

DAVE SENKO: Well, Bernhard, thanks for joining us. You've had a run of success here as you've had at several other tournaments. How special is it to come back here to the Boeing Classic?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's very special. It's a very unique setting here, just beautiful in the northwest. People are very friendly, the golf course is always in great shape, and the challenge to play. The tournament is run extremely well, and with Boeing we have a fantastic sponsor. So it's a win-win-win-win situation all along. It's always a great time of the year to get away from the heat in Florida and come to this, it's pretty cool. I love coming here. It's one of my favorite sceneries that we ever see year round. I love the mountains.

DAVE SENKO: What are the keys on this golf course to be successful?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's really everything. I was asked that question a number of times. You've got to drive it well to start off with. There's a few key driving holes. Then you've got to -- the greens, some are fairly large but they're all small pockets and you have got to hit the right pocket. If you're in the wrong place, you're going to struggle to make par. It's hard to get it up and down, it's sometimes hard to two-putt, so you've got to hit the right part of the green. That's obviously a lot easier if you come from the fairway, and it's easier with a shorter club in your hand.

Then there's a bunch of risk and reward holes where you can take on a whole bunch of risk and if you pull it off, it's great, but if you don't, you get punished. So there's a lot of those options, at least two or three I can think of, which can be deciding the tournament at times.

DAVE SENKO: How would you assess your year so far? Three wins and you won two majors and contended in actually all the five majors this year.

BERNHARD LANGER: It's been very good, there's no doubt about it. I got off to a great start in the first, whatever, six, seven, eight tournaments. I had three wins there and I've been playing very solid. I think my worst finish has been 13th all year. That's hard to do out here, there's a lot of great players. It's been very consistent. Obviously there's days when I putt bad or there's days when I don't do this right or that right, but overall over a period of three or four days it's been very consistent and pretty good.

Q. Seems like everybody says on this tour when you turn 50 you have a big advantage, and yet (inaudible) on the tour and so consistent. Do you find it harder to stay at this level at this age, or what's your secret?

BERNHARD LANGER: I don't find it harder. I mean, what I do see is that some of the

younger guys that are coming out, the 50-, 51-year-olds, they hit it by me now 20 yards or something like that, which there weren't a lot of guys hit it by me when I was 50, 51. There were a couple then. Fred Couples was always long and you had the odd other ones. Sandy Lyle can kill it, and there's a few guys that are just big and built and they always -- John Huston can maneuver it out there forever. I was one of the top-10 even in driving distance. Right now, I'm not top-10 anymore, I'm pretty sure I'm not, but you're talking a few yards. So it's more important to be precise than to be long.

I still, you know, I'm a strong believer that I can still get better, even at my age. I can still improve my technique. If I can do that, I hit the ball more solid and straighter, I can hit more fairways, more greens, and you can always get better around the greens and on the greens if you can putt like the boss of the moss or chip like Phil Mickelson or something like that.

So there's room for improvement even at my age. People think you ought to get worse. No, the only thing that happens as you get older is you lose strength and you lose flexibility, so you're going to hit it a little shorter. But every other aspect of the game you can get better. You can get better at the mental game, you can get better at golf course management and just the knowledge, your technique, knowing what works, what doesn't and maybe fixing yourself.

There were times in my career when I was hitting the ball sideways and I didn't quite know why. So I'm trying to learn more about myself, my tendencies and how to, if the ball goes this way, I'm probably doing that so let's not do that and try to learn to fix myself while I'm out there, which is not easy because the game of golf is a game of opposites and most of the time it leads you somewhere else than where it really is. You hit the ball right and you're swinging left, and you hit it left and you're swinging right. It doesn't make sense, so you really have to study yourself and the technique.

Q. Colin Montgomerie was saying you practice harder than anybody on the Tour. Is that something you like doing, do you have to push yourself to practice, or is that something that kind of comes naturally to work that hard?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's kind of natural to me but I don't practice that hard when I'm home. A lot of guys practice really hard when they're home. They're out there every day. I don't do that. When I get home on Monday, I'll put the clubs away and maybe pick them up on Friday again or Saturday. So I practice fairly hard when I'm out here because I have great facilities and I'm out here mostly by myself. My family doesn't travel that much. So I utilize the time to work on my game. But when I'm home, I don't spend six or eight hours a day on the golf course working on my game.

Q. Do you think that keeps you more fresh or just still enjoying the game because you don't --

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it certainly has -- I think I learned 20 years ago or 25 years ago that I have to pace myself. I have to take weeks off, and as we get older we need more

of that. We need more time off. And I have other interests. I have family, I have a wife, kids. I like working out, I like going to church and Bible Studies and do different things. I'm involved in running golf tournaments in Europe. You know, I have a few sponsor commitments that I need to attend to and things like that.

So I have other interests, not just hitting balls and putting, which is good. It keeps me away from the game for a few days and after a while I'm eager again, I'm willing to put the work in and it's fun. It's okay, it doesn't get boring. If you would make me play -- I don't play more than two or three in a row because I've learned if I play four, five, six in a row, I get really frustrated. I get, you know, short with myself, I don't enjoy it anymore.

Q. Playing at the Masters this year and being in contention in the final round, that must have been a pretty cool experience?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, it's fantastic. Nobody expects it, and to be out there with the young guys on a very long golf course and competing head to head with them, it's a lot of fun, yeah.

Q. Any idea, I mean, I think Hale Irwin was probably good longer than anybody has been on this tour. Do you have any idea how long you want to do this?

BERNHARD LANGER: I really don't know. It depends on how my body holds up and how my mind holds up in a sense. How long do I want to do this, how long do I want to go through it, and will my body even allow me to go through it. I could hurt myself any day and I could be done either forever or for a period of time, and then it's hard to come back. That's where it's important to just have a certain fitness routine and do your stretching and take care of your body as much as you can, but there's no guarantees.

Q. You've spent thousands of years in hotels. Not thousands --

BERNHARD LANGER: Days.

Q. What's the secret to just being on the road?

BERNHARD LANGER: There's no secret, it's just plain tough and boring. You know, the first few years it's fun because you're going to a new place and it's all a different culture. I used to travel the whole world, I played everywhere, so it's all kind of new and exciting and different. But then once you've seen it a couple times, it's not that new anymore, it's not that exciting. That's the hardest part of my job, is being away from family and friends, no doubt about it. And there's no secret to it. I mean, you can have friends out here and spend time with people on tour, whether it's players or caddies and all that, but that's not quite the same as spending time with your own family.

Q. Do you have like a white noise machine so you always get sleep?

BERNHARD LANGER: No. One thing I do ask is for a quiet room away from highways or away from elevators or soda machines or ice machines. You know, it's the last thing I need is to be woken up six times a night because of exterior noise.

DAVE SENKO: Thanks, Bernhard.

BERNHARD LANGER: You're welcome, pleasure.