

ROUND 1 QUOTES
May 9, 2024

XANDER SCHAUFFELE (-7)



Q. Xander, how would you characterize the round today?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, clean for most of the day. No. 8 was -- it got a little gritty there trying to swing hard. It's kind of the opposite of what I've been trying to do all week.

Got really lucky multiple times, on 1 with Wyndham finding it, 2, being able to move the rocks, and 3, the Shotlink tower being in like my only shot line possible. To walk out there with sort of a no breeze 4 with what I thought was almost out was a really good break.

Q. Explain the ruling that you did get a little more.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I hit it in the trees. My ball was probably like a foot, two feet from the fence. If I -- ball was here, fence was kind of here, hitting back this direction. If I went towards the green, the fence kind of worked this way so I had what I could hit, a 4-iron or something low and just kind of run it through. If it gets stuck, I'll just kind of hit my next one out.

But I brought the rules official in there with me because I was like, you've got to be OK with this because this is literally the only shot I can hit. So Austin and I moved two massive rocks that weren't embedded and then I got relief out of the junk and then hit a pretty good shot on the green from there. What was a very stressful moment turned into a pretty stressless par.

Q. How close to the three minutes were you in finding the ball?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Probably pretty close. The volunteer was by the Shotlink tower and he said he heard it land in the hazard, so everyone's kind of looking in the hazard. Then Wyndham and Austin kind of went further up and then they found the ball. Wyndham's like, I think that's your ball, so kind of walked up, identified it and went from there.

Q. But you were not in the penalty area, or were you?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: No, I was beyond it actually.

Q. You said kind of before that you went against what you've been doing all week. Have you been trying to swing a little easier?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Just a little within myself. It's just been having a little bit more speed, it's fun to sort of try and hit it far, but on courses like this, hitting it far is helpful as long as it's straight. If I can sacrifice a little bit of distance just to hit the fairway, I'm definitely



going to do it.

Q. Was 7 the tee shot dialed back or was that full bore?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I was just trying to hit it in the fairway. I mean, it was helping wind, so anything that was sort of cutting off the left bunker was going would be OK.

Q. What'd you hit for the second shot?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: That was a 6-iron.

Q. This course prides itself on its finish, right, the back, 16, 17, 18. Those were your 7, 8, 9 today. Did that change how you had to approach or did it change the way you thought about going through the round where you had that bite early?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Maybe a little bit. It's not something we're really thinking about. I guess it falls sort of in the middle of your round. However you go through that stretch, you know you have plenty more golf ahead of you. Besides that, no matter if you're playing them 7, 8, 9 or 16, 17, 18, they're always hard.

Q. You got the birdie on the par 3, which is one of only a few birdies on that one, followed up with the only bogey on the card today, so it did kind of bite back a little bit there. Having nine holes ahead of you instead of finishing on that kind of note, you were able to go nine more holes and put that kind of behind you then?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, the bogey was very much in there, we basically chipped out. I had a shot to sort of punch up towards the green, the hazard was very much in play. Austin sort of talked me -- I wanted to punch it out forward, Austin sort of talked me out of it. Took 6 pretty much out, but 5, you're going to make a 5 probably 80, 90 percent of the time with that pin, with that wind and how firm the greens are.

Q. Going back to the swinging within yourself, last few weeks have you been going at it hard falling in love with the speed?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I mean, don't we all? What everyone's trying to do, trying to hit it further and harder. Yeah, just kind of messes my sequence up a little bit, so just trying to dial it back a touch.

Q. Do you like playing a golf course this a week before a major championship?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I think it's definitely a good test. Typically these fairways are firm and the rough's up and the greens are firm and grainy. With it being a little bit softer, if you hit a good drive it's going to be a good drive and end up in the fairway. Overall, yeah, I think so. I think playing a championship course is always a good thing before a major championship.

