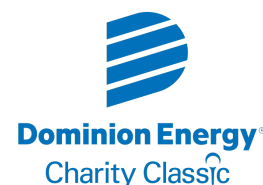


PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
October 17, 2018

BERNHARD LANGER



LAURA VESCOVI: Welcome, Bernhard. Thanks for joining us in the interview room at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic where you are defending champion. You've had a lot of exciting things happening this year between the Payne Stewart Award, you just took back No. 1 in the Schwab Cup Playoffs, so how does it feel entering this week being a four-time Schwab Cup winner?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, thanks, Laura. It's great to be back here, first of all, in Richmond. It's always fun to come back to a place where you won before and this is certainly one of the better places we play at. It's a great golf course, people are very excited around here to have us here and we have a wonderful sponsor with Dominion.

It's been a good year for me. Not quite as good as last year, but still a very good year. Timing is pretty good where I'm just No. 1 in the Schwab Cup going into the Playoffs. So we should have some very exciting playoff events coming up as there's a number of guys in the running this year. And with a different system this year, a lot of things can happen these next three weeks. I would think there's probably a whole dozen of players with the opportunity to make big moves and it will be interesting to see what happens.

LAURA VESCOVI: You mentioned last week after you won the SAS Championship that when you come back to a course that you've played, there's a little bit more comfortability. We've only been at this course for three years now, but do you feel good coming into the James River course?

BERNHARD LANGER: I do, yeah. Every time you play another 18 holes, you learn a little bit more about every place where you were at. I played a practice round yesterday and familiarized myself again with some things that I need to see and some things came right back in my mind, yeah, this was here and this is where you want to be. Then you still pick up one or two other nuances and write them in the yardage book. I feel I'm prepared, I'm ready and trying to hone my game today and tomorrow, so when Friday comes I'm ready to go.

Q. You're the defending champion here and next week. You just won. How do you come into this? Are you feeling intimidating for people?

BERNHARD LANGER: I don't know what they feel about me. (Laughs.)

Q. But you're prepared, like looking at the NCAA basketball tournament, you're playing well.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I'm glad I'm playing well. Last week was maybe the best I've played for quite a long time, everything came together. I drove it really well, I hit some great iron shots and I puttied extremely well and that explains the score at the end of the week where I think it was a record-setting whatever under par or something like that.

So hopefully I can take some of that momentum into the next few weeks. It's always better to be positive about your game, feel good than to come out of a slump or be in the middle of a slump and not knowing what to do and what swing thought and why am I not putting good or why does this feel so weird. We've all been there, done that, so I would rather be in the place I am than the other way around.

Q. I've never been in a slump where I stand to win \$10 million. That's a heck of a slump to have.

We talked about this last year and how you sort of voted against what would have been in your best interest for the betterment of the Tour because you won here, you won next week as Arthur said, then you went to Phoenix 10 under, which didn't win the Schwab Cup. We talked about it as a theoretical last year and then it happened. Any regrets on that and are you still in favor of that type of system?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, that's why we changed the system. I think we learned through what happened last year what could have happened. I mean, the good thing is, what's the guy's name? Kevin, yeah. He won the tournament, so that was great. The sad thing would have been, or not sad, but it could have been he finished second and still win the Schwab Cup, and not win a tournament all year and still win the Schwab Cup.

I think we all realized that that may not be the best thing to do for our tour. So we looked at whatever, the rankings, the point system and all that and came to the conclusion that a resetting is maybe not the best way to go. But it took two or three years of trial and error to figure it out and it created a lot of excitement, no doubt about it. I mean, at some stage during the last round of the Schwab Cup last year, there were five or six different players who were not in the top 5, I think, and could have still won the tournament. The goal was to have at least five definitely win the Schwab Cup.

So it created a lot of excitement, but at the same time we felt that it would be fairer and better to take some of the performance that we've had throughout the year and take it into the Schwab Cup and that's what we're doing this year. The money we've accumulated, the points throughout the whole season we will take forward into the Schwab Cup, yet we're playing for double points so guys can really make a big move the next few weeks. So if they finish strong, they're going to get a bonus, but at the same time those guys who have had a very strong season up to this point carry a lot of advantage into the Playoffs, if you want to call it that.

Q. Still work to your detriment, I guess?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, yeah.

Q. Are you comfortable with that?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I really think I like the system that we have in place for this year because, as I said, you bring a lot of those points into the last few weeks, they're not taken away to the most extent. They're with you, but you still have to perform. You're not going to win the Schwab Cup if you don't play well the last three weeks because somebody will. More than somebody, there will be several guys that will and they're going to pass you right by. It still creates a lot of excitement. As I said, I haven't even looked at it closely, but I would think there's at least 12 guys with the opportunity to lift the Schwab Cup if they do well these next three weeks.

Q. Have you all analyzed everything? I mean, have you figured out the different pieces of where you have to get or anything?

