

Schauffele ready to return from injury at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Xander Schauffele took his first swing on a PGA Tour course in 57 days and found the middle of the fairway. And then he took another golf ball from his bag and tossed it into the thick rough. That was the real test.

“If this doesn’t go well,” he recalled telling his caddie, “then I’m going to get in my car and drive back to Jupiter.”

Schauffele gave it a rip and didn’t feel any twinge in his right ribs from an intercostal strain and slight tear in his cartilage that has kept him out of golf for two months. He returns to the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill this week with modest expectations.

He started the year as the top threat to Scottie Scheffler, the world’s No. 1 player. Schauffele broke through in a big way in 2024 by winning two majors at the PGA Championship and the British Open, going from no majors to halfway to the career Grand Slam.

That lasted all of one week at The Sentry at Kapalua, where he finished in the middle of the pack and then realized that nagging pain was more serious than he thought.

He isn’t sure if the injury stemmed from trying to gain more speed in his swing or something during a workout. He describes it as a perfect storm — it happened right when his trainer left the country to get his visa renewed. He didn’t get any soft tissue therapy, like usual. He figured it was not a big deal, until it became one.

He missed two tournaments at Torrey Pines in his hometown of San Diego. He watched way too much golf on TV to see what he was



AP

Xander Schauffele watches his shot from the fourth fairway during the first round of The Sentry golf tournament in January at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

missing.

And now he has some catching up to do.

Bay Hill is loaded again as a signature event, the third time the top three players — Scheffler, Rory McIlroy and Schauffele — are in the same field since the Tour Championship last August.

“I wouldn’t call it like the dream place to come back to, to be completely honest,” Schauffele said.

“Everyone knows what Bay Hill gives you — it takes a lot more than it gives — and you have to earn every par or birdie or bogey that you make. It’s a tough place.”

But it’s a dream part of the schedule — Bay Hill, The Players Championship next week and the Masters is right around the corner.

“I would be lying if I said I was in the most comfortable position ever,” Schauffele said. “I’ve been

practicing mentally to convince myself that I’m still in some crazy-good form. Trying to use that sort of low expectation with serious focus to try and get the most out of what you’re doing. Just think about all the greats that have had to take some time off and came back and played really well.

“I think Scottie came back and he wasn’t close to winning, but played pretty decent and put himself back in

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

NBA GLANCE									
Tuesday's Games									
Indiana 115, Houston 102									
Toronto 114, Orlando 113									
Milwaukee 127, Atlanta 121									
Golden State 114, New York 102									
Minnesota 126, Phila. 112									
Cleveland 139, Chicago 117									
San Antonio 127, Brooklyn 113									
Phoenix 119, L.A. Clippers 117									
L.A. Lakers 136, New Orleans 115									
Wednesday's Games									
Boston 128, Portland 118									
Cleveland 112, Miami 107									
Minnesota 125, Charlotte 110									
Washington 125, Utah 122									
Milwaukee 137, Dallas 107									
Sacramento at Denver, late									
Oklahoma City at Memphis, late									
Detroit at L.A. Clippers, late									
Thursday's Games									
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.									
Golden State at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.									
Indiana at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.									
Phila. at Boston, 7:30 p.m.									
Houston at New Orleans, 8 p.m.									
New York at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.									
Friday's Games									
Cleveland at Charlotte, 7 p.m.									
Memphis at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.									
Utah at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.									
Minnesota at Miami, 8 p.m.									
Portland at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.									
Phoenix at Denver, 10 p.m.									
San Antonio at Sacramento, 10 p.m.									
New York at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.									
Saturday's Games									
Brooklyn at Charlotte, 6 p.m.									
New Orleans at Houston, 7 p.m.									
Indiana at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.									
Washington at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.									
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.									
Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.									
Detroit at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.									
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 8:30 p.m.									

PENGUINS SUMMARY									
Colorado 4, Pittsburgh 1									
Pittsburgh	0	1	3	—	1				
Colorado	0	1	3	—	4				
First Period—None. Penalties—None.									
Second Period—1, Colorado, Lehkonen 25 (Mackinnon, Makar), 6:36. 2, Pittsburgh, Rakell 29 (Rust, Crosby), 18:04. Penalties—Malinski, COL (Hooking), 10:16; Toews, COL (Holding), 15:02.									
Third Period—3, Colorado, Mittelstadt 11 (Mackinnon, Nichushkin), 15:51 (pp). 4, Colorado, Lehkonen 26, 18:52 (en). 5, Colorado, Drury 7 (Kelly), 19:52 (en). Penalties—Beauvillier, PIT (Tripping), 14:23.									
Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 12-12-9—33. Colorado 8-7-10—25.									
Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 0 of 2; Colorado 1 of 1.									
Goalies—Pittsburgh, Nedeljkovic 12-13-5 (23 shots-21 saves). Colorado, Wedgewood 7-6-1 (33-32). A—18,037 (18,007). T—2:20.									
Referees—Trevor Hanson, Wes McCauley. Linesmen—Brandon Gawryletz, Travis Gawryletz.									

