

**BERNHARD LANGER**

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**Q. Bernhard, thank you for joining us here at the Cologuard Classic. You're a past champion here having won in 2020. Just to start, how does it feel to be back here in Tucson?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It's always great to be back in Tucson. Normally we have nicer weather, but it will change for the better.

Yeah, it's a tournament with a lot of history. We've been coming here with the PGA TOUR for many, many years and now the PGA Tour Champions. Many of the spectators or TV watchers have seen a lot of golf around this golf course and we played here for many, many years.

**Q. Last time we saw you, you were hoisting the trophy at the Chubb Classic, you tied the all-time wins record. Do you feel any different showing up this week now that you've tied the all-time record?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, not at all. It always feels good to win obviously. When I first came out I thought, well, that record will not be broken. But, you know, sooner or later all records are broken. I was very fortunate to have had a wonderful career so far on this tour and hoping to continue for a few more years.

**Q. When did that become a possibility in your mind, that you might be able to chase him down?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Probably three or four years ago. When I had a season where I won seven times, I don't know exactly when that was, maybe even longer than three years ago, and I snuck up, racked up a bunch of tournaments that one year. Had opportunities in the following years where I lost a couple of playoffs or finished second or third when I could have won one of those.

It became more and more clear that if I stay healthy and in a few more years I might have a chance to catch Hale or even surpass him. Well, it took me this long, until 65, but glad to be here.

**Q. I know Jerry has said this week is more than just a golf tournament. What does it mean for you to be playing in the Cologuard Classic by Exact Sciences and kind of what the overall mission is this week?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Absolutely, you're so right. It's wonderful what they do for the

cancer awareness and for some of the pairings with the pros, you know, the survivors that we hear about, read about, sometimes meet and just become aware of what's going on. So it's very important what they do and I think we're fortunate to be a very small part of it again.

Yeah, I've been tested the last few years by Cologuard because I'm certainly in that age group. If you can catch cancer at an early stage, there's a very high percentage that you're going to survive it.

**Q. Asked Jerry how he compartmentalizes things this week and he said he doesn't, it all kind of blends together and maybe he kind of feeds off the emotion a little bit.**

**How do you compartmental something like the record chase with when you're out on the course and trying to take it shot by shot?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yes, you try not to think ahead of what it all means or what it could be. I've learned that the hard way in golf, you've got to really just play the best you can, shot by shot, moment by moment, hole by hole and then hope that you're in the hunt coming down the last few holes on Sunday.

And even then, like in Naples 10 days ago, some of my closest competitors made bogeys or double bogeys, which certainly helped my cause. I got to the 18th or the 17th green thinking I'm tied for the lead and I look at the board and I have a one-shot lead or two-shot lead, which makes it a whole lot easier to play the last hole.

**Q. Jerry said that you were the first guy out there and the last guy to leave every day as far as practice and working out and so forth. Is he exaggerating or is that like an actual goal of yours?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It wasn't a goal of mine, but that's how it turned out for many, many years. It's not the case anymore. I can't do what I even did 10, 12 years ago in terms of the amount of hours I spend practicing and preparing. My body can't take it any longer, so you have to know how much is good and when is it too much.

But I would like to think that I was one of the hardest working pros in my whole career together with maybe Vijay Singh, Tom Kite and I'm sure there's a few others that I can't think of right now. I spent a lot of time out there preparing, practicing.

**Q. Does anything about this surprise you? Have you surprised yourself with your ability to sustain success?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, I didn't think I would have this type of success on this tour. I was hoping when I turned 50 and decided to play on the PGA TOUR Champions to be one of the top 5 or 10 guys out here and win some tournaments, win a few majors. That was the goal.

But it's been far better than I had actually hoped for. I think I've won -- we don't talk about money much out here because it's all Schwab Cup points and this and that, but I think I won the Money List 11 times out of 12 or 13, which is far better than I had hoped for.

**Q. So what you're doing in your 60s is pretty unprecedented, but do you think there might be others who come along who might be able to do the same given the advances in technology, nutrition, training, all of those types of things?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I'm sure they will, I'm sure somebody will come along. They may already be out here, they're just not 60 yet. There's certainly guys that are healthy enough and strong enough to compete into the 60s.

Yeah, when I turned the -- you look at the statistics when I first came out, I looked at the sheets they had out here and one of the statistics was, well, you win -- most tournament winners are between 50 and 53 years old. Then once you get to 54 to 56 it drops off. When you get beyond 56, it hardly exists that anybody wins anymore.

So I was able to win throughout all these years. I won when I'm 56, 57, 60, whatever, and now I'm the oldest winner out here. But all that will be broken one day again, I'm sure of that. You look at Steve Stricker, if he stays healthy, he's got plenty of game. Or if Vijay Singh had been healthy, or many others that I don't recall right now, they can do pretty much the same thing or better.

**Q. Has your motivation ever waned, because that's a big part of this too, right? You have to want to keep doing it.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Absolutely. Yeah, I had four bouts with the yips in putting and that's when not so much my motivation but I was questioning myself. If this continues, you don't want to -- first of all, you can't do this very long because you're not going to be exempt or having fun. On the other hand, is there something better you can do where you have a bigger purpose in life than missing cut after cut when you're not putting very good.

Fortunately enough I overcame the yips several times and became a fairly good putter again and had success fairly quickly.

**Q. Did Hale reach out to you when you tied the record?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, he hasn't, but I'm sure I'll run into him somewhere. I should maybe call him or text him.