



**XANDER SCHAUFFELE**

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**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome Xander Schauffele into the interview room here at the CIMB Classic. Xander, recently named PGA Tour Rookie of the Year, you were the first rookie to ever win the TOUR Championship. There hasn't been a whole lot of time since then, so just talk about what that win, the Rookie of the Year, means to you.

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, it means the world to me and I think any award based on the vote of your peers is truly the highest honor. I couldn't be happier to win that award.

**MODERATOR:** Have you had any time to let the TOUR Championship sink in?

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I was home for maybe 12 days, so not a whole lot of time. Doing media and things like this obviously are new for me, so trying to balance a little bit of practice, my life and golf.

**MODERATOR:** Talk about being here in Malaysia at the CIMB Classic for the first time. You've had a chance to see the golf course?

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, it's awesome. I think just besides the course, the hospitality, the people here, the culture, everything's just so nice. And I'm part half-Taiwanese and I have a little bit Asian in me so I enjoy the food and everything here.

**MODERATOR:** Great. We'll open it up for some questions.

**Q. Maybe you can just share with us like does the golf course suit your game or what do you think of it?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, it's different. I've never -- this is my second time playing in Asia, my first time was in Japan so the grass is different, it's very soft, but the greens are kind of firm.

I think I would have liked to have a couple more looks at it before I came out. I played the front nine twice and the back nine for the first time today. So we'll see. I'm excited to play and I think if I can get the driver going, I think the course is very doable.

**Q. So what are your expectations for this weekend?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, of course you expect to play at a high level. My pairing, this is the first time, obviously finished well last year so I'm in a good pairing for the rest of the year I think playing with JT. So I'm just excited. I've never played with him before and

it's always nice to play with the top players in the world that are playing well at the time.

**MODERATOR:** Obviously you had a successful rookie year. How have you adjusted your goals for this second season?

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** You know, I still have to come up with a sheet of goals. I was supposed to do it before I left to come here but I didn't get that paper turned in to my team, so I'm slacking on that part.

But it will be interesting. I think I'm going to try and do something kind of like what JT did, more of a stats approach to goals. Obviously winning big tournaments and stuff like that is what we all want to do, but I think if I can kind of focus on small, nitty gritty things in my game, it will pay off.

**MODERATOR:** Maybe just a couple of comments on having the PGA Tour start here with this -- obviously we played last week but this three-tournament stretch in Asia. This isn't something that happened 10 years ago, just overall thoughts on that.

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I mean, growing up it was always a dream of mine to play on the PGA Tour and to kind of use golf as a tool to travel. I've never -- I have a very international background but I haven't had the opportunity to travel a whole lot. My dad's half French, half German. My mom's Taiwanese, grew up in Japan. So it's cool that golf has kind of allowed me to start here in Malaysia, then Korea, then China. So I'm just excited to start the year off kind of on a different foot instead of in the States.

**Q. How do becoming golfers like you, like finished fifth in the U.S. Open this year, 17th at British Open. To come to Asia, do you think about the guys who are like up and coming (inaudible) to play here in Asia, do well?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, absolutely. I mean it really depends on what you're trying to do. If you want to be one of the best players in the world, you have to be a global player. You have to collect fans in different countries and play well in different countries. So to me it's really important to get off on a good foot and play well. I've never really played well in Asia and I don't have a whole lot of experience, but I'm just really looking forward to the opportunity presented.

**Q. In the short time here, what do you think are the challenges of being in Asia?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** The heat. I'm from San Diego, it's kind of a desert climate, it's not as humid. So drinking a lot of water and trying to hydrate and focus on that will probably be a much harder task than actually playing for me this week.

**Q. Do you like being out of your comfort zone?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** You know, I feel like I'm pretty comfortable wherever I go. I don't

ever feel uncomfortable. Like I said, I have a pretty international background, so things like food and just the culture don't bother me at all. I kind of look forward to it. I was looking forward to coming over here to eat, looking forward to eating next week in Shanghai as well. So I'm kind of a foodie when it comes to that stuff so I'm excited.

**Q. What do you like best so far?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** I just played with Fendi, I'm sure everyone knows who he is, he's a big guy with the Tour and he kind of pointed some things out that I need to eat so I'm looking forward to tonight.

**MODERATOR:** All right. We would like to thank Xander for his time. Best of luck this week at the CIMB Classic.