

# U.S. Open Championship 2024

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina, USA

Pinehurst Resort & C.C. (Course No. 2)

## Willie Mack

### Flash Interview



**Q. Can you talk about this journey to get to this point and what it means to you to finally be here in a U.S. Open.**

WILLIE MACK: Yes, it means a lot. It's a special week for me. I lost in the playoffs in sectionals a couple years ago.

Everything happens for a reason. I think this is my time to play well. Hopefully I can play well the next couple days.

**Q. What was your excitement level when you stepped onto the tee for that first tee shot?**

WILLIE MACK: I wasn't as nervous as I probably was before playing in some PGA TOUR events. Playing full season last year, I guess it got me ready for these type of situations.

It's still the U.S. Open, so you got to focus, put your head down and hit some great shots.

**Q. 71 is good play in a round here. Maybe you weren't happy with the way it finished today. Talk about your round a little bit, how you played.**

WILLIE MACK: Yeah, I was playing solid the whole round. I think I was 3-over my last four holes. Every bogey I made, I hit a good shot. I gave myself an opportunity for par on the last hole. Kind of broke a little bit more, but... As long as you're not making doubles, you can get birdies to offset those bogeys.

**Q. Were there one or two shots today that you said, That was pretty good?**

WILLIE MACK: Yeah, I think it was on 4 or 5, the long par 4 down the hill. I kind of hit it into the fairway, it rolled into the bunker. I had 235. I hit a 4-iron. I was telling my brother, it's probably the best 4-iron I've ever hit. It went over the green. I putted. Left it short probably about six or seven feet, but made that. I was telling my brother after that second shot, I deserve a par (laughter).

**Q. How about a couple of the birdies that you made**

**today, can you describe those?**

WILLIE MACK: Yeah, on the back nine I played first, I made I think two 30-foot putts, one from off the green, one downhill. I hit it too hard, I think. I think it was going off the green. It snuck in on the side. I'm glad it did that.

**Q. You shoot a 71, put something up on the board. Does that say to you you belong here?**

WILLIE MACK: Yeah, like I said, I played in some big tournaments before. Not as big as this. I feel like if your preparation is good and you stick to your game plan, all you got to do is execute. I think it did pretty good with that today.

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