

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: BERNHARD LANGER**  
**June 11, 2016**

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**MICHAEL BALIKER:** I'd like to welcome Bernhard Langer into the interview room here.

Bernhard, 1-under-par 69 today, you now hold a three-shot lead heading into Sunday. Just talk about the day and especially that finish there birdieing two of the last four there.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it was nice to finish strong because the last couple days I had my issues with the back nine, but today was just kind of the opposite. Had an up-and-down start in the middle of the round, lots of bogeys and a bunch of birdies and just couldn't get it going. Mis-hit a few shots and just then had long putts from 30 yards, 25 yards and three-putted a couple times.

So eventually seemed like I settled down, found my rhythm and played a very nice back nine. I hit it pretty close on 12, I guess that hole up there, and had a real good chance on 13 from six feet, which I missed. Played very solid the last few where I made -- as you said, birdied 15 and 16 and two good pars coming home.

**Q. Bernhard, how did you find the course today as compared to the first two days?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It was very similar, tell you the truth. It just dries out. Like we talked about yesterday, that sun and the wind, the greens are getting pretty crusty, pretty fast. If you get yourself in the wrong place, if you're out of position, you're paying the price. You can't even get within 15, 20 feet many times. So it's very strategic play, and with the kind of wind we had again, fairly strong and off a different direction today, it was a different golf course altogether. It's just hard to position the ball where you would like to be underneath the hole when the wind is blowing like this.

**Q. Now that you have three rounds under your belt, have you learned where the spots are on certain holes and on this course where to go, where not to go, and more than anything by the look of the scores, how to almost play safe golf?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, sometimes par is a wonderful score. It's a real major, it's like playing the U.S. Open or whatever where par is a good score. So don't blame guys when they play for the middle of the green here and there because there's some long holes out there, some tough holes where most of the guys would be extremely happy to be in the middle of the green. That's what you have to do at times.

But yes, I'm learning a little bit more every day. You pick up one or two things, hopefully just small things because I took a real good look at the practice round. But as the wind switches, you're playing a different golf course and you're still learning. I've definitely learned that you can't short-side yourself and you can't be above the hole most of the time. Those are the

two big criteria and that's what I did yesterday. I often was a 6-iron into the green and I took a 7-iron just to make sure I'm short, and sometimes I was 15 yards short but I still made my par because it's better being 15 yards short than five yards too long at times.

**Q. Bernhard, you've been playing golf a long time but how do you feel your patience is when things aren't going well like you said they were in the early part of the round?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it comes and goes. Sometimes my patience is pretty good. It should be good because I had a week off. Usually when I play three or four in a row or something, my patience is very short. It should be okay. There were the odd occasion where I get ticked off with myself just for not committing to a shot or just not hitting it the way I know I can hit it. The scores show how difficult it is. You have extremely good players in the field and hardly anybody's under par, so it just shows how tough the conditions are and the golf course is difficult.

**Q. Bernhard, I interviewed Sluman after you won in '14 over in Pittsburgh and he said of you that you're a guy that doesn't beat yourself and thus that's why you're so hard to beat. What are your keys to not beating yourself?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** That's a good question. I'm pretty hard on myself, to tell you the truth, because I put a lot into it so I expect a lot. I prepare well and I give it 100 percent so I expect results. But on the other hand I know how difficult it is, and once a guy says you have to forgive yourself before you even hit bad shots because you're going to hit some bad shots, and it sounds so simple but it's a lot of wisdom behind that. But I just try and play strategically smart, whatever that is for me. If I don't feel good with my driver, I hit 3-wood. I hit 3-wood on 18 which is, whatever it is, 400 and quite a few yards straight into the wind. I went with 3-wood and 3-hybrid. I could have hit driver and maybe 4-iron, 5-iron, but I felt better that way. That's what I do. I sometimes hit drivers when others hit 3-wood because I feel good, and then when I don't feel good, I take a hybrid or 3-wood and just keep it in the fairway. I think the key is to hit fairways and hit greens and leave the ball below the hole. If you can do that, you can break par around here.

**Q. What keeps you motivated to play at such a high level with all the success you've had on this tour?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, my wife and my four kids. (Laughs.) I'm just kidding. Getting everybody through college. No, I'm a competitive guy and I enjoy the game of golf. Whatever I do, I want to do it well. If not, why even do it. That's why I give it 100 percent in whatever my task is. And I still enjoy competing, I love this tour. There's a lot of great guys, a lot of champions, great families. We had our tour fellowship last night, our Bible study, and it was a wonderful hour and a half of camaraderie and learning and just sharing and praying for each other. That means a lot to me.

