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Local standout front and center at U.S. Open



Former Jesuit standout tennis player **Ryler DeHeart**, who advanced into the U.S. Open's main draw as a qualifier, won his first round match Monday. Now, the tough part.

The 24-year-old [DeHeart](#) will face the world's top-ranked player, Spain's Rafael Nadal, in the second round on Wednesday.

DeHeart, who was a two-time state champion and two-time runner up at Jesuit and was No. 4 nationally in the boys 18-and-under division before becoming the NCAA's No. 1 player at Illinois, beat Olivier Rochus of Belgium in five sets, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in his first-round match Monday. He has to win three qualifying matches just to make the main draw.

Asked what it will take to beat Nadal, DeHeart didn't have many answers for *The New York Observer*.



"That's a very good question, I think," he told the *Observer*. "I mean, he's beatable. It's going to be a tall task, and I'm probably not, you know, the guy most people are expected to do that. I'm still going to go out there and do my best. I'm going to give it everything I have, and I think tactically there are some things I definitely can implement to try to give him trouble, and that's all you can do."

-- EDUARDO A. ENCINA

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