

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**October 18, 2017**



**BERNHARD LANGER**

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**DAVE SENKO:** Well, we would like to welcome Bernhard Langer into the media center at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic. Bernhard, you finished T6 here a year ago. Maybe just talk a little about the course. You had a chance to play it this week so far.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, I like the golf course. It's in very good shape. This year right now it's a little wet maybe, but that should dry out the next few days. Greens look good, fairways look great. Rough is maybe a little higher than it was. The forecast looks tremendous. All pointing to an exciting weekend.

**DAVE SENKO:** Do you anticipate much of a difference, we're here a couple weeks earlier than we were a year ago. The course, is that having any effect on the course?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I wouldn't think so. I would think this time of the year weather's pretty steady. Usually get cold nights and fairly warm days. I wouldn't think it would change dramatically. Probably more so early in the year where the weather plays a bigger part, whether the grass has a chance to grow yet or not. This time of the year it's already established, it's there, so it's just a matter of what kind of weather pattern we're going to receive and it looks really good.

**DAVE SENKO:** Just maybe talk about your year. It's been special, three major championships, five wins and you just went over \$3 million in earnings this year. Maybe just talk about your year, how it stacks up against some of your other ones.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, I mean, it's been a phenomenal ride on the PGA TOUR Champions the last 10 years. Only one year I wasn't so good is when I had thumb surgery in 2011 I think it was. All the other years were really good. This year was exceptionally good by winning three majors. I don't think I've done that before. Had a chance to win a fourth major actually and just kind of lost it the last two holes.

But it's been a very, very good year, as you say, in terms of prize money. It's probably going to be a record, too, by the time we're done. Just had a lot of good showings. Whenever you can win five times in a season and we're not done yet, out of, what, I don't know how many I've played.

**DAVE SENKO:** I think 18.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Something like that, so that's --

**DAVE SENKO:** I think you had 14 top-10s.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Pretty special. Last year was special. I never finished outside the top 13 all year long, which is extremely hard to do. And then this year, five wins is pretty amazing, too.

**DAVE SENKO:** Questions?

**Q. Bernhard, I don't know if you're going to give away any secrets here, but can you explain your amazing consistency? Not just consistency, but high level of consistency?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, it's a lot of things. It's like a jigsaw puzzle. First of all, you've got to be healthy. If you're not healthy, you can't play. You've got to have the drive to still practice and work on the game. You need to have a fairly good technique with a long swing. You've got to have a really good short game to be able to shoot the scores that you need to shoot out here.

I have a great coach in Willi Hofmann, a great caddie in Terry Holt, a lot of family support. My brother's my manager, so my whole team is pretty good around me. I've learned what's good for me and what's not good for me in terms of pacing myself and not overdoing it, not over-practicing, just taking time away from golf and do more stretching instead of beating balls and things like that. So.

I think I've also learned that I can't play four, five tournaments in a row. It's not good for me. I lose patience and I lose whatever it is that makes me the player I am. So it's better for me to play maybe two in a row instead of too many and take a week or two off.

And my swing has probably settled down more over the years. I used to just continuously try and change my technique. I used to be a, you know, shot to open reverse C and a little bit by little bit over a period of maybe 10, 12 years I've become a totally different player where I don't go underneath as much anymore and I trap the ball more. That took time because I didn't want to do it radically, I wanted to do it little bit by little bit so I could stay competitive, and I was. I think we did the right thing. But as I said, lately I didn't have to make any major changes, I could just continue to do what I was doing and it's gradually getting more grooved.

**DAVE SENKO:** Bernhard, what is a typical Tuesday like for you in prepping for a tournament when you arrive on site?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Tuesday I usually fly in, so it's early morning start, first flight out from wherever I'm coming from, mostly at home. Get to the tournament, stretch for half an hour, have lunch and then hit some balls, play 18 holes. Have a good look at the golf course and stretch again. So that's my Tuesday.

Wednesday I usually just practice for several hours, do media and whatever else is at hand. And then Thursday's pro-am, same routine. Stretching, hitting balls, play pro-am, maybe hit some more balls, stretch again and that's how it goes.

**DAVE SENKO:** Does the routine change at all like if you've played a course several times?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Not drastically. I still like to come Tuesday and have a look at it to just refresh myself. Every once in a while -- very seldom, though -- do I come Wednesday or Thursday. If there's anything major happening at home and I need to be at one of the functions, then that may be the case, but otherwise I would arrive Tuesday.

**Q. Scott McCarron said that what he's noticed is you'll play a lot of rounds by yourself because you have a certain pace you want to go at and a certain way, I guess, you want to study the course and everything. Is that the case, and do you find that beneficial to go out by yourself and play?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** On Tuesdays I do because my Tuesdays are really here to just look at the golf course and familiarize myself with the greens, with every hole, what there is to see, where the layups are, where the pin positions could be and play different shots to the various positions. Or just, you know, make sure I remember the important things and lay out my sort of way to attack the golf course.

I find if I play a practice round on Tuesday with two or three other guys, I get distracted. I talk to them and I'll miss a couple of things here and I'll miss a couple of things there. Yeah, I played 18 holes, but it wasn't quite as productive as when I'm on my own, I don't get distracted. I know I'm there to check out each hole and write down what I need to write down.

