

SPORTS

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Spurs beat Lakers

Pool opens with splash



Masaka Watanabe/Pacific Daily News/mwatanabe@guampdn.com

Taking the plunge: Japanese swimmer Kosuke Kitajima, 20, dives into the Olympic-size swimming pool during a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday at LeoPalace Resort Guam.

LeoPalace Resort unveils Olympic-size pool to public

By Jill Espiritu

Pacific Daily News
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Kosuke Kitajima, the world record holder in the 200-meter breaststroke, jumped into the new Olympic-size swimming pool at the LeoPalace Resort Guam and swam the pool's length.

"I felt really good out there," Kitajima said through an interpreter. "It's a really good environment. I'd love to come and swim

in this pool for competitions."

Kitajima set the world record on Oct. 2, 2002, in Busan, South Korea, according to La Federation Internationale de Natation Web site. His time was 2 minutes and 9.97 seconds. Kitajima said the outdoor aspect of the pool may be a disadvantage for some swimmers.

"The wind is strong today," he said. "Compared to indoor pools, (the wind) could be problematic."

Dozens of dignitaries, officials

and a group of 26 Japanese swimmers attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday to officially open the Manganon Hills resort's Olympic-size swimming pool and witness Kitajima's swim. The 10-lane pool is another addition to the resort's various top-notch sports facilities — including a diving pool that is situated beside the swimming pool — that may be used by local residents.

"The local community is more than welcome to use the pool,"

said Jose Manzon IV, LeoPalace's director for administration. "It's going to be treated like any other hotel facility, with it being by reservation only. We prefer that it be reserved by groups. We are still trying to establish the fees to reserve the use of the pool."

Tino Aguon, the Guam Swimming Federation president, was among the guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and was amazed

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SPORTS

Javid L...

▲ Age: 7

▲ Village:

▲ Sports: basketball, swimming, tennis

▲ Hobbies: fishing and the beach

Javid L. Espiritu

By Jill Espiritu

Pacific Daily News
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Seven-year-old Javid L. Espiritu had taken to the water since he was 10 months old. He also has a love for the beach.

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