

**ALEX URBAN:** We would like to welcome our two-time defending champion of the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, Bernhard Langer to the interview room.

Bernhard, obviously you've played well at this event the last two years. Talk about the Philadelphia Cricket Club and your chances to become the first person to three-peat at this event.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, my chances are 1-80 I guess, 80-1 I guess because there's 80 other guys. But I've been very fortunate to win this tournament the last two years on different golf courses, and now we're here at the Cricket Club and it's in my opinion a phenomenal venue. It's in incredible shape.

Was talking to a couple other guys, amateur players today and I said you could putt on these fairways and you could certainly putt on the teeing grounds, that's how good it is. Delightful golf course, I think. Very demanding, very severe greens at times where, you know, they're pretty speedy and pretty slopy, hard to read. I find them difficult to read. So you've really got to pay attention on where you place your second shot so you don't end up with a bunch of three-putts or impossible up-and-downs and stuff like that. I love it, I think it's one of the better courses I've ever played and look forward to it.

**Q. Bernhard, you took the week off last week, is that correct? Do you feel recharged because you had been playing a lot before that, how do you feel physically and mentally coming into this week?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I feel really good. Mentally, I feel great. I made one mistake, I played beach volleyball on Memorial Day when I got home and my competitive instinct made me dive for a few balls, which I shouldn't have done. So I hurt my shoulder a little bit, my right shoulder, and I've been trying to nurture it back for the last week or so but it's getting better. I can play golf. It's not 100 percent but for the golf swing it's okay, so hopefully I'll be all right. Otherwise I'm, yeah, ready to go, rested. There's no way I could have played five in a row, four of them being majors basically with the PLAYERS Championship up front and then Tradition and Senior PGA and now the Constellation, so I had to take a week off.

**Q. Bernhard, you're of a certain age where I don't think the tour, the PGA Tour stopped in Philadelphia.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Correct.

**Q. Have you ever played in this area?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No.

**Q. Is this the first time?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah.

**Q. Kind of hard to believe, isn't it?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** My memory's not the best but I was thinking have I ever been to Philly before and I don't think I have. It's nice to see a new city and a new place, and certainly thrilled with the golf course.

**Q. Are you surprised there's a place that you haven't been to?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I am surprised, yeah. I've been most places around the globe, and to have a place in the United States that I haven't been to is pretty unusual. But as you say, it's common for professional golfers to just go wherever the tournaments are, certainly for me, and there wasn't one in this area in the years that I played so there was no reason for me to come here really.

**Q. When you were here -- were you here yesterday playing a practice round?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I was, yeah. Good thing I was because I'm not going to see the whole golf course now since we got canceled.

**Q. I just want to know what your initial impressions were, the fairways, especially the roughs and, you know, the slope of the greens, trying to keep it below the hole?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, I think I mentioned some of that stuff in my initial statement already. The rough is pretty punishing. You want to stay out of there because you won't get, you know, the spin out of the rough that you need to hit the right part of the green, and sometimes you might not even get near the green because it's just, you know, going to get a good enough lie.

One thing that I notice is extremely punishing is near the fairway bunkers, the ball doesn't always roll into the fairway bunker, it gets caught on the slope toward the bunker and has some severe rough on it so you could get some pretty awkward lies. Trying to stay away from that as well.

There's a lot of staying away and a lot of, you know, strategy to some extent, but it all comes down to hitting the ball where you want to, where you're looking and making some good swings and execute the shots. But the greens are very fast. They were very firm. They're going to be a little softer now, but hopefully we don't get a whole lot more rain the next few days and it will all firm up again, which will be pretty demanding. And there's some rather

long holes out there, too, for senior golf, pretty long shots.

**Q. I know most of your tournaments are 54 holes, the majors obviously are 72. Any different mindset or way you approach --**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Not really. The only difference may be, you know, in a 72-hole event you can have one mediocre day as long as the other three are good and probably still win. When you only have three rounds, you can't really have a bad day or a mediocre day, you've got to have three good ones, so that's the only difference.