So that's the main reason that I like to play practice rounds by myself. It doesn't happen every week. I mean, in majors you can't do it because there's 156 guys and you've got to go out there with three or four other guys, there's no other way. I just have to make the best of it.

**Q. When you're playing by yourself, how long does that take you?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yesterday it took four hours, sometimes it takes -- but I've already mapped out this course last year. The green details, I walk every green, I walk the angles. I don't know if you're interested in that or not, but the green is not a square. Every green is a different shape and the pin positions are always in the corners. So you need to know like if this is my green and I'm coming this way, I need to know how far it is to carry here and to carry there in case the pin is right there, and a lot of that is in the book, in the yardage book, but some of it is not.

So I just, as I said, I want to write down what I need to know, which way it slopes and what it takes, where to avoid, where not to avoid, where to attack and where to play safe. Walking

the green, I usually walk the left side and the right side, so it takes a few minutes. So if I see the course for the very first time, my practice round may take four and a half or five hours, depends what my plan is and how much time I have. But if I've seen it before, three and a half, four hours is normal.

**Q. Second year of the Playoffs, kind of built for parity with the points, from money to points and then the reset for the Finale. Scott McCarron was just in here talking about how you've set the bar and he's chasing you once again. I know you focus on yourself a lot, but Scott's had a pretty phenomenal year, too. What do you like about his game? Have you been paired with him overly amount this year as compared to maybe --**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, I've been paired with him a lot more the last two years than on the PGA TOUR. We played very seldom together on the PGA TOUR or somewhere else.

What I like about his game is he spends a lot of time on his fitness. He's very strong, creates a lot of clubhead speed, hits the ball a very long way, further than most of us so he has an advantage there. He's pretty consistent and he's generally a very good putter. He's found a way to work with a non-anchored stroke and make it work. If you can hit it far and be a good putter, that's a lethal combination in terms of successful.

It's showing. He was way up there last year and he's won four times already this year and he's right up there again, so good for him. And he's a tough competitor. He wants to win. He makes no bones about it. He said his goal is to win the Schwab Cup, it was last year and I'm sure it is this year. There's a lot of guys that have that goal, but he puts a lot of effort into it.

**Q. Greg McLaughlin was in earlier and he said that you're on the board of directors for this and that --**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, I'm on the PAC meeting, Player Advisory Council. The board of directors would be the next step up. There's only four guys.

**Q. He said that, and in another type of format, the season would be effectively over and you would be the champion but you voted for the Playoffs.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Right.

**Q. Why did you do that?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Because I am not voting on something to be selfish, I'm voting on something what's the best for the Tour. My role on the PAC is to represent everybody that's out here, all the members, all the players from whatever, the worst to the best to the middle of it, it doesn't matter. What's best for the Tour.

I guess the last couple of years we had -- I just had great seasons and it could have been a scenario where I would have won the Schwab Cup before we even played the last tournament, and that's not the most exciting for the spectators, for TV, for the sponsors, for anybody involved.

Therefore, I could see their point of making it a playoff event and have the playoff idea which the American people are used to. They have it in hockey, they have it in baseball and football and just about anywhere, basketball. The FedExCup is successful on the PGA TOUR, so we figured it was good for our tour to follow in the footsteps and do the same thing, even though it's detrimental to myself. (Laughs.)

**Q. Somehow you seem to handle it, though.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, last year I was really fortunate in the end or whatever you want to call it. I had to play extremely well in the very last tournament. Even though I would have won in the old way, we would have had it, I would have won the Schwab Cup without seeing it up. But with the new system, it came down to the last few holes. It was between Monty and myself. But that's the way it is. In playoffs you start from scratch pretty much. You get a slight bonus if you finish in the top-5 or the higher up you finish, you have a little advantage, but not enough that you don't have to play great.

I mean, the scenarios are kind of strange because let's say we have 26 tournaments. One player could win all 25, finish second in the Schwab Cup tournament and not win the Schwab Cup. So you had 25 wins and a second, but he wouldn't win the Schwab Cup, which seems very unfair to a lot of people when I explain that to them or they say, well, you've won already. I say no, no, we've got the playoff stuff going. They don't get it or they don't understand it, certainly not outside of America. Americans kind of understand the playoff idea better, but when you tell it to a European or somebody else, they say that makes no sense whatsoever.

**DAVE SENKO:** The guy who won 25 would also have about \$50 million in his bank account. Any more questions?

**Q. Talk about you do a lot of stretching. Are you working on your back, on your hamstrings?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** The whole body really, everything in terms of stretching. All the major muscle groups from feet to calves to legs to buttocks to shoulders, arms, neck. It's all involved. When you think of the golf swing and all the walking we're doing and bending over, every muscle has an opposing muscle, so you can't just focus on one or two, you've got to try and cover most of it, if not all of it.

**Q. Do you have a personal trainer?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Never had one, so just do it on my own. We have great physios that follow us year 'round so they know our bodies, they know our aches and pains and what works and what doesn't work and they give us some ideas and they can prevent things, so it's been very helpful to me in my career.

**DAVE SENKO:** Thanks, Bernhard.