

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**October 24, 2021**

**BERNHARD LANGER ( -14, won 1<sup>st</sup> playoff hole)**



**Q. Somebody's going to ask you a question. What question should we ask you?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I have no idea. I'm too tired now.

**Q. You're not generally prone to displays of emotion, but after that putt went in, that's a big fist pump from you. What was it about this tournament that made you feel that way?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, it's been about a year and a half since I've won, so that's a very long time. I've had some very close calls, I've lost some playoffs, finished runner-up several times, so I wanted this real bad.

In a playoff, you just never know. We saw what happened. Mine could have lipped out and Doug's could have gone in, who knows. But it was an awesome feeling and both Terry, my caddie, and I were trying really, really hard these last few months and we were knocking on the door. I mean, I've had, I don't know, three or four, five top-5 finishes lately. When you don't get the W, it's a little disappointing.

But I had a wonderful Bible versus given to me this morning which says, "You can do all things through Christ, who strengthens you," and I said that over and over today and it just gave me a peace and a belief that I can do it, because I am 64 and that's -- it doesn't get easier when you get older. There's a lot of young guns out here trying to take over.

**Q. So you're the oldest winner ever on the Tour.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I believe that's correct, yeah. I think Scott Hoch was up until now in the team event last year. Yeah, I've just surpassed him now.

**Q. Does that feel like kind of a tribute to your conditioning and your attention to all that stuff?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I think it's just encouraging to everybody that's over 50 or 60, we can still perform at a very high level and you should never give up. There's always room for improvement. And of course physical conditioning is one thing. You've got to be mentally tough, you've got to have good technique and nerves and all of rest of it. I've hit a lot of quality shots these last few days and finally was blessed with a BMW. Sorry, with a W, not a BMW. (Laughs.)

**Q. You'll probably get one of those, too. Did you have to amp up on the 18th hole,**

**because Doug hits the ball farther, to get here in two?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, he usually hits it much further and I thought it would be a disadvantage for me to be playing 18, but I was pumped up, I hit a really good tee shot in the regular -- on the 54th hole that went further than normal. Then I hit an extremely good one again and I got it as far as Doug and that gave me the opportunity to reach the green in two and made birdie twice.

**Q. Was your putt, first putt, was it on the green or was it on the fringe?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, it was way over on the fringe about four yards down the fringe.

**Q. Did you have a choice to make between pitching and --**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, yeah, there's always choices. I was thinking of putting, then hybrid, then lob wedging it up there. I thought the way the fringe looked and the lie, I thought putting is probably the best under the circumstance, and thank goodness it didn't bounce too bad and I got it up there within reasonable distance.

**Q. I know every win matters and means a lot to you, but man, it just feels like, like you said, you've been really close, you really wanted to win over the last year and a half. Like does this one mean something different?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it's very special because when you get to my age, you never know if you're going to win again, it's as simple as that. Hopefully this won't be the last one, but if it is, it was very special. To become the oldest so far to win out here, it's not easy. It doesn't matter what you do, it's not easy. There have been a lot of great players before me from Nicklaus to Palmer to Snead to Trevino and on and on you go, so I've been very blessed and fortunate to have gotten this far.

**Q. What do you set your sights for next?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** The Schwab Cup is the next goal as it has been for a year and a half or two years now. We're a little bit closer, but it's not over yet.

**Q. Any stress involved in that winning putt?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Are you kidding me? (Laughs.) There's stress with every shot and especially when you have a deciding putt or deciding shot. There's always stress.

**Q. What was that, about three feet?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, that was about six feet, I would think.

**Q. Bernhard, can you tell us about your relationship with Terry? I just talked to him.**

**You guys have had a special bond for a number of years now.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, he's been caddying -- it was funny how we actually started our relationship because I've known him, he started caddying when he was 18 and I was starting to be on Tour at 18. But we just saw each other here and there when I played with somebody that he caddied for. Otherwise, I didn't really know him very well.

I went to the Bob Hope Classic when I was 49, so that was 2006 maybe, something like that. A friend of mine caddied for me, but only the one time. At that tournament I was looking for a regular caddie and the first guy I run into was Terry Holt. I said, "Terry, would you know anybody that is a believer in Christ and someone that works hard, is not drunk or late, that kind of thing, takes his job serious, shows up on time? If you know anybody, let me know."

And he waited about five seconds. He goes, "How about me?" I go, "Well, are you available? You don't have a regular bag?" He says, "No, I would love to caddie for you." I said, "But I'm going to go on the Champions Tour in about seven months, in August." He said, "That's fine with me, I'll go wherever you go."

So that was the start of a great relationship. He's become a very dear friend. We're both Europeans, we both married American women, we both have four kids, we both live in Florida, and we're both followers of Jesus Christ. So there's a lot of common things which helps the relationship. And we're both hard workers. He doesn't shy away. I don't have to tell him to work. He's always there and he's willing to go the extra mile.

**Q. Talking about keeping emotions in check. You were off on the fringe for that putt. He hit the chip which left him in pretty good shape, you know, and then went for that putt. So how were your emotions going in that whole sequence from chips to putts?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, you always have to think that your opponent's going to do the best. I figured he was going to chip it fairly close, and he's known to be a very good putter. I reckon he was going to make that putt and I'm going to have to make mine to play another hole. He lipped out, he hit it a little too hard. The line he hit it on, I heard him say "top of the lip," which means right edge because it breaks a little that way. He hit it right there, but I think he hit it a foot too hard or two feet too hard and it didn't take the break and that's why it didn't go in.

I was lucky that he didn't make it, in a sense, and I had the opportunity now to put it away if I can make mine.

**Q. Can you tell us about that reaction when the putt went in? I feel like people out here think of you as so very machine like and not always emotional, but it felt like when you made that putt --**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, there's a lot of emotions out there. I'm emotional. You might not see it, but my brother knows me very well and he can tell just by what's going on in my

facial expresses or my eyes or whatever. You know, I get mad at myself when I mess up and I'm very happy when I do things well, even though I expect the best or lots of good things because I put the work in, I've done it long enough.

As I said, this has been a very special win. It's been a long time coming and I've had some very, very close calls, which was in a sense frustrating and disappointing. So when it actually happens and you win, it's exciting.

**Q. It looked like you had fun with that groundskeeper gig you did.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Absolutely. It was all his idea.