

SA sloop wins by a whisker



HOBART — Brilliant sailing by skipper Jack Williams won line honors in the Adelaide sloop Minna in the Melbourne-Hobart yacht race yesterday.

Skipper Jack Williams said: "Ten minutes from the line we had it lost. Five minutes out we had a chance and then suddenly we had it won."

After more than 500 miles of sailing Minna won line honors by 1 min. 12 secs.

Ten minutes from the finishing line the 60 ft.

Victorian yacht Banjo Paterson, was leading by 100 metres.

Over the last 1000 m. the sleek Minna made up 250 m. on the Banjo Paterson

It was the closest finish in a big Australian ocean race yachtsmen could remember.

Third to Minna and Banjo Paterson was the former race record-holder, Victorian sloop Mary Blair.

The first three boats broke the race record.

Provisional winner of the West Coast handicap was the 37 ft. Melbourne sloop Pagan, skippered by mining company director Reg Hare.

Minna was the early leader in the four-day race but fell 8 kilometres behind the large Melbourne yacht Banjo Paterson in the run down the rugged west coast of Tasmania.

As the seas fell away off the south-west tip of Tasmania, the 43 ft. Minna gradually made up distance on the 60 ft. Banjo Paterson.

● The winning crew is: Back row (from left)—Adrian Seiffert, John Buckland, Robert Hensell. Front—Jim Howell, Jack Williams (skipper), Richard Smith. Absent were Chris Howell and Mike Witty.

Banjo Paterson entered the Derwent estuary with more than a kilometre lead over Minna yesterday morning.

But clever tacking and brilliant crew work inched Minna closer to victory in light winds.