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A New Year, A New Resolve

As tennis players, we are used to setting goals for ourselves. Setting the goals is the easy part—consistent effort towards making our goals reality is much tougher. However, staying on top of your efforts on a daily basis is the most critical step to success in both tennis and in life. Your coaches and parents are important motivators and helpers, but ultimately it's up to YOU to take full responsibility for your effort. All really successful players have INNER motivation and drive to succeed. They credit others for help along the way, but don't look to place blame on anyone for their occasional failures. Instead, they look inward to see what they can improve.



VDM Academy alumni Liezel Huber met her goals and realized her dreams.

Tennis (and life) is full of ups and downs, and adapting to change. The ability to learn from mistakes, and look for opportunities to put improved skills into match play is a trait of great players. If you don't get up when you fall down, you're going nowhere. If you keep making the same mistakes with no deliberate, consistent effort to improve the problem area (stroke production, fitness, or mental) you are going to be stuck in place. Others who embrace the challenge and take advantage of opportunities to learn and grow will pass you by. Be brave and resolve to consistently strive to apply what you've learned in your tournaments. Write down your goals, and look at them often. Think about what YOU need to do in order to get where you want, and make a plan. You'll never be sorry, or regret giving it 100%. You'll learn one of life's most important lessons; "the harder you work, the luckier you get" Shoot for the moon. If you miss, you still end up in the stars!

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.

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Tournament Results

Southern Level Ones

VDM Academy kids started strong for 2016 at the Southern L1's at all sites. At 12's in Macon, both Natalie Bassett and Robert Hagen won multiple matches. JJ Tracy finished 3rd in boys S&D at 14's in Mobile, plus got a sportsmanship award. Kylie Collins finished 5th in girls singles at the same site. Anna Letto and Madison Dillon both tore up 16's singles in Rome, and Maddie made the quarters of doubles. At home in HH (at VDM Shipyard) - Sam Fried and Tate Steinour both won matches and Beau Pelletier won the back draw, beating the #1 seed. Sister Jac made quarters of doubles and won multiple matches in singles. McKenzie Collins also won multiple matches in singles and doubles.



JJ Tracy

St. Andrews Point Quest

Strong play continued, with a big win for Thompson Byrd in boys 14's. Down a set, he stormed back to win the title on a cold, windy day. In boys 16's, Jije Temue and Nehemiah Molla were finalists of doubles, and Nehemiah made SF of singles. Brooke Schafer and her partner reached the finals of 12's doubles.



Thompson Byrd



Nehemiah Molla & Jije Temue



Brooke Schafer

South Carolina Junior State Open

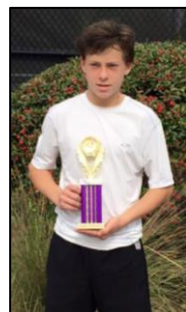
Thompson Byrd continued his winning performances at the SC Jr State Open in Mt Pleasant. Byrd won boys 14 singles and doubles. Team VDM had more great results- Tate Steinour was the finalist boys of 18 singles and doubles w/ brother Cooper, Tom Chang won the boys 18 singles back draw, and Brooke Wrigley made finals of girls 12 singles. Robert Hagen made SF boys 14 singles, and won boys 12 doubles. Natalie Bassett made SF girls 14 singles and QF doubles.



Cooper & Tate Steinour



Brooke Wrigley



Thompson Byrd

Academy News

Van Der Meer Academy said good-bye to Marcos Ondruska, who has moved to Atlanta. Our entire team wishes him well. We are extremely confident in our leadership team, with the popular Thomas Richter stepping up after 7 years with Van Der Meer. Vince Bilotta, Elizma Nortje, Katie White, and Christian Ranguelov will continue to have leadership roles in developing our terrific group of players, with an exceptional support staff. We will be selecting additional coaching staff from the flood of interested parties that have reached out already. Being highly selective, we are not going to rush this decision, but many high profile coaches would love to be part of our illustrious heritage. We will choose those who best characterize Dennis VDM's values. Our exceptional staff is committed to providing the **best coaching** at the **best facilities** for the **best kids**, guiding each one to their peak performance goals!

