

ALBERTSONS BOISE OPEN

Presented by Chevron

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW

August 21, 2022



WILL GORDON (-21, won first playoff hole)

Q. Will, can you take us through your emotions of the first win?

WILL GORDON: I mean, I'm so excited, I can't really believe it. Honestly, when I was warming up, I honestly thought there was like an outside shot and I saw Phil hit it by and I'm like, we've got some golf to play. I knew on this hole with where the pin is a 4 would have a chance. I felt like a 4 could at least allow me to play some more golf. So I'm really happy with the way it worked out obviously. I'm excited to be back on the PGA Tour and I'm just thrilled.

Q. The mentality for every golfer is to go out and get the win. What was your mentality this morning coming in?

WILL GORDON: You know, I think the last like, the whole year I wasn't in a great place last year toward the end of the year. I was injured, I had a lot going on and this whole year I was just kind of like did it as a growth process. Today I was like I've had two top-5s coming into this week, I've had four this year headed into this week and another top-10. Things just really haven't gone my way when it's come down the stretch. And I played solid golf. I was like, you know what, if I go out and just play solid golf again, I might have a chance. I'm just happy it worked out my way.

Q. Going back to Q-School last year, earning membership on the KFT, take us through the season. What kind of clicked the last month?

WILL GORDON: Right. Honestly, I would say since January my game's been good, I've just been doing the little things a little bit better. I've been leaving the ball on the correct side of the hole and I've been a lot more patient with myself and I think that's just like a Catch 22. You keep believing, you keep believing. Until you see results, it's hard. I've seen results for the last month and it's been really rewarding.

Q. It's only the first event of the three event Finals. How good does it feel after one event knowing that you'll be back?

WILL GORDON: Oh, I mean, it couldn't have drawn up better. I've gone through this process before. Last year I think I missed all three cuts in these things. After you miss the cut you feel like you're behind the eight ball. I feel like I've been behind the eight ball the entire season and I played some really good golf down the stretch but didn't get it done. To kind of be out ahead in front of things and be able to play really free these next two weeks

and try to win the points list, it's a great goal to have.

Q. Take us through what you did for that gap between the end of your round, waiting around killing time.

WILL GORDON: Yeah, I just went in the locker room and just hung out. I called a couple buddies who had called me and just talked to them. I just hung out. Then when somebody bogeyed 18 and Phil had bogeyed 15 I think or something like that or parred it, I was like, better go hit some balls. I honestly was just hoping I had a chance.

Q. I was with you during that time when you were on the range waiting. You seemed to have a mix of nerves and a mix of relaxed. You had Davis Thompson down there talking to you, talking just regular stuff with your caddie and then he would walk off and you would kind of hear what the crowd was doing and stuff. Can you just talk about your mixed nerves?

WILL GORDON: Yeah, I would say it kind of went well into my mentality like the whole year. I'm going to control what I can control and what I could control during that time was trying to conserve energy and keep a positive mindset and be ready if the opportunity came.

Davis was kind enough to congratulate me for getting back on Tour, and he's had a great year and I appreciate him sticking around doing that. It just kept things comfortable and I was able to come out here and execute on four good golf shots.

Q. What were your thoughts when you were up here on the green? Did you feel like you pretty much had it after --

WILL GORDON: Honestly, when I walked off, I asked the rules official, because I didn't know whether -- I've never been in a playoff before and I was like, dude, does the farthest person go, and he was like, yeah. So I went and I was like, all right, well, I basically made 4, hopefully one of these guys doesn't make it. MJ did what he did and Phil -- it just happened so fast, I was like, oh, my gosh, I can two-putt from 18 inches, it's pretty cool.

Q. What were you thinking when -- I mean, you go up and mark your ball from about two feet and you just step back and kind of watch everything unfold. What's going through your mind?

WILL GORDON: I don't even remember, it happened so fast. I was just like I think -- I asked Jay, I was like -- I don't know why I asked because I had 18 inches, but I was like, he just made 6, right? He said yeah. Yeah, I couldn't be happier.

Q. Your shot into the pin, you set it up here. If you leave your ball below the hole it gives you a pretty good shot.

WILL GORDON: Yeah.

Q. Was that your goal, just leave it below the hole?

WILL GORDON: Yeah, I think all -- two out of the four days I've hit it up on that level and had some good looks, but we've talked about like we tried to land that thing one or two short of the hole and if it stays up there, great, and today it didn't. I mean in the playoff it didn't, but I'm on the right side. It's not an easy two-putt, but it's pretty doable.

Q. Where were you when Phil was on 18?

WILL GORDON: I was over on the range. I saw that he hit it -- it looked like from over there that he hit it over the green and I got a peek through there and I could barely see the hole, but I saw his ball roll by and I heard the crowd and I was like unless he makes like a 30-footer, we've got some more golf today. It was good.

Q. Talk a little bit about your experience here in Boise. And now it's going to be kind of a special place for you, right?

WILL GORDON: Absolutely. I love this part of the country and what I've been impressed most by is the community support of this event. Like even leaving the golf course last night there was just so many people walking in for the concert. It's been a really cool town, the downtown area's really cool. I've loved spending time here, even last year. We were really excited to get here and like I said, it's a pretty cool environment to be in when the community supports it like it does.

Q. Davidson guy, how often -- I know you've played a couple times with Steph Curry. Do you keep in touch with him at all?

WILL GORDON: I mean, here and there. Not really. He was kind enough to get me and my family tickets to the Christmas Day game against the Suns, the Suns-Warriors. That was my first time watching him play in person since he was at Davidson, so that was a cool experience. He won and scored a lot of points. But I don't really keep in touch with him very often. He's obviously been a huge inspiration for me. To see what he's done in the game of basketball, it's pretty unbelievable, so I look up to him big time.

Q. Talk a little bit about the course. Does it suit your game?

WILL GORDON: Honestly, on paper I necessarily wouldn't say so because it kind of brings everybody in. There's not a lot of length to it, but I was able to hit driver a lot of different places and kind of -- I played pretty aggressively off the tee. I think it paid off. I was able to hit driver on the correct side, not necessarily in the fairway but just making sure I was on the correct side so I had angles into some of these par 4s. It really turned the golf course I think into a lot of scoring opportunities for me.

Q. I have a quote I probably won't use, but I had a golfer tell me that he thought the

greens were a bit unfair, up and down a little bit.

WILL GORDON: Yeah, I mean, we're all playing the same thing, so they probably didn't putt very well.

Q. You started the day 7 back. Did you and Jay have number in mind going in?

WILL GORDON: We didn't talk about it. We've been really big, as cheesy as it sounds, of trying to stay in the moment and be really patient. Jay called me out yesterday and he was right, I just got to do a better job of that. I've done a good job over the last month, but I can always do a better job of it. Today I just tried to conserve my energy a little bit more and not let the little things bother me, and I did a really good job of that and I think that probably saved me a half a stroke or stroke today.

Q. How tough is it to stay in the moment? Obviously this is just one tournament, but when there's stakes of getting a card and all that stuff, staying in the moment, how tough can that be?

WILL GORDON: I think my experience, I've been on the PGA Tour, I got there quickly, I lost my card. I've seen both sides of it, so I think understanding that it's not life and death has helped me a lot this year because it felt like life and death last year. Just being a little bit of experience. I think going through all the different processes of this profession, I go out and just play free and over time it's going to pay off.