

HALE IRWIN AND BERNHARD LANGER

Q. We couldn't let this opportunity, the rare opportunity for the two of you guys together, given the nature of things. How much fun - maybe not - is it for you to watch what he's doing, and how much fun are you having trying to get one past?

HALE IRWIN: I'll go first. I think what Bernhard has been doing and continues to do is amazing stuff. To say that I don't enjoy it, that's not the truth. I do enjoy it. I always enjoy watching somebody that does their skill very, very well, and particularly -- I almost said in old age, because he's still a kid as far as I'm concerned.

But the fact that he's still going as he is, and with the competition that we have behind us right now, is pretty amazing stuff.

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, first of all, it's an honor for me to have tied Hale Irwin's record. We all know what an outstanding career he's had, what a champion he's been all over the world and winning majors and then having the career he's had out here in the Champions Tour is incredible.

When I joined this tour, I never thought I would get anywhere near that 45 mark. So I was very blessed and fortunate to have tied a great man like him.

For those youngsters, you don't have to be 6'8" to play great golf. You just make use of all the gifts and talents you have and work at it, and the mind is probably more important than the body in this game.

Yeah, to answer your question, I will try and break the record. I know I'm 65 years old and the clock is ticking. I probably won't have as many chances as I did several years ago. But I still have a bit of game. We'll see where it goes. If I stay healthy, I think I can get a couple more, but you never know. Grateful to be where I am and having played this great game for so long.

Q. I know you were happy for him and everything, but when you reached 45, Hale, did you think anyone would even come close?

HALE IRWIN: I never gave it a thought because I was just playing my game. I won't say that I think I stepped out early because I stepped out at the right time for me. There were things in my life I still wanted to do, and as good as golf has been to me and provided me the friendships I've had, and that's number one more than anything else, there was just things I wanted to do with my family and my friends.

That sort of became the overriding thought. Bernhard will speak to this; when you don't think at that level of competition, where you need to be with your skills, they diminish.



As he said, I was not staying physically as in shape, let's say, not condition-wise, but I had some things going wrong in my body, knee issues, foot issues, that contributed to a little bit of that decision to step away from it and go do the things I wanted to do.

