



**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BERNHARD LANGER**  
**Wednesday, October 29, 2014**

**DAVE SENKO:** I would like to welcome our 2014 Charles Schwab Cup champion --

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Hardly comes out of your lips for some reason.

**DAVE SENKO:** Clinched the title last week in San Antonio. Bernhard, this has been a special year, five wins including a 13-shot victory at the Senior British Open and four other wins here in the U.S. Maybe just get us started, talk about this year and how it stacked up in your career.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It's been a very exceptional year, no doubt about it, from the very get-go. Winning the first tournament and then just numerous Top 3s and Top 5s, and just about whatever, 90 percent of them were Top 10s, I think.

**DAVE SENKO:** Seventeen Top 10s.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Out of what, 20, 19? That's hard to do out here. There's a lot of great players out here. It doesn't take much to be outside the Top 10, and then to win two majors and three other events is certainly not easy. It's been a very, you know, incredible year for me. I'm at a great place in life right now. Everything is good at home, I'm healthy and enjoying my game, have a great coach, good caddie and everything, good family. My oldest daughter is getting married next week, next weekend, so a lot of good things going on and I'm very grateful and very blessed.

**DAVE SENKO:** I think one of the things that's impressive this year, you hit over 79 percent of your greens in regulation, which I believe will be a Champions Tour record and I believe the lowest since 1980 on any tour.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, I don't always look at stats but that's -- I know I've been in the, you know, 72, 74 percent at times, 75 if it was a really good year. If I'm 79 right now, that's my year, so it just says that I've hit a lot of good shots out there. And when you do that, you give yourself opportunities to score.

**Q. Is this your best year on this tour ever?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** On this tour, I would think so, yes. I mean, I've had six other good years. I had another one where, I don't know, two majors and what did I win, four tournaments that year or something? So there were a couple of years that were close, almost as good as this. Last year things had gone well, I could have won six tournaments last year. I didn't because I lost a number, but it was the best year so

far.

**Q. You talked about being in a good place in your life. Does that mean that you're more focused than you have been? You're famous for your intensity and your poise under pressure. Are you more focused? It appears that you are at least as focused as you've ever been.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I think I always try to be focused, but we all know when there's stuff going on somewhere else, it's difficult to concentrate or be happy or whatever it is. There's nothing going on right now so I'm very blessed to be happy in all the areas of my life and I think it shows a little bit in, not just in the way I play but just in general.

**Q. One last thing, you said that when Dave tried to say Charles Schwab Cup winner, it didn't roll off his tongue that well. How does it roll off your tongue?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It rolls off very nicely. It's one of the goals all of us have when we start the season. Everybody wants to win the Charles Schwab Cup because it means you were the most consistent or the best player. Everybody wants to win the money list or the player of the year, and everybody wants to be in the Top 30 and win tournaments so they get to play this tournament, they get to play Mitsubishi. So again, I've been very blessed to achieve all those things this year.

**Q. Will having the points championship wrapped up going into the tournament change at all the way you approach a tournament or will you be more relaxed, feel less pressure? Colin said he plans to shake your hand on the first tee and tell you well played because you've already won the points.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, you know, I talked to my caddie about it and I said there's no pressure on me this week. I mean, in the past I was always either leading or second or third and there was still a lot to play for. There's still a lot to play for because we're playing for a lot of money, but the Charles Schwab Cup is wrapped up and that's great news for me. So I can go out there and play as aggressive as you'll ever see me play probably because I have nothing to lose at all and everything to gain. I don't need to, you know, look around my shoulder and see or play safe. I usually try and play smart aggressive, aggressive on certain holes and certain pin positions and other times you may be shooting to the middle of the green or just play smart, like last weekend when we came down to the last two holes.

I heard later that Lanny Wadkins was getting on my case. Well, why doesn't he hit driver and have fun on this hole? I didn't need to hit driver on that hole. My goal was to make par or possibly birdie and not bring bogey or double bogey into play and secure the Schwab Cup, and I did that.

So, you know, the announcers or the people have to understand what is the player

trying it to achieve. I've worked all year to win the Schwab Cup. I'm not going to throw it away by hitting driver on a hole when I can hit 4-iron, 9-iron or 4-iron, sand wedge. So anyways, to make a long story, yes, I will be more relaxed probably and I will play very aggressive.

**Q. But smart still comes before aggressive?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Maybe not this week. Most weeks, yes.

**Q. Bernhard, the quantity of your work on your game is legendary. Everybody knows you're working until dark.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** That's what Vijay --

**Q. You and Vijay.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** And Tom Kite.

**Q. Can you talk a little bit about the quality of your practice, what you're trying to accomplish with all of that quantity and the way in which you go about developing that quality?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, I like the way you put it because right now I think I'm looking more for quality instead of quantity. I'm still out there long hours, but not what I used to do. And I realize my body's not able to take it like it used to, so I'm looking for more quality, less quantity and that's the way it's going to be for the rest of my career.

