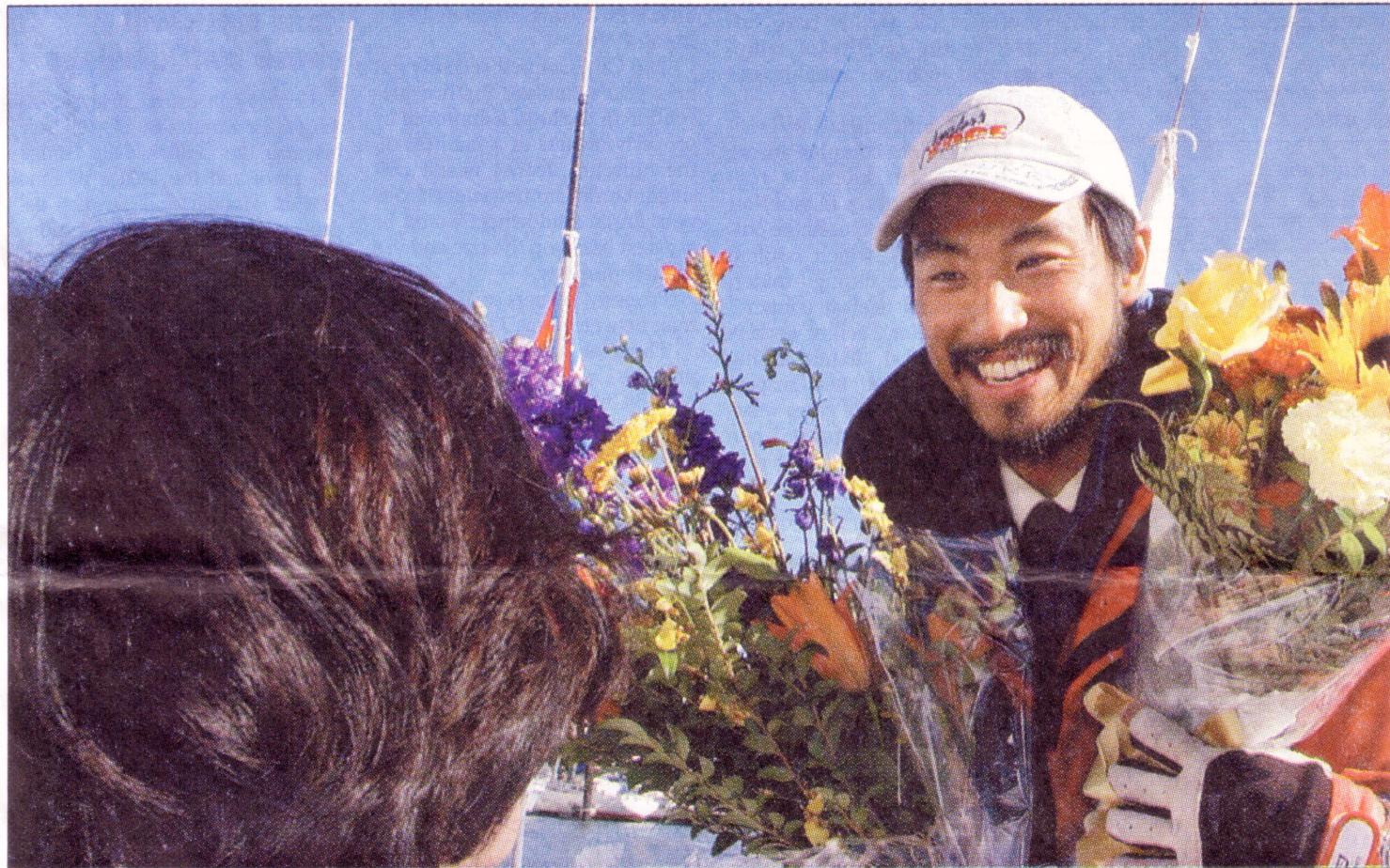


Pacific traveler

Lone sailor makes crossing from Japan to S.F.



PHOTOS BY JAKUB MOSUR / The Chronicle

Kyosuke Tomoda is given flowers by Mika Fujii as congratulations for completing his journey.

Kyosuke Tomoda
sails under the
Golden Gate and
into the bay,
completing his
11-week solo voyage
from Osaka, Japan.



By Carl Nolte
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

As a boy growing up in Japan, not far from the great seaport of Osaka, Kyosuke Tomoda had a single dream — to sail into the rising sun, all the way across the Pacific to San Francisco. He would do it alone, he thought, to test nature and himself.

On a perfect autumn Friday, Tomoda made his dream come true. He sailed his 26-foot fiberglass sloop *For You* under the Golden Gate Bridge and into San Francisco Bay. He sailed through a lot of bad weather, though a typhoon and through some self-doubts. Sometimes, he said after he landed at the St. Francis Yacht Club at exactly 3:25 p.m., he was afraid. He felt like he might die.

When he eased the boat alongside the dock, he was elated and relieved.

Tomoda, who is 27, is deeply tanned by the sun and nimble as a cat. He couldn't stop grinning. How did he feel? "Ureshii!" he said, "Happy, very happy."

"This is my
dream from
boyhood."
Kyosuke Tomoda

He had come 5,374 miles in two months and 17 days, and his last day was the best. He had been sailing in the thick fog off California for two days. Though he had plenty of electronic equipment, no sailor is ever really certain of exactly where he is. But the fog lifted in midmorning, and there, shimmering in the distance, were the brown hills and cliffs around the Golden Gate, and the famous orange bridge.

"I couldn't believe it," Tomoda
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