



CHEN CHAO / CHINA DAILY

Mexican diver Tatiana Ortiz Galicia has her hair done in the hair salon at the Universiade Village.

Meet the busiest village barber in the country

By ZHENG XIN
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SHENZHEN — Ivan Nelyubov, a 2.03-meter-tall basketballer from Russia, sits on a red armchair staring at his new hairstyle in a mirror.

He is pretty satisfied with his new look.

"I just walked by and saw a sign for a barber shop, so I went in," said the 23-year-old from Ural State University of Physical Education. "And it turned out OK."

"I'm going to make my debut on the world stage soon, and I want to make it a good one."

The hair salon, Sunnow, is in the international zone of the Universiade Village and is open from 9 am to 10:30 pm every day till the end of the games.

"We have a 50 percent discount for our clients," said Lu Zhangqing, Sunnow's commercial service manager. "We aim to provide a convenient ser-

vice to our clients instead of making a profit."

Guo Ganhua, the manager of the hair salon, said the shop has about 30 to 40 customers a day. "Most of them are guys who are interested in trying foreign things to them, I guess," he said.

Nelyubov was happy with the service.

"The barbers and assistants have been pretty nice to us," he said. "I don't speak English as my first language so it took a bit longer for the barber to get the hairstyle I wanted. But it turned out exactly right."

The barber shop in the Village has experience providing hair styling to foreigners. However, serving a foreign client still makes the hairdressers nervous.

"The foreign clients always come up with special requests, like straightening short curly hair or shaving an image on the back of the head," Lu said.

"An athlete from Namibia came

in yesterday and asked us to shave an image of a football in his short curly hair. It took hours to shave it because his curly hair was hard to deal with. But I was pleased because he was very satisfied with the final haircut."

Another staff member at the salon, Wang Yafei, said: "We are more conservative when cutting foreigners' hair. We usually leave more length than they ask for."

With its thoughtful service and excellent work, the barber shop, despite not being in a busy location, is receiving more and more clients.

"It's totally different from having a haircut in Mexico," said Mexican diver Tatiana Ortiz Galicia. "They do good haircuts in Mexico, but the service is not as good as here. In Mexico, you go there, they cut your hair, and that's it."

"Here, you get a massage, and lots of smiles. It's different, in a good way."



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