

# Platform tennis looms as next boom sport in the recreation field

People of all ages are turning to platform tennis, a game that combines some features of tennis, racquetball and paddleball.

It has been predicted that by 1984, there will be 15,000 platform tennis courts and more than 1 million players, giving the sport the potential to be the next major recreational pastime.

"One of the reasons people are latching onto the sport is because it's so easy to play," said Tom Seavey, recreation supervisor with the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

The four platform tennis courts at the newly completed Waterford Oaks County Park Tennis Complex are a handful of the few in the metropolitan area.

Players use paddles instead of racquets and a ball that's less lively than a regular tennis ball. The court is shorter than a tennis court, raised several feet above the ground and totally enclosed with 12-foot screens off which the ball can be played.

Doubles is the preferred method of play. Scoring is similar to that of regular tennis. The first point is 15, second

is 30, third 40 and the fourth is game. When both teams score 40, this is deuce. The point after deuce is advantage.

If the team with the advantage wins the next point, it wins the game. The score reverts to deuce should the other team win the point. When one of the teams wins two points in a row from deuce, the game is won.

**THE TEAM** which wins six games wins the set. However, the winning team must win by two games. A match is usually the best of three sets.

Serves must be delivered from behind the baseline and between the center mark and the sideline, diagonally crosscourt from the receiver. They must be alternated first from the server's right hand court to the receiver's right court, then from the server's left court to the receiver's left court.

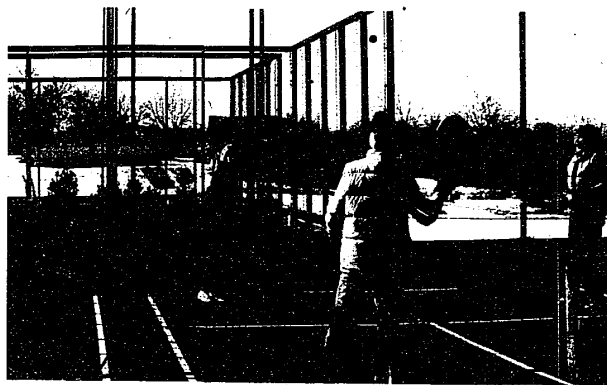
Teams change sides at the end of every odd-numbered game of each set. Any ball that bounces off the screen after hitting the deck can be played as long as it does not bounce on the deck a second time.

The court's thick, raised, perforated plastic decks enables snow to fall through, making the courts ideal for year around play.

The Waterford Oaks courts are open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. Platform tennis clinics, tournaments, exhibitions and special events are planned for this summer.

The complex also features eight all-weather, windscreens tennis courts, 10 horseshoe pits, 10 shuffleboard courts and a reservation and equipment rental center where snacks, beverages and restroom facilities are available.

For more information, please call Waterford Oaks at 858-0915.



Platform tennis isn't just a fair-weather friend. The game combines some of the features of tennis, racquetball and paddleball and can be played year-around.

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