

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**July 31, 2020**



**BERNHARD LANGER (-5)**

---

**THE MODERATOR:** Bernhard, great playing today. How did it feel to get off to a good start after such a long layoff from competition?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it felt good. It was almost kind of new, a little apprehensive, didn't know what to expect. But didn't take too long to get into the groove. And I had a solid day. Made a bunch of birdies out there, and just a couple of bogeys, but got to work on that stuff, too. Work on the short game a little bit. There were just two bad chip shots really.

**THE MODERATOR:** Did it take you any time to get into your round, or did it kind of feel like old hat once you got in there?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It took a couple of holes to get back to pretty comfortable. And started very solid. Hit a lot of good shots, gave myself opportunities. Birdied the second, and then made another birdie somewhere not too long after that. So it felt pretty comfortable out there.

**Q. What about the course today? No fans. Obviously, 17 is a completely different animal out there.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah.

**Q. Tell us a little bit about that aspect of it, missing the fans, and especially 17 there.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Right. It's different. Very different playing without fans. And it's unprecedented. I have been on Tour 44 years and don't ever recall not having fans, so it's very weird in a sense. So but you just -- as you play, you just try and accept what it is, block it out. We are grateful we can play. Other sports probably struggle a lot more. We're outside, we have fresh air. We can do social distancing, so the danger is much less than other sports where there's contact and closeness. So, yeah, we got to get used to that, having no fans, for a little while. And hopefully it won't be that long till they come back and we will enjoy the atmosphere again like we normally do at 17, where it's -- it's just amazing. But right now we're going to deal with what it is.

**Q. What about -- Billy said something about this just a second ago. He said coming down the holes like 9 and 18, where you got all of this infrastructure in the past, the way the hole plays, and he said he almost didn't recognize some of the holes.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Absolutely, yeah. It looks different, yeah. I played a practice round and I look at the 18th green, I'm going, man, this looks so different without all the grandstands around it. It's actually a lot of open ground beyond the green. You never see that normally as a player. So it does look different. But we kind of shoot for the pin or for the hole anyway, so we just have to adjust.

**Q. I was going to say you got this momentum going right now. Seems like it kind of picked up where you left off a little bit here. Do you feel like you're in that groove that you were back in March?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Probably not quite, but it takes a few days and a few weeks to get into a real groove. But I was playing very solid early on in the year, had -- first four tournaments I could have won all four, I had a chance, and only won one. But as I said, I was more or less in the groove, had a lot of confidence. And you got to build that up again. It's just by having several good rounds, your confidence will build up and you build on that and you keep playing with that, looking forward to more tournaments. So it will take a couple days, but hopefully we'll get there.

**Q. You touched on this a second ago, but, I mean, in that group that you were playing in, that would be the biggest group here this weekend with fans going around. Was it kind of strange (inaudible) man, nobody's watching us?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, absolutely. It's just very different. I played with Ernie Els. He had a hole in one today, and we were the only ones clapping and cheering. And so everybody around us on other holes were going, oh, what's going on? Somebody had a hole in one. But normally that would have been a huge cheer. You could have heard that roar all over the golf course. And it's just how it is right now.

**Q. Were there any adjustments you made from those practice rounds the day before till today?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, not really. The golf course plays very similar. We had a bit of rain. It played firm my first practice round, and it played soft after the rain, softish. And right now it's sort of in between. The wind switched as well. Early in the week we had -- I think it was westerly wind, now we have northerly winds, so the golf course plays a little different. But very similar to yesterday. We had the pro-am yesterday. The conditions were very much like today. The golf course is in great shape. And no excuses, just got to hit it well, hit fairways, hit greens, and make some putts.

**Q. Our German friend wanted to get one question on camera in German.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** All right. They show golf in Germany now?

**Q. Bernhard, you shot a 67 today. What was it like to get off to such a good start**

after going off?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** (Speaking German.)

**Q. Couldn't have said it better myself.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** You understood all of that, right?

**THE MODERATOR:** Thanks, Bernhard.