

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
October 14, 2018



BERNHARD LANGER (-22)

CHRIS RICHARDS: Congratulations, Bernhard, on your second win at the SAS Championship. Can you put into words how well you played this week?

BERNHARD LANGER: It was pretty special. The 10 under was amazing. I couldn't believe there were two other guys who shot 10 under, but I think it shows how good it was where the next best player was 6 under. There were no 9, 8, 7 unders. Then I just had a phenomenal start again the next day with birdieing the first two holes and then another birdie on the 5th. Ran into a little bit of a dry spell there in the middle of yesterday's round and had a very strong finish and today I just played very solid all day long. Putted well, hit the ball where I was looking and did everything exceptionally well.

CHRIS RICHARDS: This is, as I mentioned before, your second time winning the SAS Championship. What does it mean to come back to a venue you've won at before and be able to win a second time?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's always fun to go back to where you've won before because you feel like you know how to play the course and you're somewhat comfortable and that's certainly the case here. I've been around here probably 50, 70 times now around this golf course and I know how to play every hole and it's just a matter of being able to hit it where you're looking and I was fortunate enough to do that the last three days most of the time.

Q. Is this as stress free a round as there is out there for you, especially on the back nine?

BERNHARD LANGER: It wasn't stress free. It was stress free the last two or three holes maybe, but up to that point I didn't exactly know where I was, I didn't even look. I felt somebody could be withing 2 or 3 or 4 off me and I felt I had to continue making birdies because I remember a few years ago when Tom Lehman won here, he finished birdie, birdie, eagle, birdie and that's 5 under in four holes. So you think you have a lead and all of a sudden somebody goes crazy the last few holes and comes back at you.

Q. Do you look at the leaderboards?

BERNHARD LANGER: I do every once in a while, but I didn't today. I felt -- at first I felt the leaders were with me, playing with me, which was the case and that was a tight race until Gene Sauers made a couple of mistakes. Up until that point it was very tight. Then I continued making birdies and got my nose in front and didn't turn around.

Q. You come to a tournament, obviously your endurance, your physical endurance to

maintain that endurance and stay near the top. What have you done consistently to do that and have you done anything different those years where you came close but you didn't get it and what was the difference this year?

BERNHARD LANGER: There's no difference, just doing the same thing for the last 20, 25 years. I work out, and I stretch a lot. When I'm home I work out more. When I'm on Tour it's just more stretching and just light workouts. Otherwise I just work on my game and try and pace myself. Play about 23, 25 events a year, which is enough to stay competitive. I think it would be hard to only play six or eight and be competitive. I do what I think works best for me. Been doing this for 43 years now, so I should know what's good and what's not.

Q. And I think a couple years ago or a few years back you mentioned something about looking back, look at the technology, making sure you're in line with those things. Aside from fitness, technology has really helped a lot of golfers in many aspects of their game. Has that been true for your yourself?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah. I'm not as technical involved whatever as some of the guys are nowadays. I'm still old school. I use some clubs that are pretty old and that kind of stuff, but I don't have, what do you call that thing in front of you, the computer that shows all the spin rate and distance. I'm sure it's good, I just didn't grow up with it. I like using it every once in a while but I don't use it every single day when I hit balls like Dustin Johnson does. I'm not saying it's bad, it's probably beneficial. I just haven't gone that way and I don't know much about shafts and this and that. I try the odd club. If I like it, it goes in the bag. If not, the old stuff stays in. That's how it's been.

Q. I guess you won like seven times last year and three and a half million dollars. Was there a point this year where you started to think maybe age is creeping up on you a little bit or starting to lose something there?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, you always think that because statistics show that the guys, once they get past 55, the majority struggle more so. They don't win as often and they don't finish up high as much as they used to. But those are statistics and there are always exceptions and I'm trying to be an exception and still winning and still saying at the very top at age 61 or whatever comes in the future.

Q. You've won so many times on this tour, I guess 38 times and 10 majors. What else do you have to prove on this tour?

BERNHARD LANGER: I don't have anything to prove, but I still have golf. I still want to improve my own game, I still want to play to the best Bernhard Langer can play. I don't think I need to prove anything, but I love competing, I love winning or being in the hunt. As long as I can do that, I think you're going to see me out here.

Q. Aside from age on the Tour strengthening itself as more players come on, where

do you see this tour right now on this level as compared to when you first started on it?

BERNHARD LANGER: I think it gets tougher every year, every two years because the guys that play on the PGA TOUR now, they're in their 40s, they actually look forward to coming out here. They know this is a great tour, there's great courses, great venues, good competition and the majority of them look forward to it and they keep fit, they stay-they practice harder. Thirty, 40 years ago a lot of guys just kind of quit the game or tried to find some other source of income or whatever if may have been, but nowadays they do everything to be competitive once they turn 50.

Q. Bernhard, was Friday the closest you've come to shooting your age or have you already shot it?

BERNHARD LANGER: I have not shot my age, no. No, that's probably the closest I've come, yes.

Q. (No microphone.)

BERNHARD LANGER: I was actually, yeah, because I have a bet going with Scott McCarron. If I shoot my age, he's going to buy me dinner. If I don't, the next year I'm going to buy him dinner. I was thinking about it on Friday, I knew I had to finish birdie, eagle, birdie. I finished birdie, birdie, birdie. I was one short.

Q. What's the time limit on your bet?

BERNHARD LANGER: I think it's one year.

Q. And you feel confident you can get it?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, I hope so. We'll see. It's easier to shoot your age when you're playing a par 70 or something like that, but it's a little harder when it's a par 72 or 73.

Q. On a more serious note, as competitive as you've been in the Masters and this year a good performance at the British Open, are you tempted to play a few more events against the younger guys on courses that could suit you or are you happy to just stay out here?

BERNHARD LANGER: I'm very happy to play this tour to tell you the truth. I love the odd tournament here and there. I'm exempt in the Masters, so I always look forward to playing the Masters even though that course is getting pretty long nowadays for me. This year I was exempt into the British Open because I won the Senior British and enjoyed that as well. Carnoustie's a great event. Then we played St. Andrews the week after. But my goal is not to go back on the PGA TOUR. Done that, been there, played the European Tour, played around the world, played everywhere. I'm very happy playing the Champions Tour, it's a

great tour to be on.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Looking ahead, we put a bow on the regular season and we're looking forward to the Charles Schwab Cup. You're a four-time winner of the Charles Schwab Cup. This has got to be the perfect way for you to lead into the Playoffs, is it?

BERNHARD LANGER: Of course it is, yeah. I think everybody's gearing up towards the Playoffs and trying to be in the hunt with a chance to lift the Schwab Cup at the end of the season. Obviously last year was amazing for me. I would have loved to have that lead this year because we have a different system this year and that million dollars I had last year would have done me very well now. But it's different this year, so maybe I can turn it around. Last year I was way up front and didn't win the Schwab Cup, got nipped at the very last minute. Maybe I can come from behind this year, so we'll see what happens the next two weeks.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Congratulations, Bernhard, and good luck with the Playoffs.

BERNHARD LANGER: Thank you, appreciate it.