

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BERNHARD LANGER

Friday, June 27, 2014

PHIL STAMBAUGH: We welcome Bernhard Langer into the interview room this afternoon. Bernhard, one day after shooting 65 you go one better and are at 11-under par and leading right now after 36 holes. Kenny mentioned that you were playing really good golf out there. Just talk about the day overall, and he had a nice round as well, and take us through your birdies and your lone bogey.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, Kenny played extremely well and it's fun playing with guys that are playing well. It gives you good visuals and good vibes. I played very nicely yesterday and maybe left a putt or two out there, but today was very similar, played pretty good. Had obviously a tremendous pitch in there on No. 7 when I went for the green with a driver and pulled it a little bit left and didn't have much of a shot. I short-sided myself and landed the pitch just perfect and it rolled right in, so that was a bonus.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: About how far?

BERNHARD LANGER: The shot was probably 30 yards, 25 yards, something like that. Birdied No. 2. I hit a good drive and after 6-iron, two putts from about 45 feet. Eagle on 7, we talked about that. No. 8 was driver, 7-iron about a 10-foot putt. And then 12 was a driver, lob wedge to about six feet. And 13, I hit a good 3-wood, had mud on the ball with my second shot and the ball just took off left into the trees under a branch. Horrible lie, so I chipped it over the green. I had a branch in my backswing as well so I had no backswing. Somehow managed to thin it and hit it over the green. Got a fantastic pitch from there and made about a six-footer, seven-footer for bogey. And then 15 was a driver and a sand wedge to about eight feet. 18 was a driver, 3-wood, lob wedge again to about eight feet. Made a great putt on 17, misread it from about 10 feet and didn't go in. You know, 16 I hit maybe my best shot today. I hit 8-iron exactly the way I wanted, landed about two yards short of the pin, or three, and rolled off the green, almost three-putted then. It's a fine line out here controlling your spin and your distance. Sometimes you have to hit it eight or 10 yards past the hole and spin it back or hit three-quarter shots, take the spin off. It's just pretty tricky with the sloping greens and the softness.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: You mentioned softness there. You played the ball down except for one hole today.

BERNHARD LANGER: I was surprised --

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Can you talk about the difference in the conditions?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it's drying out somewhat but I thought we would play

the ball up again for another day and let it dry out a little bit, especially the guys who played this morning. Most balls just plug and roll about a foot or two. So I was surprised that we played the ball down today.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Questions?

Q. Bernhard, you broke a driver on 18. How did it happen and how big a difference is that going to make for you?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, we don't know yet. I hit a good tee shot and as I picked up my tee I heard it rattle in my driver head and I'm going, wow, what's the rattling for. And I grabbed the head, it was loose, so something broke inside the screw that holds the shaft in I think that's broken. I don't know yet. I have to go and see the tour rep down there or the guy that repairs the clubs and see if he can fix that one or I have to go to my backup driver.

Q. How long have you had that particular driver in your bag?

BERNHARD LANGER: About two years now, two and a half.

Q. Pretty attached to it?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it's in the bag. It's been in the bag for two and a half years, so it means it's a good club because there's two or three clubs that need to be good, the driver, the putter and maybe the wedges. So one of the most important clubs in the bag.

Q. This is a tournament where you've had success but it seems traditionally you've sort of had slow starts and kind of get going as the weekend rolls on to get in those Top 10s. When you see the scores out there today, was it important for you not to have a number in mind but maybe try to go low again and maybe see how this tournament goes when you're in the front?

BERNHARD LANGER: You know what, I wasn't really paying attention to the scores. I just out there playing golf and doing the best I can. Saw Kenny Perry go low, so I figured if him and I go low, there's going to be others that can go low, too. So I'm just trying to keep making the best shots I can and make more birdies.

Q. You hit driver on 7 you said. Did you do that yesterday and why did you change?

BERNHARD LANGER: Where?

Q. On 7 you said you tried to drive the green?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah. Well, today I felt the pin was in a location where I could, if I missed the green or whatever, I might get it closer to the flag. Yesterday it was an awkward pin position. And I also felt there was a slight breeze behind me, so if I hit it solid I can reach the green. If the wind's into me, there's no way I can get to the green. It's 277 yards to the front edge and it's all carry right now, so it's already stretching it, but with a slight breeze behind me I can probably get there.

Q. How many extra clubs do you carry? Do you carry one backup driver or do you have more than one, and what other clubs do you have backups for?

BERNHARD LANGER: I generally carry another putter and another driver. Sometimes, most of the time a 3-iron and a 3 hybrid, and maybe another wedge, but that's about it.

Q. How will the character of this golf course change if it continues to get dry, a little bit firmer and faster? It obviously wasn't at all last year, but it seems to be getting a little bit firmer and faster. What does this do to the golf course?

BERNHARD LANGER: You know, I can't see it really change dramatically. It hasn't yet. And the course is so wet that it's going to take days and days to really firm up. I don't think it's going to change dramatically tomorrow, and then we'll see what Sunday brings. There's another chance of rain, isn't there, on Sunday? Slim chance hopefully. It will change slightly. The greens might get a little bit faster, some of the sloping fairways will maybe roll a bit to the side, but not to the point where you're playing links golf, you know, one day and plugged lies the next day and vice versa.

Q. Were there any holes where, accounting for the spin, you went with a little more club to try to take the spin off? Did you debate that at all on any holes?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, yeah, at least four or five where you have a wedge or short iron in your hand and you really have to contemplate what kind of shot you want to hit, how much spin and where you need to land it. It's especially hard when the pin is near the back edge of the green and it slopes back to front because you can't land it past the hole, you go over the green and down the hill. You've got to hit something low in there with less spin. So yeah, there's at least maybe three or four holes where you have to consider that.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay. Bernhard, good playing, we'll see you tomorrow.

BERNHARD LANGER: Thank you.