



US OPEN PLAYER PROFILE



Meet Ed Schecter from Boonton, New Jersey. This is his first time playing in the US Open. Ed is everyone's favorite partner at his local courts in Morris Township, NJ. He loves the game for many reasons and the opportunity to play in the US Open was at the top of his short list of "must do" tournaments.

Q: Tell us about your pickleball story. When did you start playing and how were you introduced to the game?

I started playing at the local YMCA in Mountain Lakes, NJ in 2019. There were three courts and we played with wooden paddles on a basketball floor. Once I learned the speed and bounce of the ball, I knew quickly I could potentially be good at this game. The most difficult part was keeping score. Today, I have a 0-0-2 decal on my car, which happens to be a birthday gift from a fellow pickleball player and my friend, Angie Dello.

Q. Have you ever played in the US Open? If so, why did you return or why did you choose to play in the Open in 2024?

I have never had the opportunity to play at the US Open. This year, I will play in the Men's Doubles 3.0 skill, 70-75 age level and will meet my partner for the first time when I arrive in Naples. The US Open is an iconic event and I look forward to being a part of "The Biggest Pickleball Party in the World." Set in beautiful Naples, Florida, I am confident it will be a highlight of my pickleball career. I also plan on watching other matches throughout the week including my peers who compete in the singles division on Monday.

Q. How long have you been playing in pickleball tournaments and any memorable moments from them?

My first tournament was in February 2020, right before the world shut down, at the NY Open in the Nassau Coliseum. I played singles 3.0 and received a silver medal in that tournament. I really enjoyed the opportunity to compete, and I knew I wanted to continue to compete in tournaments.

In 2023, I played in the Atlantic City Open in both doubles and singles. I didn't know my partner, and when I arrived to play in the tournament, I learned he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 11 years ago. I had just been recently diagnosed with Parkinson's disease as well. We didn't do particularly well, but I admired his courage, resiliency and love for the game. We both know that the best way to slow the progression of the disease is to exercise and maintain a good diet.

After doubles, I also played in the singles division. I lost the first match and headed to the consolation bracket, where I worked my way back to the finals. I won the gold medal match in three games. I was exhilarated and it



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was a highlight of my pickleball career. My son said to me, “you finally got a gold medal” and I was proud. With that win, I also won a Golden Ticket to Nationals and will be competing this fall in Arizona. I do realize that my Parkinson’s disease is slowly affecting me, but I am still going strong.

Q: What do you like most about playing pickleball?

I enjoy drilling, practicing different shots, doing everything I can to get to the next level and knowing what I need to do to get there. It’s a sport centered around camaraderie and is inclusive to all backgrounds, ages and skill levels. It truly is a miracle game where everyone can play with everyone else. All you need to do is put your paddle in the queue.

I love watching the faces on people when they play, working out, being healthy and enjoying the outdoors. I also enjoy learning from people and helping people learn this wonderful game.

Q: Any shout outs to supporters or fans who may see this article?

I have met some wonderful friends because of pickleball. I met Andrea Smith on the Ginty courts and she became my attorney who I trusted to handle two significant life events in the last year. I would also like to give a shout out to my partner, Alex Vorhies, who practices with me on the local courts. There have been many people in the Morris County community who have helped me improve my game. Finally, I would like to give a special shout-out to my wife, who doesn’t mind the numerous hours I spend on the court.