

BERNHARD LANGER

Q. Bernhard, thanks for joining us at the now Stifel Charity Classic. Coming back to Norwood Hills, just overall thoughts on the week and being back in St. Louis.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I think it's one of the favorite stops on our Champions Tour. Great golf course. People are wonderful here, we get a lot of support. I think it's established now, the tournament after five years. We're excited to have a new title sponsor with Stifel and hopefully we'll go from success to success.

Q. Bernhard, you played around the world a lot. What are your thoughts on the Norwood Hills course?

BERNHARD LANGER: I like it a lot. Not because I played well last year, whatever, I just like the combination of a couple of shorter holes and then a couple of really long holes. It's got some undulations, some very tricky greens at times. And you've got to hit the fairways, which are quite narrow at times, to get the proper spin and the distance from your second shot. And if you miss the fairways, you're behind the 8-ball and you're guessing how much of a flyer or how far the ball would go, and it would be harder to hit the green and get it close. It shows its teeth. It's the type of course, if you play really well, you can go somewhat low, but if you're just a little bit off, it can grab you and make you look like a fool.

Q. Obviously the latter would never happen to you.

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, it's happened all over the place. It wouldn't be the first time.

Q. How important is it in your mind to have a sponsor like Stifel behind a tournament like this?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, I think it's always extremely important to have a strong title sponsor and supportive sponsor for any tournament. The tournament wouldn't exist otherwise. It's great that we can continue the tradition to give back to the local charities and the local community. That's what PGA TOUR Champions is really about, to raise money for the local charities wherever we go.

Q. You talked about earlier the fans in St. Louis. We've got a lot of golf fans here, a lot of golfers, golf community. What's your impression of the fans here when you come?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, they're just very knowledgeable. They've seen top-class golf in the past, they know what to do, what not to do and they understand the game. They play themselves, they've been around the game. So it's obvious and it's very strong here in

St. Louis.

Q. I asked Jay a similar question, what's your thought on the BMW coming back here to St. Louis next year at Bellerive? How important is it for this community to have those level of events and something like this keep on coming back, that level after the PGA Championship a few years ago? It's a big deal for St. Louis.

BERNHARD LANGER: Absolutely. It's a big deal anywhere.

But Bellerive is a wonderful golf course. As you say, St. Louis is a great golfing community and I think it's important to have big events on a continuous basis so you're on the map, you're on the mind of the big title sponsors. And the people enjoy coming out, they enjoy watching the best of the best play and compete.

Q. Bernhard, I don't know if you're aware of it, yesterday they announced that next year this event moves to October as the first round of the Schwab Cup playoffs. How is that going to be different as far as the galleries are concerned? Just talk about that event a little bit.

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, I think it elevates the tournament. I was there at the pro-am draw party when it was announced and it's very exciting. I think it's exciting for this tournament, it's exciting for us to come back here and have one of the three -- there's only three playoff events and this is going to be the first one, so that's when people get cut and only the best continue. It just elevates the whole tournament and the sponsorship and the excitement and importance of it. It's wonderful news I think for everybody and anybody whether it's the sponsors or spectators or players, and through that hopefully we get even more people to come and raise even more money for charities.

Q. And for the players such as it is an elimination kind of tournament, how much pressure, how much ramping up takes place? We know what happens with FedExCup. Compare it to what you see on the seniors.

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, very similar here, maybe even more important because we only have 78 players in the field and only the top 36 have a guarantee of exemption the following year. So if you're not in that top 36 by the end of the year, you may not have a job next year. That puts a whole lot more pressure than the FedExCup in a sense.

So this tour is unique. It's by far the biggest, maybe the only major tour for seniors and players are here from all over the world. I mean, you look at the tee time sheet, you see guys from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Korea, Japan, China, Europe. Obviously everywhere, they're coming from everywhere to play on this tour.

And there's only 78 guys teeing it up, so lot of pressure. And as we say, this is the first playoff event next year and it will be, the field will be smaller in the second and then smaller in the third.

Q. And in addition to the second round of the FedExCup, same year both in St. Louis, six weeks apart.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it's great for the local fans, they get to see the best players on both age spectrums if you want to call it, the young guys and the older guys. I think there's enough time in between for many of the people to watch both.