PRO GOLF GLANCE									
PGA TOUR									
ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL									
Site: Orlando, Florida.									
Course: Bay Hill Club & Lodge. Yardage: 7,466. Par: 72.									
Prize money: \$20 million. Winner's share: \$4 million.									
Television: Thursday-Friday, 2-6 p.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 12:30-2:30 p.m. (Golf Channel), 2:30-6 p.m. (NBC).									
Defending champion: Scottie Scheffler.									
FedEx Cup leader: Ludvig Aberg.									
Last week: Joe Highsmith won the Cognizant Classic.									
Notes: This will be the first time the top 3 players in the world ranking — Scottie Scheffler, Xander Schauffele and Rory McIlroy — compete in the same tournament since the Tour Championship. ... Schauffele has been out since The Sentry in the PGA Tour opener with a rib injury. ... The sponsor exemptions went to Rafael Canabal, Mackenzie Hughes and Min Woo Lee. The tournament turned down requests by Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler. ... Scheffler has won at Bay Hill twice in the last three years. ... Bay Hill will have a 36-hole cut for the top 50 and ties. ... Auburn sophomore Jackson Koivum is in the field. He is two points away from a PGA Tour card through the PGA Tour University Accelerated program and can get his card with a top 10. ... Tiger Woods is an eight-time winner at Bay Hill as a pro. ... Woods, Matt Evey and Loren Roberts are the only players to have won back-to-back at Bay Hill.									
Next week: The Players Championship.									
Online: https://www.pgatour.com/									
LPGA TOUR									
BLUE BAY LPGA									
Site: Hainan Island, China.									
Course: Jian Lake Blue Bay GC. Yardage: 6,712. Par: 72.									
Prize money: \$2.5 million. Winner's share: \$300,000.									
Television: Wednesday-Friday, 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday, 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. (Golf Channel).									
Defending champion: Bailey Tardy.									
Race to CME Globe leader: A Lim Kim.									
Last week: Lydia Ko won the HSBC Women's World Championship.									
Notes: This is the third and final stop on the LPGA's first Asia swing of the year, which is followed by a two-week break. ... By winning the HSBC Women's World Championship, Lydia Ko moved to No. 2 on the LPGA's career money list with \$20,595,105. ... Blue Bay LPGA began in 2014. It resumed in 2024 after a five-year hiatus because of travel restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic. ... The field features only three of the top 10 in the world, led by Jeeno Thitikul of Thailand and Ruoning Yin of China. ... Angel Yin (Thailand) and Ko (Singapore) won the first two stops on the Asia swing. Neither are playing this week. ... Bailey Tardy set the tournament record at 54-under 269. Lee-Anne Pace was 16 under after 19 holes in 2014 when the tournament was shortened because of weather. ... Americans have seven players in the top 25, the most of any country.									
Next tournament: Ford Championship on March 27-30.									
Online: https://www.lpga.com/									

SPRING TRAINING GLANCE									
AMERICAN LEAGUE									
	W	L	Pct						
Athletics	7	3	.700						
Boston	6	4	.600						
Kansas City	6	4	.600						
New York	6	4	.600						
Toronto	6	4	.600						
Baltimore	5	4	.556						
Houston	5	5	.545						
Detroit	5	6	.455						
Los Angeles	5	7	.417						
Seattle	5	7	.417						
Texas	5	7	.417						
Tampa Bay	4	6	.400						
Minnesota	3	5	.375						
Cleveland	3	7	.300						
Chicago	3	9	.250						
NATIONAL LEAGUE									
	W	L	Pct						
Chicago	9	2	.818						
Colorado	10	2	.769						
Atlanta	6	3	.667						
San Francisco	6	3	.667						
Pittsburgh	7	5	.583						
Los Angeles	8	6	.571						
Washington	6	5	.545						
Cincinnati	6	6	.500						
Arizona	5	6	.455						
Milwaukee	5	7	.417						
St. Louis	5	7	.417						
New York	4	6	.400						
Phila.	4	6	.400						
Miami	3	6	.333						
San Diego	3	9	.250						

Boston 4, Tampa Bay 2
Baltimore 5, Minnesota 2
Houston 6, St. Louis 5
Detroit 17, Phila. 7
Pittsburgh 7, Toronto 6
Washington 8, Miami 7
Milwaukee (ss) 3, Chicago White Sox (ss) 2, 1st game
Texas 5, Cincinnati 3
L.A. Dodgers 5, L.A. Angels 3
Chicago White Sox (ss) 8, Milwaukee (ss) 2, 2nd game
Colorado 4, San Diego 3
San Francisco 11, Arizona 5
Kansas City vs Seattle at Surprise, Ariz., 8:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games
N.Y. Yankees vs Minnesota at Tampa, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Phila. vs Tampa Bay at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs Washington at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Toronto vs Boston at Dunedin, Fla., 1:07 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs Texas (ss) at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs Chicago White Sox at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Texas (ss) vs San Diego at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Baltimore vs Pittsburgh at Sarasota, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Atlanta vs Miami at North Port, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs Houston at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 6:10 p.m.
Cleveland vs Kansas City at Mesa, Ariz., 8:05 p.m.
Cleveland vs Arizona (ss) at Goodyear, Ariz., 8:05 p.m.
Athletics vs Milwaukee at Mesa, Ariz., 8:15 p.m.
Arizona (ss) vs Seattle (ss) at Scottsdale, Ariz., 8:40 p.m.
Seattle (ss) vs L.A. Angels at Peoria, Ariz., 8:40 p.m.

Friday's Games
Boston vs Miami at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota (ss) vs Atlanta at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay vs Minnesota (ss) at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs Phila. at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Athletics vs Cleveland at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs Chicago Cubs at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs L.A. Angels (ss) at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs San Francisco at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs Arizona at Tempe, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Milwaukee vs San Diego at Phoenix, 3:10 p.m.
Detroit vs Baltimore at Lakeland, Fla., 6:10 p.m.
St. Louis vs Houston at Jupiter, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Washington vs N.Y. Mets at West Palm Beach, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs Texas at Tampa, Fla., 6:35 p.m.
Colorado vs Texas at Scottsdale, Ariz., 8:40 p.m.
Seattle vs L.A. Dodgers at Peoria, Ariz., 8:40 p.m.