

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 27, 2021



BERNHARD LANGER (-8)

Q. Bernhard, 64 on your birthday. First time shooting your age. Your thoughts on the round today?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, it was awesome. First of all, that atmosphere all day was incredible from people singing happy birthday three different times during the day. I think it was on the first tee and then on the 17th green and just wherever I basically walked and played, people yelled out "Happy Birthday" and all that, so it was pretty cool.

I was texting with my family this morning because of the rain delay and I said, "My goal is to shoot my age today and give myself a birthday present." Just shows you the strengths of the mind if you put something in your mind and a goal and sometimes you can achieve it.

It's the first time I shot my age. I've tried for two years. Actually had a bet with Scott McCarron when I was 62, we had a bet for dinner. If I don't shoot my age, I owe him dinner. If I shoot my age, he owes me dinner. So now we're 1-1. It's a lot of fun. It's just great out here. The guys were -- I told the story to Rod Pampling over breakfast. I played with him and he was rooting for me all day long and cheering me on, so it's pretty special.

Q. Was it cool to see like Jim come -- like he was at the media and we only asked him two questions and he goes, "Everybody wants to go see Bernhard," and he said, "I want to go see Bernhard, too."

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, that was a big surprise, I didn't expect that. I know he was up on the leaderboard. I was trying not to look at the leaderboard, I was just focusing on my own game, but for him to make the effort to come by is pretty neat. That just speaks volumes for this tour, that the guys are this close and care for each other and just have a lot of fun with each other.

Q. I don't suppose you would have been disappointed if you made that birdie and didn't shoot your age, would you, on 18?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, I didn't birdie 18, I parred 18. No, better than age? No, that would have been even better, one better. But I made an incredible putt on 17 in front of a large crowd and it was just fantastic to see that ball drop in to go 8 under par. I was trying not to mess up 18 or maybe make birdie and go even lower than my age.

Q. I know we ask you all the time, but like how do you keep -- you're 64 now, how do you keep sort of doing this?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it's a lot of fun, that explains it. I'm still reasonably healthy. I have lots of aches and pains, but I'm reasonably healthy. I can do this still fairly well and still competitive. I know Father Time is ticking and it won't last forever, so I'm trying to enjoy every day I'm out here.

The camaraderie I have with the players, the caddies, the officials, you guys, it's pretty neat. To be able to do this for 45 years now for myself as a professional on Tour, it's pretty much unheard of that many years, and to be successful most of those years. So I'm very blessed, I know it. I've got to pinch myself every once in a while. Lately I've been a grandfather, as you know, and really enjoying my three grandkids and spending time with them.