

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: BERNHARD LANGER
Thursday, June 11, 2015



MODERATOR: I'd like to welcome Bernhard Langer, current leader here in the first round. He's our current Schwab Cup champion, defending champion here at the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS and tied the course record today with a 6-under 65.

Before we get started, Bernhard, if you want to go through your round and talk about being in the lead at this event and how important it is for the entire race to the Schwab Cup and what it would mean to raise that trophy again at the end of the season.

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, that's a lot of questions, but I'll see if I can remember some of that.

Yeah, obviously the majors count double for the Schwab race, so that's very important to play well in the majors. Everybody wants to win majors and I'm no different, so those are the tournaments we prepare for especially and try to do well but it's not easy. It's not like a long distance runner who can prepare their training in a certain way that they peak at a certain time. In golf you never know when you peak, just try and do the best you can.

My game was pretty decent obviously. Tried to keep it in the fairway as much as possible because whenever you come out of the rough, you don't know if you're going to get a flyer or a dead ball, as I call it, and it's just difficult to control the distances. The wind made it pretty tricky. We had gusting winds anywhere from 10 to 30, I would think, 25 for sure, and you were just hoping to hit it at the right gust at the right time kind of thing whatever club you picked. I was pretty happy with my putting even though I had a three-putt, but in general I holed out pretty good from six to 10 feet, made most of them, which is obviously how you keep a score together. That's about all for now.

Q. You talked about the importance of your practice rounds this week because it's a new venue for you. Are you slowly building a comfort level on this golf course or do you find yourself kind of playing defense?

BERNHARD LANGER: I'm mostly comfortable, but there are still new things that I see as I walk around and watch, wait for other guys to hit. I don't carry a pencil on me when I play so I asked my caddie about five, six times, give me a pencil because I wanted to write something in there that I missed or that I didn't notice or that could be important. So little things, nothing major, but you never know. One shot could make a difference and that may just be it. Might as well put it in there if you see it, if you notice it.

Q. The shot into 18, what club and were you in the rough there?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I pulled my tee shot slightly on 18 and it was crosswind so it got in the left rough. Had a really good yardage for a pitching wedge, but again, it was

nestling down in some juicy grass so I didn't think it would jump on me. So I was worried it might not come out good enough to reach the green so I swung pretty hard at it and it came out pretty nice, hit the front of the green, rolled about three yards and ended up probably three yards below the cup, about nine feet and a fairly simple putt.

Q. Not only 18 but a nice stretch run, three birdies on the last few holes.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I hit a beautiful shot on -- well, I birdied, what was it, 14 and 15. 15, hit a beautiful 6-iron. 14 I hit a wedge like that. And then 15 I hit a 6-iron, almost flew it in the cup. Sorry, that's 15, I'm confused. 15, the par 3, landed just past the hole and rolled out, but I made a good putt there, about a 15-footer.

Then kind of struggled on 16, the par 4, didn't hit the fairway again and then the ball came up short into the wind in the front bunker. Had a really tough bunker shot, sort of 90 feet bunker shot and into the wind, which is tough to do. I got it up there to about six feet and made it.

And then 17 was a great up-and-down, hit a beautiful tee shot, 2-hybrid. The wind got it and went to the right of the green down the bank, but my pitch shot came up a little short and made about a 20-footer there with a foot of swing on it, so that was nice, and then finished strong on 18.

Q. With the wind today, did you think a 65 was out there?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I had no idea. I was watching the leaderboards and I saw a bunch of 3- and 4-unders so I figured that must be doable, and so I just tried to play shot by shot and make the best of it. It's still early in the week so I'm just trying to not shoot myself in the foot and be in contention.

Q. And how about the bunker shot on 16, was that maybe the best shot of your day?

BERNHARD LANGER: That could have been. I hit a bunch of really good shots today but that was especially nice because I was on the up-slope into the wind. If you catch it a bit thin, it's going to fly the green, and if you catch it a tiny bit fat, you're going to have a 30-footer uphill, so that was nice.

Q. This course has quite a bit of elevation changes.

BERNHARD LANGER: Tell me about it. Ask my legs.

Q. That's what I was going to ask you about. Physically is it a little more demanding than some of the courses that you're playing and do you think this will have an effect on the field by Sunday?

BERNHARD LANGER: We're on a great roll. We played French Lick, which is probably

the hilliest course I ever played in my life, and then we played Des Moines, which wasn't far behind, and now we're here, so we have three in a row. This is actually a piece of cake compared to the other two, almost like vacation.

Q. By next week you'll be in good shape.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I don't have to work out much this week or the last few weeks because I'm getting all the cardio I need out on the golf course. All has its benefits. I can eat more because I'm burning up more energy, so perfect.