

LOCAL SOLO SAILOR NABS 2ND PLACE

*Joe Harris far exceeded his goal
of simply finishing in his Transat debut*

By **JoAnn W. Goddard**
SENIOR REPORTER

The Transat 2004 is only the beginning for Joe Harris.

The Boston, Mass.-area sailor placed second in the open 50 monohull division, completing the grueling 2,800-miles — his first trans-Atlantic race — in 16 days, 14 hours, 21 minutes and 25 seconds. Harris, 44, is already planning a roster of solo offshore races including the 28,000-mile singlehanded 5 Oceans Race in 2006-07 (formerly known as Around Alone).

A week after Harris crossed the Boston finish line, he was sailing around Boston Harbor with friends and supporters, talking about the race, his boat and his future plans.

Born and raised in Greenwich, Conn., Harris grew up sailing on Long Island Sound. His father was an offshore racer who competed in some 18 Newport-Bermuda Races. His grandfather was a veteran of five trans-Atlantic voyages. After graduating from Brown University in 1981, Harris worked summers as a commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay, Alaska, and winters as a boat-builder in New England.



In his first trans-Atlantic race, Boston sailor Joe Harris sailed his 50-foot monohull to second place.

He moved to the Boston area about 15 years ago while pursuing an MBA from Babson College and embarked on a career in real estate finance. He is currently chief financial officer of New Boston Fund Inc., a \$1.5-billion real estate investment and development company.

Harris has owned and campaigned a series of boats over the last 15 years, competing in every major East Coast re-

sailed in the 1998-99 Around Alone, finishing first in the Open 50s. Then Brad Van Liew sailed the boat to victory in the 2002-2003 Around Alone.

Harris describes the boat as an "oceangoing thoroughbred."



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