



Heat stuns
Bucks in
semis series
opener

PAGE 17

SaipanTribune Sports

Glasnow
paces AL East-
leading Rays
past Yanks

PAGE 18



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NMIFA commits to improvement projects in Koblerville

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association marked the start of its five-year commitment to implement improvement projects and activities in Koblerville with a cleanup drive last Saturday.

NMIFA staff and coaches led the cleanup, which began at the Mobil Gas Station and covered the main roads surrounding the NMI Soccer Training Center. Five NMIFA staff members and eight coaches were joined by 10 members of the CNMI Men's National Team,



21 from the U16 and U19 Women's National Team, and 28 from the U15 and U17 boys squads.

NMIFA technical director and men's national team head coach Michiteru Mita said getting involved in the cleanup drives and other activities that benefit the community is very significant to the overall character development of national players.

"This is a good opportunity for players to learn and think how we can support our community. This kind of activity off the pitch will help players

realize the importance of stepping up when help is needed, develop a sense of gratitude, and recognize the value of national team's involvement in various projects in the community. In Japan, if a soccer player only knows how to play the sport, he/she is not a good player," Mita said.

CNMI Men's National
See NMIFA on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the CNMI Boys U15 and U17 National Team load trash to the bags during last Saturday's cleanup drive in Koblerville.



NMI tennis: A decade of excellence



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2017 file photo, CNMI Junior National Tennis Team coach Jeff Race hoists the Nations Cup, while his players flash the No. 1 sign after ruling the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

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The CNMI Junior Tennis Team may have missed making milestones in the canceled 2020 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, but it could always look back at its impressive records in the last decade of the competition.

The Commonwealth's junior players have consistently put on a strong performance in the annual tournament in Fiji, starting off with the CNMI-led North Team's upset against perennial winner West Team in overall championship, 131-128. Team rankings were based on how players from each country finished in the U12, U14, and U18 singles



events in 2010.

The following year, the Jeff Race-coached CNMI Team prevailed against more than 10 countries in the battle for the most Top 4 finishes in three age groups. The Commonwealth had six players barging into the semifinals with Tammy Ackerman making it all the way to the Promised Land after ruling the girls U12 singles. Tournament

favorite, Tahiti, had only three players earning Top 4 finishes.

Since 2011 up to 2018, the CNMI never failed to bring home a championship from the POJC, which was canceled for the first time since its inception in 1990, and highlighted its excellent showing in the competition with back-to-back Nations Cup titles. The coveted Nations Cup is

See NMI on Page 19



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In this 2015 file photo, the then 13-year-old Robbie Schorr makes a backhand return to his opponent during a local tournament at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.