



Dennis Van der Meer  
*President*

Pat Van der Meer  
*Academy Co-Director*

Vince Bilotta  
*General Manager*

Marcos Ondruska  
*Academy Director*

Thomas Richter  
*Head Professional*

Tommy Shimada  
*ATP Pro/Coach*

Sally Droop  
*Quickstart Instructor*

Heinrich Bremer  
Maggie Ekert  
Christian Rangelov  
Michael Stevenson  
*Academy Coaches*

Meaghan Miller  
*Fitness Coordinator*

Tammy Pett  
*Admissions Coordinator*

Russ Crandall  
*Head of Housing*



## 2012-2013 Year Has Begun

The 2012-13 school year has begun for Van Der Meer Academy students. We have another great group of international players of all ages, who are settling in to a routine that requires a lot of discipline.



VDM Academy never loses a day to rain, thanks to our covered courts

Learning to push your limits on court while maintaining high academic standards is not a walk in the park. Each year we watch for the signs of the transformation of ordinary young human beings into mature, smart competitors.

Learning how to be a successful and **respected** competitor is one of the most important goals we set for our students. If our kids can learn how to maximize their physical, mental and tactical skills in order to everything possible to win matches, it's likely they will transfer their ability to prepare to win in other facets of life. Dealing with pressure on court is a valuable lesson for later success in personal and professional life

The most successful will never try to avoid tough matches; they relish the opportunity to contest their skills against all of the field. They recognize that each match brings new challenges to the table and enjoy trying to figure out how to win. They try their best whether it's someone they think they should beat, someone they feel is much stronger, or someone they don't know. Avoiding pressure by constantly playing up will ultimately catch up. Someday they will be the one in that position, with no experience in playing someone the same age or younger. Balancing the challenges by keeping track of win and loss patterns is the best way to plan a solid tournament schedule; maintaining a win-loss record of about 2/3 wins to 1 loss means growth is occurring without loss of confidence.



Marcos Teaching a Low Backhand Volley

We are very proud of our ever-growing family of coaches and students. VDM Academy alums include highly successful college grads in all occupations, as well as top touring pros, current and retired. Last spring we welcomed Marcos Ondruska back to VDM Academy to take the reins as Academy Director. We are seeing the fruit of his hard work with all our students' results already. It's been an easy transition, because he trained with Dennis as a player and a fledgling coach. He carries on our founder Dennis Van der Meer's tradition of excellence and high standards using a solid base of instruction based on commonalities and sound biomechanics, with a strong emphasis on balancing tactics, fitness and mental toughness.

Certified Athletic Trainer, Meaghan Miller, has been another great addition to our team, planning programs and helping rehab injuries. Her cheerful personality and expertise in the fitness area have been another positive influence on all our players.



Meaghan Miller



## Searching for the Right College

An important part of attending an academy is preparing for and selecting the best possible fit for college. Being realistic about your ability to produce wins for your team makes it easier to decide where you can play and possibly even get a partial or full scholarship. Particularly for boys, with much less funding available to coaches, you need to keep certain things in mind at all times.

While coaches definitely will first select players with the ability to win matches for them right off the bat, potential and attitude can give you great opportunities after early signing period in the fall. Not all kids reach their full size by the time they are seniors, nor are they all equally mature emotionally. As long as you show positive intensity and a strong work ethic, some spotty results can be overlooked. Good coaches know that someone who helps make practices valuable by giving 100% all the time will make good team players.

Prima donnas can wreck team spirit. By learning to be a positive leader in high school, you definitely enhance your chances of earning the coveted spot on the team of your choice. A positive attitude and great work ethic generally will influence the coach to select you over someone with equal results.

## Kelly Jones Speaks to the Academy

Former ATP #1 doubles player and tour coach, Kelly Jones, is now the Head Men's tennis coach at Furman. He recently made a visit to VDM Academy to look over our players for future recruits, and while here made a talk about the traits coaches are looking for. He emphasized character, and advised young players to "practice and play as if you don't know who may be watching you from the sidelines..." Sound advice from a top pro turned college coach.

## Tournament Results

(Champions and Finalists)

### 2012 Van Der Meer Academy Classic

- Jared Woodson won the B18 Singles
- Diana Colen was the G18 Singles Consolation Winner
- Tristan Puehse was the B16 Singles Finalist
- Valerie Droop was the G16 Singles Finalist
- Will Danzell was the B14 Singles Finalist
- Natalie Puehse won the G12 Singles

### 2012 Citadel Tournament

- Jared Woodson was the B18 Singles Finalist
- Kate Christensen was the G18 Singles and Doubles Finalist
- Scarlett Walston finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in G18 Singles
- Ellie Czura finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in G16 Singles & was a G16 Doubles Finalist
- Valerie Droop was a G16 Doubles Finalist
- Natasha Puehse finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in G12 Singles



Clemson Asst. Women's Coach Scott Kidd with Academy director Marcos Ondruska and Head coach Thomas Richter



Van Der Meer Academy students at the Citadel Tournament