



**Dennis Van der Meer**  
*President*

**Pat Van der Meer**  
*Academy Co-Director*

**Marcos Ondruska**  
*Academy Director*

**Thomas Richter**  
*Head Professional*

**Vince Bilotta**  
*Head Professional*

**Tommy Shimada**  
*ATP Pro/Coach*

**Elizma Nortje**  
*Head Professional*

**Sally Droop**  
*Quickstart Instructor*

**Mimi Emoto**  
**Christian Rangelov**  
**Katie White**  
**Ike Kiro**  
**Dilara Yurtkuran**  
*Academy Coaches*

**Russ Crandall**  
*Head of Housing*



**Welcome Back!**

The Academy year has started for 2014-15. We welcome our new and returning students, and miss all the seniors who have graduated and gone on to college tennis all over the States. As their first team photos get posted on line, we are reminded of the hard work they all put in to get there. Some of these college players have been VDM students since they were quite young, while some joined us to get ready for college. All of them have made us proud, and have been great role models for the younger students. We are always happy to see them back on their breaks.



Speaking of younger students, the first of the VDM QuickStart students has successfully graduated to Academy status. Another seven or eight kids are building their competency on the full court with yellow balls, and competed successfully in 12 and under at our first junior tournament of the year. Right behind them is a large group of awesome orange ball players, able to dominate in u/10 competition. Several red ball players made their debuts in modified tournament play for 8 and under last weekend as well. VDM pros speak a common language to make the transition to full court play simple and fun for our youngsters. Our founder, Dennis Van der Meer understood and embraced the graduated length system of tennis more than 50 years ago, demonstrating mini tennis play in his native South Africa, with his own Czech coach.

We look forward to a wonderful year, full of growth and skill development, along with competition and great sportsmanship. The current student body shows promise to be great players and great citizens of the world community. From diverse backgrounds, they come together as friends and compatriots, making us proud!

**Touring Pros Visit Van Der Meer**

Barbadian Davis Cup hero Haydn Lewis chose Van Der Meer for his training prior to winning the deciding match for his country to move up to the next level. We are very proud of his great result in Davis Cup play. At the same time, Stephanie Kent, former Yale standout, spent a week preparing for her pro circuit events.





## Tournament Results

The Van Der Meer Academy Classic was a hugely successful start to the academy year. VDM Academy stars Nate Perrone and Tate Steinour dominated the boys 18 singles, with Nate beating Tate in the finals. Michal Rapsik made semis. VDM players Michal Rapsik and Adam Kush won boys 18 doubles, and Aaron Newland won the 18's singles consolation. Adam Kush won boys 16's, and Matthew Oliver reached the semis. Connor Cantaloupe was a semi-finalist in boys 14 doubles. Morgan Woodson was a boys 12 singles finalist, and Thor Pullon won the back draw. Thor and Will Henry Alford also were boys 12 doubles finalists. Alex Ruckno was the boys 10 singles finalist, and doubles finalist with Sam Cavanaugh, losing to Jason Beshar and his partner. Alex Zhu made semis of doubles with his partner.

Valerie Droop was the girls 18 singles finalist, barely losing in the third set tiebreaker, and Saera Kanda and Madison Dillon both reached the semis in 18 doubles. Saera and partner Masako Makiba won in a walkover over an ill Allie Burak and Madison Dillon. Val Droop and Juliana Goehner were semi-finalists. Molly Sanderson won girls 16 singles, and Logan Edwards reached the semis, with Alexis Voulgaropoulos winning the back draw. Lindsey Dixon was the finalist of girls 14 consolation. Savie Seebald was girls 12 finalist, and Karina Sztatmari made the semis. Together they reached the doubles finals. Anna Armistead won girls 10 singles, defeating Sierra Seabra. Lyla Alford and Sloan Stubbs made the semis of singles, with Sloan and her partner Allison Bracken winning the doubles over Anna Armistead and Maya Shimada. Mikey Ondruska and Alysa Ruckno made their debuts in u/8, with Mikey prevailing in a closely contested match!



## Fitness Corner

Pete Worthy is working with the older Academy kids several days a week at the Player's Club gym on strength training and injury prevention. Everyone is working very hard, and as you can see, having fun on breaks. This is one of the keys to a successful fitness program. Katie White continues to work on court daily with Etcheberry footwork and speed training as well as anticipation skills. We are looking forward to a visit from the great Pat Etcheberry himself. Stay tuned!



## Upcoming Events

Special pricing available for VDM Academy training sessions prior to the Dennis Van der Meer Southern Junior Cup, October 18 & 19. Also, check the website for holiday clinics later this Fall. Qualified visitors are always welcome throughout the year for a day, week or longer. Call Gretchen at 1-800-845-6138 to reserve a spot.

