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



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.

And now he has some catching up

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

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

the mix, so I don't see why I can't do that."

Scheffler can appreciate what Schauffele faces this week. He also went two months without playing because of a freak injury when he was trying to cut ravioli with a wine glass and it punctured his right palm.

He has two top 10s in his three starts since returning.

"I think it's challenging any time you're coming off an injury," Scheffler said. "That first time you step back out inside the ropes, it's different playing competition tournament golf, and there's definitely challenges to it and it takes a little bit of time

"I'm a big routine guy and so being injured and being out of my routine was definitely an unusual thing. Xander's a guy that's fairly routine as well, so I'm sure there will be some adjustments, but it's definitely good to have him back out playing."

Because it's a player-hosted event (Palmer), the 72-man field features a 36-hole cut to top 50 and ties. Schauffele has the longest active streak on the PGA Tour at 57 in

In three previous trips to Bay Hill, he has only one round in the 60s.

Schauffele said he relied on plenty of scans to make sure he couldn't reiniure his ribs, and that shot he took out of the rough was another indication. He played nine holes using only his irons in San Diego. He returned to his South Florida home and played nine holes on a par-3 course with Justin Thomas, 18 holes on his own, and then came to Bay Hill.

"So this is as good as it's going to get," he said.

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.

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.

Houston at New Orleans, 8 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

Colorado First Period—None, Penalties—None

First Period—None. Penalties—None. Second Period—I, 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 (MacKin-

nmu renou—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; Colo-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. 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 Campos, 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 in the last three years. ... Bay Hill will have a 36-hole cut for the top 50 and ties. ... Auburn sophomore Jackson Koivun 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 Every 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:

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

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 By 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 (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 19-under 269. Lee-Anne Pace was 16 under after 54 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-

Online: https://www.lpga.com/

Spring Training Glance AMERICAN LEAGUE Pct .700 .600 Boston Kansas City .600 .600 .600 .556 Toronto Baltimore .545 .455 .417 Detroit Los Angeles .417 .417 .400 Texas Tampa Bay Minnesota .375 .300 .250 Cleveland NATIONAL LEAGUE Pct Chicago Colorado .818 .769 .667 .667 .583 .571 .545 Atlanta San Francisco Pittsburgh Los Angeles .455 .417 Arizona Milwaukee New York Phila San Diego Wednesday's Games Boston 4, Tampa Bay 2 Baltimore 5, Minnesota 2

Houston 6, St. Louis 5 **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.

LA Dodgers vs Texas (ss) at Phoenix 3:05 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. Chicago Cubs 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. Cincinnati 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., 6:05 p.m. St. Louis vs Houston at Jupiter, Fla., 6:05 p.m. Washington vs N.Y. Mets at West Palm Beach, Fla.,

N.Y. Yankees vs Toronto 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.

PIRATES BOXSCORE Pittsburgh 7, Toronto 6 Pittsburgh ab r h bi Suwinski rf 3 0 1 0 Solak lf 0 0 0 1 Pham lf 2 1 0 0 Varsho dh Straw ph-dh Guerrero 3b 3 0 0 0 Barger 3b 2010 Valdez 2b 1000 Cruz cf Schneider If Nuñez 1b Bart c Williams 3b Sánchez c Loperfido cf 1000 2000 Hayes dh Clase cf Jiménez ss 1 0 0 0 Gutierrez ph-dh Stewart 1b

Cheng ss

Yorke 2b

2 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 0

Gonzales ss Palacios rf

1 0 0 0 2 0 1 0 2 0 1 1 Davis c Triolo 3b Tirotta 1b Palmegiani 1b Johnson cf 34 6 9 6 010 001 000 142 Totals Totals 28 7 7 7 Pittsburgh E—Gonzales (1), Williams (1). DP—Toronto 0, Pittsburgh 2. LOB—Toronto 6, Pittsburgh 5. 2B—Palmegiani (1), Cheng (1). HR—Kirk (1), Santander