BERNHARD LANGER: We're way too early, no. I might think about that the very last day of the Schwab Cup, but it's way too early. A lot of it depends what happens the next two weeks, and then with the fewer players and more money, there's -- actually, the Schwab tournament is actually almost triple points because you only have 30 players and you have more money, if that makes any sense. Even though it's double points, but it turns out to be almost triple points, so a lot can still happen the very last week. But it's way too early, just take day by day, play as good as you can and take care of business that week.

Q. You're going to leave the analysis to us to figure it out?

BERNHARD LANGER: Exactly, and to the TV announcers, whoever needs to know. Yeah, there's so many things and I can't influence what my other competitors -- what the other competitors do, I can only try and play my best. That's all I can do.

Q. This is a nice way to have a career, playing on the PGA TOUR and then coming to this. What is it about this tour that appeals to the golfers and what's the importance of it for golfers and the sport?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, I think it's very unique. There's not many sports where you can compete at a very high level. I mean, let's face it, we're playing some really good golf out here and if you don't think so, you know, I competed in the Masters and the British Open and I finished in the top 25 in both events this year at age 61. So we can play out here, we're not history past just out here to make a living.

No, I think it's pretty unique. I think golf, it's so much -- it's so much mental and it's so much technique. It's not all about physical. You take other sports like tennis or football or soccer, well, you're done when you're in your mid 30s if you're lucky to make it that long because it's all about physical fitness, strength, speed, whatever it is. People get hurt much more than would he do. So that makes it unique.

We can still get better now in our 40s, 50s, you know, for many, many years as we learn better techniques and have more control over shots, understand ourselves, our strengths, have a better mindset how to play the game, better course strategy and all that kind of stuff that can help you to shoot low scores.

The other fun part is just to be out with same-age guys that you've known for many years you've become friends with. You know their family, you know their grandkids, you know a lot about them, travel the world with them.

One other thing I like is that we sometimes play three days instead of four, gives you an extra day of rest. We don't have cuts in those three-day tournaments, so you can actually plan your airline tickets and travel arrangements. You don't miss the cut and have to change everything and then wonder, well, should I go home for a couple days or what am I going to do. We've done all that, we've been through that on the European Tour, on the PGA TOUR, so it's nice to have a set schedule.

Also, I enjoy actually that we have fewer tournaments. We have 27 this year. On the regular Tour, what is it, 42?

Q. 46, I think.

BERNHARD LANGER: Even more, so 46. If you play half of them, you miss half of them, right? Out here I can play 23 and I only miss four, so it gives me a better chance to be up there in the rankings. So all of those are very positive things and I really enjoy it.

I was asked last week, well, why don't you -- do you have plans to play a little more on the PGA TOUR or the European Tour. I said, I really don't, I enjoy the PGA TOUR Champions and I love what we do out here. I enjoy the Tour very much, what it stands for, the camaraderie, the courses we play and our schedule.

Q. How significant or important is it to have the continuity because someone could have followed you from the PGA TOUR to this tour and they can have followed you for like 20, 30 years, I guess.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, that's another positive thing. I think a lot of people that play the game of golf, the viewers, can really relate to us. They know me, they know Fred Couples, they know Tom Lehman and Tom Kite. You go down the list, Mark. They know 98 percent of us because they've seen us for 30, 40 years. I've been on Tour 43 years now, so some have seen me for that long or followed me. Some others might not have heard of me until 25 years ago or 30, but it's still a much longer time than some of these young guys that come out on Tour and they can't really relate to somebody hitting it 330 off the tee and hitting a 7-iron 220 in the air, you know, that kind of stuff. It's a little different game.

Q. You mentioned earlier maybe a dozen guys can possibly win the Schwab Cup this

year. Do you feel like this is the deepest the tour has been in your time on PGA TOUR Champions?

BERNHARD LANGER: I believe so, yeah. I think that what we see, I've been out here now 11 years and what we see are the guys on the PGA TOUR know there's a good tour waiting for them if they want to play, so they keep fitter.

You know, 40 years ago or whatever, 30, 40, 50 years ago, the guys when they were in their mid 40s and it gets tough to survive on the PGA TOUR at times because the courses are again longer and longer and you're getting a little shorter and the young guys are wanting to come out and take your spot, that kind of thing, it's not easy in the mid to late 40s. But now they know there's something waiting for them, so they stay fit, they stay healthy, they work at the game, and when they turn 50 they're ready. They come out here having played and practiced and not having had eight years off or something like that, or six.

Q. You and Scott McCarron have really learned how to use the long putter, still use the long putter, where Keegan Bradley and Webb Simpson won after figuring out a way. What's the secret?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, there's no secret. It's hard work, that's what it comes down to. It wasn't easy. To be very honest, it took many, many hours and days and months of practice to get somewhat comfortable with the non-anchoring.

But to me, I've invested 19 years before they banned anchoring so it was still at that point easier to go non-anchored than to change something dramatically and start all over again from scratch. So that's why I stuck with it and at times it works and at times it's a struggle.

LAURA VESCOVI: Thank you for joining us today. Good luck this week.

BERNHARD LANGER: Thank you, appreciate it.