

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: BERNHARD LANGER
Sunday, November 8, 2015



MICHAEL BALIKER: Like to welcome our now three-time Charles Schwab Cup champion Bernhard Langer. Lost in a playoff today but it was still a great day and obviously a great week for you being able to win this for a record third time. If you just want to start us off and talk about the week overall.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, obviously my goal was to win the overall Schwab Cup, this trophy here, coming into this tournament. As we all know, I was third so my chances were worse than the other two, but I had a great week, played well, and in the end had some really good chances there the last four holes to win the tournament as well; was unfortunate not to. That lip-out on 18, I don't know how that ball stayed out but it did. And in the playoff I hit a good tee shot I thought, but it must have kicked left a little bit and got behind that one tree that sticks out, so I had to aim right and hit a big hook and it only drew a little bit. Then I ended up with a pretty nasty lie in the rough so the chip went a little strong. Made a good putt but it didn't break. It didn't break much the first time from this angle and it didn't break much coming back either. But Billy must have played very well so he deserved to win and congrats to him.

Q. Well done. I sat in the same chair last year and asked you after the kind of year you had, five victories and all the other things, what you were going to do for an encore. I don't remember what you said, but what are you going to do for an encore this time?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, enjoy the time off first, enjoy the fruit of the labor if you want to put it that way, and rest a little bit and spend time with the family. Then I'm going to work on my putting, maybe a new putting stroke most likely. Probably find some new clubs and all that kind of stuff as well. Prepare for the new season eventually. I'm going to play the Father-Son tournament in December, go skiing for a week and just try and relax these next two months with some practice in there somehow. Then set my new goals next year.

I haven't thought about the goals yet, but they're pretty similar to this year. You want to win tournaments, you want to win majors, you want to win this trophy, Player of the Year, Money List. There's plenty of things to play for. It's going to get harder and harder as the years go by, I think, as I get older and the younger guys are coming up, but there's always exceptions. There's always guys that stand out like Hale Irwin and Tom Watson and a couple others, and hopefully I'll be one of those.

Q. Bernhard, did you think the eagle putt on 18 was in all the way until it lipped out?

BERNHARD LANGER: It looked really, really good, yeah. The way I had read it, it started off pretty much on the line and had really good speed, was turning towards the hole and I thought, well, it's got such good speed, it's going to drop and it didn't. It dropped a little bit

and then it came back out again.

Q. Do you see yourself in the Father-Son using a shorter putter or do you think you'll go in with the longer putter just because you want to win playing with your son?

BERNHARD LANGER: That's a great question. I haven't really thought about it. I have to make that decision obviously just before the tournament. I'm not sure. I might take both putters with me, a long one and a short one, and see how I feel. I think first off I would say I probably want to do well and have fun with my son. I'm going to have fun whether we do well or not, so we'll see. Whatever I think is going to perform the best is probably what's going to come up. I don't have to change until next year so we'll see what happens.

Q. What keeps you so young? We talked earlier in the week about being a competitor and that's the DNA and you never lose that, but year after year you seemingly are just as strong as you were now as when you were 50 years old.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, almost. I don't know what keeps me strong. I take care of myself to some extent. I stretch a lot, I work out; maybe not as hard as I did when I was younger but just trying to keep in decent shape. But it takes more than that. There's guys on this tour that are much fitter than me and they don't, you know, perform quite to the level that I've performed the last few years. So it's not all about fitness; there's a lot more to it. But I've had a wonderful year personally. Get along great with my wife, get along great with my kids, I'm in a great place in life. My oldest daughter got married, my next one's getting married next year. Really enjoying fatherhood and just being a husband, just enjoying being a Christian and growing spiritually and maturing as a person. Really enjoying the relationships that I've been given in life, the people that have entered my life and I think life is all about relationships really. Whether that's part of what keeps me young, I have no idea. Some of it may be DNA obviously, but yeah, there's days when I feel a little older and there's days when I feel a lot younger than I am. We all have those.

Q. Just a quick sense of what happened on that short putt late?

BERNHARD LANGER: On 15?

Q. We were all as shocked as you were.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, we read it right center or right half and I lined it up and the line was just right center, almost straight. I asked my caddie, what do you see, and he said oh, it's right center, so I thought it should be okay. Instead of fixing the line to make it inside right, so I thought I hit a pretty good putt and it just turned like mad on me. I could see a bit of grain, there's a bit of slope and a bit of grain right to left. I thought it was a good stroke and it just turned like really a lot more than I thought. I made some bad strokes but that was not a bad stroke. So yeah, that was a big mistake. I should have realigned the ball to go maybe inside right and I would have been one shot better most likely.

Q. Because you are so young, I didn't realize until I looked today that you are actually the second oldest player in the field, which is amazing. Do you see yourself doing this into your 60s or are you the type of person who doesn't have a finish line or doesn't look at it from that perspective?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, at this point I don't have a finish line. As I said the other day, there's three things for me to be present most of the time for me to be playing professional golf. One is I need to be healthy because the game is hard enough. If you're hurting all the time, you're not going to do well. Secondly, I'm going to have to have some fun and enjoy it, and thirdly, I'm going to have to have some success. Those three things are important to me, and if one or two of those are absent for a period of time, then it's time to quit. So whenever that is, the good Lord knows; I don't.

MICHAEL BALIKER: Thank you.

BERNHARD LANGER: Thanks very much for all your support over the years.

MICHAEL BALIKER: Can you just take me through your birdies real quick from today starting with No. 7 there, the par 3?

BERNHARD LANGER: 7 was a 5-iron to five feet. 8 was a driver, 3-hybrid pin high left, chipped it up to about four feet. 10 was a driver and pitching wedge to three feet. 13 was a pitching wedge to five feet. 14 was a driver, right rough, pitching wedge again just short of the green and that was the only long putt I made last three days. It was about 23 feet or so. And then 18 was a driver, 6-iron, and what was that, about 20 feet or so.