2 1 1 0

Nimmala ss

Roden rf Stefanic 2b

(1), Nimmala (1), Roden (1), Cruz (1), Bart (1). SB—						
Cruz (1). SF—Solak (1).						
Cluz (1). 51 — 50lak	IP	Н	R	ER	BB	SO
Toronto					DD	50
Gausman	$1^{-2}/_{3}$	0	0	0	1	2
Walker	1 1/3	ŏ	ŏ	ŏ	0	$\bar{2}$
Bloss L,0-1 BS,0-1	1 1/3	3	4	4	4	0
Lovelady	1/3	0	0	0	0	1
Barnes	1/3	1	ĭ	ĭ	1	î
Lucas	2	3	2	2	1	2
Little	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pittsburgh	_	-	-	-	-	
Keller	$3^{2}/_{3}$	1	1	1	3	3
Flowers	1/3	0	0	0	0	0
Borucki W,1-0	1	ĭ	Õ	Ŏ	Ŏ	1
Fulmer	1	1	1	1	1	0
Wentz	1	3	1	1	0	2
Ramírez H.1	ī	2	3	3	ĭ	1
Ryan S,1-1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Lucas pitched to 1	batter i	n the	8th.			

Umpires—Home, Junior Valentine; First, Chad Fairchild; Second, Chris Segal; Third, Jansen Visconti T—3:00. A—4,566 (8,500).



The Franklin YMCA Starbursts gymnastics team competed in the Warren "I Am A Gymnast" Invitational back in February. Taking first place for the Starbursts were (from left): Bowie Carroll (Level 2, floor), Avery Beightol (Level 3 vault) and Cheyenne Byler (Level 4 vault). Missing from the photo was Addie Campbell (Level / vault)



Rogers Gymnastics competed in Elkins, West Virginia, this past weekend. Taking home first place for Rogers in Level 4 were (from left): Brooke Jordan (vault, bars, all-around), Taylor Tang (floor, vault) and Madeline Elder (bars, beam, all-around).

SPORTS SCENE THURSDAY, MARCH 6

SCHOLASTIC WRESTLING PIAA Championships in Hershey FRIDAY, MARCH 7 BOYS BASKETBALL

PIAA Class 4A Playoffs Grove City at Clearfield (7 p.m.) GIRLS BASKETBALL Rochester at Redbank Valley (7 p.m.)
PIAA Class 3A Playoffs
Cranberry at Shady Side ACademy (6 p.m.)
SCHOLASTIC WRESTLING

SATURDAY, MARCH 8 BOYS BASKETBALL PIAA Class 2A Playoffs Rocky Grove vs. Neshannock at Oil City H.S. (1 p.m.) Muncy at Clarion (1 p.m.)
Clarion-Limestone at Northern Cambria (5 p.m.)

PIAA Class 3A Playoffs Cranberry at South Allegheny (1 p.m.) GIRLS BASKETBALL PIAA Class 4A Playoffs Franklin at Blackhawk (1 p.m.)
SCHOLASTIC WRESTLING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 SCHOLASTIC SWIMMING PIAA Class 2A Championships at Bucknell

> LOCAL BOWLING LET'S TAKE A BREAK

Standings — Loose As A Goose 34-10, Sweet 'N Sassy 31.5-12.5, Golden Girls 25-19, Pin Pals Express Sassy 31.3–123, Golden Gills 23-13, Fill Fals Expless 24.5-19.5, Bipolar Rollers 13-31.

High game — Cathy Blair 203, Marilyn Williams 190, Cathy Runninger 162.

High series — Williams 490, Blair 458, Runninger 442.



