



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Seven Seeded Players Advance During Opening Day Of Qualifying**

*Stanford incoming freshman Nicole Gibbs advances to Sunday's second round with straight-set win.*

**STANFORD, Calif. (www.BankOfTheWestClassic.com)** – Top-seeded qualifier Kai-Chen Chang shook off a slow start and rallied for a 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-5 victory over Jelena Pandzic on Saturday afternoon, highlighting the opening day of singles qualifying action at the 2010 Bank of the West Classic.

Saturday's competition produced 16 winners in the qualifying draw, which continues Sunday before final qualifiers are determined Monday morning.

Of the eight seeded competitors in the singles qualifying draw, seven advanced to Sunday's second round. Only No. 3 seed Shenay Perry failed to reach the second round, as Ajla Tomljanovic posted a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 upset.

For the second straight year, a Stanford incoming freshman has advanced to Sunday's competition, as Nicole Gibbs registered a 6-4, 6-4 triumph over Beatrice Capra. A native of Manhattan Beach, Calif., and currently ranked among the top 500 in the world, Gibbs has reached the second round of qualifying one year after Stacey Tan shocked Nicole Vaidisova, a tour veteran who had been ranked as high as No. 7 in the world during her career.

In similar fashion to Chang's comeback win, two other players prevailed in lengthy three-set matches. After a 6-1 loss in the first set, eighth-seeded Olga Savchuk bounced back to defeat Alexandra Stevenson 6-2, 7-5 over the next two sets. In a match that took nearly two and half hours to complete, Mashona Washington battled back for a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Kristie Ahn, another Stanford incoming freshman.

Michaella Krajicek, Michelle Larcher De Brito, Alison Riske and Yurika Sema coasted to easy straight-set victories, with each player surrendering four games or less combined during their match.

Tickets for the 2010 Bank of the West Classic can be purchased by calling the box office at 866-WTA-TIXS (866-982-8497) or by logging on to [www.BankoftheWestClassic.com](http://www.BankoftheWestClassic.com). Single-session tickets for the tournament's opening round start at just \$26.

In addition to individual session tickets, full-week packages start at just \$575 and include tickets to all 13 sessions, a pass to the exclusive Grand Marnier Plaza Club and an invitation to the Meet the Players Party. Those who purchase a pair of seats will also receive a weeklong VIP parking pass and a Bank of the West Classic Tournament program.

The Bank of the West Classic is also offering several weekend packages starting at \$240.



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Entering its 40<sup>th</sup> year the Bank of the West Classic is the longest running women-only professional tennis tournament in the world. The list of past champions of the event reads like a “Who's Who” of women's tennis including Lindsay Davenport, Billie Jean King, Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Andrea Jaeger, Monica Seles, Martina Hingis, Venus Williams and Kim Clijsters.

**ABOUT THE BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC:** The Bank of the West Classic is the longest-running women-only professional tennis tournament in the world and is the first stop of the Olympus US Open Series. A Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Premier event, the Bank of the West Classic features a 30-player singles draw and a 16-team doubles draw with total prize money of \$700,000. Held on Stanford University's campus at the Taube Family Tennis Stadium since 1997, former champions include: Billie Jean King, Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Andrea Jaeger, Monica Seles, Martina Hingis, Lindsay Davenport and Venus Williams. The Bank of the West Classic is owned and operated by IMG.

**ABOUT BANK OF THE WEST:** Based in San Francisco, \$61 billion-asset Bank of the West ([www.bankofthewest.com](http://www.bankofthewest.com)) offers a full range of business, corporate, personal, trust and international banking services. For the third year in a row, Bank of the West has been ranked "highest in customer satisfaction in retail banking" in California by J.D. Power and Associates. The Bank operates more than 700 branch locations and commercial banking offices in 19 Western and Midwestern states. Bank of the West's holding company, BancWest Corporation, is a subsidiary of BNP Paribas, among the six strongest banks in the world, according to Standard & Poor's.

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