

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**February 7, 2018**



**BERNHARD LANGER**

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**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Bernhard, for joining us this morning for the first full-field event of the season, the Boca Raton Championship. First of all, it's a home game for you, not something that happens all the time in the golf world. How does that -- do you enjoy having a home game to start the season?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I do. Home games are always great, just not time to go on an airplane and sit around airports and be in a hotel; to be able to sleep in your own bed and spend some more time with your wife and the kids and things like that, and having friends around from the community to come out and cheer me on, it's a very special week.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Does it feel good coming off of the offseason? I'm sure you were able to take some time off, but does it feel good to come back and really get the season started again?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It does, yeah. Two months sounds like a long time but it went by so fast, it's crazy. We are ready to go again and enjoyed my off time. Went skiing, had a week in New York with my older son over New Year's, and just did a couple other things that I usually don't have time for. It was a very nice break from golf and now it's time to get geared up for the next season.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** And last season you won seven times. What's in store for the 2018 season?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Nobody knows. He knows, but I don't. I'll just do my best every day on every shot, and hopefully it will turn into a few victories.

**Q. Bernhard, congratulations on turning 60.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Thanks.

**Q. Does anything change? I mean, do you change your approach, do you change anything about the way you play golf?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, not really. I mean, the golf ball don't know whether I'm 58 or 60. The body doesn't feel different in a few weeks whether you're 59 or 60, just an ongoing thing. So I don't have -- I have not changed anything. I'm working out, I'm stretching a lot. I can't beat balls like I did in my teens and 20s and 30s, the body doesn't want to do that any longer, it gets sore, so I have to be focused when I do practice because I know I can't be out there for eight hours on the range hitting one ball after another.

**Q. There's only a relative handful of guys who have won, I think 27 tournaments have been won by guys in their 60s. Why do you think it's -- you've already won three, so you've already tied for the most, but why do you think -- is it just Father Time takes over?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Don't know, can't tell, but it certainly has something to do with it. I look at it differently. I look at it that I was one of the dominant players between 50 and 55 and one of the dominant players between 55 and 60, and if I could do that, why shouldn't I be still one of the dominant or better players when I'm 61 or 62 or whatever it may be, unless I hurt myself and I'm planning on not doing that.

**Q. Bernhard, this tournament is trying to get a new title sponsor. You live here. How important is this tournament to you and to the players on this circuit?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It's very important to the Tour. I think it's a wonderful date for any sponsor to come to south Florida in the wintertime when it's freezing and horrible in about three-quarters of the country, to bring their VIPs down here and enjoy this beautiful Boca Raton or south Florida. We have a lot to offer. It's amazing that we only have two tournaments really, it's the Honda on the regular Tour and this one on the PGA TOUR Champions. So this is really a golfing hub from November through March, a lot of golfers here, a lot of tourism, great place to come visit. A lot of reasons to speak for Boca Raton having an event here. And the city, the mayor's really behind it. We have a great group of guys that are behind it, a core group, and Hollis has a lot of influence and knows a lot of people and companies. So we're hopeful that this tournament will continue in the future.

**Q. Bernhard, we constantly talk about what you've done and how amazing it is. I know you're a humble guy, but are you ever amazed at what you've been able to do, the longevity and seemingly getting better every year?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, certainly when I started my professional career on Tour at 18, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I didn't know how long I would be playing golf, and if I would be done in my 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, or well now it's in my 60s. I had no idea. Sometimes I have to pinch myself and say this is pretty amazing. I've been very blessed with a lot of things. I have good people around me, I'm healthy, I have good friends and I love the game. I have a God-given drive to compete and a great work ethic, and if you combine a lot of that stuff, it just turns out to be, you know, a pretty decent golfer.

**Q. As somebody who's won on this course, does this course fit a certain type of player? How do you go about attacking it? Are there certain things you have to do really well out here at the Old Course at Broken Sound?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I think it certainly favors a good ball-striker. It's incredibly -- this course can grab you on any given hole. The reason for it is, first of all, a lot of water in play, but even when there's no water, every green is elevated, just about every green. So if you

don't hit the green, the ball runs off down and then you're chipping into the grain from a tight lie often, or a deep bunker. So I'm convinced the guy that wins here, and if you look at who's won here, they're very good ball-strikers. They hit a lot of greens in regulation.

**Q. I saw a quote from you last year after the Schwab Cup that you felt like the format was, quote, unfair. Scott McCarron was here a few weeks ago and he said he feels that the system needs to be tweaked. Do you agree with that?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I think we should look at it, yes, because we had a system that worked phenomenal for a very, very long time. Nobody ever complained because it was fair, it was good. Then about two years ago we changed to the playoff system similar to what they have with the FedExCup on the PGA TOUR and I'm not sure it really works out all that great for our Tour, just the way that the last tournament, there's too many points.

To give you a hypothetical, a possibility, we have 26 tournaments on our Tour. Somebody could win 25, the first 25, and finish second in the 26th and not win the Schwab Cup, and that doesn't make any sense. You know, we could have a situation -- anyways, it wasn't meant to be fair, it was meant to be exciting and bring a lot of players in and everybody in the last tournament. There's 36 competing, they all had a chance to win the Schwab Cup whether they had a great year or mediocre year, whatever. I mean, they all had a decent year to be in the top 36, but there was still a big difference between my year, Scott McCarron's year, and then some of the other guys who either didn't win or whatever. So to make a long story short, I think we're looking at it, tweaking it and possibly changing it.

**Q. Bernhard, how much have you seen this tournament grow specifically over the past few years?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it's grown tremendously. I think last year was the best turnout we ever had in the history of the tournament. I think it takes a few years for a tournament to establish itself and for the locals, the community to realize, yeah, this is an exciting event, this is something that's here every year, and the word has to spread. I think we've reached a point where people know it's coming, they're asking about it, they're looking forward to it, and it showed last year and I think it will continue this year.

**Q. You've won here once. Is there any level of frustration in 12 years that you've won so many other places but not multiple times, has it been frustration?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, there's always frustration when you don't win, let's put it that way. I've had a couple of close shaves, and sometimes I either just didn't play good enough or didn't putt well enough. And I just told you you have to play really well here to avoid the hazards and to hit a lot of greens, and then if you hit a lot of greens, you've still got to make some putts. You really need your whole game together, and that's how strong the Champions Tour is nowadays. You can't bring your B game and expect to win, you've got to be good in all aspects because there's 81 guys or 80 or whatever it is and two or three of them or 10 of them will have a great week, and if you're not on top of your game, you're not

going to be up there.

**Q. Is there any viewpoint, you're had so many accomplishments, I mean the majors, two Masters wins, 10 majors on this tour. Is there anything you look at and say, boy, that's what I really hang my hat on?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, one thing that maybe stands out more than most is over 100 victories worldwide as a professional, and 10 senior majors that nobody else has done that so far. There's a few other guys that won two Masters or more but nobody's won 10 majors, and not many people win over 100 professional tournaments around the world in their career. So maybe those two stand out, but like to win a few more, I'm not done yet.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Thanks, Bernhard.