

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
6 October 2026

XANDER SCHAUFFELE



MODERATOR: Good afternoon. We would like to welcome Xander Schauffele, defending champion of the Baycurrent Classic, to the interview room.

Xander, last year was a special moment in your career, you captured your 10th career win in a special place for you and your family. Can you just share some thoughts about how it feels to be back?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it feels amazing to be back in Japan. Like you said, really cool moment for me in my career to perform at a really high level at a place that I hold dear. Definitely looking forward to creating more of those moments.

MODERATOR: In 2025 you guys battled through some weather conditions in order to win. You just had a chance to play the course a little bit. Can you share some first impressions on the golf course?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I didn't know what to expect after the sort of record amount of days of rain Japan has had. I think it was close to over a month for sure, maybe pushing 40 days. I think the greens held up really nice. There's obviously a few brown spots on property where the water kind of collected and it ran off. So, honestly, nothing you can do as a green-keeping crew or superintendent when it rains for 40 days straight. So I think the course is in really good shape all things considered.

MODERATOR: And you're back for your eighth consecutive start at the Baycurrent Classic, but your family's here with you, first time you have your son here. You've been coming here since you were 9 years old to see your grandparents. Can you talk a little bit about what you have planned for the week outside the golf course?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, my son's here. My son, she just gave birth to him, so last year I was solo. This year we brought him. Yeah, I'm actually going to see my grandparents tonight, introduce my son to them. So that will be a really cool moment, a lot of generations of family will be there. Yeah, it's kind of what it's all about, so it's pretty cool we're able to get everyone together.

MODERATOR: Xander, this is your first stroke play event since the Tour Championship. You're coming off a win at the Presidents Cup. Can you just talk a little bit about your week in Chicago and how you feel your game is shaping up back in the fall?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, Chicago was very stressful. We played really well on Sunday, but our backs were against the wall and probably came off the course pretty tired

after what was a pretty big battle. You know, I think we're all elated and very happy to win, but it definitely took a lot more out of me than I thought.

So happy with the win, but a lot of stress as well.

Q. I think you played a practice round yesterday and today. What are the key aspects to play around this golf course?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I think keeping it in the fairways is very important. The rough is difficult to gauge coming into the greens. In order to be aggressive, I think last year I hit a fair amount of fairways and that definitely opened up a lot of the holes. That would probably be my first priority for the week.

Q. Do you have any club changes for this week?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: No. I might change the grind on my lob wedge, but that's still up for debate.

Q. What are your thoughts on the Japanese grass and do you do something different to play well around the greens?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I mean, I think traditionally Japanese grass, the greens are some sort of bent, which roll really pure, usually a wider blade grass. For the Tokyo Olympics, it was sort of similar fairway grass, some sort of Zoysia or kikuyu.

You definitely want to approach the ball or attack the golf ball a little differently compared to being Stateside, but I definitely feel pretty comfortable on the grass here in a Japan.

Q. So you won the Olympics in Tokyo as well. What does Japan mean to you?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Japan, before the Olympics, I've been coming here since I was roughly 10 years old. It sort of feels like in some way a home away from home. Definitely feel comfortable being here and appreciate the culture here in Japan a lot.

Q. Your son is meeting your grandparents tonight for the first time, right?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yep.

Q. That was one of your important events for this week, your son meeting your grandparents?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah. He'll meet my grandparents. Then we'll go to Miyako-jima for him to meet my wife's grandfather as well.

Q. Your wife's grandfather lives in Miyako-jima?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yes.

MODERATOR: We'll go ahead and wrap things up there. Good luck this week, Xander.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Thank you.