

TROPHY CEREMONY
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MODERATOR: How good was that finish? Was that good enough for everybody? What a way to cap off the season, my gosh. Great to have you all here, I'm John Swansick.

This has been one of the most competitive and compelling races for the Charles Schwab Cup that we have had in recent memory. There were 10 players with a chance to win the Cup coming into the week and the 36 guys in the field, including a couple that we're going to speak with here momentarily did not shortchange us on the drama.

Before we talk with Bernhard and Steven, I'm going to recognize and thank some important people who have made this a special season and a terrific week as always here in Phoenix, beginning with Ron Castro, past president of Phoenix Country Club. Thank you, Ron. A truly special place you have here.

Tiffany Nelson-Thorne is the executive director of the Charles Schwab Cup. Great work from your team as always, Tiffany. That's right.

The president of the Charles Schwab Corporation is Rick Wurster.

And lastly, I'll hand it off to the president of PGA TOUR Champions, Mr. Miller Brady. Take it away, Miller.

MILLER BRADY: Thank you. Wow, what an amazing week it has been, an amazing day today and I'll start with an amazing year with all of our tournaments and our title sponsors that allow us to have this tour, allow us to bring our finale here to Phoenix Country Club. It's been a tremendous week, the weather probably couldn't have been any better this week.

I would like to thank the 650 volunteers for all of your effort, thank you very much.

I would like to give a huge shout-out to Phoenix Country Club, Craig Werline, the superintendent. Golf course is amazing. Thank you for hosting us this week.

And I know we'll get to our two winners today here in a moment, but congratulations to both of you guys for an amazing year and really to all of our players for making it to our finale. The top 36 make it to the Charles Schwab Cup. Congratulations to all of the players.

Lastly, we couldn't have a tour, we wouldn't be here today if it were not for the Charles Schwab Corporation. Rick Wurster is going to speak in just a moment. Thank you guys for allowing us to have such a fantastic product week in and week out. With that I would like to introduce the president, Mr. Rick Wurster.



RICK WURSTER: We would like to thank the volunteers and the fans for making this such a special week. As a major employer in the state of Arizona, we're delighted that this tournament raises \$500,000 (inaudible). I would like to congratulate our two winners.

First Bernhard Langer, 18 years in a row with a win, how about that?

And congratulations to Steven Alker on winning his second Schwab Cup, way to go.

MODERATOR: Let's recognize our two winners. Let's begin with the incomparable, Bernhard Langer, who will join us here in a moment.

Bernhard, have to resist the muscle memory of just grabbing the Charles Schwab Cup because he's done it six times in his illustrious career. You did get that piece of hardware in your hands for the first time ironically enough. And 25 different tournaments that you've now won. Put it into words for us.

BERNHARD LANGER: It's hard to describe, as you say. I've got a few of these at home, thank goodness, and really appreciate what Charles Schwab does for the Champions Tour. They're a phenomenal sponsor. We love this tournament, we love this golf course. And Tiffany, you do an amazing job year after year. Yes, she deserves it.

For me, it's unreal. It still has to sink in. Of all the years I've been coming here trying to win this and now it happens when I haven't won a tournament all year.

I want to thank Terry Holt, my caddie and -- yep, hardest working man out here. He put a thought in my head. I hit my wedge there on 18 a little long and he goes, "Well, one more putt you've got to make." He was right, it dropped.

So very, very blessed. Want to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for saving me as well and giving me the confidence and security that I have to compete and to play this game so well.

MODERATOR: As Rick mentioned, you've now won at least one tournament in 18 consecutive years. Is that something you were aware of coming into the day and how motivated were you to keep that streak alive?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, very much so. When we arrived here on Monday, I mentioned to Terry that we haven't won this year and we've only got one more chance. This was the least likely one to win because I've just never done very well here for some reason. But I had one of the best putting weeks of my life. Greenkeeping staff, I owe you one, well done, great job.

MODERATOR: Given the physical adversity you faced this year, Bernhard, coming back remarkably three months after a surgery to repair a ruptured Achilles, describe what it means not only just to make it into this field of 36 here this week, but to leave town with that



trophy in your hands.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it's incredible, my goal was to be here. Just to make it, I had a really good summer, lots of good finishes, lost in a playoff and pretty much secured my spot in this tournament, so I was excited about that.

Obviously this is even more exciting to be holding this trophy, one that's eluded me so many years.

I want to thank all the spectators as well that cheered me on. You were, in soccer we say the 12th man. They play 11, you were the 12th man for me. Thank you for your support not just today but throughout the years.

MODERATOR: Thank you, everyone, and thank you for the thrills that you gave us here today and for nearly two decades out here.

BERNHARD LANGER: My pleasure. And congratulations to our Schwab Cup champion over here. It's a pleasure competing with him and against him. He showed today again why he's up here receiving this big trophy in a second.

MODERATOR: And you showed why you're a Hall of Famer. The great Bernhard Langer, everyone.

Come on in, Steven. Get your hands on this for the second time in three years. Soak it in.

What an amazing run, right? You started by qualifying for the Boeing Classic just a handful of years ago, got you into another event, it all snowballed from there. Here you are with that trophy in your hands for the second time as the season-long champion.

Can you take a moment to reflect on where you've come from and where you've arrived, Steven?

STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it's been a heck of a journey. There's so many people to thank. I've got Team Alker on my bag. You know, this doesn't happen without -- with just me. So many people to thank.

It's been a heck of a ride just to get here and win another one. I know how Bernhard feels now -- well, not really, he's won seven or eight. Just another one. Obviously I would like to win today, but Bernhard, we're going to give a hand for Bernhard, he's incredible, he really is.

MODERATOR: He's won six Schwab Cups, but you're one of just seven players now who have won multiple Charles Schwab Cups, Steven. Pretty elite company. What does it mean to you?



STEVEN ALKER: Yeah, it means a lot. It's a season-long race, so consistency, you want to try to get some wins in there as well. I'm proud of the fact that I kept that consistency over the last few years. Just competing with Bernhard and everybody out here on the Champions Tour, it's just made me a better player. I'm very grateful for that.

MODERATOR: What a wild turn of events at 17 and 18, huh?

STEVEN ALKER: It sure was. Bernhard gave me a little incentive there on 9. Sorry, 10 and 11, I think. And he comes right back with a birdie at 13. I'm like, oh, man I'm 4 behind again, so I had to do something. I had a beautiful shot into 18, I was in between clubs. That's Bernhard Langer for you, you know what I mean? That's the way he finishes.

MODERATOR: I know your family, Tanya, Ben, Skye, everybody's here. This is for them as well. So many people out here supporting you this week. I think there's going to be a raging party at the Alker house in Phoenix tonight, right?

STEVEN ALKER: We'll have a few drinks maybe.

Yeah, everybody's -- we had people some Texas come out, Sam's family, he passed away a couple years ago. Troy, my caddie, he's been a stud again this year just hanging in there with me. And then the family. My son's not here unfortunately, but my daughter and my wife are here. To have a home game, too, that's very special.

MODERATOR: Congratulations, Steven. Great playing all week and you've got the Schwab Cup in your hand for the second time.

STEVEN ALKER: Thank you.

MODERATOR: Bernhard Langer, Charles Schwab Cup Championship winner. Thank you everyone for being here, supporting this tour all season long and this week at Phoenix Country Club. Thank you to all the folks standing right here and we'll do it again in January, we'll see you again at Hualalai.

