

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**March 2, 2018**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE (-9)**



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**Q. (No microphone.)**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Umm, I guess my game's excelled in different directions. Yesterday it felt like I had control of my golf ball a lot better, and today I feel like I didn't have a whole lot control but I putted really well. Played well both days, and I tried to make a lot of bogeys today but somehow snuck those pars in.

**Q. Your first WGC Mexico Championship, first time to see this golf course, there's a lot of risk and reward out there, what is the game plan that's worked so well?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I feel like it's on the safer side, a lot of 4-irons off tees. I see a lot of guys hitting drivers everywhere, but we've sort of stuck to hitting some irons here and there. A few drivers, but overall I would say on the safer side. Not too many birdies, but no bogeys.

**Q. A lot of guys battling with the altitude. How have you come to terms with it? Do you have a strategy that you feel is working perfectly so far?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I feel like it's a safer game plan which hasn't led to a whole lot of birdies but no bogeys, so I think we're going to kind of stick to it for the next two days.

**Q. In terms of what your strengths have been, 10 fairways both days, how important is the driving around this golf course?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I feel like it's crucial. With altitude, you can hit driver anywhere and you'll leave yourself a short pitch, but it also brings some trees into play. I feel like we've been in a lot of fairways, like you mentioned, and I feel like we've been able to attack some pins.

**Q. Just finally, brilliant year for you last year, two wins and of course the big one, the TOUR Championship, Rookie of the Year. Just give us a sense of your excitement going in with a chance to win a WGC on the weekend.**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I feel like it would definitely be a step in the right direction for me in my career. Things are progressing nicely.

**Q. What does it feel like you did well today?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Scoring. (Laughs.) I feel like I got pretty much everything out of

my round, so pretty pleased with the 3 under today.

**Q. What kind of expectations did you take into this season coming off last year?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Pretty high. I would say I think anyone who wins twice in a year will expect more of themselves, especially someone who's never won before. So very high expectations and looking to sort of validate what I did last year.

**Q. With the higher expectations, does a level of frustration come with it if things don't happen right away?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, of course. Things get uneasy when things aren't going your way, but that's just golf, right?

**Q. Did you change anything just as far as your practice routines coming into the year with your higher expectations?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** No. I feel like, you know, those two wins late last year, I was doing the same thing all year and sort of matured and started making better decisions. Austin and I kind of worked together and things kind of started clicking and figured there's no reason to switch anything. What we're doing got us two wins, so hopefully it can get us some more.

**Q. What do you know about Shubhankar Sharma?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** That he's 21 years old and he just won a tournament and has a locker right next to mine.

**Q. Do you think that's more than most people knew about you at this point last year?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** I have no idea, tough to tell.

**Q. Why Mexico feels good to you?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** You know, everyone speaks Spanish to me, everyone thinks I'm one of their own just based on how I look, so that makes me feel more comfortable. I don't feel like I'm treated like an outsider.