

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
March 1, 2018

XANDER SCHAUFFELE (-6)



Q. I'm here with Xander Schauffele, who's playing in his very first WGC Mexico Championship. A beautiful opening round 65. As you reflect on this round, what do you take away?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Bogey-free, somewhat stressless. I had two par putts about eight or nine feet and that was kind of it really. It was kind of a fun yet boring day.

Q. You're the reigning PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year coming off two victories on Tour last year, highlighted by your win at East Lake at the TOUR Championship. When you get yourself in the mix like you've done here on day number one, what level of confidence and comfort do you have moving forward in a championship like this?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I guess it grows and grows with good play. Obviously 65 will help the confidence. Things like watching JT win again, it's kind of a kick in the ass and I think all the young guys are kind of fighting for the top and motivated by what he's been doing.

Q. Xander, 6 under par, clean card, scrambling a big part of that, six of six today. Tell me about it.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it didn't feel -- I had two kind of important scrambles, one on the par 5 and then one on the par 4, a sort of wayward second shot and a drive. Besides that, I think the other four were putts off the fringe. You know, it's just, they're just long, long, a little left, whatever it was, but they weren't really stressful I would say. Overall, pretty stress-free day.

Q. Good, stress-free days are always good. What about the altitude? Did you have to find yourself adjusting a lot for that?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I mean everyone's kind of saying 15 percent so that's kind of what we came in with the mindset. We played roughly 15 percent all day. It's just tricky with the wind and how well you hit it. Everyone's struggling with it, very aware of that. You're going to hit some weird shots and just kind of take it as it goes.

Q. The first time here, what are your thoughts on the golf course overall?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Every golfer's biased. If I shoot 65, I'll love this place. Add some rounds together the next couple days, I'm going to love it even more.

Q. That was a dumb question, great answer, though. Good luck tomorrow in round two.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Thank you very much.

Q. Xander, 5-under 65, you must be pleased with the first round?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah. It's always nice, especially to go bogey free and be at the top after the first day or even the second day.

Q. What was the key today?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Keeping the bogeys off the card with altitude. And no one's really played this place too much, it's kind of a grind mentally just walking around up hills in the altitude and whatnot, so to keep a bogey-free card is always nice.

Q. You've played in some big events. As you worked your way in and play some bigger events, do they feel differently to you?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I guess you can say I'm sort of getting used to it, which is nice. It's only my third WGC event, but I'm starting to see some familiar faces just over the past year so that helps.