

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS FOR KINARD IN SAN CLEMENTE

San Clemente, Calif. -- Twenty-two-year-old Tori Kinard of Pasadena, Calif. defeated unseeded Maxine Thomas of Los Angeles, 6-4, 6-1, on Saturday, July 10, to win the Mercury Insurance Open Presented by Tri-City Medical Center Opportunity Tournament at the Rancho San Clemente Tennis & Fitness Club in San Clemente.

Kinard, who was seeded third in the Opportunity Tournament, will receive a wild card into the qualifying draw of the Mercury Insurance Open which begins July 31 at The La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad.

The first head-to-head meeting between the two Southern California natives, which was played under mostly cloudy skies with cool conditions, took approximately ninety minutes to complete. "The key was not making mistakes," said Kinard, who plays tennis with a hard-hitting, aggressive style. "I kept the ball in play and served pretty well."

Kinard, who began playing tennis at age 12, has been playing ITF and Challenger events since finishing high school. Her current Sony Ericsson WTA Tour ranking is 972 (as of 07/05/10). She is coached by her older brother Travis, who plays collegiate tennis at UCLA.

Coming from a family with a rich history in racquet sports, Kinard and her brother were introduced to tennis by their parents. Her father Chris, was a six-time U.S. Open Men's Singles Badminton champion and her mother Utami, also an accomplished badminton player, won a silver medal at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

When asked how she felt about winning the Mercury Insurance Open Opportunity Tournament and gaining a wild card into the qualifying draw, Kinard said, "I'm super excited. It's a great opportunity and I'm looking forward to it."

Even though Kinard has never been to the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, she certainly is no stranger to San Diego County as she has family in the area.

Kinard also recently captured the USTA National Open Hard Court Championships in June at the Balboa Tennis Club at Morley Field. She was awarded a USTA gold ball for winning the national championship.

The third and final Opportunity Tournament is scheduled for July 14-18 at The San Diego Tennis & Racquet Club.