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Intrepid sailor Horie triumphs again

TOKYO — Japanese yachtsman Kenichi Horie returned to Osaka yesterday after completing a 31,000-mile non-stop solo voyage around the world in the record time of 276 days.

Horie, who became a San Francisco hero after a lone cruise across the Pacific 12 years ago, was given a rousing welcome by thousands as he sailed the Mermaid III into Tadaoka yacht harbor in Osaka at noon.

Mermaid I is in San Francisco's Maritime Museum.

The beaming, sun-tanned Horie waved and bowed repeatedly from his 25-foot, three-ton sloop. He was welcomed by his wife, Nobuko, 29.

"I've done it after all," he said. "I don't know how to tell the story. Many things happened — pleasant and difficult ones. I lost nearly 20 pounds. I don't know what to do next."

Horie, 35, a coffee shop owner, left his home town, Osaka, Aug. 1. The voyage was timed in 276 days and 14 hours — breaking the record of 293 days set by British yachtsman Chay Bligh in 1871. The only other sailor to make a solo non-stop cruise around the world is British yachtsman Robin K. Johnston, who did it in 1969.

Horie cruised westward across the Indian Ocean and Southern Atlantic, and en-

tered the Pacific via Cape Horn late last year.

Horie was the first Japanese to cross the Pacific from Osaka to San Francisco on his 19-foot Mermaid I in 1962. (Osaka is San Francisco's sister city.)

His first attempt at the round-the-world cruise failed in 1972 when a storm ripped the mast off his Mermaid II shortly after he left Osaka.

Picture on Page 23

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Horie is the sailor with a record

A specially San Francisco hero was Kenichi Horie when in 1962, he navigated through the Golden Gate in his 19-foot sailboat Mermaid I — the first Japanese to sail from his home and across the Pacific alone. Photo shows him on arrival here. In the 12 years since, Kenichi has married

and acquired a coffee-house in Osaka, but hasn't lost the salt from his veins. Yesterday he completed a masterpiece: a record-breaking round-the-world solo voyage without a stop in port. Above, his wife leans out from another boat to greet him on his safe arrival off Osaka.