



PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BERNHARD LANGER
Thursday, August 21, 2014

Q. You're on fire, everything's clicking and here you are back at the course where you had the Seattle Sweep.

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah.

Q. You've got to be feeling good going into this thing.

BERNARD LANGER: I feel good and things have been tremendous this year, got off to a great start and continued, you know, all the way through to this point. I love this golf course, I like the venue and the people here and everything, so hoping to have another good week.

Q. What's the key here, just par 5s like most courses and avoid big numbers on the par 3s?

BERNARD LANGER: I don't know, it's more than par 5s, especially this year you've got to drive it well. I think the rough is up, the greens are very firm this year, so if you don't come out of the fairway it's going to be hard to stop it. The greens can be pretty severe in places. Really, it's everything. You've got to drive it well, you've got to hit some precise irons and have a very good short game on top of it.

Q. What's your favorite hole here?

BERNARD LANGER: There's a lot of beautiful holes. No. 17 is pretty nice. No. 18 is a good hole with a big grandstand all around, arena-type finish. There's a lot of beautiful -- you know when you stand on that, what is it when you see the waterfall?

DAVE SENKO: 14?

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, when you see the waterfall, 13. No. 14 is beautiful but the 13th tee shot when you look down and see the waterfall, that's pretty cool. There's a lot of great views, so I hate to pick one hole. Coming from Florida, it's nice to look out and see all these peaks, nice change.

DAVE SENKO: What's been the real key this year, maybe one part of your game that's been better in your eyes than it has been?

BERNARD LANGER: Well, if I have to answer it I would probably go with the putter. The putter's been a little bit better this year than in the past and that's where the

scoring is. The long game's been pretty good at times, too; obviously has to be because if your long game doesn't work, you can't make up for all that stuff with a putter. You know, just making one more putt a day or one more every two days makes a difference.

Q. How many hours do you practice a week? I'm not talking pro-ams and stuff.

BERNARD LANGER: Well, to me practice is time on the golf course. Whether I play holes, whether I putt, whether I chip or whether I hit balls, it's all part of the game and it's all practice. I really don't -- I'm not working with a stopwatch, I just come out here and do my stuff and then go back home when I think it's done.

Q. Yeah, but Fred Couples pointed out that you're here longer than most.

BERNARD LANGER: Than most, yeah. And when I play I probably spend anywhere from seven to 11 hours on the course or on the premises, but some of that includes stretching and other things, so it's definitely not all beating balls. I don't do a whole lot when I'm home. People think, like my colleagues, they all think I have the week off and I practice for eight hours a day when I'm home. That's not true. I'll take three or four days off totally the first few days and then I'll start practicing toward the weekend again when I'm flying out the following Monday or Tuesday.

Q. You've got that, the injury?

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, I've had tendonitis for several months now and it's getting a little better, but that's nothing serious, it just looks bad.

Q. Coming off your victory, it can't be serious.

BERNARD LANGER: Well, it was serious last week, I almost pulled out with a lower back actually. Played in the pro-am on Thursday last week and had to stop after 10 holes because my back was getting worse.

Q. Then you turn around and won?

BERNARD LANGER: Yep, that was pretty unique. Be aware of the injured, the wounded. But I played soccer two weeks ago with my son and that was not a smart thing.

Q. How old is he?

BERNARD LANGER: I've got to realize that I'm 57 so I can't do what I did 30 years ago. He's 14. We had a few of us playing a little game and match.

Q. World Cup rematch?

BERNARD LANGER: About an hour long and that was just too much for me. Those quick sprints and stops and turnarounds and reaching for stuff, the mind is willing but the body is not.

Q. You had to be happy with the World Cup outcome?

BERNARD LANGER: Oh, that was terrific, yeah. That was fun to see how they destroyed Brazil. I was glad that they beat Argentina because several years earlier Argentina beat Germany, when Maradona, I don't know if you followed it or not, he scored a goal by hand and it should have been an illegal goal and a red card or something, but he got the goal and they won and beat us. I was glad that was all reversed this time.

Q. What was that, the Hand of God?

BERNARD LANGER: That's what he called it. It was a corner kick and he acted like he hit it in the head and he went like that, and I can't believe the ref didn't see it, or two refs, but it is what it is.

Q. Talk about (inaudible). That was eight miles away from here and you come here. I mean, that was a pretty nice double.

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, it was. That double and then the double of winning the two majors back to back was pretty unique. Yeah, Seattle has certainly been very good to me. I like the northwest and I like the countryside. As I said, I enjoy looking at the mountains. I grew up in the foothills of the Alps, so my home course was pretty hilly, so I'm used to awkward lies, uphill, downhill lies.

Q. It's a three-day tournament, you've just got to get off fast.

BERNARD LANGER: Right away, get out of the blocks quick. Hard to make it up if you don't, but it's been done any which way, you know. You can come from behind, you can lead from the get-go, and there's different ways. Bottom line is you've got to be better than the others at the end of the three days.

Q. But you can bury yourself on day one.

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, most of the time you don't win it on day one but you can lose it on day one. But again, I've seen all sorts of things. You're right, you pretty much have to put the pedal down from the get-go and try to play good and smart and make some birdies so you're not too far behind going into Sunday.

Q. Any unusual things around Seattle you enjoy doing?

BERNARD LANGER: I haven't done much or I'm not going to this year, but I went to a Sounders game a couple years ago, soccer game, that was fun. One year we went on a boat ride through the city, that was pretty cool, too. That's about it. I'm not really here to sightsee, I'm afraid.

DAVE SENKO: Your family's not here?

BERNARD LANGER: No, I'm by myself this week.

Q. You would probably be by yourself going to Canada?

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, back to the lonely life, two weeks alone.

DAVE SENKO: Your daughter just caddied two weeks.

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, 3M and Endicott.

DAVE SENKO: Does she go back to school now?

BERNARD LANGER: Started school already.

Q. Must be in college?

BERNARD LANGER: Yep, college.

Q. Where?

BERNARD LANGER: FAU, Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton where we live.

DAVE SENKO: Plays golf there.

Q. Does she?

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, she's on the college golf team.

Q. They're D1 now, they have been for a while.

DAVE SENKO: Yeah, everything. They're the largest --

BERNARD LANGER: Getting there, yep.

DAVE SENKO: How far away? Is she pretty close to home, right?

BERNARD LANGER: Seven minutes. She doesn't live at home.

DAVE SENKO: She doesn't?

BERNARD LANGER: No, not anymore.

DAVE SENKO: It's right over 95, right?

BERNARD LANGER: Yep, it's just on the other side of 95. We're west and they're east.

Q. 95 goes to Boston, doesn't it?

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, it goes all the way probably to Canada.

DAVE SENKO: You can go from here to Boston, too.

BERNARD LANGER: From the Keys.

Q. I-90 over here, that winds up in Boston?

BERNARD LANGER: Yeah, the other way.

Q. It's all because of the Autobahn, too. Eisenhower in the '50s saw the German roads and said do it, and so he knew they needed it for commerce, but you mention the magic word "defense," so he said we had better have those.

BERNARD LANGER: Get a bigger budget, it worked.

Q. That's the secret to anything in America.

DAVE SENKO: All set?