

Tan Earns Qualifying Wild Card After Winning Mercury Insurance Open Opportunity Title

Pacific Palisades, Calif. – When 18-year-old Stacey Tan of Lakewood, Calif. first signed up to play in the Opportunity Tournament at The Riviera Tennis Club, she thought the tournament winner would be entered in a playoff with the other Opportunity Tournament winners for one spot in the qualifying draw of the Mercury Insurance Open Presented by Tri-City Medical Center.

Tan, the Opportunity Tournament's fourth seed, later found out that wasn't the case and after defeating Maureen Diaz of Arcadia, Calif., 6-0, 5-7, 6-2 in the final on Saturday, July 3, she received 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.

Following her victory over Diaz, which took approximately two hours and 15 minutes, Tan said, "It feels great. I was a bit nervous because I've known her (Diaz) for a while and we're friends. It was a good challenge."

A four-time MVP and high school All-American in tennis at Lakewood High School, Tan recently completed her freshman year at Stanford University where she compiled a 30-9 record in singles. She also posted a singles victory in the Women's Tennis NCAA National Championship as she helped Stanford to a 4-3 victory over the University of Florida.

Tan's upcoming appearance in the qualifying draw of the Mercury Insurance Open won't be the first time she will play in a Sony Ericsson WTA Tour event.

In 2009, with the help of her Stanford coach, Lele Forood, Tan secured a wild card into the Bank of the West Classic, which is played on the Stanford University campus.

In her first-round qualifying match, Tan scored the biggest win of her tennis career so far as she upset former Australian Open semifinalist Nicole Pietrangeli, 6-2, 6-1. Pietrangeli, who is from the Czech Republic, is a former Top Ten player in the world.

When asked what she thought about her opportunity to play in the qualifying event of the upcoming Mercury Insurance Open, Tan said, "I'm very excited. That's really cool."

Later this month when Tan plays her first Mercury Insurance Open qualifying match, it will mark her first visit to the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad.