

**BERNHARD LANGER (-19)**

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**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Congratulations to Mr. Bernhard Langer winning his second Oasis Championship, one of many accomplishments that he fulfilled today. He also became the all-time money winner, leading money winner on PGA TOUR Champions, and he won with his daughter Jackie on the bag.

Bernhard, what does today's win mean to you with all those things that I just said?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, there's many things to celebrate. It means a great deal to win in front of your home crowd, your family, your friends. Winning at home is always extremely special, no doubt about it. It made it more special having my first win with my daughter Jackie, who's only caddied three times for me. We had a second, lost in a playoff and now a first, so that's a pretty stellar record for her.

And this is my first blue jacket, by the way; winning jacket. I got a green one, I got a gold one and a couple of other -- a plaid one from Hilton Head, so I got a few colors, but this is the first blue one.

So I'm very happy and I hope Oasis will continue to sponsor this wonderful tournament here and bring many great people into this fantastic city of Boca Raton.

**Q. Bernhard, four birdies in the first seven holes, got off to a great start. Was there a sense that you had an opportunity to kind of put this thing away early?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it was an amazing start. It was actually five birdies, I think. Would that be right or am I wrong?

**Q. Five.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** One of my best starts ever probably. And in these conditions, as windy as it was today, it was really, really good. I was very pleased with the way my short game held up. I putted really good, because sometimes with the long putter it's even harder in windy conditions. But I read the greens well, my speed was good and I was fortunate enough to make a whole bunch of them.

**Q. Your record when holding the lead heading into the final round, it's practically unmatched. What is it about when you have that lead on Sunday, how do you feel so comfortable in that spot you're able to not only go out and hold onto the lead, but in cases like today you start off with one-shot lead, finish with a five-shot win. What goes into your mind when you have that lead heading into the final round in terms of**

## how you prepare?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Nothing in particular really. I'm just trying to play solid golf to make birdies and keep the foot on the pedal as they say.

I started off with a perfect tee shot and a really good second shot, then two putts for birdie. Just started off hitting solid shots. I actually hit one not so good on No. 2. I got it up and down out of the bunker, which was a confidence booster. From that point on I played really good golf.

Hit it reasonably close, made the putts I had to make and didn't put myself in any great trouble. Like on 7, for instance, I could have reached that green today easily with maybe a 3-wood or even a 2-hybrid, but I didn't feel comfortable with the wind coming a little more out of the left, which means you either have to hook it towards the water or start it out on the water and let it drift with the wind. So I laid up with a 6-iron from the tee, hit my lob wedge to about 10 feet and made the putt, or eight feet and birdied while my two opponents struggled to make par. I think one made par and one made bogey. It was a smart move.

The other two days I went for it and hit great shots, hit it on the green and made birdie, too. There's just sometimes you don't feel right about a certain situation.

Today I just never really got into any big trouble. I missed three greens and got up and down out of all of them, I think. The key this week was not making many bogeys. I think I made two bogeys all week, would that be correct?

## Q. Sounds about right.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** That's hard to do when the wind is blowing 16 to 20 miles an hour.

## Q. You had a piece of paper in your pocket the entire round. Tell us about it, please.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I can read it to you, yeah. It's a Bible verse. I did my devotion time this morning, which I usually try to do. That's when you have a late tee time, you have more time to do other things in the morning. So I read my Bible and I wrote this one down and put it in my pocket. It's out of Philippians 4, Verses 6 and 7.

It says to not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God; and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus.

This has been a verse I've used many times over the last 33 years since I've become a Christian, and it speaks to me personally but also as a golfer because it starts off saying do not be anxious. Well, I think we're all anxious, especially playing under the pressure we are and windy conditions against great opponents on a tough golf course. We're all anxious at times, worry about certain things.

It says, you know, give your request to God by prayer and petition with thanksgiving. So I did that several times today while I was playing golf and I felt that peace that God promises, that peace that he says will come over us. I felt very calm out there and very peaceful and that enabled me to do the best I can today. That doesn't mean I'm going to win every time I put a Bible verse in my pocket or do that, but it just makes golf less important and something else more important if you know what I mean.

