Buenas yan håfa adai! I felt an overwhelming sense of pride last week when I read in PDN’s sports section that Guam’s first Davis Cup team earned victories in Oman. Gaining entry into this tournament was a result of the determination of Torgun Smith, Guam National Tennis Federation president and Guam Davis Cup team coach. GVB congratulates our young athletes for a job well done.

The National Tennis Federation is also behind the King’s Guam Futures Tennis Tournament taking place May 29 to June 3 at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. This annual International Tennis Federation pro circuit tournament attracts professional tennis players from all over the world to Guam to compete for world-ranking points.

Sports tourism is growing on Guam. We are now able to compete with other destinations to attract sports-minded travelers and adventure seekers. With our impressive 2018 lineup, you can see that visitors have more reasons to travel to our beautiful island:

* The 16th Annual Guam Governor's Cup Ladies Golf Tournament will take place at Leo Palace Guam Resort Feb. 15-16 and will welcome 100 JLPGA members for this pro-amateur and JTB Koncha golf tournament.
* The 6th Annual United Airlines Guam Marathon is accepting registration for its April 8 event that includes marathon, half marathon, 10K and 5K race distances. All races start at the Gov. Joseph Flores Memorial Park at Ypao Beach in Tumon and finish on the beach. Download the app for training tips.
* The 40th Annual Smokin' Wheels Racing Weekend will take place April 13-15 at the Guam International Raceway Park and will feature non-stop action, motor sports competitions, a car show, drag racing, food and activities.
* The 2018 Guam Cocos Crossing takes place May 27. Swimmers start at the Malesso' Pier and race through the Cocos Lagoon and open ocean in three distance options – 3K, 5K and 10K.
* Trench Kids, a 1.5K mini-obstacle course race for children ages 4 to11, is scheduled for March 31 at the Guam International Raceway Motocross Track. Registration is open online for individual or four-person team events.
* The Trench Challenge is a 5K distance Obstacle Course Race that will take place at the Guam International Raceway on Sept. 30 and serves as an official qualifier for the OCR World Championships.
* The Guam Ko'ko’ Half Marathon, which also offers 10K and 5K distances, is a fun and family friendly event that attracts runners from all over Asia. The 13th annual event will take place on Dec. 2 in historic Hagåtña and is paired with the 12th Guam Ko’ko’ Kids Fun Run at the Gov. Joseph F. Flores Memorial Park on Dec. 1.

We hope you place these events on your calendar. Si Yu’us ma’åse' to our sports tourism partners!

I also want to extend my condolences and prayers to the families of the late Dr. John Salas and Carl Gumataotao. Both men played important roles in our tourism industry, which I will expand upon in my next column. May they rest in peace.

*Nathan Denight is president and CEO of the Guam Visitors Bureau. Email him at info@visitguam.org. For more information about these events, go to visitguam.com*