

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: BERNHARD LANGER
June 10, 2016



ALEX URBAN: All right, Bernhard, you are 1 under par through two rounds here. Obviously you have some experience in this championship. Nice round today in difficult conditions. Just take us through your overall thoughts about your round today.

BERNHARD LANGER: Played very nicely today really. Kept the ball in play, hit a lot of fairways, hit a lot of greens. Really that was maybe the worst score I could have shot, I think. I just had a few chances coming in and didn't convert; you know, birdie chances. But overall I'm pretty pleased. I'm right in the mix of things and we are only halfway so we've got 36 holes to go.

Really only one blemish today, the bogey I made when I really -- it was a good shot, I just took the wrong club, misjudged the wind, came up a couple feet short and rolled in the bunker and didn't get up and down. I was very happy with the way I struck the ball today and the way I managed the golf course.

Q. The wind didn't seem as blustery as it was yesterday but was it still tough because it didn't seem consistent throughout the round?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, there was still wind out there. Yesterday we had probably 15 to 25, today was more like 10, 11, 12, sometimes 7 or 8 miles an hour, so more manageable. It was the same direction, so the players already played a round of golf yesterday with the same direction of wind so you kind of -- you know, it's almost a little bit easier the second time around. If the wind switches the other way, then you're playing a totally different golf course again and you've got to really adjust your clubs and everything else.

Q. John Daly took issue I think with some of the pin placements out here on the course. Is that just championship golf in a senior major?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I mean, he should know that's what happens. He's played long enough on the PGA Tour, they're pretty tough out there. The European Tour, they're not easy. And this is a major. We're not here playing a pro-am or a member-member where you put the pins in the middle of the green.

Q. Bernhard, what do you think of the greens? Do you think they're speeding up and do you think they might get faster on the weekend?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I don't know. I don't know this course well enough and what happens, but I imagine they're going to get a little firmer because we had all this rain on Wednesday afternoon and so yesterday they were still a little soft. Today they were already

firmer. If we don't get any more rain, the whole golf course will firm up. The fairways will get fast, the greens will get hard, and they're already fast so I don't know how much faster they're going to get to roll but it will certainly get firmer.

Q. Does a firm and fast golf course favor your style of game?

BERNHARD LANGER: I would like to say I can play in all conditions, but maybe that's being full of myself. I don't think so, because I've won in all conditions so, you know, we'll take whatever comes.

Q. Do you feel your experience, especially being successful on this tour, gives you an advantage going into the weekend?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, but all these guys have been successful, that's why they're out here. Let's face it, there's only 80 guys playing and most of them are -- you know, have won many, many, many times all over the place and they're legends, great players, so they don't lack experience. We're all over 50 so we've got all that. We know what it takes to win. But I've won more than most of them so maybe it will give me a slight advantage.

Q. Brandt Jobe was in here and he said -- we asked him about tomorrow and he said, Well, if I'm playing with Bernhard Langer, I must be playing pretty good if I'm paired with him. Do you know anything about Brandt?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I've known him from the PGA Tour, we were out there for a bunch of years. Hits the ball very, very far, way beyond me. So if we're playing together I'll be first to hit pretty much most of the time, I think.

Q. On the hole that you did make the bogey on, the bunker shot, were you playing for that much break or did that get away?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, no, I knew it was going to break but it came out too far right. I was trying to play it six feet left and it came out straight and then it just veered off. That was a bad shot. It didn't come out the way I wanted it to.

Q. And the other thing is how would you compare this course to other major championship courses? Can you compare it to anything or is it unique?

BERNHARD LANGER: It reminds me a little bit of Fox Chapel in Pittsburgh where we played two years ago, I believe, this championship. It has a bit of a similar look, you know.

Q. Bernhard, Joe touched on it. Do you like -- your name has come up an awful lot this week and other weeks just because you're so consistently near the top. Do you like that, does it bother you, does it affect your play at all when you're kind of looked at as the guy to beat each week?

BERNHARD LANGER: Not at all. That's what you want. On the regular tour, whatever, there were times when Nicklaus or Tiger were the guys to beat and it's just, I don't know, testimony to how well I've played the last few years out here. Like Brandt Jobe said, well, if I'm paired with Bernhard I must be playing okay. So it's a compliment to be mentioned in that regard and to be figured as one of the guys that have a chance to win the tournament. So I'll take it as a compliment and it doesn't bother me at all. Like sometimes people say, I hate to bother you, I just recognized you, could I have your signature? I said, No, it doesn't bother me at all. It would bother me a lot more if you wouldn't recognize me because that would mean I'm not doing very well.

Q. Bernhard, three of the par 3s on this course are rather short yet they're causing guys a lot of trouble. What are your thoughts on that?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it's actually nice. You know, most courses we play nowadays, they're 200, 240 yards long and you just blast it out there. I like a couple of short par 3s. The greens are tricky, the wind makes it tough, and then they have some good pin positions.

You know, like today I started off hitting a lob wedge into one, hit a perfect shot, didn't hit the green. Hit the green but it spun into the fringe. Second hole hit a great pitching wedge, didn't stay on the green, rolled through the back into the fringe. So I've just hit two great wedge shots and I haven't hit a green yet in regulation. That's what can happen out here. You really need to know the slope of the green and how the ball will react, will it spin back or will it bounce forward. And the course has plenty of protection from the greens and the wind that it's no problem to have a 140-yard or 120-yard par 3 out there.