



Idris V. Smith, Northwest Athletic Club Tennis Director

As of October 2016, the Northwest Athletic Club is excited to introduce our new Director of Tennis, Idris Smith! Before joining the NAC team, Idris served as the Head Tennis Professional and Director of High Performance for XS Tennis Organization in Chicago.

Originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Idris grew up playing competitive tennis and was ranked nationally in singles and doubles. He received a full ride to the University of Detroit and Eastern Michigan University, where he was captain of his tennis team and MVP. After college, Idris played professionally in Florida and toured South America.

Professionally, Idris has worked with over 100 junior players, four of which were #1 nationally ranked, numerous top 50 players and touring pros. He has also work with players that then went onto top Division I schools such as: Mississippi State, Princeton, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, West Point, Alabama, University of Georgia, University of Chicago and Stanford. He worked as Director of NewMember Relations and as the High Performance Coach at Midtown Athletic Club in Weston, FL. And as Head Academy Pro at Windward Lake Club in Alpharetta, GA. He also coached over 9 Women's Alta (3.0 - 5.0 teams), who have won many city championships. Idris is certified with the United States Professional Tennis Registry as a Professional level coach (the highest level) and recognized as one of the top development coaches in the country.

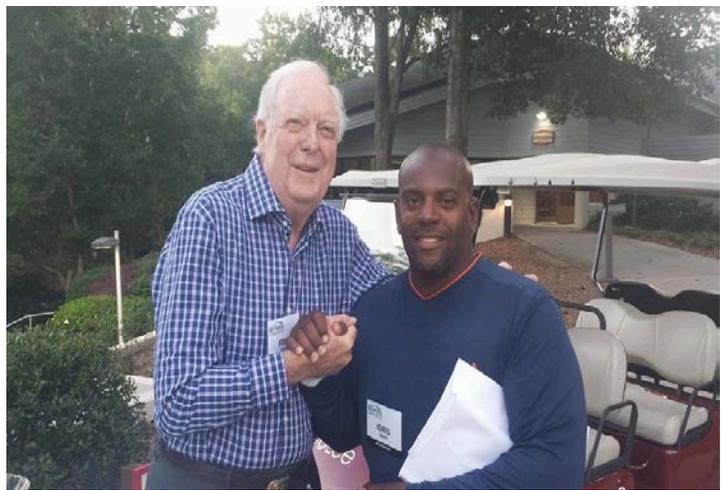
Idris is known as one of the hardest workers in the tennis industry, and in 2014 was selected as "Pro of the Year" at Peachtree City Tennis Center in Georgia. This work ethic has moved over into how he teaches:

*Having worked with Idris as a young player, he has always stood out to me not only as a great tennis coach, but as a person who truly understands what it takes to achieve your goals and be successful in life—a belief in yourself and hard work. That understanding flows through to how he approaches coaching. He teaches the fundamentals of the game with a very pragmatic style and motivates strong work ethic by example. I learned a great deal from Idris and I know he helped me immensely both on and off the tennis court. – **Augie Bloom, Princeton University Men’s Tennis***

Here at the NAC, his focus will be on junior and adult development, boosting the social experience, creating dynamic programs for new players. He will also be developing and updating the tennis programs, creating club tournaments and providing group and individual tennis lessons to adults and juniors. Lastly he will also develop a stronger community presence for the Northwest Athletic Club.



Idris w pro player Sachia Vickery of Florida at the legendary Australian Open Wildcard Tournament



Idris was a member of the United States Tennis Congress with Australian player Fred Stolle



Idris with touring professional Melanie Oudin of Atlanta, and Serena Williams

