

**BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD
OF KANSAS WICHITA OPEN
BENEFITTING KU WICHITA PEDIATRICS**

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
June 17, 2023**



WILLIE MACK III (-14)

Q. Great round today and a great week for you. What's really starting clicking for you this week?

WILLIE MACK III: Yeah, I've been kind of struggling in the beginning of the year. I think the last couple weeks I've been getting into kind of a groove out here. It's just some things I've been working on and I'm glad they're kind of paying off, and hopefully I can shoot another good one tomorrow.

Q. What have you been sort of telling yourself over the last few weeks as you went sort of a while without getting any starts? Got into the BMW. I mean, what have you been telling yourself during that time?

WILLIE MACK III: Yeah, like I said, it's been a struggle in the beginning. It's easy to get down on yourself missing a lot of cuts. I made three in a row, and then BMW, I think I was just kind of tired from sectionals, driving and playing for a while. I'm rested up this week and hopefully I can keep that energy going until tomorrow.

Q. And I mean at this point in the season where you're at at the leaderboard, what are you hoping to accomplish tomorrow?

WILLIE MACK III: Oh, yeah, it's big for me. It's just golf when you put it in that perspective, but I think every time I get into a tournament it's go time now because being so far down on the points list, I definitely need these points. So I'm glad I'm playing well and hopefully I can keep it rolling into tomorrow.

Q. Are you going to go out there with a number in mind? I don't know what the lead's going to be at the end of the day. Are you just focused on winning? I mean, what would you say your focus is going to be tomorrow?

WILLIE MACK III: Yeah, I definitely want to win, but at the same time I just got to stay patient out here. It's a lot of birdie holes out here, but you can get in trouble, too. Hopefully I can just attack the holes I can attack and kind of par the harder holes out here.

Q. Did you get any advice from anyone who kind of had conditional status, went through sort of a similar stretch that you've been through?



WILLIE MACK III: Yeah, I'm kind of good friends with Patrick Newcome and he's been kind of coaching me the last couple weeks. When you make those cuts, every par, every up-and-down, they count. I think he told me that in Colombia and I kind of just stick with that mindset and never give up on the hole and hopefully just keep grinding like I always do.

Q. What did you make on 17 today?

WILLIE MACK III: Birdie. I actually flew it in the hole. They had to come and fix the cup. And I had like a three- or four-footer down the hill left to right and I'm glad I made it. I think I would have got a lot of boos if I didn't.

Q. Was there a pretty big roar out there on 17 when it happened?

WILLIE MACK III: Oh, yeah. My caddie, he's a local this week and he said if I made it, he would run down the hole, whole hole with the bag. I gave it my best effort.

Q. And has there been any comparable experience to like 17, anything like that as far as playing in your career?

WILLIE MACK III: Playing? Not like that, no. Probably the closest is when I made the cut at the Rocket Mortgage a couple years ago. I'm from there, so there was a lot of people watching me I think going on 15, but I think that was a little better.