**Q. You stuck with the long putter after the rule change and it hasn't seemed to affect you. What kind of an adjustment was it for you?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, I'm glad it didn't affect me too much. I put a lot of effort and many, many hours into trying all sorts of putting styles and grips and different lengths and different weights and different lofts. I mean, you name it, I pretty much tried it. The only thing I didn't try is left handed.

I just came to the conclusion that the best thing for me at this time is to stick with the long putter and just don't anchor it and it's been working reasonably well. I've already won two tournaments, I'm leading the Schwab Cup in the Money List and what else can you ask for? Right now I'm sticking with it. Don't be surprised if you see me one day with something else, but at the moment I don't have the time or the energy to devote into a different putting style.

**Q. You opened the topic so I'm going to bring it there. Talking about your preparation and your patience. You and I spoke many times about your comfort and composure. It's just a little bit better when you do have family here. Can you tell us why that's the case?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, because it's -- everybody that's out here and has been doing this for many years, I've been doing this for 40 years, started the tour when I was 18. So living out of a suitcase and hotel and by yourself, it gets very boring very fast. When I do have family around, it's just more fun, there's a little more distraction, it's a little better bonding time and I have Stefan and Hillary with me and I don't see them very often. It's unique and it makes it special.

And Jay's not in, forget about you. I see more of you at home than I do the others.

**Q. The Cricket Club has undergone a restoration in the last year and this is the third significant event they've had here. What's the consensus of the players on this course, could it hold an even bigger event? What do you guys think?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** A bigger event? There's no bigger event. This is huge. (Laughs.)

No, of course they could hold any event here. You could make this golf course so hard, it's unbelievable. They have still a few hundred yards, some back tees, they can tighten these fairways and let the rough grow and you won't even find the golf ball. Yeah, this is a real test and it's a fantastic design and a great layout.

The only problem could be hosting an even bigger event as you call it, where do you put all the tented village? You would have to do what they're doing right now where the holes are mixed up and you're starting out here and you're putting everything away from the clubhouse sort of thing. But that's done in other events, other venues and they can do it here, too. They've got another golf course over there so they've got lots of room, I imagine. It just takes some kind of bright mind to figure it all out.

**Q. They're actually doing it this week. This is not the normal configuration.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I know, that's why I'm saying. I'm aware of that.

**Q. Just want to go back to that volleyball game one more time if you don't mind?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Don't remind me of it. One day I'll grow up and I'll figure that it's time to quit.

**Q. Who was your partner in that game, was it a two-on-two or who was on your team?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, first I played with a friend of mine against our two sons, and then we had a Ryder Cup match or father-son against father-son. And yeah, it was two and a half hours nonstop and I was just -- that's my competitive nature. I was diving for balls that I should let go and I'm paying the price. I was hurting really, really bad. I couldn't lift my arm, couldn't do this and I couldn't do that (indicating) and that was only 10 days ago. Very pleased I'm here where I am right now.

**Q. That was my follow-up. Did you have an MRI or x-ray or have you received treatment on it here or back at home?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I saw a physiotherapist immediately and then I called my doctor friend in Germany who I really trust because he's just helped me tremendously over the years with all sorts of injuries. He got my thumb back to where it was after the surgeon said, Well, there's nothing I can do anymore. I did surgery, I did it great but now you have arthritis. I said, Well, great, thanks for telling me. Same pain I had before surgery.

Anyways, this guy's phenomenal and he told me what to do and I did a few exercises, took an anti-inflammatory and a few days later it got a lot better.

**Q. There's a rumor that the reason the teams were split up was because the fathers couldn't take the sons, you had to split it up?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It may not just be a rumor, this may be the truth. We ran out of gas, you know? We needed some young blood.

**Q. Bernhard, you know what Bart Bryant's going through, he shared it with us yesterday. Talked to Kathy today. Obviously a lot of this is faith based, but what do you think of what Bart's doing playing as well as he has under such emotional duress?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Don't know. Sorry, I'm getting emotional. It's got to be really hard for him to even think about golf. That's all I can say.

**Q. Bernhard, one quick question. You've won four of the last 11 majors on this tour. If you could pinpoint one specific thing that you think has really been the difference in**

**these big tournaments on this tour, what would it be?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** You can't, it's not one specific thing. It's a combination of a lot of things. You know, it's all sorts of stuff, and just because when you get all those things together, when they all come together, then you can perform at your best and you can win majors. And that needs to happen during major weeks, so it doesn't happen very often; otherwise, somebody would have won 20 but nobody has and nobody probably ever will.