

## ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

### PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE

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### WILLIE MACK III

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**MODERATOR:** Willie, welcome back to Rocket Mortgage Classic. I know you played as a sponsor exemption a few years ago.

**WILLIE MACK III:** Yeah.

**MODERATOR:** What's it like coming back here having got a lot of exposure the last month at the U.S. Open, the last couple years and just having a lot more people know your story and your background?

**WILLIE MACK III:** Yeah, for sure. Just playing in the last couple weeks have been pretty good, playing in the U.S. Open, getting through sectionals, winning some tournaments in between. Hopefully I can keep that going this week and put myself in contention. I played here a million times, so hopefully I can use that to my advantage and keep playing well.

**MODERATOR:** And then winning The Shippen, just thoughts on that this week to get into this event?

**WILLIE MACK III:** Yeah, The John Shippen, I think this is my third year playing it and all the champions on there, I'm glad I can put myself on that list. They've put a great tournament together and hopefully I can keep that going. I know Chase made the cut last year, so hopefully we can do a two-peat.

**MODERATOR:** And just what's it like for you coming back to a place that's close to home?

**WILLIE MACK III:** Yeah, this is my first PGA TOUR cut that I made. I'm from Flint, Michigan, so just being able to see all the members and everybody I know here, it's kind of like a home team thing. Hopefully, like I said, I can just play well and get back in on the weekend and get into contention.

**MODERATOR:** Saturday and Sunday you played in two different conditions out here on the course, Saturday it was pretty calm, Sunday it was very windy, and now the course is pretty wet, sopping wet after this morning.

What kind of advantages do you think that gives you seeing the course in so many different states over the four-day tournament?

**WILLIE MACK III:** Yeah, I know Saturday I shot 9 under and then Sunday I shot 2 over. I



think the winds were 34- or 40-mile-an-hour gusts on Sunday.

Just seeing those conditions and different aspects of the course hopefully will help me this week. I'm not sure about the wind this week, but if it's windy, at least I know what holes not to hit certain clubs on. Yeah, just I know it's wet out, it's not a firm course this week, but hopefully I can throw in some putts.

**Q. And what has it been like resetting from Sunday's win and then now gearing up for another PGA event? What's that turnaround been like?**

**WILLIE MACK III:** Just like I said, coming off that U.S. Open, I played well the first round, didn't really play well the second round. The conditions out there were super tough. I played in I think three tournaments since the U.S. Open. I wouldn't say any golf course is easy, but after playing that, everything seems a little bit easier now.

**Q. If people around here didn't know your story, they obviously do by now. With all of the attention you've gotten recently and the successes you have been stacking in the middle of such a hardworking career, what does it mean for you to be having the recent success and opportunities here?**

**WILLIE MACK III:** Yeah, I've been playing well. It's just when you get these opportunities, I got to keep plugging along and play well and not let these opportunities just go to ways. I'm not getting any younger, so when I do get these opportunities, I think I need to play a little bit better and put myself in those good moments. Like I said, this year has been a little bit better than last year. I have full Korn Ferry status. I didn't play as well as I wanted to, but hopefully I can keep that going and get back out there next year.

**Q. I'm assuming you needed more than the regulation four tickets for friends and family to come out this week?**

**WILLIE MACK III:** Yeah, I asked for a little bit extra.

**Q. Willie, just curious, since you got into the Rocket, you made the cut here, that was kind of a breakthrough year for you. You told your story a lot of different places. I'm just curious, how comfortable were you then telling your story as opposed to now? Are you comfortable with this attention and your story being out there?**

**WILLIE MACK III:** I think in the beginning, I think at that time my mom didn't even really know what was going on for a long time. I don't know, I think back then it was kind of embarrassing to play and do what I was doing, but now overcoming and going through those bad times I feel like it made me a better person and a better player on the golf course. I always say I'm glad I went through those things and hopefully it can help me out in the future.

**Q. There's a 15-year-old kid in the field this week in Miles Russell. I'm just curious**



**how you would have handled that situation if that were you at 15 playing in a PGA TOUR event?**

**WILLIE MACK III:** Who knows? I know he's a good golfer. I was talking to Jason I think yesterday about him not even being able to get into the locker room because it says 16 and over. We were joking about that.

Yeah, he's been playing well. Hopefully he plays well this week and keep going.

**MODERATOR:** Final questions for Willie? OK. Thank you very much for your time.

**WILLIE MACK III:** Perfect. **Thank you.**

