



**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**October 10, 2019**

**BERNHARD LANGER**

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**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Bernhard, you're back as defending champion after setting a tournament record 22 under last year. Got to be good memories coming back after that kind of performance.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it's always one of my favorite spots to come back here. Like the golf course, I like fast greens, and the people are wonderful. Jeff Kleiber and his team do a great job running the event. Got to meet a lot of people in the club here, the general manager and Larry, Tony, they all just are so personable. Got to meet Dr. Goodnight years ago and actually went skiing with him once. For me, it's just a place where it almost feels like family. And then my son went to UNC years ago, so there's that connection as well. Always felt very comfortable here.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** The season's reaching the Playoffs. How's the game and what are your prospects and expectations as you go after your sixth Charles Schwab Cup?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** That's a lot of questions, but yeah, right now I think I'm fifth going into this week on the Schwab Cup standings. Not quite where I was the last few years, but still within a shouting chance to do something the next four weeks. So I'm excited about the courses, the tournaments we're playing. I've done well in most of them and I think I'm about a million behind, so I really need to get my game together and get hot. This would be a good time to do it with double points coming up next week.

So I'm not totally out of it, but it's more of a, what do you call it, wild shot than anything else. Definitely Scott is in the driver's seat, Scott McCarron and Jerry Kelly. Both great players and they've done very well this season.

**Q. The experience you had with this tournament at this time before Schwab Cup, it seems like you would like to peak at the right times, or ideally. You had a win early in the season, middle of the season. It almost seems like this is that time. Is that something you plan ahead for? You want to play well every week?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Absolutely.

**Q. Are there certain times of the season you want to be more consistent at that top level than others?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I find it very difficult to plan in golf that way. You just never know when it clicks and when it happens. All I know is there's certain courses you feel a little more comfortable than others and I like the next three courses we play. Phoenix Country

Club, I haven't had the success I would like to have seen myself having, but I feel that's a place where it's more for bombers, for long hitters and I'm not one of those anymore. But the next three weeks, I've won on all three courses and I feel comfortable there. So it's just a matter of playing well, getting all parts of the game together and making putts.

But it's hard to plan. It's like on the regular tour or any tour, you try to peak at the majors, but how do you do that? You practice and you work and all of a sudden something happens and you feel really comfortable, you get in the zone and a week later it's gone again, or a couple days later. It's difficult to do that. We just continuously or I continuously work on my game and try to find small things that I can do better and hope that it clicks and get all the aspects and all the parts of the game together, so it's not just that I'm driving it one day and then not good the next day, and then I'm hitting my irons good and then my short game's good and then another part is it is missing. You've got to have it all if you want to go low.

**Q. Can you talk about getting in the (inaudible?) Last year here on the final day some guys in your group were falling apart and you seemed completely unshaken. Where do you think you gain that feeling of getting in the zone? Is it that you love the course that much?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It's not necessarily about the course or whatever, it's just feeling comfortable with what you're doing. I remember I think I shot 10 under the first round and 9 under last year and I thought I would be in the lead. I looked at the leaderboard and there was two other guys tied with me, then there was a gap of three shots and nobody was -- nobody was 7, 8, 9 under but three guys were 10 under, which was really weird.

Anyways, then I wasn't quite as happy with my ball-striking on Saturday, I think. I called my coach in Germany or emailed with him and he thought I needed to do something with my clubface on the takeaway, open it more because I lost some right. I was thinking, if I open my clubface on the backswing, it's going to go even further right. But it's a game -- the game is a game of opposites, so he knew if I open it on the backswing, I would close it going forward. It really worked. I mean, I was striping the ball and just hitting it where I wanted to hit it, didn't matter what club.

That's when it's fun. If you have a few of those days a year where you just, you look and you pull the club and it just goes right there and you make some putts on top of that, that's when you're in the zone. You feel totally comfortable. You even forget how many under you are. It doesn't matter, you just want to play another hole because you're going to make another birdie, that kind of thing.

**Q. Davis Love was in earlier and talking about trying to play both tours, still feels competitive sometimes on the PGA Tour but also wanting to play out here. Did you wrestle with that at all or did you make that decision --**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I didn't wrestle much with it. At first I thought it might be bittersweet, but I think it took me all of two or three tournaments and I knew I wanted to be

out here, not on the PGA TOUR any longer. I feel like I've done the European Tour, I've done the PGA TOUR. I wanted to have something new and different. Felt very much that this is where I want to play the rest of my career.