How? By every shot I hit needs to be -- have a purpose. And the time I spend on the putting green, I'm not just there to, you know, so I can say oh, I spent an hour on the putting green or an hour on the range or half hour in the bunker. It was really never like that, but more so just really focusing on what I'm doing and just cut down the time a little bit so I don't wear myself out. It's very simple on the range. I don't need to hit 200 balls. I can hit 50 balls and accomplish more if I really focus on those 50 shots and try to do what I'm trying to do by improving my swing or certain aspects of it.

**Q. When you're working on those 50 shots, can you talk about the mind state that you get into? Are you pretty much by yourself and totally invested in what you're doing or are you engaged with other people?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, I can engage with other people in between shots, but when I hit the shot, I had better be focused or it's just going through the motions.

**Q. Bernhard, you're competitors out here seem to want to remind you that you're 57. How old do you feel?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Sometimes 77 and sometimes 47, it just depends on the given day. We have good days and bad days. I don't feel 57 most of the time. I still -- but, you know, when I say that, I couldn't go and run 20 miles or whatever and I can't lift like -- I can't do as many pushups or situps like I used to do. You know, it's catching up with all of us, but trying to work out and stay healthy is the key.

**Q. Bernhard, could you talk about this incredible drive you have and how you're able to maintain it at age 57? What is it that keeps you wanting it as much as you seemingly do?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I think it's the balance in life. I'd become a believer in God 30 years ago and ever since then I've tried to balance my faith, my family, and my priorities have changed and my profession. It used to be all about my job and the last 20, 25 years it was more about other things.

So you look at my schedule. I've only played 20 events, I didn't play 26 events, and that's part of it. I don't play four in a row like some people do, I play two in a row maximum and then take a week off. So I've learned to pace myself, I've learned to get away from the game.

People think when I go home I practice every day. No chance. No, I put the clubs away for a number of days and do other things and get away from it, and then when I come back I'm hungry or I'm eager to work or put the hours in and enjoy the game and I think that's part of the reason of the drive I still have. I enjoy being competitive, I like the game of golf, I love it, and what greater setting than the Champions Tour?

**Q. Colin was here and we were talking about how you were thinking back to last year's British Open Championship, Senior British Open as a motivator and the fact that you didn't win the Schwab Cup as a motivator. Are those things that burn inside you that you want to rectify or turn around?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Not necessarily, but you set yourself goals or you should. If you don't have any goals in life, why go about work and why go about this and that? I think we all should have certain goals and my goals are to win tournaments, to win majors, to win the Schwab Cup and the money list and hopefully the Player of the Year and to improve. I still feel like I can improve. I still feel like if I can get half a shot better away or one shot better a week, it would make a huge difference. My scoring average goes from whatever it is -- tell me what it is, I have no idea, 68 or 69 -- if it goes one shot lower, I would win a ton out here.

Those are small goals. It's all part of the process, but I know I can improve, I know I can get better, become a better putter or better chipper or straighter ball-striker. We just talked about hitting 79 percent of the greens. That's my best out here in seven years, so I guess I am getting better. That's the goal.

**Q. Since you're talking goals, could you talk big picture goals as it relates to the Champions Tour? Irwin's record, 45 wins. You can get to 29, which is Trevino, but how do you approach that? And do you see yourself playing as long as Irwin did? Do you see yourself being out here at 70 years old?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I really don't know that, I can't answer that right now. I'm going to take one year at a time. And what Hale Irwin set with 45, the record he set with 45 wins might never be broken and it might be, who knows. When he played there were a lot more tournaments. I think they had 40 or 42 events a year and he played more. I don't play more than 20 usually, so he had more opportunities.

But that aside, it really doesn't matter. And I don't know how much longer I'm going to play. I always said three things have to be: I have to be healthy to play, I've got to enjoy it and I've got to have some success, which goes hand in hand. With my faith, if the Lord tells me to do something else, I might pack it in tomorrow and do something else if that's what my calling is. Right now my calling is to be out here and play golf.

**Q. One of the things that Monty talked about also was just how methodical and precise your game is and how well prepared you are and it reminded me of a story heard many years ago, I wish I could remember who told me, but the story was that you asked for a yardage and --**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** That story? That's not true. It's a good story.

**Q. It's a great story.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It's not true, it would be ridiculous. Nobody is that good that you can, you know, hit it within, what is a springer head, eight inches? Not even a foot.

So anyways, doesn't matter. My preparation is yes, I would like to prepare, I would like to come out here and not guess what I'm doing out there, I would like to know what faces me so I can get the best possible result. That's just the way I do things. Whatever I do, I want to do it well and I want to give it a hundred percent, and if I don't want to do that, I might as well stay at home.

The sprinkler head story is whether the yardage is taken from the front of the sprinkler head or the back, and I've heard it so many times but that's not how it came about, but that's like I caught a fish that was like this big.

**Q. Do you have any idea where it came from, how that --**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It was in the Ryder Cup in Kiawah when I was paired with

Monty actually, so he might have started it or his caddie. I'll show up with a kilt on the first tee tomorrow, I'll get him back. All right, are we good? I'm going to go have lunch. Thank you, appreciate it.