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- home
- news & events →
- U.S. Open →
- USTA Membership →
- Resources →
- Volunteers →
- Learn to Play →
- Places to Play →
- Start a Program →
- Funding Opportunities →
- Special Needs →
- About Us →



US Open National Playoffs - Are you Playing?
Mehdy Karbid says he is ready for the competition he will face at the US Open National Playoffs next month. Why wouldn't you try? [Click Here](#)
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[Tri-Level 4.0-3.5-3.0 Section Championships](#)
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 April
 May
 June
[Rankings](#)
[Regulations](#)



Welcome to the official web site of USTA Eastern

USTA Eastern is a not-for-profit community service organization whose mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis. One of 17 geographic sections of the United States Tennis Association, the governing body of tennis in the United States, USTA Eastern boasts over 48,000 members throughout all of New York, Northern New Jersey and Greenwich, Connecticut.

Focused on "The Big Six", USTA Eastern is working to enhance the benefits to and increase the number of- Adult League players, Jr. Team Tennis players, Individual and Organizational memberships, Sanctioned Tournament participants, and Volunteers.

From the competition and friendship in your local area to the glamour and stars of the US Open, at USTA Eastern tennis is-

More than a game. It's a lifestyle.

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- home
- news & events →
- U.S. Open →
- USTA Membership →
- Resources →
- Volunteers →
- Learn to Play →
- Places to Play →
- Start a Program →
- Funding Opportunities →
- Special Needs →
- About Us →

Former Moroccan Davis Cup Player to Try Out for Spot in the US Open

It's been more than a decade since Mehdy Karbid was on Morocco's Davis Cup team, playing on courts in Switzerland and Croatia. But the 31 year old tennis pro and Jr. Team Tennis coordinator says he is ready for the competition he will face at the US Open National Playoffs next month.

"I am probably in better shape now that I have ever been," said Karbid. "So I feel great about my chances against anyone."

Karbid is one of more than 110 people who have signed up for the Eastern Qualifying Tournament, which is open to anyone 14 and over. The tournament will be held April 20-26 at the home of the US Open, the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens.

We asked Karbid about his tennis experiences, the National Playoffs and how he got involved in Jr. Team Tennis.

When did you first learn to play tennis?

I started playing tennis at three and a half years old, playing against the wall at our tennis club on weekends. I then started playing more at age 5 - about three days a week - and never really stopped since then. By age 7, I was playing four times a week, and that kept going until I went to the Bolletieri Tennis Academy for two years, playing tennis pretty much all day every day.

What would you consider your greatest achievement in the sport?

Being part of the Davis Cup team for Morocco was always a lot of fun and always gave me a great sense of pride due to the team atmosphere, and representing your country. Against teams such as France and Croatia, it was a great battle on the court and a great party off of it.

Why did you decide to sign up for the US Open National Playoffs next month?

I played satellites and challengers for a few years during and after college. Every time there is an interesting tournament to play, I like to participate, as long as I can perform well and not make a fool out of myself. For most players who have played on the tour for an extended amount of time, it is often hard to not want to compete again. For a lot of my friends and fellow competitors on the tour who are in the area coaching, or who have office jobs but are still keeping their game up, the desire to compete is always there. It is hard to turn this opportunity away.

You are the Jr. Team Tennis (JTT) Coordinator for Westchester County. How did you get involved in Jr. Team Tennis? What do you like about being a JTT coordinator?

In addition to the team atmosphere of the Davis Cup or ITF Junior Teams, I was a member of the College of William and Mary's tennis team for four years, and have coached St. John's University and the City College of New York's tennis teams. I believe that tennis can sometimes be a tough sport to truly enjoy due to its individual nature. However, I think that team tennis is a much easier sport to enjoy year round, and would probably keep more kids interested in the sport in the long run, the same way it did for adults through the various team leagues. When there was a chance to help develop team tennis in Westchester, I volunteered. Although it can be a tough task coordinating everyone's schedules, parents and players especially are always grateful at the end of the matches and the season, which is a great reward in itself. The greatest reward would be to see Jr. Team Tennis take more of a center stage in Junior competition in the next few years.

What do you do outside of JTT?

I run Loriet Sports Apparel (www.loriet.com), a performance tennis and sports clothing brand that I co-founded with Domenica Sinisi five years ago. It has been a great success so far, and this is a big year for us. We are hoping to speed up our growth further and start challenging the major brands, such as Nike and Adidas.

Loriet has kept me in the game of tennis, which was really the purpose behind starting the brand, apart from the financial rewards. In 2004, I earned my MBA in International Business, and I could not see myself do anything else but start my own venture. I never regretted the decision, since it took me back on the Tennis Tour, as a sponsor of professional events and professional players, including Meilen Tu who was ranked 30 in the World and wore Loriet at all events (including all four Grand Slams and in the Fed Cup semifinal for the USA against Russia).

I also have enjoyed being able to help people out through Loriet. We have dealt with many players who needed help and sponsors as they tried to make it as a professional tennis player, or as an accomplished junior player.

I also truly enjoy coaching, and have been able to teach some top junior players at the Roosevelt Island Racquet Club. I am also able to practice there with other local pros.

How old are you? How do you feel about competing against players younger than you in the US Open National Playoffs?

I am 31 years old, and I am probably in better shape now that I have ever been. So I feel great about my chances against anyone. Obviously, I am not as match-fit as I was 10 years ago, and I am not as intense as I once was, but hopefully I am a little wiser and can keep my focus without thinking of other things I could be doing instead. There are things that I used to hate as a younger tennis player, such as long



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