

## THE PANAMA CHAMPIONSHIP

### ROUND 3 QUOTES

February 3, 2024



### WIL BATEMAN (-7)

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**Q. Round of the week so far. Why don't you just walk us through some of the highlights of the day today? A lot of birdies.**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Yeah. Honestly, I was just trying to focus on one shot at a time as simple as it sounds. Got off to a pretty good start and got a couple nice breaks like on the first four holes. Went a little right on 3 and got a nice break and ended up being OK. Obviously I was able to take advantage of some putts on the back. Overall, very pleased.

**Q. How much has this course changed when there's kind of no wind almost?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Yeah, there was a little bit of wind today, but it was a complete opposite direction. It definitely made it more challenging. I thought No. 11 played a little tougher today. They moved us to a different box and that kind of plays a little mind game with you.

Yeah, I mean, I love this golf course, obviously love being in Latin America. The way that it plays firm and fast is super cool, so obviously scores are not going to be too low. I was able to make a couple putts, which is nice today.

**Q. How would you assess like your performance last season? You finished top-75 with fully exempt status, so how do you feel about last year?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Yeah, I felt like I did a lot of really good things last year. Obviously I got off to a really good start in the first four events. Ended up tearing part of my knee after the fourth event so that was kind of tough. I was injured for a good period of time there and I think it just took a while to just get back to full health.

Yeah, I mean, it's weird, I obviously didn't play too great in the last two tournaments, but I felt like I did a lot of good things. In Abaco the wind was just howling out there. I came to this week with no expectations. Obviously I love being here, so I'm just trying to relax this weekend and just enjoy.

**Q. What would you say is the biggest lesson that you learned last year, your first really full season?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Patience. Yeah, like you go from playing up in Canada where it's a 10-event season to playing 26 tournaments, it's a different beast. Yeah, I think just staying patient and realizing that it's a long year. If you put yourself there enough times, then



hopefully you can knock one off.

**Q. Do you think you'll change anything significant this year with regards to like scheduling weeks off just based off what you learned last year?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Yeah, yeah, I would definitely -- I would say kind of my threshold, my max is probably three to four in a row max. I know we got two stretches of seven. I think just scheduling the middle of that seven-week stretch, scheduling the week off even if you feel good, just go home, take the rest and then get back after it.

**Q. What would you say like overall your attitude is about your path to this point and the time that it's taken you to get to this point?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Yeah, a lot of people don't know this, I think this is my 11th year as a professional. It's obviously been a challenge. I wouldn't say I necessarily was prepared to turn pro at 18, I think I was just a dumb kid back then, didn't know anything.

But I obviously learned a lot. I played on the Latin Tour when I was 21, ended up winning out there, and then obviously gone through the steps of mini tours and obviously played great on the Canadian Tour a couple years ago.

I'm just trying to just get better every day and get better every year and hopefully it takes you where you want to be.

**Q. What's the thing you're most looking forward to about tomorrow?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** I mean, you want to be in those moments, right? You want to be in that moment to play. I just think just playing, just going out there and just playing, enjoying it. This is what we all strive to -- we strive to be in this position. So I think just trying to just enjoy it and just relax and act like I'm playing back home with my buddies at Desert Forest and see what happens.

**Q. What would a win tomorrow mean?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Yeah, that's a good question. I mean, obviously it means a lot. You want to get to where you want to be and where I want to be is obviously playing on the PGA TOUR with the best players in the world.

I think beyond that, I'm not going to get too ahead of myself and I'm not really even going to be thinking about that tomorrow. I think just go out there and just enjoy it, relax and have fun.

**Q. Is there anything fun in the offseason or just some downtime?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Yeah, just some downtime, hanging out with my pup and practicing. I was looking forward to getting back out here, then you miss the first two cuts and you think you're



never going to make a cut again. It's nice to be playing well this week and obviously love it here.

**Q. What's your pup's name?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Carter.

**Q. What kind of dog?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** Goldendoodle.

**Q. How old?**

**WIL BATEMAN:** He just turned 5. Yeah, he's a good age. He's got lots of energy. I actually, my girlfriend has a Saint Bernard as well, so he's a big unit. His name's Lucky, so yeah.

