

DICK'S SPORTING GOODS OPEN

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW

June 21, 2023



BERNHARD LANGER

Q. Obviously a place you play well at, and I would imagine a place you enjoy coming back to.

BERNHARD LANGER: Absolutely. I love the golf course. Hasn't changed a bit in many, many years. It's in better condition lately than even many years ago. One of the favorite spots and I think it's a course that suits me. You've got to drive the ball well, got to keep it straight on the fairway and there's plenty of trees and some water to catch you.

Q. How are you feeling about your game coming into the week?

BERNHARD LANGER: I've been playing fairly solid. Lots of finishes between 10s and 25th or something, so I know I'm not far away, but I also know I need to tighten up certain things. Working on that stuff, trying to improve my swing a little bit and mostly my putting. We'll see where it takes me.

Q. You took some time off after Iowa. Was there anything (inaudible)?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, I was just -- three in a row is a lot. I didn't enjoy three in a row when I was in my 20s and 30s and I'm in my 60s. It's going to be probably more of a routine for me to play two.

Promised my wife 15, 20 years ago I wouldn't do three in a row and I broke the promise a few times. So anyways, that's the main reason. Play two in a row most of the time and enjoy a little bit of time off. I'm still playing 25 tournaments a year, which is more than most. I've been doing this for 50 years. That answers it I think why I take a week off here and there.

Q. In case no one's told you, you're going for 46 wins.

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, really? That's new.

Q. Given what Steve Stricker's doing, obviously kind of diverting maybe a little bit of the attention. Is that something that you welcome, kind of a --

BERNHARD LANGER: Not really. I'd rather me be winning six in a row or whatever. No, Steve has played some great golf and always has been a phenomenal champion and hats off to him.



But yeah, I'm aware of needing one more to have the record to myself. That's part of the process, but it's part of the process, it's not the all.

Q. We have rain in the forecast throughout the weekend. A, do you think that kind of helps or hurts your game compared to other golfers, and is that anything you guys prep for ahead of time?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, we don't prep for it, but I'm going to play tomorrow in the pro-am and it's going to be firm unless we get rain. Then I'll play Friday and it's probably going to be soaking wet. I'm aware it may be different, it may be changing, but hey, that's the Champions Tour. We've been doing this for many, many years. There's nothing we haven't done before in terms of weather and we know how to play dry conditions and we know how to play wet conditions. It just changes dramatically. The greens get slower, the fairways, you pick up mud balls, the course plays a lot longer but sometimes it plays easier because the ball doesn't run out. So it all depends. Everybody out here has been playing for so long they can adapt to any condition that comes their way.

Q. You mentioned (inaudible) this year. What's it going to take to kind of make this a top-5 or to win this weekend?

BERNHARD LANGER: Better putting mostly. I've been hitting the ball fairly well, good enough to be in contention, and the putting held me back a little bit the last two months. So I've been working on that, thinking about why and trying to work out little kinks, but on this course you've got to hit it very straight as well, keep it out of trouble.

Q. What did Terry tell you about SentryWorld?

BERNHARD LANGER: Nothing yet.

Q. Nothing yet?

BERNHARD LANGER: No. Has he been there? Glad he knows more about it than I do.

Q. When you won here, you had so many great wins over the years, what stands out in your memory from 2014 winning here?

BERNHARD LANGER: That my daughter was caddying for me. It's the only victory I have with her. We have four kids and all our kids actually have caddied a little bit for me and all of them have won a tournament with me, at least one, some several. My son has got about eight of them or something. So that was her one and only so far and that was pretty cool.

And she took the flag off the green and there was still a group behind us, but that was my fault, I told her she could, forgetting there was still a group out there.

Q. Any of your kids caddying this time?



BERNHARD LANGER: No, I have a professional caddie now. That's just on the odd occasions.

Q. Also, you've always kept yourself in superb condition. When you take some time off from actual competition, what do you do? Do you still work out a lot? Do you play at all?

BERNHARD LANGER: I work out every day pretty much when I'm off, but I don't practice necessarily every day and certainly don't play golf every day.

I enjoy just relaxing a little bit and spending time with my wife and my four kids and my four grandkids now. Those are the main focuses.

We were in the process of moving and selling a house. Still in it, building a house, so takes up some time and decision making and visiting the site and all that kind of stuff. Been busy doing that.

Q. And when you play in the pro-am like you will tomorrow, are you looking to learn anything from the course or are you just playing to have some fun tomorrow?

BERNHARD LANGER: Mostly playing to have some fun because this course, I know it well enough. As you say, I've been here 11 times and it hasn't changed. It's not a course that's new to me where I have to pay attention.

Next week is totally different, I don't know the golf course at all and I'm going to really have to pay attention in the two practice rounds that I play to have a good idea of what I want to do.

