

WYATT WORTHINGTON II

MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome Wyatt Worthington II here to the interview room here at the 2022 Rocket Mortgage Classic. Congratulations, Wyatt, on earning a spot in the field by winning the John Shippen National invitational over the weekend.

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: Thank you.

MARK WILLIAMS: I guess we can start, talk about that victory, 73-65, a couple pretty good scores.

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: Yeah, I feel as though the 73 that I shot was -- the number didn't show as well as I played and I knew, I told my caddie, Andy Gibson, that if we pretty much stick with the same process and hopefully we can roll a few more pumpkins in, that would be scary good and that's kind of what I did. It was pretty much like Cameron Smith at The Open and I just rolled every single putt I looked at. I gave myself as many chances as I could. It wasn't as smooth sailing on stretches from 13 through 15, I scrambled to make pars and kind of keep the momentum going and made birdie on 16 and 17 and secured my par on 18. It all worked out.

MARK WILLIAMS: Cool. Anytime you can mention The Open champion in the same sentence as the way you putt. So what did you learn about this golf course that you can maybe take into the week that you might not have known before?

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: Yeah, the great folks over at Detroit Golf Club, it's very traditional. It's very tree lined.

Detroit Golf Club, it's very traditional, you've got to keep the ball in play, first and foremost. You do not want to be punching out throughout the day. And the greens are very subtle. There are sections, I'm pretty sufficient the PGA TOUR will have nice pin locations for us where it will be a good challenge and try to give yourself as many opportunities as you can. I know there's one water hole on 14, so as long as you can kind of stay away from that little pond, I think you'll be okay.

Q. Wyatt, this will be your third PGA Tour start, you played in a couple of PGA Championships. What were those experiences like for you playing in those championships?

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: I said this before in a couple interviews, I say it's life changing, and that it is. But the more that I look at it, it's actually a dream come true. I can't tell you how many times I've seen Tiger's interviews like this. I can't imagine myself actually being

here. I know I wanted to work on my game to get to this point, but actually living this, I can't really fathom that. Yeah, this is an unreal experience.

Nonetheless, when I saw -- when I talked to Andy Gibson, we have the game to do this, it's just getting an opportunity to do this at the highest level, that's really what's been the toughest part.

MARK WILLIAMS: We were chatting just before, you're from near Columbus, in the Columbus area, you teach there basically at the Golf Depot?

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: Guilty.

MARK WILLIAMS: That's how you make your money. How often do you get to play in tournaments?

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: Yeah, yeah, so right now the APGA is for minority golfers. It's for all golfers, but it's going to have a main focus on minorities and I try to give my effort and support to them because they have a really good thing going on. I feel as though for myself, there's a lack of representation not only on the PGA Tour but The PGA of America as well. Playing in the PGA Championship, I believe there's only two individuals, Tom Woodard and myself that's made it through that route. Me even saying something like that, being part of history, I can't even fathom that. Yeah, it's an unreal experience.

MARK WILLIAMS: So when you're not playing tournaments like on the PGA and you're here and you're at home teaching, what does it look like for you in a day, what does that entail?

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: So I just got a new puppy, so I'm going to be taking him for walks and working on the potty training and whatnot. He's a pretty good dog, Australian Shepherd.

After that I start my lesson book. At the end of the day I love teaching, and I caddie in the wintertime. But I do those things to kind of pay bills and to give myself an opportunity to chase my dream, which is to be on the PGA Tour.

MARK WILLIAMS: How many lessons a day will you give?

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: It fluctuates. In the summertime I give a lot more lessons because the kids are out of school so I can be there all day long and helping out behind the desk as well, too. And then there's a couple lighter days and I'll do playing lessons, but I'm hovering around four to eight lessons.

Q. Now that you're on site here, what sort of feedback have you been getting from fans and others on the golf course?

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: The feedback, I've been getting shown a lot of love actually even from the Tour guys congratulating me. I'm like, You guys know who I am? This is crazy. I know who you are.

And the members from the Detroit Golf Club, it's been nothing but love and support. So it's been anything and then more that everyone's cheering me on and want to see me succeed, so hopefully I can do that for them.

MARK WILLIAMS: One last thing I'll say is, I saw the pairings come out and Thursday afternoon you'll tee off at 2:00 I think and you'll be with an international group with Brett Drewitt from Australia and Paul Barjon from France. Have you met any of those guys?

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: No, I have not, but I'm pretty sure I'll like their accent.

Q. So we're with Ebony Magazine today and we want to know what brand represents you for this tour you're going on.

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: Actually, it's an African-American brand called Eastside Golf by Olajuwon and Earl Cooper. I believe they're the only space of African-American brand and I'm happy to showcase that.

Like I said, there's a lack of representation of players on Tour, but also there's a lack of representation of clothing as well, too. I've known Earl Cooper for five or six years now and as soon as I met him, we were kind of cut from the same cloth, no pun intended, and we kind of just hit it off and any way that I can support. I just met Olajuwon not too long, but he's from east Atlanta and you can tell that he's just a genuine person through and through. Anything I can do to help those guys out, that's what I'm here for.

MARK WILLIAMS: Congratulations on the victory again and good luck this week.

WYATT WORTHINGTON II: Thank you.