

ROUND 3 QUOTES
January 26, 2024



XANDER SCHAUFFELE (-7)

Q. Xander, can you just give us an idea of how much more difficult that course was today compared to the other days?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, you couldn't really get behind. The greens are really bumpy, sort of just back to sunny San Diego, I guess, and some people walking around on the property. Hopefully they're a little bit smoother tomorrow, but if not, you've got to sort of hit it as close as possible and really try not to put too much stress on your round.

Q. You stayed in touch with your birdie on the last to get it to even today and haven't really lost any ground right now. How important was that?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it was big. It's going to be definitely a come-from-behind attempt here. I hit a lot of really good shots on the front nine, just couldn't convert a putt. I feel like I had a lot of putts inside 10 feet that I just couldn't make. I'm going to have to do the same thing tomorrow but make 'em to put a little pressure on top.

Q. Coming from behind on the final day, Max last year (inaudible) make up ground quickly. Is there anything in particular with the course that maybe lets you be able to do that?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: It's just really hard. It's more of you need to do something spectacular. If you're in a lead group and you're kind of like playing OK golf but lagging, you might be one or two over and it's just really hard to sort of get it going.

Q. Just with the way the last couple weeks have played out, you have to shoot 6, 7 under to keep pace. Is this then weird to shift your mindset to a tournament like this and you play an even round on a Saturday and you're still right in it?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I'm not really sure what my preference is anymore. I'd say growing up this was definitely my preference, but I'm not as afraid to make as many birdies now versus back then. Yeah, definitely some patience needs to kick in. You sort of -- I felt pretty I was pretty much slacking on the front nine, I looked up on the board and I was kind of holding my position. Austin told me to sort of hang tough, the hot round of the day was 2 under, so I knew I was close.

Q. You and Charley know each other so well. What's it like when you play a round on Tour like today?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: It's really cool. He obviously had a really tough finish there.



Yeah, I'm pulling for him, I want him to play really well. Charley sort of mentored me when I was growing up here on the PGA TOUR. It's always nice to see him and compete against him.

Q. You guys are both at Grand Del Mar a lot, different places. Do you have any idea in your mind how many golf holes you've played together?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Charley and I? Oh, my gosh, a lot, a lot of holes, yeah. Still now when I'm in town in San Diego I'll hit him up and we'll either go play The Farms or the Grand or his home course, Rancho Santa Fe Country Club. It's just like I said, it was a very comfy pairing with him and Barnsey, just wish he played a little better.

Q. He said you still every once in a while pull out the old man card. Is that still in your bag?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, when necessary. Yeah, he's actually hitting it pretty far I thought. He outdrove me a few times today. I didn't tell him I hit my drive solid, I didn't want to give him that satisfaction, but I was pretty shocked how far he's hitting it. I'm just glad he's feeling better and healthy.

Q. When you play that much with somebody, what have you learned from him about the game or approach to it? What do you know about golf because you know Charley so well?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I think a lot of it was sort of as a rookie you really are just thrown out into the big scene. Korn Ferry's a really good preparation for what the big Tour looks like, but at the same time I would text Charley where registration was, where player parking is, where registration was, where the first tee, where the locker room, all that kind of stuff. He would respond. Yeah, he'd jab at me a few times, but for the most part he was super helpful.

I learned how to practice as well. I'd watch Charley practice and see how he prepared for events. He's been out here for such a long time and there's something to that.

Q. You just mentioned Korn Ferry. I just want to ask you about Stephan Jaeger, spent a little time out there together? Did you guys play together at Stonebrae?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Stephan? Yeah. I shot -- oh, my gosh, I thought I played a nice round of 63 or 64. I think he shot 58, so I got lapped.

Q. You played with him that day?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Maybe -- I think I may have. I know Flener was on his bag, too, J.T. Poston's current caddie. I remember playing a few rounds with him at that property. He just kept -- he just stayed blacked out, I think he shot like 33 under, 34 under for the week.



Q. When he's out there and he's doing that at that stage in your career, what were your thoughts? What did you think?

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I've got to get a lot better at golf.

Q. And you have.

XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, trying.

