

PALMETTO DUNES

NEWS

Tennis Center Installs ProBounce Courts; Helps Players With The Hard Choices

Hilton Head Island, SC ...April 7, 2003...The only two hard surface courts at the Palmetto Dunes Tennis Center have been reinvigorated, and players are lobbing with excitement.

John Kerr, director of tennis at the Palmetto Dunes Tennis Center, said the ProBounce courts are the first to be installed at a Southeast tennis facility. The ProBounce system gives players a surface that resembles a hard court in appearance, but with the feel of something between a hard and clay court.

Why not two additional clay courts instead? "We hit a patch of freezing weather this winter, so access to the clay courts was limited. The hard courts were playable, but they needed upgrades to ensure that they would be an option on cold days," said Kerr. "A few people played during snow flurries in January. That convinced me that Palmetto Dunes needed a couple of all-weather courts."

Work on the ProBounce installation began in early March. After the existing hard surfaces were repaired -- cracks filled, low areas raised and all areas scraped and leveled -- the first of 11 giant rolls of NovaGrass were laid. Similar to the traditional artificial turf used on football fields, NovaGrass supplies the "bounce" that distinguishes the new surface from the hard surface.

Workers from Evergreen Tennis Services then spread dozens of bags of sand onto the turf, stabilizing the surface. Next, the surface was sprayed with several

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coats of an acrylic polymer, which bonded the materials together. Finally, the courts received fresh coats of paint -- "Nova green" for the courts and "Grass green" for the perimeter -- and were lined with stripes.

That's it. The recipe for state-of-the-art tennis courts at Palmetto Dunes.

"There's so much give in the ProBounce materials, I'm not sure they will ever crack," said Kerr. "These courts have been installed at desert clubs in Phoenix and Santa Fe, and at indoor facilities in Minnesota where radiant heating was piped below the courts. They've performed beautifully with no cracking."

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