

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
June 8, 2018



BERNHARD LANGER (-8)

CHRIS RICHARDS: Bernhard, great round today, 8-under 64. What was the key to getting off to this great start?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it's really everything. I kept the ball in play, hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens. Key may have been I hit three or four really close, you know, gimme range, which are automatic birdies, so that was nice. Then the short game was pretty good. Chipped and putted pretty decent, didn't have a three-putt and made most of the -- well, all the short ones that I had to, so that was good. No bogeys, which is always fun as well.

CHRIS RICHARDS: A couple days ago we talked about putting it all together learning about Wakonda Club. Is it safe to say that you put all that to use today in your round?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I think I have a pretty good idea now how to play the golf course. Sometimes you just don't know. You hit a good tee shot and you think it's on the fairway but it runs off in the rough. You've just got to deal with it, it happens to everybody. The greens are in great shape, the golf course is a little softer with the rain that we had. Hopefully we won't get a lot more rain. It will be a great test of golf on the weekend.

Q. Fist pumps all around there on 18?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, we call that a group read, so Billy Andrade got the assist and it was nice to finish with three birdies, the whole group made three. It was good for the spectators and for us.

Q. How much do you play off of momentum like that going into a second round tomorrow?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, it's always better to have your game where you want it to be and everything else instead of trying to play catch-up where you're four, six shots behind. That's not that much fun. It's better to be out front or near the front where you have the leaders in sight and you just feel like you have more opportunity on the weekend to be there.

Q. Was that the plan on No. 5 to lay up short of the creek there and then to put it within two feet like it's no big deal?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, that was certainly not the plan but the lie dictated that shot today. It was such a bad lie in the rough, I couldn't hit more than an 8-iron, 9-iron or

whatever, 7-iron and that would have gone right into the ditch. So I was forced to lay up, and thank goodness my 6-iron was perfect and ended up about a foot and a half from the hole.

Q. Bogey free, does that go back to your play off the tee? Obviously your driving put you in great position to set up those gimmees and everything else. You must have driven it pretty well today?

BERNHARD LANGER: I drove it pretty well. There were a couple that were leaking out to the right, but that driver that I'm using with that shaft has a tendency to go right if anything, so I actually switched, I got two of the same driver heads but two different shafts. This one has a tendency to fade a little bit if I'm off, so that's what happened and I'm aware of that, but I still feel I'm hitting that one a little straighter than the other one so I'm going to stick with it.

Q. Does the rough feel thicker this year than it has years past?

BERNHARD LANGER: I think so. I mean, there were times when in the years past when it was thick, too, but I think the rain, the humidity just makes it even grow a little more every day and pretty juicy. So there's lies where you don't have much of a shot, but Billy Andrade hit in the same spot two yards further and he hit a 3-wood out of there, 4-wood, whatever it was. So it just depends on how the ball sits.

Q. When you see -- you read so many putts you probably would have had a good read on that putt anyway, but how much does it help you see one go in on that line?

BERNHARD LANGER: I think it always is good to see it just to confirm what I'm seeing is correct. It can be detrimental. If I see it this way and his ball rolls totally different, then you get confused. In this instance, his ball went right to left and I read it a cup and a half right to left, or a cup and a ball, so it pretty much did what we thought it would do.

Q. You're close to shooting your age?

BERNHARD LANGER: That's my goal, yeah. It's been my goal for about a year, so I'm working on it.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thanks, Bernhard