



ROUND 1 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BERNHARD LANGER

Thursday, October 30, 2014

DAVE SENKO: Bernhard, good start, 66, 4-under. Right now you're tied for second and looks like just five birdies and the one bogey at 11. Just talk about your day and then we'll open it up for questions.

BERNHARD LANGER: I got off to a really good start, made some putts on the front nine and played pretty solid. Four-under on the front, that's a really good score. Then back side, the putter got cold, especially the last five holes or so. I had five really good chances, didn't make one of them, so that was disappointing the way I hit really good shots and gave myself opportunities and just couldn't convert.

DAVE SENKO: Birdies, No. 1?

BERNHARD LANGER: 3-wood, pitching wedge about 15 feet.

DAVE SENKO: Then No. 6?

BERNHARD LANGER: 2-hybrid, pitching wedge, about 20 feet.

No. 8 was driver, 2-hybrid, perfect shot. Just landed on the green, went through, pitched it up to about four feet.

No. 9 was a 3-wood, pitching wedge, six feet.

DAVE SENKO: And then 11, what happened on No. 11?

BERNHARD LANGER: On the par 3 I pulled my 6-iron in the left bunker. Played a really good bunker shot, but the way the green was sloping and everything, it went about 16 feet by and then missed the putt.

DAVE SENKO: And then 15?

BERNHARD LANGER: No. 15 was driver, 3-wood. Maybe one of the best shots I've hit all year about 10 feet past the hole or 12 feet past the hole, didn't make the putt.

DAVE SENKO: Okay. And did you have some other opportunities you said with the putter?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, 16 was about 12 feet, 17 was about 12 feet, and 18 I hit two great shots and just rolled over the green into the bunker. Played a good

bunker shot and still had about a 15-, 16-footer, didn't make it either.

Q. The wind seemed to be stronger when you started than it was a little bit later. Did you sense that at all, was that a factor at all?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it was blowing anywhere from five to 10 miles an hour, not crazy, but it did let up slightly, it might have been three to five miles. There was always some wind.

Q. You said the game plan would probably be more aggressive today. Was it? Did you feel like --

BERNHARD LANGER: I played very aggressive, yeah. Pretty much went at every flag and like, what was that last par 5 or the second last, 15 is it? You know, that was a very iffy yardage into the wind and I just said I'm going to go for it and absolutely nuted my 3-wood and landed this much on the green. If I miss-hit it slightly, I'm in the water. So that was my game plan and I'm going to stick to it, unless I have a six-shot lead playing the last few holes, I might play a little more defensive.

Q. That was going to be my question. Was that second shot on 15 more aggressive like you said you were going to be yesterday? I was standing in the fairway, I couldn't believe you hit that shot into the wind. That was pretty brisk. So after you made that decision, how were you feeling? I mean, was there any --

BERNHARD LANGER: I absolutely nuted it and hit it right in the middle of the clubface. If there's any slight miss or groove high or groove low or bit toe or bit heel, I knew it was wet. It was one of those things I was very happy to feel that I hit it perfect and it went perfect.

Q. It was a stunning shot. Everybody in the fairway --

BERNHARD LANGER: I impressed myself.

Q. So when you're hitting that shot, was it like any other shot that you hit or was there any extra tension, any anxiety? Clearly not any fear because that's a fearless shot.

BERNHARD LANGER: There's always a little bit of tension. We're all a little nervous because you want to do the best you can. As I said, some of the pressure's off because I've already achieved the main goal and I can enjoy this week and hopefully have some fun out there. I wish I had made a few more putts, but you can't force that.

Q. That was what I was trying to get to on that shot. How do you manage your

emotions when you know you have a big shot like that coming up?

BERNHARD LANGER: Just normal, you just go through your routine and try to make the best swing, make a smooth swing and hit it in the middle of the clubface. That's all you can do. There's nothing else you can do.

Q. Last one for me, but you talked about the putter going cold on the back nine. Did you identify a reason for that? Normally when your putter goes cold on the back nine, we can expect to see you at dusk hitting putts. Is that going to be the case?

BERNHARD LANGER: I'm going to hit a few putts. I told my caddie to meet me out there.

Q. Did you identify --

BERNHARD LANGER: I'm not going to putt for an hour, I'm just going to hit a few putts and see if I can find anything. I don't think it's a major issue, I just missed two left and two right basically. They weren't a foot away, they were just near the edge.

Q. Was it more fun to be able to play just kind of free and loose like that and just kind of go for that on 15, and when was the last time you felt like you could play as aggressively as you are here this week?

BERNHARD LANGER: I generally play aggressive. Just because I might not always go for a shot like that doesn't mean I'm not playing aggressive. I would call my style of play aggressive-smart, or smart-aggressive. When I throw the word "smart" in, that means for certain shots you just don't go for because it might be nine out of 10 I'm not going to pull it off, why go for it? That's bad odds and I think that's the best way to play golf. You've got to use your strengths against the weakness of the golf course, not the other way around.

But like on 18, same thing. I could have hit 4-iron, but I was trying to cut a high 3-hybrid in there and I just hit it as beautiful as I possibly could. It just went a yard too far or two in the back bunker. You just don't know. You don't know how much further the ball goes in the air, how much the wind affects it and how the greens firmed up. Some greens you can't stop. That 2-hybrid I hit on No. 8 was another brilliant shot, landed five yards short of the pin and rolled 15 yards through the green.

Q. That one actually looked -- it went right, it burned the edge of the hole, didn't it?

BERNHARD LANGER: I couldn't tell, it was too far for my eyes to see that. But where it landed, it was exactly where you want to land it, not on the downslope, at the bottom of the slope and it still didn't stop. The greens are firming up, and some shots,

the greens don't hold the ball so you have to plan ahead and think where am I going to miss it so I can get it up and down easier than the other spots. And 18 could be one of those, too. If you don't place it or pitch it in the perfect spot where it might stop, it's going to bounce through. Is it easier long or is it easier short?

DAVE SENKO: Thank you, Bernhard.

BERNHARD LANGER: Thank you.