

RacquetSports



Brothers Dave (left) and Drew Broderick direct tennis and platform tennis programs at clubs in New Jersey.

PLATFORM TENNIS

Two for One

For these teaching pro brothers, promoting both tennis and platform tennis programs makes sense for their clubs and their players.

BY GEORGETTA MORQUE

After reaching the final of the American Platform Tennis Association (APTA) Men's National Championship in March—with partner Jared Palmer, former No. 1 ATP men's doubles player—Drew Broderick began turning his thoughts to tennis.

Broderick is the racquets professional at the Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit, N.J. Down the road, his

brother, Dave, racquets director at the Short Hills Club for the past 18 years, was doing the same. Like many clubs that have both platform tennis courts and tennis courts, both pros teach and oversee both sports.

Drew has won the APTA Men's National title four times and been ranked as the No. 1 platform tennis player in the country. But at their respective clubs, Drew and his brother have successfully merged tennis and

platform tennis.

Being at one location all year, says Drew, “helps the flow of both tennis and platform tennis programs. You get to know the members better and can work on their racquet skills.”

Canoe Brook has five platform tennis courts, seven tennis courts and two pro shops—one for each sport—so lessons, events and sales continue from season to season. A high percentage of club members play tennis for six months and platform tennis for six months.

“Without the platform tennis courts, this would be a seven-month position,” Drew says.

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Both Broderick brothers took up platform tennis a few years after college and quickly became proficient. It's not unusual to see tennis teaching pros, college players and former tennis touring pros in APTA competition.

Platform tennis, or “paddle” as it is commonly called, was founded in 1928 in Scarsdale, N.Y., and attracts racquet enthusiasts who enjoy the doubles format and outdoor play in the winter. The nonprofit APTA (whose website is platformtennis.org) governs the sport for its 17,000 members and sanctions more than 180 tournaments annually.

Because of strong demand, there are plans to add more platform tennis courts at Canoe Brook. The Short Hills Club, the second oldest racquets club in the country, runs more events for platform tennis than it does for tennis. Dave Broderick says the sport is popular because it is social and there aren't as many other activities in the winter.

“If you want to play outside in the winter,” he says, “platform tennis is the way to go.” ■