

# Solo yachtsman nearly wrecks

## his dreams

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DURBAN yachtsman Anthony Steward — circumnavigating the world singlehandedly in an open boat — almost had his dreams shattered when foul weather dismasted his tiny yacht in the Caribbean.

The 19-foot NCS Challenger hit foul weather eight hours after leaving the island of St Maarten.

A battered, bruised and very tired sailor told his parents over the telephone in Durban last night that in the squally weather, the forestay — holding up the mast and supporting the entire reefing system — broke.

He said he was lucky the mast hadn't broken and was able to effect a jury rig. He was forced to alter course for the island of St Croix, which is 150 nautical miles from St Maarten.

However, he said the damage was not severe and he would be leaving for the Panama Canal and his final leg sometime yesterday.

He said he was looking forward to arriving in Panama because it would mean he had 'conquered the Atlantic Ocean — and become the first person to do so in an open boat'.

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