

BERNHARD LANGER

Q. You've come close here a number of times. What do you think it will take this year to kind of break through and put you over the edge.

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it's always the same, be better than the others, right? Can't afford to make a lot of bogeys around here and got to make some putts. There's a few key holes where par is a good score, but there's a bunch of birdie chances as well and you've got to just capitalize on those.

Q. And what holes do you think that you'll be able to hopefully do that on?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, if I play good, I can birdie any hole, it's as simple as that. There's two or three danger holes and there's other holes where the par 5s, you pretty much have to make hay as they say. And it all depends on the wind, whether you can reach them or not. I'm not the longest guy out here anymore, so I have to hit my shots really solid on those par 5s and try to get near the green or on the green and still hoping to make an eagle or two and some birdies.

Q. Earlier in the season in January you were in Florida and you lost to your friend in a tournament, didn't you? Or did you win? I'm sorry, did I mix that up? Runner-up at Boca.

BERNHARD LANGER: I lost a tournament to a friend? I didn't play a tournament, help me out.

Q. Boca you finished runner-up in, in your hometown.

BERNHARD LANGER: Two weeks ago, right. That wasn't a friend, that was a regular Tour event.

Q. I know, I meant that you played against -- wasn't it Calcavecchia?

BERNHARD LANGER: Right.

Q. And you guys are friends?

BERNHARD LANGER: We're all friends out here. We've been friends for 30, 40 years pretty much, most of us. Sorry, that's how we look at each other because we've known each other so long. But what was your question?

Q. So my question was that that was a really close tournament. How do you feel that you're playing coming into this tournament? I guess that's exactly what I should have asked, sorry.

BERNHARD LANGER: I played good in Boca for 52 holes. Played really good and didn't putt great, but was still co-leader after 52 holes. Then I finished poorly. Hit a couple bad shots on the 53rd hole and then was very unlucky on the 54th hole. So Mark won and I finished second, but I was happy with my play.

Naples, didn't play quite as well and still the short game wasn't quite as good, so that was somewhat disappointing because I like that golf course in Naples, which was our last tournament. I think I finished, whatever, 30-something, so that's worse than average.

Q. And how do you feel coming into today?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, I'm going to work on my game today. Had last week off so I didn't do a whole lot. I practiced some, but I watched my son play a tournament in Ocala, got away from it a little bit. So I'm going to work hard the next two days and hopefully bring my A game where I hit the ball where I'm looking over and over again and not just half the time. Then got to work on my short game, got to make some putts. If you don't putt well, you're not going to win out here.

Q. And what is it about Tucson that you like?

BERNHARD LANGER: Everything, really. I like the golf course, like the people, the setup here is great, staying here on the premises and the weather's usually good. They treat us well, they're excited about having us and it's all good. I can't say anything that is average or bad, it's all great.

Q. And you like the course?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I do like the course. It's old-style, straightforward, no trickery about it. Just got to hit some very straight, quality shots and hopefully make some putts.

Q. What do you think is the key to your success on this tour?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's a lot of things, it's not just one thing. People like to -- in the media you read he's one of the fittest guys. Well, there's a lot of other fit guys, too. It's a lot of things. It's technique, it's the drive to succeed, the willingness to work at it. I have a good team around me with my coach Willi and my caddie Terry. I still like to compete and I enjoy putting the work in, I prepare well. I think I'm mentally fairly good. I've been a Christian for 30 years or over 30 years now. I learn a lot from the Bible and I put that into the golf game as well.

It's like a jigsaw puzzle, everything comes together. Got to be one of the better players. I

think I've still been able to improve my technique over the years, which is what I believe in that I can still do and get better.

Q. Can you just talk about fitness and the fitness trailer's role in helping you keep your game at its peak out here?

BERNHARD LANGER: I think the fitness trailers are extremely important. The average person has no idea what goes on and what goes in, but to me it's prevention of injury, being able to see a physio or trainer or chiro, whatever. If you prevent injury, you're going to have more longevity. And if you do get injured, they can get to you right away and give you professional advice. It's been a key to longevity and to the success I've had, I think, just having that available on a daily basis. And you work with the same people. You could say, well, you could work out at the hotel, but then if you're hurting somewhere, you're dealing with different doctors, different physios constantly.

Q. Do you work with the trainers on a specific routine or do you have your own routine of workout?

BERNHARD LANGER: I have my own routine. Every once in a while we just ask for what would you recommend to mix it up a bit or something like that, but it's the same. Stretching is very important, I think, and I stretch every morning, every evening in the trailer. That's the certain routine which is always the same.

Q. Will you work out on your off days at the trailers, too?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, most times a little lighter out here. I work out harder when I'm home.

Q. And how has your routine changed throughout the years?

BERNHARD LANGER: The workout routine or the routine in general? It hasn't -- you know, when I was younger I was jogging. I loved to run through the woods and through the mountains and whatever, but my back was so bad when I was about 22 that I couldn't take it anymore, so I had to now find a different way to get my heartbeat up. So now I go on a stationary bike and treadmill and other things where there's not so much pounding walking uphill, so that has changed dramatically. And I stretch a lot more. I didn't stretch when I was young, I didn't need to, but now I need to.