

**PRE-TOURNAMENT
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BERNHARD LANGER
Tuesday, October 29, 2013**



DAVE SENKO: Bernhard, thank you for joining us. Last event of the year, you come in trailing Kenny in the Charles Schwab Cup and leading the money race right now. You've played in this event now and had a chance to play here at Harding Park, just maybe talk about coming into this final event now, where you stand.

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it's a great event to start off with. It's one of my favorite tournaments on Tour the whole year. It's exciting to come into this event having an opportunity and a chance, slim as it might be, to win the Charles Schwab Cup or at least finish whatever, in the Top 5. That's what everybody I think is trying to achieve besides winning majors and winning tournaments. So it's just a year-long competition and it just proves you've had a great year, first of all just by being here in the Top 30, and then having an opportunity to win the whole thing means you had a very good year. So exciting to be here to start off with.

And then the golf course is probably in better shape than it's ever been. They've certainly done some great work here, it's a beautiful place. We know we're not going to be sweating too much, it's not going to be in the 80s and 90s, but the forecast is great. The people know now that the Schwab Cup comes here on a regular basis, the tournament is established, and hopefully we'll get some big crowds and have an exciting finish to the whole season as it has been the last few years.

DAVE SENKO: How would you assess your year, the good and the bad for you when you look back on this year?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's been an interesting year. Started off better than any other year I've probably ever had, the first five or six tournaments I came out of the blocks real hot and had two wins the first three months, four months, and then continued to play great golf through the whole year. I never really had a low season, a couple months where the game left me, which quite often happens. You just go through periods in your year where you have just not many good weeks. But it's been an interesting year. I've been in contention probably more than ever before and I had opportunities to win maybe five, six, seven times this year. Won two, so that probably is a little bit disappointing, but it's been fun to be there week after week. That's what we practice and play for, to be in contention and to have opportunities to win championships and lately I've come up short. I've lost a couple playoffs and I've dropped a couple other opportunities, but I can't control what other people do, I can only play the best I can. That's my goal, play as good as Bernhard Langer can play every shot at a time.

Q. I'm sure you've looked at the ones that got away from you. What do you

attribute those to? You said you can't control what others do, but I'm sure you've thought about maybe what you could have done differently. Was there any of that that went into that?

BERNHARD LANGER: Of course, yeah, I always analyze what I could do better, try to learn from my mistakes, but I don't live there, but I don't live there, I don't ponder for months and years what could have been, should have been. That's not what the Bible tells us, that's not where I want to be and that's not what a sports psychologist would tell you either. You learn from the past and move forward, you learn from the mistakes and you look forward and try to do better. Yeah, I've contemplated about this and that. There were some events where I didn't play my best or I missed a putt or I hit a bad shot and there were other events where somebody else finished with four birdies or just played better than me, it's as simple as that.

Q. Now that we've all done the math and know the math --

BERNHARD LANGER: I haven't, so tell me.

Q. Okay, I will. It doesn't seem as dire as maybe it would have been after Sunday's playoff loss. I mean, if you win, which is obviously very possible, and he doesn't finish in the Top 5 somewhere, you can win it. I mean, somehow after Sunday we're all thinking it was all done but it really isn't. You could win and he could certainly finish Top 10 but not Top 5. What do you make of the situation?

BERNHARD LANGER: I guess I have not done the math but now that what you told me, I knew there was 880 points available this week for the winner, so I knew if I could stay below that or further down the better, the fewer points I'm behind, the better chances I have. Pretty much I think I have to win, right? 2nd's not going to do it for me, I think I have to win. And if I win, he has to finish Top 5 or somewhere thereabouts.

Q. Top 5.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, yeah, hypothetically it's still possible, theoretically it's possible. The key is I have to win and then we'll have to see how he plays. Again, the odds are 29 to 1, something like that.

Q. Are you aggressive from the get-go or do you wait and see how it unfolds?

BERNHARD LANGER: That's a good question and I talked to my caddie about that yesterday. I think I'm going to have to be fairly aggressive from the get-go. You don't win tournaments being cautious. You can't. There's always somebody that's going to play well and putt well. So I have to hit a lot of good shots and make a lot of good putts and be pretty aggressive. Obviously there's some holes you can't be overly

aggressive because you might pay the price right away and then you put yourself behind the eight ball, so it's got to be smart aggressive.

Q. He obviously comes in with an advantage, but is there still some solace in the fact that you do have some control? Winning, like you said, is not an outlandish thing in a 30-man field in the way you're playing. How much control do you feel like you have over the outcome of this?

BERNHARD LANGER: I don't think I have any control, to tell you the truth. I just have to play my own game and hope to play better than anybody else. I can't control the other 29 players. It could well be that somebody has a career week and shoots 20-under and leaves us all in the dust, so you never know in this game. I've been playing very nicely lately, I've been in contention pretty much every week I teed it up. That gives me some hope. I know I can play great golf and shoot some low scores, but on the other hand again, I can't control what everybody else does.

Q. With the start that you had this year as you've said earlier, we all thought, wow, look at this, where's this going to go, are you better now than you were when you first joined the Champions Tour? Are you playing better now?

BERNHARD LANGER: I'm not sure because I played pretty good when I joined the Champions Tour. Looking back, I played some really good golf. I've won the money list four of five years. The one year I didn't win it I was hurt, I had surgery on my thumb. So I've been playing pretty good out here for the most part, won four money lists in five years and I'm leading again this year, so it could be five out of six. The one I didn't I was having surgery. I've won 18 tournaments in six years. I don't think anybody else won 18 tournaments out here in six years, so I've won more than anybody else in that department. Whether I'm better now than I was then, I really don't know, it's a difficult question to answer. I just know I've had a lot of solid years and had a lot of fun out here.

Q. I don't recall where you finished here a couple years ago, but how did you play here and how do you think the course sort of matches up with your game?

BERNHARD LANGER: The course is a great challenge of some -- you know, it's cold, the ball doesn't go very far so it plays fairly long. There's some holes that are very long and there's other holes that are fairly short where you have wedges. It's really a little bit of everything. It's a great mixture of tough holes and short holes. Don't have a lot of water to deal with, but there's plenty of doglegs out here, plenty of trees. The rough is very thick. I played nine holes yesterday, very punishing rough so you have to keep it in the short grass. Lot of rough right around the green. If you miss the green by a foot, you won't see your ball until you get right on top of it. The set-up is pretty punishing. The greens will be firm and fast. You know, it's set up like a real major. You're not going to have somebody play mediocre golf and winning this championship. It's going to be somebody that has all the shots and the short game to

match it.

There's a few holes on the front nine where you have to draw the ball off the tee, or hook it, which suits Kenny because that's all he does, he hits every shot like that so that works in his favor. But I'm capable of drawing it off the tee, too, so it's not something I can't do. And I think length could be a slight favor. He's probably a little longer than me off the tee, so that could be in his advantage on a couple of the holes where you hit long irons and reaching par 5s or not reaching par 5s.

Q. How big of an advantage is that overall on the Champions Tour?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's always an advantage no matter where you play. There's always the odd hole. You know, I played with Michael Allen last week at Hickory -- not last week, the week before -- and he just drove it 10 yards past me on 18. He could reach 18, I couldn't reach 18, a par 5. Then in the playoff he hit 5-iron in there. I said I don't know how he did that because he was hitting like a 2-hybrid when we played just 20 minutes earlier and he played Olin Browne and Olin Browne can't even reach the green and he's hitting 5-iron in there, so certain holes it's a big advantage on any Tour.

DAVE SENKO: Thank you, Bernhard.

BERNHARD LANGER: You're welcome.