PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: BERNHARD LANGER August 24, 2017



Q. (in progress) on Sunday, the jacket, you hope?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, hopefully. You can't think about that now. Just trying to play every shot on every hole and do the best you can, but yeah, that would be a nice bonus.

Q. Old guys aren't supposed to win out here.

BERNHARD LANGER: Says who? We're all old, just a matter of how old. Just a matter of how old. There's a lot of young guys winning out here. Plus, like Trevino once said, the golf ball doesn't know how old we are, didn't know what hits it.

Q. What's the secret to staying so young and vibrant about it? You continue to work very hard, I don't know if a lot of people see that behind the scenes.

BERNHARD LANGER: I just have a good work ethic, I think. I learned that from my parents growing up and believe in it. That's part of me, so I try to prepare well and give 100 percent and that's just how I live life. I have decent genes or whatever you want to call it, some good and some bad about it. Living an active lifestyle, walking a lot, which we do out here on the tour, on any tour, I think it's good and it's healthy. Being in nature, all that is good. Working out, enjoy what you're doing. Most of the time I enjoy my job.

Q. When do you not enjoy it?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, there's things when things go really wrong, you know. At times you just miss your family, miss your friends, miss your home after 42 years traveling. There's a few other things, too. It's not all five-star living, you've got to give up a few things.

Q. What's the key to this golf course? You've had success here.

BERNHARD LANGER: I think Nicklaus courses in general, they just -- this is a Nicklaus, right?

Q. Yep.

BERNHARD LANGER: They just make you, if you're out of position, you get punished so you need to be in the right place, play for the right place, hit it reasonably straight and take your chances on some holes but be aware of the punishment that you can get, and there's a bunch of holes out here where you can get really punished if you hit it whatever it is, too short, too far or crooked. The greens are quite tricky, some of them, so you've got to be very precise and take what you can, be aware of all the dangers, too.

Q. Anything stand out to you this year on this course, any changes?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, there were no changes, and I think the course is in really good shape. You can tell they haven't had a lot of rain here, but I think the course is pretty much where they want it to be. We've had years where it was too soft, years when it was too firm or too dry, but I think right now it's really good.

Q. Talk about this tournament in general. One, obviously people love you, seems to be a nice relationship that you have with the area, with the crowds here?

BERNHARD LANGER: It seems that way, yeah. I really enjoy the people up here, and I'm an outdoorsy guy so I can see why people live in the Northwest. I've had some success here, I've won the Senior U.S. Open, I've won two of the Boeing Classics. I think Boeing is a fantastic company to be sponsoring a tournament in this area. They have lots of employees, they're very successful worldwide, so it seems to be a very good combination.

I've certainly felt like the people have taken to me here. Made a number of friends from volunteers to people I go back 35 years in Munich, Germany, they live here now, things like that. So it's been a good relationship and I always look forward coming here, just enjoy the scenery and everything about the tournament.

Q. Are you a Mariners fan now that your daughter's --

BERNHARD LANGER: I have to be. Don't write that, no, no. I wasn't following baseball much, just we don't play it much in Germany, but now that my daughter is going to marry a baseball player I'll learn more and more about baseball and the intricacies of the game and the rules. It's becoming more interesting for me to watch because I really understand what's going on much more than I did before.

Q. You have to hit a ball that's moving?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, I know. It's quite the opposite from what we're doing. We don't want to hit a moving ball.

Q. Do you feel like your game is still getting better all these years? Do you find new things that you're improving in areas?

BERNHARD LANGER: That's what I'm trying. There have certainly been parts of my game that have gotten better, I think. My technique can get better so I hit more fairways, more greens in regulation. My short game can always get better, I can always improve my putting, my chipping, my bunker game. It's never perfect. My thinking can get better at times.

So there's a lot of areas where you can still improve even though you're getting older. I'm going to at some point lose some distance and lose some strength and flexibility and maybe

even concentration, I don't know. Try to make up for it in all these other areas.

So yeah, lately it's been good. The last few years my scoring average was very good, my statistics are pretty good in most categories, and that's what I like to see.

Q. Do you look forward to this tournament?

BERNHARD LANGER: Always, yeah, um-hmm.

Q. Where do you put all the hardware?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it's growing actually. Good thing we have a big house with lots of space. There are quite a few now so it's fun.

Q. Do you have room for another Boeing Classic trophy?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, there's always room for anything and everything. I heard nobody's won this tournament three times, so it's about time somebody did so I'll give it my best shot.

Q. And no first-round leader has ever won this thing.

BERNHARD LANGER: Really? That strikes me as --

Q. You've won I think it's 16 of our events on the schedule.

BERNHARD LANGER: 16 out of 26.

Q. You know, a couple of them are new, but that's pretty --

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, all different courses and different grasses.