

BERNHARD LANGER (-5)

Q. Great playing today, great round. Can you just talk about that a little bit, what it looked like for you?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, got off to an awesome start, birdied the first three and then got a couple more on the front nine. Had a birdie putt on 18 to turn in 30 but missed it. Made one more on No. 3, so I got to 6 under. Then made a bogey, another birdie, another bogey. But in the end 5 under, I'm pretty happy with it. It was difficult conditions with the breeze, especially last few holes were -- I was way off on some of just judging the wind. On 7 I came up 15 yards short and this was maybe one of my best shots all day. It flew about eight yards further than I wanted to and faced about an 80-foot putt, which isn't much fun over a ridge and down the other side. So it's always tricky when it's windy, yes.

Q. How much does playing well last week bleed into what you do here? I don't know if this is one of your better rounds this season out here?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yes, it is. It helps certainly. I think I practiced a lot on my short game at Augusta and it's a tough course, it's a long course, so very demanding for someone like me. Similar grass, similar conditions, slopy, hilly fairways, so there's a lot of similarities. And fast greens, undulated greens. I think that was certainly good preparation for this week. It's usually the other way around.

Q. Yeah, you use the Masters to get ready for this tournament?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah.

Q. Prospect of playing 36 tomorrow, how do you feel about that?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it's going to be tough. A lot of us are -- we're all old to some extent and it's going to be a very long day. This course is very demanding. As I said, it's a lot of hills to walk. My knees were sore just now playing.

Q. I guess carts will be in play tomorrow.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, well, I hate using carts but I think I might have to utilize some of the carts to make it around 36 because it's very demanding, physically demanding.

Q. That round to start out, does it put you in a good spot considering it is 36 tomorrow and you don't have to come back from as much?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, I don't know about that. We all have to play 36 no matter what we shot today. If there's good news, it's that I'm going to be last off at 9:15 and not at 7:15, or hopefully somewhere last off. I get to sleep in a little longer. I hate the 3:30 wake-up calls.

Q. Jose Maria's off to a very good start, might shoot one of his better rounds since he's turned 50. Surprise you at all?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, no. It actually surprised me that he hadn't played better so far. I'm happy for him, he deserves it. He's a great champion, he's proven that all over the world. Glad he's playing better and having more fun and hopefully going to stay with us a few years.

Q. You've crossed that threshold to 60, that wonderful threshold. Do you sense any difference in you physically and in your game?

BERNHARD LANGER: Not much really, no. When I turned 60 in August I still won, whatever, two events since, or three, I'm not quite sure how many it was.

But no, there's no major difference whether you're 59 or 60, it's all up here, it's mental. But as we get older we definitely lose some distance and a little bit of energy and all that. So it's not going to get easier, let's put it that way. And every year there's five or 10 new guys coming out that are barely 50 or just about 50. They're going to hit it further and they're going to be maybe fitter and all that kind of stuff.

Q. This season has not started typically for you. Why not?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's been mostly the putter. My ball-striking's been pretty decent, driving the ball pretty good all year. Still up there in greens in regulation, I think, on the statistics, I'm like fourth or fifth right now. It's the short game, the short game was lacking and certainly the putter. I think I was ranked 62nd in putting. That's awful after being in the top-5 the last few years, the top-10. So I worked a lot on my putting and on my short game and hopefully it's paying off here.