

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BERNHARD LANGER

Saturday, June 28, 2014

DAVE SENKO: Bernhard, thanks for joining us. Another good day, 4-under 66 and right now you're 15-under and three better than the field. Maybe just take us through your day. You bounced back really well from the bogey, two bogeys on your first five.

BERNHARD LANGER: They were rough bogeys. They were really not bad shots. I hit a beautiful drive on No. 1 and a pitching wedge to about no more than 15 feet, 12 feet, I don't know, and ran it by a little bit. Then on the way back I had about a three- or four-footer and there was a little pitch mark that I repaired but I played it inside right and it hit that edge of the pitch mark and went to the right, so three-putted from a very short distance.

Then I didn't birdie No. 2, I got a bad kick. My tee shot wasn't that bad, landed on the fairway and took a huge bounce into the rough. Didn't get up and down from the bunker so that was disappointing. Then hit a great shot into No. 3, missed my birdie putt. Hit a good shot into No. 4. Five, I had a good tee shot and ends up in a filled-up divot with sand and the ball was on the left edge, so when I hit it, the club shot down, caught a bit of sand and came up short and left and had nothing. I was in a bunker that was so deep I was lucky to get it out of there, so made a bogey there with a pitching wedge in my hand.

From there on I played really solid except for maybe the tee shot on eight, missed the fairway but I had a decent lie. I hit a great shot on to the green. Otherwise I hit a lot of good shots and then finally made some putts coming in, so overall it was pretty solid.

DAVE SENKO: Birdie on No. 6, do you remember the par-3 what you hit, the length of the putt?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, that was a beautiful 5-iron and we must have misjudged the wind. It flew past the hole and then released some at least 30 feet, maybe 32 feet and made a nice long putt to get some momentum going. Seven, I hit driver left of the bunker there pin high, pitched it up to about 10 feet and made the putt.

DAVE SENKO: And then 12?

BERNHARD LANGER: 12 was a driver and a sand wedge or lob wedge to about eight feet, nine feet, something like that.

DAVE SENKO: Three in a row, 14, 15, 16.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, missed the birdie putt on 13, I guess. And 14 was the driver, pitching wedge, pitched it right next to the hole, spun it back about 15 feet. And what was the next one, 14? 15, sorry. It was driver, lob wedge about 10 feet. And then 16 was 3-wood, 8-iron to about 15 feet and that was a great putt, that was a tough one to read downhill. I had two more chances on 17 and 18 but couldn't take advantage of them.

Q. Bernhard, tell us how you got the driver fixed and was it the A driver that you had in the bag today or did you have to make any changes?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, it was my gamer. I went down to the truck, the repair trailer, and Mike looked at me and said I think I can fix that. I was really surprised because to me it looked like there was a piece broken and I was surprised he had that piece and he could drill the old one out, put the new one in, put it together. Took about 45 minutes and it was all done, so I was playing with a gamer.

Q. How long would it have taken say 10, 12, 15 years ago to repair a driver like that do you think?

BERNHARD LANGER: That's a good question. Ten, 12 years ago they didn't have a driver like that, so --

Q. Any driver.

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, if persimmon, you couldn't repair -- well, they didn't have those pieces in it, so again it's not a good question because I can't answer it. But, you know, certainly to have all these facilities out here that we do, the physio guys help us with stretching and working out, those guys help us with our clubs if a shaft breaks or anything else goes wrong they often can fix it and it's a wonderful thing to have them on site.

Q. When you tested it yesterday on the range, it felt the same, did you have any doubts in your mind or was everything good?

BERNHARD LANGER: There's always slight doubts because you're putting something together. And yeah, they say it's the same but you're never sure if it's the same. Even a grip can make a difference. I had the grip on for three months now so it's slightly worn and my fingers fit in there. Now I have a new grip and it's just slightly different. But I hit a bunch of shots yesterday and I was convinced it's very close to be the same and the same again this morning. You don't want to get it into your head, plus I had a backup which is not quite as good but similar. So I drove the ball okay, that was no problem.

Q. When you hit the 3-wood on 16, did you deliberately lay back to a yardage?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yes, it was downwind and I figured my 3-wood would go plenty far. I didn't want to go where my two playing partners went in the left rough with the trees overhanging. You had nothing from over there. And you don't want to go right to start off with, so I think it was the right play. That was a 3-wood, 8-iron. If I had driver I probably would have had pitching wedge or 9-iron, but I would rather be on the fairway.

Q. You're going to be playing in the final group tomorrow with Kenny Perry. Can you talk a little bit about Kenny and the challenge of you two kind of going head to head?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, not just Kenny and me head to head, there's about 10 other guys within striking distance. It's not over by any means. But Kenny has played very well here on this golf course last year, he's had some low rounds this year. I played with him the first two days, he played very well. He drives the ball very far and pretty straight, which sets himself up pretty good. He can fly the ball onto No. 7, the one that's drivable, where most of us have to run it through an eight yard gap, so that's an advantage. He's got a lot of game, so it just depends who plays a little better and who makes the putts.

Q. Bernhard, when you see so many birdies out here and with a three-shot lead, do you figure tomorrow you've got to go out and make some birdies?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, yeah, I've still got to shoot under par tomorrow. As I said, somebody shot 7-under today I think, right, so anybody that is kind 10-under, 11-under shoots that kind of score, I've got to go under par. I need to get under par anyways because Kenny Perry's going to go under par. Still 18 holes to play, it's a lot of golf.

DAVE SENKO: Any more questions? Thanks, Bernhard.

BERNHARD LANGER: You're very welcome.