

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2000.07.15.a

DATE: Saturday July 15, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean south of Durban in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NAME: Ian Barnes

DESCRIPTION: Barnes is a 24-year-old male. He is 1.86 metres tall, weighs 78 kilograms, and is a superb athlete. He was the 1995/1997 South African Senior board Champion, and placed second in the 1997 Iron Man competition.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: An unseasonal winter storm hit Durban ahead of an icy cold front.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, July 16, 2000

TIME: After dark

NARRATIVE: The incident took place during the seven-days and seven-nights endurance event from Cape Town to Durban by the Ocean Warriors. The participants in the challenge (Deon Coetzee, Wade Krieger, Tregue Minnaar, Dawid Mocke, Ian Barnes, Dema Mzobe, Brett Challenor and Russell Sadler) were attempting to swim, paddle or canoe, day and night, non-stop in the chill of winter from Cape Town to Durban where the event was scheduled end next day at the Vodacom Beach Africa Festival. Ocean Warriors director Julian Taylor said "Our back-up team saw something in the water behind Ian and were able to shout a warning." Ian was knocked off his board, but he was able to continue in the event. Ocean Warriors covered a total of 1,312 km in seven days, setting a new world record.

INJURY: No injury

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Andrew Gifford, Global Shark Accident File



© Carl Fourie/Toucline Photo

The Ocean Warriors, left to right: Deon Coetzee, Wade Krieger, Tregue Minnaar, Dawid Mocke, Ian Barnes, Dema Mzobe and Brett Challenor.

Shark attack fails to deter Ocean Warriors

July 16 2000 at 08:25PM

Eight elated, but totally exhausted, Vodacom Ocean Warriors had completed a total of 1 312km when their seven days and nights endurance bid ended in Durban on Sunday.

Brett Challenor, Dema Mzobe, Ian Barnes, Deon Coetzee, Wade Krieger, Dawid Mocke and Russell Sadler had to dig deep into their physical and mental resources in their fight through all types of weather and surf conditions as their outstanding feat surpassed the original target of 1 000km of swimming, paddling and surf canoeing.

Ocean Warriors director Julian Taylor said that Saturday night proved to be the most difficult, as an unseasonal winter storm hit Durban ahead of an icy cold front and there was yet another close encounter with a shark. "It was amazing that everything seemed to happen on Saturday," said Taylor.

"The lightening was scary and then Ian Barnes was knocked off his board by a shark in the dark.

"Our back-up team saw something in the water behind Ian and were able to shout a warning. However, he was still knocked off his board, but luckily he wasn't injured and was able to continue.

"I'm happy it's all over now, because there was a chance on Tuesday that the team might stop their attempt because things were not going well."

Challenor added that the squad were relieved that it was all over. "The camaraderie among the guys was great and that's what really got us through when the going got tough." - Staff writer