

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
January 25, 2022



XANDER SCHAUFFELE

HALEY PETERSON: Good afternoon, everyone. We would like to get things started. We're joined here with Xander Schauffele here at the Farmers Insurance Open.

Xander, you've had a good year here at Torrey Pines, going to be making your seventh start with having a T-2 last time and T-7 at the U.S. Open. What's it like to be back here at Torrey Pines?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it's always nice to be back in the hometown. Haven't really played that well at Torrey until late, so hopefully we can kind of keep that magic going.

HALEY PETERSON: And what's with just being familiar with this course? Obviously a La Jolla native, played this course a lot in high school. What's been clicking lately, especially this year?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Probably just getting comfortable. I think I was putting a lot of expectations on myself to play really well and I wasn't able to do that early on, so getting more and more comfortable. You play this course enough, you kind of know the tendencies and the breaks on the poa annua and things like that. Hopefully I can use that to my advantage.

Q. Have you changed your routine here in the last year or so as far as trying to prep for Torrey? Have you approached it any differently or is it just kind of getting used to the Tour conditions here?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I would say maybe a lot more scrambling in preparation. I feel like at the practice facility it's not really like the course whatsoever, it's pretty bare and a lot of fairway and one bunker, so when you go on property there's a lot of rough and a lot of bunkers. So I think I've been a little bit smarter about preparing on property, or on the course I should say, for the week.

Q. Just what you do around the greens during practice rounds, things like that?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, basically. Sort of the spots, and it is a municipal and the city does play a lot on the property, so like certain areas are sometimes a little bit worn down. During the U.S. Open there were really thick patches and patches that were sort of run down, so this year seems to be pretty healthy with all the weather that came through and the rough seems to be up and lush.

Q. Is it lush? Is it pretty gnarly out there?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, you want to be in the fairway, no doubt.

Q. Xander, where did you end up on the arm lock putting experiment?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: It's still pending. You know, if I had a start line, ball launch, stroke and path contest, I would, you know, for sure use the arm lock because it does all those things. Integrating the feel on speed because it is anchored was a little tricky for me especially since I kind of just picked it up right away and I didn't really give myself -- I don't know how many tournaments I ended up playing with it, not more than five I don't think. I played with it in the U.S. Open, I think putting was my worst stat that week, so I went back to my short one and started putting well again. I think for me as a training aid it's really good and if I'm ever feeling woozy over putts inside 10 feet, it would be an easy thing to pick up again.

Q. Is that a rule that you would like to see changed?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: You know, for the four or five things I just listed, I think feel is a big part of it, so if you can get the hang of it. I know if I had like a year to practice with it I'd probably be potentially a better putter with it because you are like a robot and a machine once it is anchored to your body. I have the numbers and all the data to prove it. Making putts is a different story though, there's a little bit more to it, so I guess there's a defense in that sense.

Q. What have you been working on? You're coming off the Ryder Cup experience, tremendous obviously, and there's got to be a good feeling about that coming into this year. So what are you working on? What is the mindset for this season?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I actually statistically got a little bit worse in certain categories last year. I think that kind of showed in my play throughout the year just a little bit. Kind of picked it up on certain courses that I played well at, but wasn't really able to make up ground and certain courses I didn't play well at. Being a little bit better with the shorter irons is something that's been really important. Been trying to adjust accordingly. It's been a little tricky, slowly learning that what is really good for a short iron isn't really good for driving. So I'm kind of in the middle of trying to iron that out so I can be better all around.

Q. You say in the middle of it. What's that been like as far as trying to work it --

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, just a few posture things, the club needs to move a little differently. It's tricky, I swing well with the driver but it's not ideal for distance wedges, so trying to get in a better posture with a shorter club is not as good for a driver. So you kind of pogo back and forth and it's really hard to, you know, on the range if I sit on flat ground, no real pressure, I can kind of get the hang of it with repetition, but as soon as the gun goes off and I'm kind of under competition pressure and you revert back to old feels and you're right back to where you started but you feel way worse about your game. You're kind of playing

with fire when you try and change certain things in your game, which I'm really aware of and just trying to be patient with that process.

Q. That's been guys' past experiences, right?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Um-hmm.

Q. Sometimes you get to this really high level and then you --

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: You just want to get better.

Q. You want to get that much better and you end up regressing.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, everyone's got a strength to their game; mine is typically driving and typically putting and if I could chip better I'd be a much better all around player week to week, or win more often I should say. I threw the wedges in there because I got worse in that category. Sort of from 80 to 150 yards I was worse last year than the year prior, so I never want to go backwards with those numbers, always try and move forward. So yes, like you said, you are playing with fire in terms of knowing what your strength is and trying to fix your weaknesses.

Q. Xander, what do you look forward to the most about coming home, getting to play in this tournament every year? You've been here for several years. What do you look forward to the most?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Probably the weather. Being in Las Vegas, you know what, I'm taking my dogs out, I'm at an Airbnb currently, so you know it's like 85 percent humidity taking the dogs out on a walk. Back at home it would be like 10 or 12 percent humidity. I think something I kind of took for granted moving away from here was the weather, so I think the weather's been my biggest bonus just walking around on property.

Q. Do you still have a big support system that comes out here? Are you expecting a lot of people to come out and kind of cheer you on this weekend?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, all my friends and everyone I know are from San Diego, so hopefully they come and support me, but I'm not counting on anybody.

Q. Is it weird to be in an AirBnB?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I guess in your home state. It is what it is. We'll have a place again soon and we'll be splitting time, but for the most part, yeah, it's been nice and quiet in Vegas but it's always nice to come home.

Q. Did it require anything special (inaudible)?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: No, just enough space for the dogs, my wife.

HALEY PETERSON: Perfect. With that, we will go ahead and wrap it up. Thank you for joining us and we wish you the best of luck this week.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Thank you.