

XANDER SCHAUFFELE (-10)

Q. Xander, 69, 66 and now 65, you're getting better every day. What do you attest that to because this is your first time playing in the TOUR Championship, first time seeing East Lake?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, obviously kind of getting more comfortable and seeing the course a few more times helps. I played nine holes on Tuesday, nine holes on Wednesday and then kind of teed it up. Figured it would be better to have a little more energy than to see the course a couple more times.

But yeah, just getting comfortable. I've been playing well. To be able to kind of put it together is obviously nice.

Q. I've seen you play a lot of golf. This week in particular ball striking has been off-the-charts good. Do you consider it some of the best you've had all year this week?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, my game's so weird, I'll always adapt to kind of what I need to do. The course is really demanding off the tee and into greens. I mean it's just a demanding course for the entire game, but you can kind of take a little bit of pressure off yourself if you can keep it in the fairway and hit some greens. My ball striking kind of rose to the occasion and hopefully it can stay on tomorrow.

Q. And what a year you've had with a win at the Greenbrier, making the final 30 with six birdies in your last six holes last week, and now tomorrow you could achieve some really, really big things.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I mean it's all surreal and I'm going to try and keep that mindset for tomorrow, just kind of have that nothing-to-lose mindset and see where it takes us.

Q. You eagled a par 5 today, hit a great shot there at 16. You've got these par 5s figured out?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah. Like I said, I was in the middle of the fairway on both holes and if you can do that you give yourself an opportunity. They're hard fairways to hit. All it takes is to be a couple yards off there and you're automatically laying up, so I feel if I can just keep it in the fairway I can do my thing and we'll see what happens.

Q. I have to ask you this because Kevin Kisner just took a helicopter to the

Georgia-Mississippi State game. Obviously you're San Diego State Aztecs play tonight. What do you do, at least watch them on TV, right?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Oh, absolutely. I went to a few San Diego State football games, but the fact that they beat Stanford and I got to jump on the bandwagon there, of course.

Q. Could be a big weekend for you and the Aztecs?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Absolutely.

Q. Here with Xander Schauffele. Xander, a tap-in birdie on 18 to get to 10 under. Did that feel pretty good?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it's always nice to have a tap-in birdie to finish your day I should say, to get to 10 -- I didn't even know when I finished my round what I was at. I wasn't really scoreboard watching today and it kind of worked out.

Q. Now that you've gone through the gauntlet of the media, now you really know where you're sitting?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, we know where we stand now, which is all good.

Q. Have you had thoughts of Rookie of the Year in your mind?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I'm just so worried on staying hydrated and trying to play this tough golf course that I haven't really thought about a whole lot.

Q. How would you assess your round?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it's a success. Shooting 5 under out here especially on a Saturday is all you can ask for.

Q. I understand that was kind of the target today. Did you have that number in mind?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I didn't really have a number in mind. Kind of did everything I wanted to do, keep it in the fairway especially on the par 5s and kind of give myself those two-putt birdies. If you can strike the ball out here, it's probably the only way to make this course a little bit easier because it's so tough.

Q. When you started the season, where was the TOUR Championship in your radar?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Somewhere up in the clouds, to be honest. That was definitely not what I was thinking about even a few months ago, so to be out here is surreal.

Q. When did it get on your radar?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, once I knew I kind had a free ticket to the first three Playoff events was kind of it, and then it started to dwindle away obviously during the first 12 holes in the final round last week and then some magic happened and here we stand.

Q. Can you let your mind wander a little bit and think about what's at stake tomorrow and what you could get?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I mean, I don't want to let it wander but it will wander of course. Everyone out here knows what's at stake. If I can just -- this is such a foreign thing for me, even being up here on a Saturday one back, whatever back I'm going to be at the end of the day, it's something new for me. I'm glad I get experience at it kind of earlier in my career rather than later.

Q. Just a general question about what do you think generally speaking about a player potentially not winning all season and then winning the FedExCup?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: That's a loaded question. Yeah, you know, I don't know. I'm a rookie in every aspect, so I'm just happy to be out here. I haven't really thought about what's fair and what's not fair in terms of how it pans out. I don't know, maybe you can ask me tomorrow.

Q. Generally speaking, how about another general question, (inaudible), traveling the world, playing some very famous courses. How would you describe the journey?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Oh, it's a dream. I mean, of course my dad's European and to be the first trip to Europe was the British, brought the whole family, that was really special. And it seems like the next trip to Europe will be for the British with the whole family again. It's been a dream of mine and my whole family, so it's awesome I could share it with them.

Q. I know a lot of things still have to happen to fall into place, but if you were to win the Rookie of the Year award, what would that mean to you?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it would be special. It's not something I've really thought a whole lot about. I'm so worried about kind of doing my own thing. It's a vote. I don't even know how the whole system works. I was told it's kind of a vote. I can't control much of anything if people are voting, I can just try and be nice and hopefully people like me.

Q. I think you won \$149,000 last year on the Web.com, around there. For a guy right out of college, did that seem like a ton of money?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: What do you think? Yeah, absolutely, absolutely.

Q. And so the numbers you're playing for this week and the whole pot of gold, how do you --

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: It's weird. The question was brought up at dinner last night and it's easy to lose perspective of the value of money. It's very strange, it's weird. It's kind of what you expect really like watching Jordan and Justin, all these young guys. I'm poor compared to them, that's how I look at it. I'm still poor. Hopefully that mindset kind of keeps me going.

Q. What would you do with \$10 million? That's a terrible question.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: That is a terrible question. Well, fortunately nine of it's deferred. That gets put away.

Q. Other way around, one's deferred.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Oh, man. I thought you guys were supposed to help me out here. I have no idea. Put it under my mattress.

Q. Xander, seeing East Lake for the very first time here this week as a first-time participant in the TOUR Championship, what have you been doing so well not only today but throughout this week?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I mean I think the toughest part really is getting off the tee and hitting greens. The greens are obviously very difficult. I think the first two days I was like 26th in the field in putting, so I was obviously striking it really well. Today I kind of holed it with more putts. So first things first out here, you've got to kind of hit the fairway and go from there. I think I've been doing a decent job of that.

Q. When you started this season, you said reaching the TOUR Championship was kind of in the clouds, didn't think about it. Now that you're here, you're also in contention to win this. How much belief in yourself have you developed this season and how much will that benefit you tomorrow?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it keeps growing, even the 65 today will add to my confidence on a Saturday, an important day out here where you're supposed to move. But yeah, the whole -- I don't have a whole lot to fall back on in terms of experience and what position I'm going to be in tomorrow, so I'm going to have to dig deep there and really think hard on it.