



Dennis Van der Meer
Founder

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Alfredo Soliz
Dan Couzens
Academy Coaches

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Quickstart Instructor

Katee Sanderson
*Admissions
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Finding Your Pathway

Dennis Van der Meer always understood that there are countless ways to reach your goals. He maintained that as long as you work hard and well on improving every day, you will eventually be a competent player. There are some commonalities found in the top players' backgrounds, but many variations as well. By studying types and numbers of matches played, you will get a good understanding of where you stack up at different stages, but don't despair if you haven't reached the top 10 of the ITF juniors by age 16, as some top players did. There are other viable roads you can travel to success in tennis.



Dennis and Pat with VDM Alum John Isner

One major factor all top players' records include is lots of match play, with a ratio of at least 2-3 wins for every loss. This doesn't mean just sanctioned tournaments; the Williams played each other in exhibition-type events quite a lot as they grew up. The ability to compete in front of a crowd is a powerful indicator of future success. Enjoying matches; relishing the battle are also traits of a great competitor. Ability to control the inevitable nerves that come with competition rates high on the list of important characteristics as well.

At one point, college tennis was not seen as a viable pathway to pro success. However, with the success of players like James Blake, John Isner, Steve Johnson, Lisa Raymond, Nicole Gibbs, Benjamin Becker and others, more players are going that route. Brian Barker, James' long time coach recently spoke to our academy group again. He pointed out that when James had reached the top of the US Junior ranking list, he was thinking of forgoing college. He chose to go to Harvard, and after 2 years he reached the top of college ranks, was offered a great amount of sponsorship money from Nike, and was much better equipped to try the circuit. (Physically, mentally, and financially!)

Whichever route you choose, your own effort is the main factor in determining how far you go. Coaches and parents can help inspire you, keep you focused, guide your progress, but **YOU** are the one person who has the responsibility for your ultimate success.

Spring Clinics & Summer Camps

Have the best time of your life - train hard, get fit, play awesome tennis with Junior, Collegiate and Pro tennis players from all over the world. Stay for a week or a month in housing or with your family. Learn from ATP, WTA, ITF & Davis Cup Professionals.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD TO TAKE YOU TO THE NEXT LEVEL

- Top #100 Tour Players, NCAA, ITF & National Champions
- Ivy League, SCC, ACC & Big 10 College placement
- Elite Coaching Staff
- ATP, WTA, ITF & Davis Cup Pros





Tournament Results

Dunlop Junior Tennis Championship Southern Level 3

Good job on a very cold day! 14 year old Ashley Chang reached the finals of the girls 18's at The Dunlop Cup and Valerie Droop finished 4th. Mackenzie Collins was a finalist in doubles and made the quarterfinals of singles main draw. Kylie Collins won the girls 16's! Will Danzell won the back draw of boys 16's. Thompson Byrd finished 4th in boys 14's.



Ashley Chang



JJ Tracy

Southern Level 1A

JJ Tracy is tearing up the 14's. He won doubles and finished 3rd in singles at the Southern Level 1A. Madison Dillon finished 4th in 16 singles. Kylie Collins made the rd of 16 in 16 doubles. In 18's, Beau and Jac Pelletier both made the rd of 16 in singles. Beau also made the finals of the back draw. Jackie made the semis of the back draw and the quarters of doubles/md.

National Selection Columbus

JJ Tracy made the round of 16 in singles in 14's and the semis of the back draw.

\$10,000 Fort-de-France Tournament in Martinique

In the 10K tournament in Martinique, Natsuho Arakawa made the semi-finals of doubles.



Natsuho Arakawa



Molly Sanderson

SATA Junior Winter Classic Championships

Molly Sanderson won in singles in 18's.

PTR Tournament 2016

Van Der Meer pros Katie White and Dan Couzens both reached the finals of singles. Dan won doubles with VDM Academy alum Garrett Leal and Katie reached the semis of mixed doubles.



Garrett Leal and Dan Couzens



Katie White

Van Der Meer Shipyard recently hosted a spectacular PTR Tournament and Symposium

Dennis Van der Meer founded the PTR 40 years ago (five or six years after founding TennisUniversity while working with Billie Jean King) Billie Jean was on hand to be inducted into PTR's HOF at a wonderful banquet at Sonesta Hotel and Resort. She paid tribute to Dennis who she had visited earlier in the day.

Van Der Meer Academy kids were able to participate with some of the top coaches in the world who were presenting at the Symposium, including Carl Maes, Kim Clijsters former coach. Carl came to the Academy and worked with our players on return of serve after his demonstration.

