U.S. Open Championship 2017  
Thursday, June 15, 2017  
Xander Schauffele  
Flash Interview

Q. Talk about being out there on this stage, if you will.  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I mean, it's my first on the  
PGA Tour, this is my first U.S. Open. So I think it's my  
fifth or sixth USGA event. I'm still trying to see how it  
goes tonight, but it's just one round. It's a good start.

Q. Talk about the experience. It's one thing to play  
a first round in a major championship, but to play it so  
well and come in one off the lead?  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I was telling my  
caddie, my team, that I'm slowly starting to feel  
comfortable at a regular TOUR event. So I tried to  
shoot this one like a normal event, even though there's  
a lot going on. I'm trying to keep that mindset. I'm just  
excited to be here.

Q. What were you feeling when you stepped on the  
first tee this morning?  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Nervous. Walking over I was  
fine. Announced my name I was a little more nervous,  
but got the first shot away and I was pretty much calm  
after that.

Q. Some people may take a bad case of the jitters  
and think you may not navigate it being the U.S.  
Open. How did you settle yourself and decide that I'm  
going to come out and play?  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I mean, I qualified for this  
event. It's not like I was in it already. To me as a  
rookie you only get a certain amount of starts. For me  
to qualify for this event it's like a bonus round for me. I  
have nothing to lose. The better I play it's good on me.

Q. Can you talk about your team and the  
preparation you put in?  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I played two practice rounds  
with Charley Hoffman. He's probably the veteran that  
I'm closest to. Obviously he has a lot of accolades in  
his career. I hung out with him and his caddie, saw  
how they prepared for the course and tried to copy it,  
really. I think he's probably played in close to ten of  
these.

This is my first one, so I figured copy what they're  
doing. I've got to be all right.

Q. If you had started today and were told you  
would shoot 6-under par at the U.S. Open, what  
would you have said?  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: I don't know. It's a great  
question. I'd be very happy, just like I am right now.

Q. How do you prepare for tomorrow?  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Oh, this place is more of a  
mental grind. If you're hitting it well, the fairways are  
open enough, and it seems like the wind is down for  
now. But just try to recover, eat and sleep as much as  
possible.

Q. What about the fan experience? This surely has  
to be very different than what you've experienced?  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, for sure. Are you  
talking about the fans out here?

Q. The theater of the event.  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, it's -- I was playing  
with Trey and Cameron, they're both great guys and no  
one really knows who we are, which is kind of nice  
since we're flying under the radar. We're walking one  
way and Rory and Day and those guys are going the  
other, so everyone follows them. So it's just kind of like  
a walk in the park.

I hit a shot to seven feet on the hole and no one  
clapped. I thought it spun off the green. No one  
clapped. I thought, man, it's not a bad shot. Even  
though it's a big stadium, you don't really have a  
following. For now, at least, it's 8:00 right now, I'm sure  
everyone wants to get home and eat. Being in this  
pairing is definitely easier on me, I should say.

Q. What's the mindset overnight? Does it help  
having a quick turnaround?  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Probably. I'd rather tee it up  
tomorrow morning, wake up and get out here and get  
the day going than sitting around watching what people  
are doing. And I can kind of set the bar for high myself  
rather than having people set it for me.

Q. You'll be a lot of conversation from golf fans.  
You certainly put yourself on the radar with your  
performance today. I'm sure people are going to be  
butchering your name.  
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Been happening for the last  
23 years, so nothing new there.

Q. You've got a buzz going now out there in the  
golf world. Just talk about how you were able to do  

... when all is said, we're done®
that today.
XANDER SCHAUFFELE: Yeah, I'm sure -- I'm a rookie and this is my first time here. I'm sure I'll hear people say let's see if he can keep it up, or he's got game. Both sides of it. I'll try to be me and hopefully that will be good enough.