

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW

March 2, 2018



BERNHARD LANGER (-5)

BERNHARD LANGER: I played fairly solid, had a great start with birdie-birdie, and then kind of ran into 11 or 12 pars in a row and then had an amazing finish with birdie-par-birdie-birdie. Made an awesome putt on 18 for birdie, big breaking putt from about 60 feet. That was a lot of fun.

Q. How important is it to your game right now with the Masters a month away?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, the Masters is too far away to be worried about it. Just taking one day at a time out here and try and get some good results, build my confidence level up. Just trying to get my game in shape where I have a lot of confidence in everything, the long game, the short game, and then hopefully take that into the Masters.

Q. What's the challenges of this course?

BERNHARD LANGER: Very small greens. Some are very undulated, like 9 and 18 and 16, so you've got to try and keep the ball below the hole, but it's not easy because they're reasonably firm. The other thing is it's a bit narrow at times, you've got to hit the ball straight off the tee, and just try and get it close to the hole where you have a chance to make a putt.

Q. Naples obviously did not go as well as planned for you. What did you work on since then?

BERNHARD LANGER: Just my whole game, but Naples I drove the ball well so I was happy with that. The rest of the game wasn't good enough. My irons weren't close enough, my short game wasn't good enough, and the putter wasn't hot. So yeah, if you do that out here, you immediately drop back.

Q. Back to the celebration on 18, it was just like your win at Dominion last year, slamming the hat down. Is this a new go-to, is this your new celebration?

BERNHARD LANGER: I don't know. This was just -- this was even maybe not as important as the Dominion, but it was a much harder putt.