



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



Maturity

By March, we are seeing many positive changes in our Academy players' games. They have played tournaments with our coaches watching, and we have had the opportunity to see whether the information we've given has been processed in terms of strategy, tactics, mental toughness and stroke production. We have been pointing out in practice the areas they must improve in order to get good results consistently. They have been drilled in point play situations geared to hone necessary skills. They have worked on increased fitness, movement and agility skills daily. Most of our students have taken full advantage of this tremendous opportunity, approaching each session with open minds and positive energy. Some are still figuring out how to assimilate the vast information to their existing knowledge base; making adjustments and substituting good habits for bad ones. Learning is a process, and adapting to change takes time and patience.



All kids mature at different rates, and their tennis reflects this. If they learn to deal with adversity and challenges in their tennis, they will be well prepared for pressures in daily life. Turning out competent, confident, self-reliant, strong and well-respected young athletes has always been our overall goal. This process is enhanced through teamwork with parents who also want their children to be successful in their future, on and off the court. We want to take this opportunity to say thanks to all our families, past and present, who have given us wonderful support and communication. Our goal is to produce great citizens of the world, who are also excellent tennis players. We look forward to continued physical, intellectual and emotional growth in our students, as we move towards the last segment of the school year.

Brian Barker

James Blake's long time coach, Brian Barker gave another great talk to VDM students and parents. He talked about James as an 11 year old, and his transition through his teenage years from a rather difficult kid to becoming the great statesman for sportsmanship he is now. He talked about their constant theme **to get a little better every day**, and how James learned not to be so outcome oriented. He also addressed parent education, trying to help parents understand that their kids need support dealing with the pressures of competition.





Tournament Results

Dunlop Cup

Madison Dillon - Girls 16's champion, Masako Makiba and Val Droop - Girls 18 doubles finalists, Brooke Wrigley - green dot finalist and Natalie Bassett, Girls 12 doubles finalist.

USTA National Winter Closed

Beau Pelletier singles champion



Madison Dillon, Dunlop Cup, Girls 16's Champion



Masako Makiba and Val Droop, Dunlop Cup Girls 18's Doubles Finalists



Natalie Bassett, Dunlop Cup, Girls 12's Doubles Finalist



Brooke Wrigley (right), Dunlop Cup Girls 12's Singles Finalist



Beau Pelletier, USTA National Winter Closed Singles Champion

Jay Berger Presentation

USTA Director of Men's Coaching, former ATP top 10 Jay Berger gave an on court presentation incorporating hitting to spots using efficient footwork and recovery with several under 14 Van Der Meer students. The kids had to hit basic patterns with consistency and focus, and were encouraged to maintain a high level of intensity and concentration throughout the drills. Dr. Paul Lubbers and David Ramos assisted throughout the demonstration for PTR members around the world. It was a great experience for our students; they definitely felt performance pressure similar to tournament play with an audience of experienced coaches watching. Good job, Soh, JJ, Madison and Adam!



Fitness Corner

When you're only one block from the beach, it's great to run in the sand for increased strength and stamina. It makes normal surfaces seem so easy, and when you sprint on the beach, you build speed. It's coming up to the time when we all look forward to taking a dip to cool off afterward; summer is coming up fast! Coach Katie White took another fitness certification course (ITPA) in February, and Coach Elizma Nortje added Etcheberry fitness training to her vast repertoire.



Spring/Summer Junior Clinics & Academy Weeks

Join us on court for great weeks of tennis this Spring between March 9-April 17 as well as this Summer between May 31-August 29. Please visit our website at www.vdmtennis.com or ask our pro shop for the full schedule.

