

2026 US Open Draw: Alcaraz and Djokovic Set for Blockbuster Collision as Zverev Leads the Field

Description

default watermark

The 2026 US Open draw has been released, and it promises one of the most compelling Grand Slam fortnight tennis fans have seen in years. With defending champion Carlos Alcaraz returning from a five-month injury lay-off, top seed Alexander Zverev targeting a second Slam of the season, and Novak Djokovic hunting a record-breaking 25th major, the stage at Flushing Meadows is set for something extraordinary â?? and a potential Alcaraz-Djokovic collision course adds yet more drama to an already loaded 2026 US Open draw.



Source: US Open official website (usopen.org)

Zverev Steps Up as Top Seed Following Sinner Withdrawal

World No.1 Jannik Sinner has been forced to withdraw from Flushing Meadows with a knee injury, reshuffling the seedings and opening the door for Zverev to enter New York as the man to beat. The Germanâ??s 2026 French Open title â?? his first Grand Slam â?? was a triumph built on resilience and tactical intelligence, and he arrives in New York with confidence surging through his racquet.

Zverev is drawn in the top half of the bracket, projected to meet sixth seed Alex de Minaur in the quarter-finals, before a likely semi-final against third seed Felix Auger-Aliassime. For Alcaraz

supporters, those could be the easier matchups â?? but in a field this deep, nothing is guaranteed. Zverev has been the benchmark of consistent excellence on the hard courts this summer, and he knows how close he came to this title in 2020. He will not let the opportunity slip again without a fight.

Alcarazâ??s Return: Rust or Resilience?

Carlos Alcaraz has not played a competitive singles match since suffering a wrist injury at the Barcelona Open in April. Five months is a significant lay-off for any player â?? but for Alcaraz, who depends so much on physicality, timing and confidence, the question marks are even larger. His first-round draw against Roman Safiullin â?? who defeated him in straight sets at the 2023 Paris Masters on their only previous hardcourt meeting â?? is a genuinely tricky opener.

And yet, Alcaraz has shown time and again that he thrives on the biggest stages. He won the Australian Open in January â?? his first hard-court Slam title â?? defeating Djokovic in the final and levelling their head-to-head record at 5-5. The 2026 US Open represents his chance to reclaim the title he won in 2022 and 2025, and to prove that injury has not diminished the ferocity of his game.

default watermark

Should he progress, Alcaraz faces potential quarter-final opponents in Ben Shelton (the Montreal champion) and Arthur Fils (Cincinnati winner) â?? two players in the form of their lives. The draw for Alcaraz has been labelled a â??death drawâ?• by commentators, and it is difficult to argue otherwise. Our earlier Cincinnati Open 2026 preview covered the recent hard-court form of several key contenders.



Source: US Open official website (usopen.org)

Djokovic Hunts Historic 25th Slam

Novak Djokovic â?? the fourth seed â?? sees this tournament as a genuine window of opportunity. With Sinner absent, Djokovic will fancy his chances of claiming a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title that would cement his status as the greatest player in the history of the sport. He opens against Mariano Navone before a projected quarter-final clash with seventh seed Daniil Medvedev.

The semi-final matchup that has captured the imagination, however, is the projected Djokovic vs Alcaraz meeting â?? a reprise of their Australian Open encounter nine months ago. Their rivalry has become one of the defining sporting stories of this generation, combining Djokovicâ??s experience and tactical mastery with Alcarazâ??s raw, exhilarating talent. A Flushing Meadows meeting between the two could rank among the great matches of the Open Era.

The American Question

No American man has won his home Grand Slam since Andy Roddick in 2003 â?? a stat that gets louder with every passing year. But the domestic contingent arrives in New York in excellent form. Ben Shelton has won consecutive Canadian Open titles and reached the Washington quarter-finals. Taylor Fritz was the 2024 finalist. Frances Tiafoe defeated three top-15 players in Cincinnati. Young gun Learner Tien has shown he can hurt the best players on the tour. The 2026 US Open draw may finally be the year an American breaks the drought.

default watermark

For full coverage of this yearâ??s tournament and Singaporeâ??s sporting heroes on the global stage, visit the LBRD Sports section. And for our earlier look at Zverevâ??s and Djokovicâ??s hard-court form heading into the summer Slams, check out our US Open 2026 general preview. Main draw action begins Sunday 30 August 2026 at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, New York.

Date Created
28/08/2026
Author
jadeyeo