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KAYLA CROSS CLINCHES NATIONAL BANK OPEN WILD CARD AFTER WINNING THE ROAD TO THE NBO

Cross claims her second straight National Bank Open main-draw singles wild card after repeating as Road to the NBO champion

[TORONTO, ON] July 18, 2026 – Kayla Cross (London, ON) clinched a wild card into the main draw of the National Bank Open presented by Rogers (NBO) after defeating American Elizabeth Mandlik 5-7, 7-6(9), 6-2 in the semi-final of the Granby National Bank Championships. She secured her spot through the Road to the NBO competition, which awards a National Bank Open main-draw wild card to the top-performing Canadian based on points earned at professional tournaments held on Canadian soil.

Introduced in 2025, Cross has finished atop the women's Road to the NBO standings in both editions of the competition. The men's Road to the NBO wild card has yet to be clinched and will be decided at next week's Winnipeg National Bank Challenger.

"I'm incredibly excited to be returning to the National Bank Open presented by Rogers," said Cross. "It's a privilege to compete in front of Canadian fans at one of the biggest tournaments in the world, and I'm looking forward to being back in Toronto in a few weeks. Right now, my focus is on finishing strong here in Granby, but I can't wait to return to the tournament I grew up watching and dreaming of playing. See you soon, Toronto!"

Cross' Road to the NBO campaign included a second-round appearance at the Saguenay National Bank Challenger last October, a semi-final showing at the Tevlin Challenger in Toronto, and now a spot in the finals in Granby, Quebec. She will play for the Granby title on Sunday against Japan's Sara Saito.

This marks the third main-draw wild card announced for this year's WTA tournament, with five still to be awarded. The two previously awarded have gone to seven-time Grand Slam singles champion and four-time Olympic gold medallist Venus Williams, and Canadian Bianca Andreescu, the 2019 NBO and US Open champion.

MEDIA NOTES

National Bank Open

- Wild cards into the main draw have now been awarded to Bianca Andreescu, Kayla Cross, and Venus Williams.
- Five more main-draw wild cards and four qualifying wild cards will be announced in due course.
- The official draw ceremonies in Toronto and Montreal will take place on Friday, July 31 and will be livestreamed on tournament channels.
- This is the second year of the expanded 12-day format, which begins with a one-day qualifying round on Saturday, August 1.
- Main-draw play begins on Sunday, August 2.
- August 1-2 is 407 ETR Family Weekend in association with LEGO Canada, Montellier, Nintendo and Sobeys.

Kayla Cross (World No. 200)



- This season, Cross has reached a WTT W50 final in Chihuahua, Mexico and a semi-final at the WTT W50 event in Orlando, Florida.
- Alongside Bianca Andreescu, Cross helped lead Team Canada at the Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers in April, marking her second participation in the prestigious team competition.
- The 21-year-old will be making her fourth National Bank Open appearance and second in the main draw.

About the National Bank Open presented by Rogers

The National Bank Open presented by Rogers is a world-class tournament owned and operated by Tennis Canada. In 2026, the event enters a new era with an expanded 12-day format that features a 96-player main draw. As a WTA 1000 and ATP Tour Masters 1000 tournament, it will showcase the world's top tennis players in Montreal and Toronto from August 1 to August 13. The women's event, celebrating more than 130 years of history, will take place at Sobeys Stadium in Toronto. The men's event, celebrating more than 140 years of tradition, will be held at IGA Stadium in Montreal. The National Bank Open presented by Rogers is the third-oldest title in tennis, behind only Wimbledon and the US Open. For more information and tickets, visit www.nationalbankopen.com.

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