

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
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CHUBB



BERNHARD LANGER

CHRIS RICHARDS: Bernhard, three-time champion of the Chubb Classic. Welcome to the 2018 edition. What's it like coming back to a tournament that you've won multiple times. Got to be a lot of good feelings, right?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yes, exactly. It's a golf course I've done very well on, not just the three wins but also some other good finishes. I feel comfortable, I know what to do and not to do. It's just a matter of executing properly and judging the wind, which usually can blow pretty good around here.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Last week you played well, didn't get the victory, but were you encouraged with the way that you played despite the last couple holes?

BERNHARD LANGER: Very much so, yeah. I was very encouraged with my ball-striking. I putted poorly and still had a chance to win, so that part is encouraging, so now I've just got to work out the putter. I was on the phone with my coach the last couple days and I think I'm on the right track, so I'm excited by the next few days.

Q. Are these greens a lot different?

BERNHARD LANGER: The speed is somewhat similar but the grass is I think different. Yeah, here I think you can trust grain more to influence the ball. Last week in Boca it was really weird. The grain would go this way and the ball would break the other way. The grain was growing uphill, which is very unusual for south Florida. Usually the grain or the grass grows down the hill where the water drains, and if it's flat it grows southwest. I've lived here for 33 years, I should know. And I usually do okay with that but last week it was a struggle.

Q. When you have a finish like you had Sunday, are you happy there's another tournament the next week that you can either use that as motivation or get that out of your mind?

BERNHARD LANGER: The sooner, the better, yeah. It was hurting. It played in my head for that night and a couple days. But, you know, the more I think about it, if you put yourself in that situation, the more you put yourself into, you're going to lose some and win some. You're not going to win them all. Nobody ever has, nobody ever will. As long as I win more than I lose, I'm okay with that. And as long as I give it 100 percent, and I did that. That doesn't excuse my bad second shot or my bad putt. 18 was really an unfortunate combination of bad luck and bad breaks, it wasn't really anything else.

It doesn't matter now. The good thing is I put myself in that situation quite often, and so as I

said, you're going to win some, you're going to lose some, and last weekend I lost. Pretty much handed it over, you know. It was in my hands to some extent. If I finished par-birdie, I might have won or had a chance to win, and that's really how you should finish on those two holes, but I didn't. I have no one else to blame but me.

Q. This finishing hole is a little different than Boca, a pretty stout par 4, you've won here a few times. Can you take us through 18 and maybe another hole that maybe isn't featured as much that can bite you?

BERNHARD LANGER: There's a lot of holes that can bite you, but yeah, whenever there's water in play they can bite you a little harder. And 18 is often a tough tee shot the way the bunkers are angled, and there's not just one bunker, there's three on the left and they're different distance, and then there's two on the right and then there's water as well. So it all depends on the wind. If it's into the wind, it's a harder tee shot and a much harder hole because it's like driver, 3-iron into the wind. If it's downwind it's an easier tee shot, I find, and maybe only an 8-iron or something. So it all depends on the weather conditions and then it depends on pin placements, a little more accessible than others and you're not just dealing with the water that again you don't just carry the waters, the water kind of goes along with the greens. If the pin is up there, you don't just carry the front water, you need to carry another 20 yards of water and then it angles. So if you're scared of the water and you play it safe to the left, it goes down into the drainage area, which is a very difficult chip now up from a lie that's into the grain. It's not easy. You've really got to be committed to hit a good shot.

Q. It's a little bit downhill toward the water, too?

BERNHARD LANGER: Right, that one is still easier than the one from the left, I think. But you don't want to go that long unless the pin is back right and you have a two-shot lead, then you can blast it into the bleachers basically and hope it doesn't regurgitate into the water.

Q. Who's on the bag this week?

BERNHARD LANGER: Terry, yeah. My daughter was only a one-off. We do that every year. I have one or two of my kids caddie for me once or twice a year. It's funny how many people come to me and say, oh, they think my kids are caddying for me year 'round. I mean, every week I get at least 10 if not 50 comments, this is your son caddying for you, right? I'm going, no, he's the same age as me, he can't be my son. He's one year younger than me, but he's so skinny, he looks younger, I guess. And they have that mindset, oh, I've seen your son, they were talking about him, so this must be your son.

CHRIS RICHARDS: It's like a compliment for Terry.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, he feels good. It doesn't make me feel that good, though.

Q. Did that make it any different with the way you finished with her being on the bag? Did she say something that Terry wouldn't have, or was there --

BERNHARD LANGER: No, she was encouraging. You know, if I had Terry on the bag, I might have won the tournament because he might have helped me read a couple of putts differently than the way I read, but we don't know. At the end I felt bad that I didn't win a tournament for her because she's only caddied once in the Father-Son, or twice, and this was her first PGA TOUR event. So it would have been fun to win so she could say, yeah, I've won caddying for my dad, but it didn't happen. I felt bad for her. She just said, well, you've got to give me another chance, so you'll see her again one day.

Q. Hale Irwin's record with 45 wins at the PGA TOUR Champions, you're nearing that. At the beginning of the season when you have a bunch of tournaments ahead of you, is that something that you think about, or are you just going tournament to tournament and not worrying about records?

BERNHARD LANGER: Good question, but I really don't play golf to create records or whatever. I play golf because I enjoy it and I want to go through the process of getting better and just being out here. It's way back there in my mind, you know. Maybe possible, but it's not going to be easy, so my focus is really on the next week. And I'm 60 now, so it's going to get harder to win in the next few years, I realize that. There's guys out here that hit it past me, a lot past me. That wasn't the case 10 years ago, but now it is. And there will be younger guys coming up as well. Every year we get a handful more. It's going to get harder.

But I look at it differently. I look like I'm one of the dominant players, have been for 10 years, so why shouldn't I still be one of the best players the next five years or so? So I've a little different mindset and playing games with my mind, with my head, in a positive way.

Q. There's a report that they're looking at adjusting the reset for the points for the Charles Schwab Cup. Just your thoughts on that in general? From what I read anyway, seems there was more Paul and Lee still having a chance to win it even though they were 16th or 18th or something like that on the list coming in, and just maybe creating a way where there's fewer people that have that kind of shot.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I'm aware of that even though I'm not on the PAC anymore. I thought we had a phenomenal system just the way we had it for all these years, and then two years ago, I think, two or three we decided to go to the playoff to create more excitement, and you know, did it work? I don't know. Did we create a lot more excitement? Maybe we did.

But last year was, you know, pretty unfair if you want to call it that. You've got to call it something. There were two guys that were pretty dominant, there was Scott McCarron and myself. We won 11 tournaments out of 26. And then the reset was not really fair, but it wasn't meant to be fair, it was meant to give everybody a chance in the tournament. But is that the best for our Tour or for Schwab or forever? It's a question mark. And we tried the system and we feel we can improve on the system, I think.

So we're probably going to go with something different this year, and hopefully it will be as exciting but maybe a little fairer and see how that works. And if that's not the answer, then we can still improve it and tweak it. You know, the FedExCup was tweaked several times, too. First time wasn't perfect.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Anything else? Thank you, Bernhard. Good luck this week.

BERNHARD LANGER: You're welcome. Thank you.