

## **PROVIDENCE COUNTRY CLUB HIRES NEW DIRECTOR OF TENNIS**

***Former N.C. State standout William Noblitt is one of North Carolina's best players and instructors. Will lead vibrant Providence CC tennis program.***

**CHARLOTTE, NC (March 2018)** — When Charlotte's Providence Country Club hired William Noblitt as its new Director of Tennis last month, the club gained not only a talented instructor, but also one of the state's best and most accomplished players.

Considered among N.C. State's greatest tennis players ever, Noblitt was a two-time Wolfpack team captain and earned back-to-back All-ACC honors his junior and senior years. He remains tied for the all-time career victories list at State with 87 and is top-10 in numerous other career school records.

In the decade-plus since graduating from N.C. State, Noblitt has won the North Carolina State Closed Tournament several times as well as the City of Asheville Open. In May 2016, he captured both the singles and doubles titles at the USPTA National Clay Courts in Florida and later made it to the singles finals of the USPTA Masters Invitational in Carlsbad, Calif., where he also brought home the doubles crown.

"I enjoy staying competitive and playing in the top regional and national tournaments," Noblitt said. "I still like competing."

Noblitt believes his competitive success has made him a much better instructor as well. "I had a lot of good coaching growing up," he said. "So I try to incorporate that knowledge with my players. I also like to stay up to date on current strategies and techniques by going to symposiums and conferences. I try to educate myself so I can stay on top of my teaching game. It's a combination of experience and playing level, but also always trying to learn."

Noblitt said he is excited about taking over the large and vibrant tennis program at Providence Country Club, which has 14 tennis courts including 12 clay courts and a beautiful tennis shop that is close to the clubhouse.

"Providence is such a great club," he said. "There are a lot of good people here. It's a very active tennis program. We participate in USTA and Queen City leagues as well as interclub play. We've got some very competitive players. I'm looking forward to growing in some areas and building on an already established and successful tennis program."

Noblitt said growing Providence CC's junior program would be a top priority.

“We’ve got a good number of kids playing,” he said. “We want to build on developing more advanced tournament players. We want to create a fun, competitive environment where they enjoy coming out, but also where they’re going to be learning the right techniques and creating a love of the game.”

As a junior player, Noblitt won back-to-back state high school singles championships and helped Shelby High School win three consecutive 2-A team titles. He was also an outstanding soccer player, earning offensive MVP and all-region nods.

Several smaller schools recruited Noblitt to play both soccer and tennis, but he grew up an N.C. State fan, thanks in part to the fact that his grandfather graduated from the university. He also grew up hearing about the exploits of another Shelby native, N.C. State basketball legend David Thompson, from his grandfather and his mother.

“That was always a dream to go play tennis for a big ACC school,” Noblitt said. “To play for the one I grew up pulling for was truly a dream come true.”

During Noblitt’s sophomore year, State played a very talented Florida State team at home in the Wolfpack’s new indoor facility. The match was tied 3-3 and came down to Noblitt’s court. Down 5-2 in the third set, Noblitt came back to win in a tiebreaker, his teammates rushing the court to celebrate one of State’s biggest victories.

With Noblitt helping lead the charge his junior season, the N.C. State program gained steam — going 20-11, finishing with a No. 42 final ITA ranking and making the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1999. The Pack trumped that effort during Noblitt’s senior campaign, ending 2007 at No. 19 in the country, its highest finish ever, while grabbing three postseason victories en route to the school’s first appearance in the NCAA Round of Eight.

The results marked the first time in N.C. State tennis history that the team recorded back-to-back 20-win seasons.

Noblitt said the senior year run to the NCAA Elite Eight was one of the highlights of his career. The Wolfpack won at fifth-ranked UNC in the second round 4-0 followed by a 4-3 win over Texas, before losing to a powerful Baylor team in the Elite Eight.

“Coming into an ACC school, I thought I’d be lucky to play No. 6,” Noblitt said. “I never dreamed I would be playing No. 2 and going 8-3 in the ACC and 9-2 (as a junior).”

After graduating from State, Noblitt worked at Raleigh’s North Ridge Country Club as the assistant pro for several years before taking over as the Director of Tennis at Elk River Club in Banner Elk, which was his first opportunity to run a program. Later he was the head pro at Charlotte’s Carmel Country Club before taking over as the Director of Tennis at Seven Oaks Swim and Racquet Club in Raleigh, where he

remained nearly five years.

"Each move was a good steppingstone for me, a move up and a move in the right direction," Noblitt said. "All those jobs put me in the right place to get a job like this one. I'm looking forward to being here a long time."

Noblitt said he and his staff will be focused on member service and member experience at Providence. "Every time a member comes out here, we want it to be a memorable experience," he said. "They need to receive the best quality instruction and get the nicest facilities. I'm big on keeping our courts pristine. This is where our members come for fun and to have a good time. It's important that we are able to provide that type of atmosphere."

Noblitt, 33, and his wife Kathryn have four children: son Miller, 6, daughter Reese, 4, daughter Ellis, 3, and 4-month-old son, Sullivan.

"I love it," he said. "It's the best. It's so rewarding. It's crazy at times but it's a good crazy. I put my family first and I wouldn't trade it for the world. Doesn't get any better."

Noblitt added that he is excited about working at a McConnell Golf-owned club.

"I've only heard good things about McConnell Golf," he said. "It's such a great company to work for. The product they provide is unique and it's something this industry needed. The sky's the limit for what they can do."

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#### **Media contacts**

Martin Armes (919) 608-7260, [martinarmes@nc.rr.com](mailto:martinarmes@nc.rr.com)

Brad King (336) 306-9219, [king@bradkingcommunications.com](mailto:king@bradkingcommunications.com)