racing as well as a race to Saldahna Bay and back.

■ Herbert Karolius won the Alitalia-sponsored International Yacht Racing Union Transvaal Group qualifying trials at Germiston's Victoria Lake Club, to pocket one of the oldest sailing trophies in the country, and earn the right to represent his province in the J22 national championships in Durban early next year.

But there was consolation, too, for Alex Schon, beaten by Karolius. In terms of provincial representation, Transvaal can have two at nationals — so Schon will also go to Durban.

Top 10 on the J22 match racing ladder:

1 Schon, 2 Sternagel, 3 Thompson, 4 Nik Baikoff, 5 Sigi von Bredow and Brent Haddock, 7 Karolius, 8 Robbie van Rooyen, 9 Richard Wiedehold, 10 Willcox.