**Q. Do you think other golfers, when they turn 50, may be tempted to stay on the PGA TOUR?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, I'm sure. Everybody is somewhat tempted and some of them may be missing it more than others. But you take guys like Jerry Kelly or Rod Pampling now I think are definitely committed to this tour, there's no wavering about it. But then you had guys like Vijay or Davis Love or the odd other who felt oh, I still want to play a couple. Like Kenny Perry, I think he felt like he wanted to play a handful of tournaments on the PGA TOUR, courses that he really did well on, and I can understand that. So everybody's different. I mean, I started very young. I was on Tour when I was 18, so some other guys don't get on Tour until they're 28, so I'm 10 years ahead of them, or eight years. I've been there, done that and I was ready to move on.

**Q. As much as conditions (inaudible) on all levels of the game now, obviously different players come on this tour and they have different theories on what's made them successful in terms of physical conditioning and preparation. Have you increased or enhanced your ability to recover, recuperate and prepare for a season and how do you think that has helped you so far in continuing what you do on this tour?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I feel I need more rest, I need longer stretches of recuperating from a lot of golf. I don't enjoy playing three or four tournaments in a row. Most of the time I just play two and then I need a break. When I was young I once played 11 in a row. That was crazy, but I did it anyways. But I was young, I was single, I had no family, no other big interests. That's what you do.

Now I don't need to do that anymore. I've got nothing to prove. I just play golf because I want to play and so I can schedule -- make my own schedule in a better way and make sure I get some rest. And I'm 62, so I need more breaks. I don't hit 500 balls a day anymore like I used to, or even more at times, because my body would get beat up. So you need to figure out what's good for you, what works and what doesn't. And everybody's different. Vijay's still hitting 500 balls a day and probably will for another 10 years, I don't know. I couldn't do it.

**Q. So what kind of conditioning do you do?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I can't run anymore, my back was really -- I had severe back issues in my 20s so I had to stop running. Pounding, couldn't take it.

Yeah, I'm stretching more than I ever have done in my life. Try to work out, do some cardio work and small weights or bands and other things that we do nowadays. I've never done

heavy lifting. I wish I had done, but when I was young it was sort of the word went around that golfers don't need to lift heavy weights, you don't want to be big up here, you lose your flexibility, which is all garbage. But at the time we didn't know better.

**Q. Speaking on all that golf, did you hear about the group playing golf for 24 hours straight tomorrow for the Folds of Honor? I'm curious how you would hold you up playing for 24 hours straight, looking back to when you were able to kind of condition yourself that way?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I did not hear about it, but it's a great idea and I'm sure they can. They're going to be tired, no doubt about it. They're probably going to get 150 holes in or 120 holes, whatever. I once played 100 holes and that was a long day, but it wasn't -- didn't take 24 hours. I don't know how they're going to play in the dark, with glow balls?

**Q. Overnight finish on Saturday.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, should be fun. They're ready for a massage and some rest afterwards.

**Q. Got one of them right here. Any advice?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Just pace yourself. Be aware it takes 24 hours, not just eight hours. They can do it, they're young and strong and fit.

**Q. What are the things you look forward to coming back here besides the course, just being back in the Triangle area?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, I think I mentioned that earlier on, the people and feeling like it's family, the familiarity of the place and one other thing I love is the food. The food they serve here at Prestonwood is phenomenal, number one on our tour.

**Q. It's like a big thing on the tour. I've heard like three people unprompted say the food.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah. Well, we have some tournaments they could do a little better with food without mentioning any names, but we know who they are. This is certainly at the top. Eating is a big part of life and sometimes when the food's not so good, I say, well, we're supposed to be athletes and we ought to have some decent food and not cheeseburgers and macaroni and cheese, whatever we get sometimes.

**Q. What year did your son go to UNC?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, I'm not sure now what years. He was here three or four years and that was at least five years ago now. So he's 29, so what would that have been?

**Q. Ten years ago?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, from 2010 to 2014 maybe, something like that.

**Q. To switch gears real quick, regarding caddies, what's the relevance and importance of a caddie on PGA TOUR Champions versus regular tour versus Korn Ferry?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** The same, relationships and same importance. Some pros like all the information they can get from a caddie, others just want somebody that carries their bag and rakes the bunker, cleans the ball and does that kind of job, and anywhere in between. So everyone is different, but for a lot of people the caddie's important.

**Q. So there's still a lot of interchange between players, caddies bringing on somebody new or different if they think that's relevant to their play and so forth, like the importance of that part of the relationship?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, as I said, everybody's different. So for some they have 10 different caddies a year, others have the same caddie for 20 years in a row. I have a professional caddie, always have, and I do have my kids caddie for me every once in a while. So maybe two or three or four weeks a year I bring my kids out and then when that's the case, I need to do it all myself because I can't ask my daughter or my son, "What do you think I should hit," or "What's the yardage?" I mean, they could maybe figure out what yardage it is, but that wouldn't be fair. So yeah, when they caddie I do it all on my own, and when I have my professional caddie I'll converse with him and get his feedback.

**CHRIS RICHARDS:** Thanks, Bernhard.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** You're welcome, pleasure.