



# Van Der Meer Tennis Academy

Feb 2008

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Dennis Van der Meer

Pat Van der Meer  
*Co-Director*

Vince Bilotta  
*General Manager*

Walker Sahag  
*Academy Director*

Jolene Watanabe-Giltz  
*WTA Player/Coach*

Justyn Schelver  
*Head Professional*

Heinrich Bremer  
Brijesh Lodha  
Christophe Bonadona

Maria Brito  
Oscar Gomez  
Robert Gates  
Alex de Guzman  
*Coaches*

Shari Frey  
*Admissions Coordinator*

Sue Osmers  
*World Class Advisor*

Russ Crandall  
Shari Frey  
*House parents*

### Try to Get A Little Bit Better Every Day

By Dennis and Pat Van der Meer

Brian Barker, who trained with us frequently from age 11 through his early 20's, has become a first rate coach himself. His most well known student is top ten player/ Davis Cupper James Blake, who came with Brian to VDM Academy to train several times while still in high school. Brian has touched the lives of countless other young players who have been very successful as well. What makes us particularly happy is how grounded Brian has remained; close to his family, loyal to his friends, and very practical regarding life on the tour.



Brian, Dennis and Pat with Academy students.

When he was down on Hilton Head in February, he took time to hit with some of our players, and gave a short talk to the Academy as a group. His message was simple and easy to remember; if you work hard **every day** in practice and try to improve bit by bit, you will progress up the ladder. Sometimes you will make big leaps, but steady improvement guarantees that your confidence will also grow. A top player and graduate of the University of South Carolina himself, Brian talked about how James felt that his two years in college helped him be ready to play on the circuit both physically and mentally. He pointed out that the growth and improvements he made competing in the NCAA while at Harvard helped prepare him to compete day in and day out as a professional. Brian stressed that even now, the main thing he tries to help James do is to **try to get a little better every day**. We are extremely proud of the character of both Brian and James and believe the best is yet to come for them; individually and as the team they are.

Justyn with the Smash Cup Champions (Steven and Zeynep) and Finalist (Alrissa.)



John Stratton, back with some teammates from Michigan State, to train with us this spring.

# TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL!



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### Tournament Results



Steven Lin: Smash Cup, Winner B18S, HIS Jr Winter Championships, SF B18S, Winner B18D



Ryan Drake: Smash Cup, QF Boys18S, HIS Jr Winter Championships, Winner B18S, Winner B18D



Matt Kirk: Smash Cup, QF B14S



Jared Woodson: Smash Cup, QF B12S, Winner of the bd at the B12s USTA Bullfrog, Macon, GA



Keri Wong: Smash Cup, SF G18S.



Alison Riske: Smash Cup, SF G18S.



Michelle Green: Smash Cup, QF G18S.



Zeynap Mafa: Smash Cup, Winner G 16S.



Kendal Drake: Smash Cup, SF G 16S.



Alrissa Tobe: Smash Cup, F G 18S bd. Winner of G18S at the Cary Open, Cary, NC



Ben Davies: USTA National Open R32



Ashleigh Antal: USTA Bullfrog QF G16S



Leyla Erkan: USTA Bullfrog, 4R bd



Photo courtesy of Ken Mak

Congratulations to teaching professionals Dennis Van der Meer and Robert Gates for their success in the 2008 PTR championships held at VDM Shipyard Resort. Dennis and partner John Poweless won the Nehemiah Atkinson men's 70's doubles, and Robert was the men's open finalist.

#### You're Invited To A

Van Der Meer Tennis Academy

World Class Junior Weekend Clinic

When: Mar. 28-30

Where: Hilton Head Island, SC

Time: Fri. 3-6pm, Sat. 9:30am-12pm & 2-4:30pm

Sun. 9-11am

Cost: \$328

RSVP to Shari Frey: 1.800.845.6138

Discount accommodation rates available

#### College Signings

Steven Lin—Tusculum College, TN



Dennis with Jared and his backdraw champions plaque.



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