



**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BERNHARD LANGER**  
**Thursday, August 23, 2012**

**MODERATOR:** Bernhard, welcome to the Boeing Classic. You won this event in 2010 and are enjoying a terrific 2012 season with a win a couple weeks ago and 10 straight Top 10 finishes. Maybe just get us started, talk about your year a little bit, and then we'll get some questions.

**BERNARD LANGER:** Well, it was great for me to be more or less healthy again after my surgery last year, surgery in March I think or so. I didn't feel healthy until December. First tournament I played was Sun City down in South Africa in early December where I felt the pain was so minimal that it didn't affect my golf game anymore, so that was great news. So when I started again this year I could practice the way I wanted to practice, I could go after every shot the way I like to go after it. Played pretty steady, solid golf throughout the whole year.

There were some disappointments leading the U.S. Senior Open and the British Senior Open and not winning, but then winning a couple weeks ago and just having lots of good finishes. It's fun to be in the hunt week after week. It's been a good solid year. I think I'm leading the money list, if I'm correct, and second in the Schwab Cup, so a lot of good stats when you look at the statistical stuff. I've enjoyed my golf for the most part, it's fun.

**MODERATOR:** What's been the key this year? Any particular area of your game that's been doing well this year?

**BERNARD LANGER:** Not really, just I think everything is pretty solid. Some days I putt better, other days I don't, but I do have good putting rounds and that's always key for any professional golfer; you need to putt well if you want to win tournaments and do well.

Been driving the ball fairly good. My irons some days are better than others. I think my short game is slightly better this year. I seem to be higher up in scrambling than I have been the years before. If you can just improve a little bit in some areas, you know, maybe half a stroke a day makes a big difference over a period of weeks and months.

**MODERATOR:** You had a chance to play the course this morning. Maybe what are your thoughts on it this year? Any major changes from previous years?

**BERNARD LANGER:** I didn't see any change except I think the par 3, what would that be, 13, there's no more water hazard, so it's like a lost ball if you go over that green, which is easily done. But otherwise I think there's no changes. The golf course is in great shape. It's a little firmer than we have seen it other years, which makes it that much more challenging because these greens, they're quite undulated and slopey. When they get firm, it's hard to stop a 9-iron or something. When they're wet, you spin the ball too much, you spin it off the green, and when they're firm, you had better hit good tee shots so you come off the fairway with a lot of backspin into some of these greens.

**MODERATOR:** Do you have a good feeling just coming back here? You've had such great success here in 2010 winning twice in a month. Does it bring back great memories when you come back.

**BERNARD LANGER:** It does, I love the golf course. I think it's beautiful. The whole area here is really nice. The weather is a little cooler, which I love. I don't like playing in 90 degrees and humidity. The greens are fast, which is another thing I enjoy. I like fast greens. And it's a very good golf course. There's some tough pin positions. You've got to drive the ball well, you've got to hit some good irons and still need a lot of imagination around the greens, so great test.

**Q. Obviously Fred's the local favorite around here, you played with him last round of the Senior British. How would you assess his game when you saw him the last time he was out here?**

**BERNARD LANGER:** I think Freddy's playing very well. He's playing a limited schedule this year and has won two tournaments, is that correct? He's had a great year. Fred is -- Fred can win in any golf tournament. He still hits it very far and he putts much better than people give him credit for. I think pre-tournament favorite for me would be Fred Couples and Mark Calcavecchia just because the greens are so firm and they both hit that high cut shot with a lot of backspin.

**Q. Mark Calcavecchia said you're the favorite.**

**BERNARD LANGER:** Well, that's his opinion. Anyways, just the way the golf course is set up at the moment.

**Q. How much credit do you give to a professional like Gene Sauers who was in here before you; he had to take a few years off to get back and here he is competing with the best in the world again.**

**BERNARD LANGER:** It's tough. It's very difficult when you play injured because you've got to change your swing and then you don't play well, and then your confidence goes, you're doubting yourself and on and on and it's like a downward spiral. It takes weeks and months to get down and then it takes months, sometimes years to come back up. It's very difficult. When you're away from the game, if you don't play at all, it's just as hard because it's difficult to be competitive not playing in any tournaments for a long time.

**Q. What do you think of the atmosphere of the 14th hole here?**

**BERNARD LANGER:** Well, the atmosphere is great on any hole. I think it's a great -- 18 I think is wonderful with all the tents and everything. 14 gives you the opportunity to go for it and risk a miracle shot that you might make a hole-in-one or an eagle, or you have options of playing safe and make a birdie or par that way.

**Q. And then you get booed.**

**BERNARD LANGER:** You might get booed, but that's not the first time we've been booed. We've been booed in the Ryder Cup before and a few other events. I played with John Daly at Hilton Head and every time he would pull an iron out, they would boo him, which was really the right club most of the time because it's too narrow for him to hit driver, but that's the nature of the game.

**Q. Has the gallery every persuaded you from doing what you think is the right shot?**

**BERNARD LANGER:** I don't think so. They tried to, but usually I'm pretty hardheaded and I do what I think is right.

**MODERATOR:** Any more questions? Thank you very much.

**BERNARD LANGER:** You're welcome, pleasure.