Phoebe Pham took first place on floor in Level 3 for Rogers **Gymnastics in Elkins, WV.**

Sports on TV

Thursday, March 6 AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL (MEN'S)

3:35 a.m. FS1 — AFL: Geelong at Brisbane 3:35 a.m. (Friday) FS2 — AFL: Hawthorn at Sydney
BASEBALL

Midnight (Friday) MLBN — World Baseball Classic Qualifier: Germany vs. Brazil, Tucson, Ariz. (Taped)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 7 p.m. ESPN2 — FAU at UAB

7:30 p.m. CBSSN — Liberty at MTSU FS1 - Michigan St. at Iowa

9 p.m. ESPN2 — Charlotte at North Texas
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

11 a.m. ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD vs. North Carolina, Second Round, Greensboro, N.C. SECN — Southeastern Tournament: TBD vs. Vanderbilt, Second Round, Greenville, S.C. Noon

BTN — Big Ten Tournament: Indiana vs. Oregon, Second Round, Indianapolis 1:30 p.m.

ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: Georgia Tech vs. Virginia Tech, Second Round, Greensboro, N.C. SECN — Southeastern Tournament: TBD vs. Oklahoma, Second Round, Greenville, S.C.

2:30 p.m. — Big Ten Tournament: TBD vs. Michigan.

Second Round, Indianapolis 5 p.m.

ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD vs. Cal-

ifornia, Second Round, Greensboro, N.C. ESPNU - Norfolk St. at Howard

6 p.m.

SECN - Southeastern Tournament: TBD vs. Mississippi, Second Round, Greenville, S.C.

6:30 p.m. BTN — Big Ten Tournament: TBD vs. Illinois, Sec-

ond Round, Indianapolis

ESPNU — Siena at Fairfield 7:30 p.m.

ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD vs. Louisville, Second Round, Greensboro, N.C. 8:30 p.m.

SECN — Southeastern Tournament: TBD vs. Alabama, Second Round, Greenville, S.C. 9 p.m.

BTN — Big Ten Tournament: TBD vs. Michigan St., Second Round, Indianapolis

GOLF 6 a.m.

GOLF — DP World Tour: The Joburg Open, First Round, Houghton Golf Club, Johannesburg 10 a.m.

GOLF — PGA Tour: The Puerto Rico Open, First Round, Grand Reserve Golf Course, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

2 p.m.GOLF — PGA Tour: The Arnold Palmer Invitational, First Round, Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Orlando, Fla. 11 p.m. FS1 — LIV Golf Hong Kong: First Round, Hong

Kong Golf Club at Fanling, Hong Kong GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Blue Bay LPGA, Second Round, Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Club, Hainan,

6 a.m. (Friday) GOLF - DP World Tour: The Joburg Open, Second Round, Houghton Golf Club, Johannesburg MLB BASEBALL

1 p.m. ESPN — Spring Training: Minnesota vs. N.Y. Yankees, Tampa, Fla.

MLBN — Spring Training: Houston vs. N.Y. Mets, Port St. Lucie, Fla.

MLBN — Spring Training: Tampa Bay vs. Philadelphia, Clearwater, Fla. (Taped) NBA BASKETBALL 7:30 p.m.

TNT — Philadelphia at Boston TRUTV — Philadelphia at Boston (DataCast) 10 p.m. TNT — New York at L.A. Lakers

TRUTV — New York at L.A. Lakers (DataCast)
NHL HOCKEY 7 p.m.

ESPN — Buffalo at Tampa Bay 9:30 p.m. ESPN - San Jose at Colorado SOCCER (MEN'S)

12:40 p.m. CBSSN — UEFA Europa League: Rangers at Fenerbahce, Round of 16 - Leg 1

2 p.m. FS2 — Saudi Pro League: Al Ittihad at Al Quadisiya 3 p.m.

CBSSN — UEFA Europa League: Athletic Club at AS Roma, Round of 16 — Leg 1 7:55 p.m. FS2 — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Cavalier FC

at Inter Miami CF, Round of 16 — Leg 1
SOCCER (WOMEN'S) 11 p.m. CBSSN — The Italian Cup: Fiorentina at Juventus,

Semifinal — Leg 2 (Taped) TENNIS

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \bf 2 \ p.m. \\ \hline {\tt TENNIS --- Indian Wells-ATP/WTA Early Rounds} \end{tabular}$ VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)

9 p.m. ESPNU — League One: Salt Lake at Omaha