FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: BERNHARD LANGER

Sunday, August 23, 2015



DAVE SENKO: Well, Bernhard, thanks for joining us. Finished birdie-birdie to finish 8 under, one back. Maybe just take us through your day. Bogeys at No. 4 and 11.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I actually played quite well. It was a frustrating day on the greens, didn't make anything. Made about a 10-footer on the first hole after hitting my 2-hybrid in the bunker, and got my bunker shot up to about 10 feet and then played really good golf. Hit a bad tee shot there on 4 and it kicked right into the hazard so I had to take an unplayable, but made a good bogey after that.

Played really solid after that. Hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens, just nothing went in. And then on 11 I three-putted. Hit a great tee shot down the hill, but I was between two clubs so with that back left pin, you needed to hit a full shot in there and I couldn't hit a full shot, so I had to bail out right. Missed a short putt, so that was painful. Then had more chances the next few holes and just couldn't make anything until 17, when I hit a 4-iron to about 10 feet again, or eight feet, made that one. And then 18, I hit two of my best shots ever, great tee shot and beautiful 3-wood right at it and it just rolled through the green, right past the hole. If it had been a foot shorter, it would have hit the back fringe and rolled back towards the hole and I probably would have had about a six- or seven-footer because I needed to make eagle there.

Anyways, it was a frustrating day, but glad I finished birdie-birdie to finish second on my own instead of whatever, third or fifth or something tied with a whole bunch of others.

DAVE SENKO: Did you know where you stood when you got to 18?

BERNHARD LANGER: I knew it all along, yeah. Pretty much, yeah.

Q. Could you tell from the fairway how close your second on 18 was?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, you can't see anything. I just knew I hit it real solid and it was on line. I could tell by the reaction of the crowd, they were cheering real loud and then they kind of went just quiet. I told my caddie, Uh-oh, that must have just got stuck in the back fringe.

Q. Today was much like the first day, right, where you hit a lot of greens, but you couldn't --

BERNHARD LANGER: Exactly, just like it.

Q. When Billy took the triple on No. 4, did that change your thinking at all, or what were you thinking at that point?

BERNHARD LANGER: Nothing. We've still got 14 holes to play. It just meant I wasn't 3 behind, I was 1 behind at that point or something. There was one point when we were all tied, it was all constantly very close. It was just a matter of who's going to play the last 10 or 12 holes the lowest, the best. Billy made some putts. I think we all played fairly similar, but he made a couple of putts and the rest of us didn't.

Q. Going into the last round, did you feel like you had to (inaudible) being down 3, or did you hope that maybe Billy would slip up, just open a door for you?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, I was going to go for -- my mindset was to go low, go 6, 7 under if possible. But the pins were extremely difficult today. There were many of them on the front and the greens are very firm, so if you land it on the green -- you know, I hit a bunch of shots that landed next to the hole but then they bounced about 15, 20, 25 feet past the hole, so you've got a 20-footer. If you land it just short of the green, it stops and sometimes spins back. So the pins were hard today, really hard, for the firmness of the greens.

Q. Have you ever lost a tournament to a guy who had a triple bogey?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, I'm sure. I don't know, I don't keep record of that. Hey, I once started quadruple-double the first two holes and I finished second, so whatever. You never know what happens in this game.

DAVE SENKO: You picked up some Schwab Cup points today, so you got a little closer. I think you're 269 now behind Monty.

BERNHARD LANGER: That's a good thing.

Q. Three seconds in a row. When you get tomorrow or the next day, are you pretty satisfied with seconds or is it still frustrating even two days after the fact?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it was frustrating at the British Open, Senior British Open because I was right there. I actually had the lead at one stage, but then I made par and Marco made eagle and I can't help that. I could have birdied the hole. He played real solid and made a birdie on the last, which I didn't. Sometimes the other guys play so well that it's out of your hands. What you hate to do is give it away, you know. If you have a two-shot lead with four holes to go or something and give it away by playing bad, that's really what you hate. But if I finished second and get beat by good golf there's not a whole lot I can do. I mean, I could have made more putts, I certainly had chances, but hey, I tried a hundred percent on every one, so that's all I can do and I have no issue with that. I can look myself in the mirror and know I've given it all I've got.

Q. Having won here before five years ago, what do you think it takes to kind of conquer this course?

BERNHARD LANGER: To conquer this course? Well, it certainly helps to hit it long and straight because then you have shorter irons into these firm greens. The greens have been firm the last few years, which is good. We like them firm because if you hit a real good ball, solid with a lot of spin, you can keep it on the green. If you come out of the rough or from somewhere else, you get punished. So there's nothing wrong with that. It's the same as everywhere, you've got to make some putts. Got to keep it in play and make some putts. That's the name of the game no matter where you go, not just on this course.

Q. The winner gets an aviation jacket. Where's yours?

BERNHARD LANGER: I have it at home, yep. I don't need it much in Florida, a little warm there for that. When I go skiing, it's a good thing.

DAVE SENKO: Thank you, Bernhard.

BERNHARD LANGER: Thank you, too.