

## LECOM Suncoast Classic

### ROUND 3 INTERVIEW

April 18, 2025

**MICHAEL JOHNSON (-15)**

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**Q. Michael, T-1 headed into the final round tomorrow. Just give me a recap on today.**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** Yeah, I mean, played good today. Greens are firm so you can make some mistakes. I bogeyed 3, but it's like it's a hard hole so it is whatever. I played solid, kept my head down.

I feel like Korn Ferry Tour third round lead is like starting the day kind of pointless because by the time you tee off, you don't have the lead. I had that mindset kind of whole day, just don't worry about the leaderboard. Just trying to get to as many under par as possible was kind of my thought today.

**Q. The last time that you held the lead was 2018.**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** Yeah, that's right.

**Q. Does it feel good to be back in contention?**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** Absolutely, yeah. You play to be in contention a lot of the times. Unless you're Tiger or Rory, Scottie, a handful of others, you don't play in the lead a lot. No, it's fun. I feel like you're locked in a little more. Just have to embrace it. Yeah, it's nice to be up close to the lead.

**Q. Take me through last season because that was a whirlwind to start, started off with conditional status, that start at Bahamas kind of got you through the rest of the season.**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** Yeah, I was conditional, made the cut on the number in Exuma, made like a 20-foot birdie putt. I don't care who you are, making a putt to make the cut is a really good feeling. I played great in Abaco, T-6. Just kind of went from there, racked up a bunch of points in the international swing, played pretty good in the summer. Didn't really play great then but it was nice to have full status, that's an accomplishment in itself. A lot of good players out here. I mean, overall, I would say most people would be really happy getting full status starting with conditional.

**Q. Can you play any more differently now that you kind of entered this season with exempt status?**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** Not really. I think you just have to take advantage of your opportunities. I mean, it's 26 events, so I wouldn't say it's a short season. Shorter than the PGA TOUR, I think. You would have to fact check me but seems like they play a lot. You just have to get a bunch of points. You can't really take weeks off because guys will pass you. You just have to take advantage of any and all opportunities.

**Q. Do you want to take me through what's happening for you next week?**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** Yeah. So, my wife, we're due to have a baby May 8th. Then she went in this week and it's going to come a lot earlier. I don't know if I've told many of my friends yet. We told our parents, so apologize to any of my friends.

Yeah, I'm trying to make it home as soon as possible and meet our little baby.

**Q. Is that on your mind? Are you kind of gearing for that win or kind of in both worlds right now?**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** I'm just trying to play well. Hopefully, my wife, Rachel, can hold the baby in for a little longer. But we've talked about it, if this week or the next week we thought we would have a baby, but if I was playing well, we would keep playing. So, we'll see. I feel like I walked a little bit faster today to maybe finish the round quicker, which is pointless, but yeah, we're excited. About two weeks earlier than we expected.

**Q. Congratulations. Your first kid?**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** First kid, yep.

**Q. Ready to be a dad?**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON:** Yeah. My brother-in-law and sister-in-law had a baby and it's been a lot of fun to be an uncle, so yeah, we really enjoyed it.