

BERNHARD LANGER

Q. Bernhard, another start to the season here in your hometown. What's it like to play in your hometown event here in Boca Raton?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's always very special. Nothing better than playing at home, eating home cooking and sleeping in your own bed. Have family and friends with me. Life on tour can get pretty lonely at times being in a hotel and being on your own, so this is pretty unique and special.

Q. Talk about your caddie this week.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, my daughter's going to caddie for me; my oldest, Jackie. She caddied last year and she will do about two this year. She loves caddying and I love to have her on the bag. It's a home event for both of us, she lives in Boca Raton as well.

Q. You've had a few months -- we've played Hawaii, but you've had a few months to maybe reflect on last season and your fifth Charles Schwab Cup. What does it mean to you looking back at last season and thinking about all that you've accomplished?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it's pretty incredible. I didn't just look at last year, which was a very, very good year, but I was looking at the 11 years I've been on the PGA TOUR Champions and it's been amazing. To win 10 times the Money List and five Schwab Cups and Player of the Year eight times and things like that, I couldn't have even dreamt of that when I came out here.

So extremely blessed and happy how things are going. I'm still healthy and eager to play, so I'm looking forward to this year hopefully continuing with the same or similar success I've had the last 11 years.

Q. Bernhard, you've made almost one million dollars at this tournament alone here, you've had a lot of success here. Talk about why you think you've played so well here, and how long did it take you to get over last year?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, I think it's a shotmaker's golf course. It's a very -- at first you think, yeah, it's nothing about it, but it's actually a very demanding golf course. You have to drive the ball very well. Pretty much all the greens are elevated so if you miss a green or short-side yourself, the ball always runs down away from the green and it's hard to get it up and down. Then we have usually quite a bit of wind, which makes it more challenging to pull the right club and hit the proper shot. It's extremely important to hit fairways and greens, and I'm usually fairly decent in hitting the greens in the statistics anyways. I think that's why

the course kind of suits me.

Q. And last year, how long did it take you to put that behind you?

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, not long. When you put yourself in a position to win, you're going to win some, you're going to lose some. You're going to make some mistakes and you've got to pull off some great shots, and last year was a tough one bogeying 17 and not being able to birdie 18, but you move on. That's the good thing in golf, there's always another tournament the next week.

Q. This tournament historically produces very close finishes, four playoffs. The largest margin's only two strokes. Why do you think that is?

BERNHARD LANGER: I have no idea, I'm not sure why that would be. I could see somebody that is really striking the ball well, he could run away with the tournament, but I guess it hasn't happened. I don't know why.

Q. One more peculiarity is 12 winners and none of them are the same. There have been 12 winners, all have been 12 different players. That doesn't happen often. Anything you can think? It gives a lot of players a chance to win this tournament, the course?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I think it's the type of course, again, I think it favors a good ball-striker, but you have lots of them out here. There's par 5s that favor the long hitters, they can reach pretty much all of the par 5s where a medium or short hitter will not. But there's a bunch of shorter holes where accuracy is more important than length. So you've got a challenge in every department, that's probably why everybody has a chance to win. The shorter, straighter hitter as much as the long bombers.

Q. This week is the debut of Retief Goosen, he just turned 50 a few days ago. What are your experiences playing with him and how excited are you to have him join the tour?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, Retief is a wonderful champion; he's shown that for the last 30 years. He's won all over the world, he's a major champion, he's got a wonderful golf swing, beautiful rhythm, he's a clutch putter. So I think he'll do very well out here if he commits himself to it and if he stays healthy, and I look forward to spending some time with him. He's not just a great player, but a wonderful person on top of that.