

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: BERNHARD LANGER
Thursday, August 20, 2015



DAVE SENKO: Well, Bernhard, thanks for joining us. You come in, you've had a little time off. You had a stretch there, a couple weeks in the U.K. and then in Minneapolis, you've been on a pretty nice little run here. Maybe just talk about that stretch starting in Boston and then playing in Europe and then coming back, where things stand right now, where your game is.

BERNHARD LANGER: My game is pretty good. Had a great win there in Boston at the PLAYERS Championship, the Constellation with, what was it, a six-shot lead or four-shot lead?

DAVE SENKO: Six.

BERNHARD LANGER: That's a nice cruise home the last few holes, didn't have to worry about it too much. Played very well that week. Continued the good play at the Senior Open, U.S. Senior Open. I was in contention, finished third in the end. Then went over to Europe, had a couple weeks off. Spent some time in Germany. Went to Greece where I designed a golf course a couple years ago and played that course, just had a look around. That was enjoyable for the family and myself. Then played St. Andrews, made the cut there. Didn't really show up on the leaderboard but it was fun being there. After that was Sunningdale, the Senior, what do you call it, British Open, I guess. Again, I was in contention there, had the lead briefly the last day for a few holes on the back nine until Marco Dawson eagled and I made par on a par 5 and then finished one behind in the end. Again, played well at 3M. It's been a nice stretch. On this tour I finished third, second, second the last three tournaments I played and have a chance again to win the Schwab Cup, I think. I think anybody that is within 500 points or something like that going into the Schwab Cup tournament has a chance to win the whole thing. Should be exciting. It all depends how the next two months go between Monty, Maggert and myself.

Q. Bernhard, you're best known around here for your Seattle Sweep in 2010. That was quite an accomplishment. Just talk about that.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, that was quite a feat. You know, especially at the U.S. Senior Open to play in the last pairing with Fred Couples or against Fred Couples, whatever you want to call it, in his hometown felt more like a Ryder Cup match, it didn't feel like a normal tournament. It was something else. I was very fortunate to play some great golf. Freddie messed up on one hole and I was able to win the tournament, and then come back here a couple months later and win this one on top of that, it's pretty cool.

Q. How much pride do you take in the fact that when players are 55 and start to traditionally not do as well, I think other than Hale Irwin, you probably have the greatest success at this age. Do you have to work much harder to do that? What do

you attest being so good still for all these years?

BERNHARD LANGER: That's a great question. There's a lot that goes into it. I felt that I was one of the better players throughout my career, so I don't see a reason why that should change unless you get hurt or you have some injury or something. But it's still one of the better to being, you know, somewhat dominant, this is a slight difference and it's been a very good run for me out here on the Champions Tour.

You know, there may never be a player like Hale Irwin, who's, what, won 43 tournaments or something like that. I mean, they used to have more tournaments, he had more options to play and to win. I think now -- I don't know what it was like 15, 20 years ago, I wasn't here playing this tour, but there's a lot of great players out here now. Pretty much anybody in the field has a chance to compete and to win. I think the players realize now that this is a great tour, so they're staying -- they stay fitter when they're in their 40s, they train and they know it's coming up and it's something they want to do, while many years ago it might have been something, well, I'm not sure I want to still play and this and that. It's a different mindset altogether.

Q. Do you have a goal how long you would like to do this, or do you take it year by year?

BERNHARD LANGER: I take year by year, but I've always said it takes three or four things for me to keep playing. First of all, you've got to be healthy; secondly, you need some success, and you've got to have some fun. If any of those three are missing, it may be time to think about hanging it up.

Q. Seems like you're often paired with Fred Couples here in the opening round. Do you like that pairing?

BERNHARD LANGER: I do. I get along with Freddie very well. I get along with most guys, but Freddie's pretty easy going. But there is a certain, you know, we have spells during the year where you're paired with the same guys four, five times in a row. It's kind of weird, but I guess they put the top-ranked players together or whoever they think may be a better draw, I don't know. They have a lot of guys to choose from. Let's face it, if you look at the starting field, you've got Hall of Famers, you've got Champions Tour winners, there's a lot of name players out here and it's not lacking of star power, let's put it that way.

Q. How much contact do you have with Martin Kaymer, who won the Open last year?

BERNHARD LANGER: A little bit. We text and call each other every once in a while. We played practice rounds together at the British Open twice. We're both Mercedes ambassadors, so we have that in common where we have to do certain things for Mercedes and sometimes it's at the same venue, same time. So I see him at the Masters, saw him at the PLAYERS Championship. This year I saw more of him than normal because I was in the British Open and in the PLAYERS, but we stay in touch. He used to reside in Arizona for

a while and spent some time here. Now he's decided to go back to Germany, be more over there. I know his brother, his father and all that stuff. We're pretty good friends.

Q. You won the SENIOR PLAYERS this year back-to-back. You're the only guy to do it back-to-back except for Arnold Palmer. With all you've accomplished in your career, does something like that still resonate when you sit back and go, hey, Arnie and I are the only two guys who've done that?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I was surprised nobody else had done it, and then to be thrown in there in the same sentence with Arnie is pretty spectacular, pretty amazing. It was a nice achievement. I didn't know about that until they made me aware of it because I think a lot of times you have back-to-back winners. It's not easy, but it's usually somebody does it here or there.

Q. What would a Bernhard Langer drink be? Arnold Palmer is iced tea and lemonade. What would a Bernhard Langer, if I ordered that --

BERNHARD LANGER: That's very easy, it actually exists in some areas. In Japan they call it the Bernhard Langer drink. I represent a couple of courses there. It's Sprite or 7-Up and beer, and you mix it half and half. It's a shandy. That would be my drink, yep, no doubt about it. My favorite drink.

Q. In Germany (inaudible)?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, we have lemonade or whatever you call it. It's got a different name, but it's the same thing.