



NO. 2 SEED MARAND'S RALLY FALLS JUST SHORT **Qualifying complete, Main Draw in full swing at Palmetto Pro Open**

SUMTER, SC May 21, 2013 – No. 2 seed **Sanaz Marand** (USA) was already down a set and trailed **Hiroko Kuwata** (JPN) 5-1 in the second set. Marand, however, reeled off six straight games to take the set and led by two games in the third set.

But Kuwata stood tall and rallied herself to a 6-1, 5-7, 7-6(3) victory to move into the second round of the Main Draw at the Palmetto Pro Open – a USTA \$10,000 Women's Pro Circuit event in Sumter, SC.

The Qualifying Draw wrapped up first thing Tuesday morning to complete the Singles Main Draw. The eight qualifiers into the Main Draw were: **Alexandra Starkova** (ESP), **Yukako Noi** (JPN), **Denise Muresan** (USA), **Jacqueline Wu** (USA), **Michelle Sammons** (RSA), **Alexandra Morozova** (USA), **Maddison Inglis** (AUS) and **Magdalena Ekert** (POL).

Starkova defeated **Samantha Asch** (USA) 0-6, 6-3, 6-3; Noi advanced over **Sydney Campbell** (USA) 6-4, 1-6, 6-1; third-seeded Muresan claimed a 6-0, 6-1 victory over **Anna Smith** (USA); Wu took down No. 4 seed **Amanda Rodgers** (USA) 6-2, 6-0; Sammons was victorious over **Parris Todd** (USA) 3-6, 6-0, 7-5; Morozova beat **Whitney McCray** (USA) 7-5, 6-3; Inglis defeated **Taylor L. Davidson** (USA) 7-6(4), 6-2; and Ekert moved on with a 6-3, 0-6, 6-3 victory over **Emerald Able** (USA).

Six players in the Singles Main Draw advanced into the second round on Tuesday. Three of the eight seeded players began the Palmetto Pro Open – and outside of Marand, each seeded player won.

No. 4 seed **Fatma Al Nabhani** (OMA) downed **Mari Osaka** (JPN) 6-4, 6-2; and seventh-seed **Jamie Loeb** (USA) defeated **Naomi Osaka** (JPN) 6-3, 7-6(8).

Also advancing to the second round of the Singles Main Draw were: **Elizabeth Anita Alexandri Profit** (USA) with a 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory over **Katerina Stewart** (USA); **Csilla Borsanyi** (HUN) after defeating wild-card **Aleah Marrow** (USA) 6-1, 5-7, 6-1; and **Stephanie Kent** (USA) after advancing past and **Kristy Frilling** (USA) 6-4, 6-0.

All but four of the 16 Main Draw Doubles teams opened on Tuesday with six teams now in the quarterfinals.

Second-seeded doubles team Frilling and **Alexandra Mueller** (USA) moved into the next round with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over **Ryann Foster** (USA) and Todd and will face Davidson and **Kaitlyn McCarthy** (USA), who beat sisters **Roxanne Ellison** (USA) and **Sierra A. Ellison** (USA) 3-6, 6-3, 10-8.

After defeating Marrow and Rodgers 7-6, 6-3, the team of fourth-seeded Kent and Murdock advanced to the quarterfinals to play Campbell and **Josie Kuhlman** (USA). Campbell and Kuhlman defeated Noi and **Khristina Blajkevitch** (CAN) 6-7(4), 6-4, 10-5.

The team of **Martina Frantova** (SVK) and **Belinda Woolcock** (AUS) defeated **Brooke Austin** (USA) and **Brooke Rischbieth** (AUS) 7-6(4), 6-1 and will face a team to be determined. Also awaiting their next opponent in the quarterfinals is the team of **Jessica Lawrence** (USA) and Sammons, who defeated Asch and **Xue Zhang** (CHN) 6-4, 6-3.

Singles and Doubles Main Draw action will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday.

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