

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BERNHARD LANGER
Wednesday, May 14, 2014



DAVE SENKO: Maybe just get us started, talk about your year so far. Then maybe you could just segue into, you've had a chance to play here, what the course conditions are like.

BERNHARD LANGER: Sure. Yeah, it's been a very good -- not just this year, the years before were pretty good, but this year especially, very solid play, lots of Top 3, Top 5 finishes, a couple of wins already, so I'm very blessed to be playing at this level at my age. Enjoying it, having a good time. I played well at the Masters as well, which was great. Just looking forward to the rest of the year.

Fred Couples made it pretty clear, I think, in Hawaii that he's trying to win the Schwab Cup, so we're trying to give him some competition here and make it hard for him. Otherwise, great to be back at Shoal Creek. It's really a wonderful golf course, a wonderful test of everything. You've got to drive the ball well, you have to hit super irons and then the greens are extreme as well, so it's really a very demanding golf course. They had a tough winter, I guess we all know that, so the fairways aren't quite as good as they have been in the past, but the rest of the golf course looks in really good shape. The greens are putting and rolling pretty decent. Tee boxes, they're just -- we'll see with all this rain, we might have to play preferred lies anyways. I imagine because you're going to dig up some mud. With a lot of mud on the balls, it's a lottery game because you don't know where the ball's going. I have a feeling we might play preferred lies, but we'll find out. But the layout, the members are great, everything around the tournament is just fantastic. We're appreciative of what Regions does for us and the Shoal Creek members as well.

Q. Could you talk about just your -- sounds funny for someone who's been in the business so long, but just your confidence level, to be able to do that at the Masters, to win another Insperity, just the way you're playing and the confidence level you're playing with.

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, confidence is a big part in the game of golf and it always helps. Playing well breeds confidence and confidence breeds success, and it's like a good circle, positive circle. And just the other way around, when you don't play well you lose confidence, and when you lose confidence you don't play well. So you would rather be on the first circle that I was talking about. Every successful week you have behind you or great round helps your confidence and your self belief. It usually breeds more good rounds and the more good golf. In this game you have so much time to think, so it's good that when you have some confidence, you just trust in the ability of being able to make certain shots or hole a crucial putt or whatever it takes to shoot a good number.

Q. What was it like at the Masters to be in the Top 10, to do so well on the grand stage?

BERNHARD LANGER: It felt great. I didn't feel out of place. Actually, my goal was to be in contention and to be on the leaderboard. I've been saying that the last two years to the German media and other media that are interviewing me there, they always ask, well, what is your goal, are you hoping to make the cut? I, Say no, I'm not hoping to make the cut, I'm hoping to win the tournament and I want to be in contention. I said it very clearly, I'm playing really good golf, this is not crazy. I know I can compete even on a very long golf course as the Masters is where I'm hitting five to seven clubs more than someone like Bubba on every hole pretty much, almost every hole. But it takes not just length, which helps at Augusta, but it also takes local knowledge and execution and a short game. I'm playing well enough to be in contention and I think I proved that the last two years there at Augusta.

Q. And last question, the conditions that y'all are expecting this week. Obviously everybody's played here before in rainy, wet conditions. How much does that change things and your approach?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it will have an influence on how long the course plays. I would rather see dry and firm conditions because it actually makes it harder in some sense. It makes the golf course shorter but it also makes it harder because the ball will run through the dogleg and the greens will not be as soft, shots will not be as well received and hard to get up and down and that kind of thing like Augusta was. So the rain will make the course play much longer, the rough will be heavier because of the wetness, the wet grass, and the greens will be a little bit slower. I would rather see the other conditions, but I play well in all sorts of conditions, just have to adjust and do the best with what you have.

DAVE SENKO: How much of, I guess maybe impact isn't the word, with Martin Kaymer winning last week in Germany as far as coverage, attention? With the World Cup coming up in a month, there's probably a lot of focus on that.

BERNHARD LANGER: The focus in Germany is soccer, soccer and more soccer, I'm afraid to say. That's about it. The sad news about Germany is you can't see golf on TV unless you have the pay TV channel and a lot of people don't pay for golf. It's the golfers that usually buy it. The average, you know, person on the street or the average German never has a chance to see golf. It's not on the normal channels, you have to pay for it. So it's hard to grow a game when that is the case and it's been that way for many, many years. That's the sad news. Comes down to the mighty dollar, whoever pays more for the coverage gets it. So the impact will be rather small. I'm fearful of saying that, but it would be great if thousands of young kids or children would see him win this great tournament and see all the money he wins and maybe say, well, golf, could maybe make a living doing that, or bring them to the game and just enjoy a great game but they don't really have that opportunity.