

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**XANDER SCHAUFFELE**

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**LAURA VESCOVI:** We'll go ahead and get started with Xander Schauffele at the Farmers Insurance Open.

Xander, let's start with last week. This is your second consecutive year coming to Torrey Pines off of T-3 at The American Express. Can you just tell us what that top-5 finish does for your frame of mind going into this week?

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, it shows that I'm playing decent golf. It's the style of golf is very different coming from a birdie-fest to what can be a par-fest at times depending on how windy it gets or how thick or firm the course is. I think it means I'm playing good golf and seeing my start lines and sightlines and things of that nature, but completely different animal this week.

**LAURA VESCOVI:** And now we're transitioning to San Diego where you're a native of. You've had great success here. I know you're familiar with the course, you had a T-2 in 2021. Can you touch on your excitement to be back in your hometown?

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I'm always excited to be back in San Diego, it's a nice feeling for me just like it is every year. Whether I'm golfing or not, it always will feel like home.

**LAURA VESCOVI:** And last question before we turn it over to the media, you're world No. 5 ranked right now. What kind of motivation do you have to continue climbing up toward No. 1 this season?

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, it's sort of what drives me my offseason, what makes me get out of bed every day, just trying to get to the top. There's a big leap I need to make. Scottie keeps running away and making it really difficult, so we'll just keep chasing after him.

**Q. It's got to be almost comical to leave the desert on Sunday and come out here today and the conditions. Do you face another one week to next week contrast as big as this one?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Probably not. I can't think of one right now. It could be -- I'm trying to think of, you know, maybe -- trying to think of what's close to the U.S. Open, maybe the Travelers after, but still you get sort of on that thicker grass. If the Travelers is wet, the grass can kind of grow up there. But this is up there. We're on like dormant grass with super clean bent, now you have all kinds of different grass. It's super long because it rained a ton and greens are poa annua and soft, not rolling super pure. It's just a completely different



animal.

**Q. What did it look like today?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Better than I thought, to be honest. After a few inches of rain, it's definitely playable.

**Q. Would you play this every year if you weren't from San Diego?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** I'm not sure, I'm not sure.

**Q. What would go into your decision about playing here or not? Would it be the course just as much --**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, a little bit.

**Q. -- or would it be your schedule?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** A little bit. I've been a big advocate about having it just on Torrey South, I think it's a better test of four rounds of golf. I know we get three rounds on South, but South is just such a beast at times, it really is.

I think now they made North a little bit harder and it probably has averaged out better I'd say versus when guys are shooting 10 under on North and then would shoot even par on South, you'd feel pretty good about it. Now it's sort of North has got some teeth of its own with the rough being crazy long and the course having some serious distance on it. I'm not too sure, though.

**Q. With this big a test so early in the season with you working on stuff and just getting into your game, is it good to have this tough of a test this early?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** I think so. I mean, I think any property where you're forced to hit fairways, where you're forced to hit shots, shape away from hazards where there's a lot of sort of penalty in play, I feel like it's the only way to truly test if your game's ready or not for some bigger events later in the year.

**Q. Xander, growing up here in San Diego, I'm curious, do you have any good Tiger stories? All the other guys that came in here today were telling their favorite Tiger stories and seeing him out here. Any shots stand out, or any holes or tournaments?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I was on the tree on 18 that fell. I was hiked up pretty far on that tree. I remember I was going up the trunk of it as high as possible, I got pretty far above just short left of the hazard on 18 and I had pretty much a straight-on sightline of him making his putt and the whole sort of coliseum feel that 18 was during that U.S. Open.



**Q. Those of us in the media like to talk about the home game for people who live in the area. Do we make too much out of that? Is that a myth because you guys are all coming out playing the same course over and over? Other people have course knowledge. I'm curious, what do you think about that?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** I mean, I'm sleeping in my own bed tonight and for the rest of this week, which is nice. It definitely feels different, you know what I mean? I think whether you put too much pressure on yourself or whether you see a bunch of family and you want to sort of show up for them, you can use that for motivation if you like. There's some sort of level of comfort when you're sort of at home. I try to use that to my advantage.

**Q. This is obviously one of the bigger events on the Tour schedule, but it's pretty early in the season. You're taking these early tournaments to kind of get your game in form for the other bigger events that are to come. Is it tough not to look ahead to those when you're getting your year started early on?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Not really, I'm pretty good at being a day-to-day guy and looking to really prepare just for the tournament. It rained a ton yesterday and no one was really able to practice, which is kind of nice actually. It was actually -- I think everyone was sort of relieved, that played last week, because it was like a true day of rest where you didn't feel like you were resting and losing sort of a little bit of practice. Mentally that sort of helps someone like me because I always feel like I'm losing out if I'm not practicing as much as everyone else. Yeah, I'm not really looking too far ahead, I'm just trying to figure out how to play well on this golf course.

**Q. Do you prepare any differently for Torrey than other tournaments?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** I think so. The rough is tricky around the greens, chipping onto poa annua, Riviera's poa annua as well, but you sort of chip off this kikuyu, which is a little more predictable based on how your ball's sitting. Out here your ball can sit on dirt, it can sit an inch off the ground, half an inch, two, three inches off the ground, four inches off the ground depending on sort of where it is in the rough. Guys who are really good rough chippers usually play pretty well this week. For me, I feel like it was a short week of practice and last week was all like perfect lies and it was a bit of a wake-up call just playing nine holes just right now trying to figure out how to chip out of this rough again.

**Q. Xander, first of all, your preparation for this year you were talking about, what are the events that you're looking forward to? And also, we're in an Olympic year. Could you give me your feelings about what it would be if you can defend your title?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, I'm honestly pretty excited to play all the tournaments I signed up for. I don't think I would honestly play a tournament if I wasn't excited for it.

I was a bit on the fence on this event just because it would be five weeks in a row, but I told myself that I would be pretty bummed out if I was practicing 10 minutes away from here



while this event was going on, leaderboard watching while not playing. I'm pretty much excited for all events, Olympics especially. It's definitely up there on my list of goals just to get back to and compete in. It's very difficult being an American and trying to qualify for that team.

**Q. What do you think about the course? Have you played Le Golf National?**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** I have not. I've only seen some snippets of it on TV, but that was sort of tricked up for the Ryder Cup. Yeah, looks like there's a ton of water on property. Looks like a pretty fun golf course to play and should be an awesome venue.

**Q. Xander, you mentioned playing last week. Just want to get your thoughts on what Nick did out there.**

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Yeah, it's incredible. He just turned 20 years old, he's a sophomore in college. I played against Hunter Hamrick, his assistant coach, on the Korn Ferry eight, nine years ago. It was cool to see him.

Yeah, he's got a big decision to make. I think it's pretty mature of him to not play this week and sort of sit back. And I'm sure he's getting some good advice from his coaches, his family, some friends on what he should be doing, but ultimately it's his decision.

Yeah, for him to sort of set himself up, he shot 60 on moving day, which is what everyone dreams to do. He had that lead and he protected it. I think big hats off to Nick and what an accomplishment that is to make history.

**LAURA VESCOVI:** All right. If there's no further questions, we'll let you go. Good luck this week.

**XANDER SCHAUFFELE:** Thank you.