**Q. You only had one bogey all week by the way.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** One bogey. Are you sure?

**Q. Yeah, 17 yesterday.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Okay.

**Q. When did you feel like you had it put away today?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, you're never quite sure, especially with this finish. We have some very tough finishing holes starting I would say 14, 15, 16, 17 are very hard holes. So I felt when I hit 16 green or I just hit it over the green, but it was an easy two-putt. I felt at that point, I looked up at the leaderboard and I saw I had a five-shot lead with two holes to go, I thought that should do it. And I hit a really good tee shot on 17.

But, you know, you hear of weird stuff. Bob Estes could have birdied 17 and holed his second shot on 18 and he goes 4 under for two holes. So you have to be aware of that, that it's possible.

I didn't celebrate early. I wanted to make sure to stay focused and not think about weird stuff, because I remember when I was 19 I was leading the Irish Open by two at Portmarnock with nine holes to go and I was thinking, what am I going to do with all the money I'm going to make, what am I going to say at prize giving and how am I going to celebrate, and three holes later I wasn't leading anymore and I didn't win the tournament. Key is to stay in the present, don't get ahead of yourself.

**Q. It's been talked about plenty at this point, but now 39 wins out here, all-time money winner currently. If you had to pinpoint or pick one thing in particular, what's been the key to your prolonged success out here? How long do you see yourself being able to continue to keep doing this?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, those are great questions and it's not just one thing. The key to success is a lot of things. You've got to be healthy, otherwise you can't play, and a lot of guys at age 61 aren't healthy anymore. They had this operation or that operation or a knee replacement or a hip replacement or whatever it may be. So I've been fortunate enough not to have any major surgeries so far besides my thumb in 2011, so that's key.

Then you still have to have the drive to work on the game and believe you can get better. I have a wonderful coach with Willi Hofmann, who's been with me for 43 years. I spent a whole week with him here in Boca Raton here in January, we worked on every aspect of the game from putting to chipping, bunker shots to the long game just to put me -- let me know what I need to work on to possibly improve. So I have that kind of road map set for the year.

I have generally a great caddie with Terry Holt, who's my professional caddie. Jackie, this week, I can't really rely on her much because she doesn't know how far I hit the clubs. I can't tell her, is this a 6- or 7-iron or read this putt for me, that wouldn't be fair. So I had to do it all on my own, but I've done that before and I've done all right. I have a wonderful family and wife and support system, many great friends. All of those things play a big part. Even the family I grew up in, my brother's my manager in Germany, so whether I win or lose there's always love and acceptance around me. And my faith obviously is very important as well to just help me get through the good and the bad times.

**Q. What did you feel Jackie provided as a caddie this week?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** She certainly provided the three basic rules for caddying. Do you know those? The three rules are show up, keep up and shut up. She was perfect in those three. The shut up didn't quite work as well. I should say she was good in two. She likes to talk, but she just relaxes me. She's out there talking to everybody. Sometimes just whatever it is, she just tells me a couple of jokes and we have a good time. I'm very fortunate and blessed to just have my kids wanting to caddie for me.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** I would be remiss if I didn't ask you about becoming the No. 1 all-time money winner on the PGA TOUR Champions. What does that accomplishment mean to you?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, it's hard to actually believe or understand, but it just shows I guess how well I played the last 11 years out here and how fortunate I am and how blessed I am to have won more money than anybody before me with all the great guys in the game, all the legends that have played. I'm still, what, seven wins behind Hale Irwin?

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Six.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Six. So there's a ways to go with that. But obviously the prize money's gone up the last few years, so when he played there wasn't as much money probably at hand, but there were more tournaments at hand when he played than nowadays, I think. It all balances out.

Sometimes I have to pinch myself. You know, when I came out on this tour, I was trying to be one of the better players, but I had no real clue how good the competition would be and whether it's all going to work out. It worked out better than I had hoped for.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** All right. With that, I'll let you get on your way. Congratulations again, Bernhard, on being the 2019 Oasis Championship winner.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Thanks, Chris. Thank you all for your support.