



JUDGES' COMMENTS:

"Fabulous use of a very nice facility."

OUTDOOR FAMILY AQUATICS CENTER Class 10 (50,000 to 100,000 annual attendance)

North County Aquatics Center, Indian River County, Sebastian, Fla.

Approximately one year after its 2003 opening, the staff of North County Aquatics Center were put to the test. A hurricane. And then another. Blowing through the state of Florida within months of each other, the two storms left devastation in their wake. After the hurricanes, the area had no power and needed provisions, so NCAC set up a relief center in the parking lot. NCAC staffers, trained in the American Red Cross, CPR and first aid, administered care and helped pass out food.

"We went beyond the normal duties of our water facility to help the community," Aquatics Director Dave Smith recalls.

But even when hurricanes are not sweeping through, NCAC continues to excel at community involvement. That's what it was built for, Smith says. Before the NCAC, there were no decent-sized pools in the area.

In close proximity to the local middle and high schools, the NCAC allows students and teachers to use its 70-meter pool and two 3-meter diving boards, water slide, and interactive play area. It will even host school dances on the pool deck.

NCAC's large facilities also handled 3,000 swimmers, divers and families in 2003 for the Florida High School Swimming and Diving Finals. In 2006, it hosted the Florida State Special Olympics and plans to host it again for this upcoming year.

Since its inception, the NCAC has been a stable part of community life and does not look as if it will be blowing away any time soon. — *Danny Brown*



FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS: A 50-meter Olympic-sized pool with a movable bulkhead, which can lengthen the pool to 70 meters • Home to the Special Olympics for the second year in a row

FEATURES: 1 outdoor pool • 1 leisure pool • 3 water slides • 1 diving well • 4 diving boards, 1 movable bulkhead • 1 water playground • 1 water toy

PROGRAMMING: Learn-to-swim • Lifesaving • Water aerobics • Competitive swimming • Scuba