**Q. Bernhard, do you have a preference for the type of course that you like? You've obviously had success on many different types of courses. This is an older style east coast course as opposed to some of the target golf and stuff. Do you have a preference, and does this place, do you kind of like the way it looks off the tee and so forth for you?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I do like it. You know, it doesn't even remind me of an old-style golf course as such because it reminds me more of a links course almost because there's some holes where you can run the ball in, some others you can't. But it was redone and the way they set it up I think is really unique. It's pretty cool.

Like you said, if you play great golf, you ought to play good no matter where you go. And that's always been my philosophy, so I don't like to say, oh, I prefer this course and I hate the other course because then when I play on that course I'm going to have a bad attitude or a negative way of going into it, which is not the right thing to do. So I try and embrace whatever I find and see it as a challenge and make the best of it.

**Q. Bernhard, how long do you see yourself playing at this level?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No idea. I really don't know. I've always said three things have to be in place. I need to be healthy. If you're not healthy, you can't play the way you want to play or you can't play at all. Secondly, I need some success and I need to enjoy the game. They kind of go hand in hand. So if there's ever a day or a period of time when I don't enjoy the game anymore or when I play so poorly that I probably won't enjoy it or have no success or if I'm hurt, then it's time to quit. Obviously there could be other things, too. You know, if there's certain family issues that need to be addressed or something else happens in my life where I just need to play less golf, then I'll make that decision.

But right now I don't see any reason and I know the clock is ticking. I'm going to be 59 in August so I know this is not going to last for another 30 years at this level. I'm aware of that, but I think there's still a number of good years in me.

**Q. Do you feel just as good as you did when you were 50 or even 40?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Pretty close to it, yes. I mean, there's some days when things hurt

a little more, but overall it's not a big difference.

**Q. From a legacy standpoint, would winning three of these tournaments mean anything to you? Would passing Trevino at this point mean anything to you? Are there moments that you want to achieve or things you want to achieve that you haven't done yet that you feel like you could add to your Hall of Fame career?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it's always cool to be mentioned with some of the legends and the greats of the game. You know, when I won two weeks ago I was told that I'm the only guy, together with Nicklaus, that won four of the five majors. Nobody else has done that before. Actually, nobody's ever won all five majors on this tour, so that's pretty cool. You know, so there's a bunch of things that are so-called in the record books that I'm not even aware of. I'm playing golf to win or to do the best I can. If I should achieve any records, fantastic. If not, I'm still giving it my best and trying to have a good time all at the same.

**Q. Is Irwin's record attainable?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It's going to be extremely tough to get even close to what he's -- the number of tournaments he's won. You know, that's not what I'm focusing on. I'm focusing on day-to-day stuff to get my technique to become more reliable, better.

I saw you smile and I know what you're thinking, but I strongly believe that I can still get better at this age. I can still improve my technique where I hit the ball more often in the center of the clubface, hit more fairways, more greens, give myself more opportunities for birdie putts or eagle putts. I'm going to lose a bit of length sooner or later, going to lose some strength and flexibility as age catches up, but hopefully I can make up some of that stuff by just having better technique, better knowledge of the golf swing and of myself, what I can do and what I can't do.

**Q. Did you work harder this offseason because of what you had to deal with as relates to the putter? Was that an inspiration for you in any way to get ready for this year or a motivation or something that was under your skin that you wanted to prove to other people?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It was not an inspiration, no, but I worked harder on my putting than I ever have done in the offseason I think for as long as I can remember, just trying all these different methods, different grips, different putter lengths, different putter types, different weights, different grips on the putter. I've spent hours out there and it was exhausting at times. But was it fun? Not really, no. And then I end up still putting the way I used to, so it's almost a waste of time but I had to go through it to see what feels good or what doesn't feel so good.

**Q. Did you dig that ball out when you were playing volleyball, did you dig it out, did you save it?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** There were many, not just one, so that was the issue, yeah. Too many. I should have -- we played too much, we played like two and a half hours nonstop, which isn't a smart thing to do. But when you have fun out there with family and friends, just got away from me and I was hurting the next day.

**Q. Where were you, was that in Boca?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** On the beach, yeah, in Florida.

**ALEX URBAN:** Bernhard, good luck on your defense this week.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Thank you, appreciate it.