

BERNHARD LANGER (-18)

Q. Bernhard, what a round you played in the final round. How would you rank the quality of your play today over this illustrious career that you've had?

BERNHARD LANGER: It was very much up there, the first 17 and a half holes. That 6-iron on the last wasn't a lot of quality, but up until then a lot of quality shots. Really good driving all day long and good putting, and some of the irons were really nice, pin high or very close, some of them. A couple of them got away, but I got it up and down out of the trap three times today, which was also good bunker play on top of that. So all in all, extremely happy.

Q. Yeah, you didn't miss a fairway today, you hit the driver great and you putted well also. You were so close so far this year, three top-10s coming in. What does this do for your confidence now at age 62 going forward the rest of this year?

BERNHARD LANGER: Confidence is a huge part of golf, we all know that, so it's always great to win or to be happy about your game, feel like you're close or you're on top of it. Yeah, I still feel if I can play my best, I have a chance to win out here. But I have to play my best, I can't play at 80 percent, there's too many really good players nowadays that just will lap me if I don't play my very best.

Q. Back pocket, four behind Hale Irwin, do you think about it when you tee off?

BERNHARD LANGER: I don't really think about it, but I get reminded just about every week when I'm out here by the media or other people. So yeah, one closer. We don't live and die for records, but it's fun to have a couple of them.

Q. Congratulations on No. 41, it was special today.

BERNHARD LANGER: Thank you.

Q. What does it feel like to finally win this particular event where you've had some near misses in recent years?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I feel somewhat comfortable around this golf course. It probably suits a high ball, hit it with a lot of spin because some of the greens are usually fairly firm and some of the pins are tucked behind a bunker by three yards or so and you've got to stop it. You know, I'm not known for that, but I can spin the ball enough to compete if I play well.

This week was very solid. Today was extremely good. I drove the ball phenomenally. I

played very aggressive off the tee, I took driver where I sometimes would take a 3-wood or hybrid to be short of the traps that are left and right, and I took the traps on and hit it right between them so I would have a shorter iron into the green so I would have more spin and a better chance to get it close. Got off to a great start with three birdies in a row and put myself right in there, into the race. It just depended on who finishes the best.

Q. Did you take on that strategy because you knew you needed to make up ground today?

BERNHARD LANGER: Absolutely. I knew there were a lot of Hall of Famers, great players ahead of me or right around me and I figured somebody's going to play good, so I had to play really good to get on top and I was fortunate enough to do that.

Q. So when you go to bed last night or leave the course and you look at the leaderboard, what's your mindset? How do you sort of calculate what score you need to post?

BERNHARD LANGER: I really didn't, I didn't think about a certain score, but I knew I was four behind starting the day, and I played with Brett Quigley a couple weeks ago in Morocco and he played really good, so I didn't expect him to let off. Then, you know, you have Fred Couples who can get hot any time; Jimenez, who's already won this year, and all sorts of other players that were in the picture. Plus, I was paired with Rod Pampling and he was pushing me. He was ahead of me, then I got level, then I got ahead, then he pushed ahead again. That was probably good for me to not let up whatsoever. But I really didn't know what the guys were doing behind me.

Q. What level of awareness do you have of the leaderboard as you're making your way around the course? Did you know how many you were leading by, for example, on the tee on 18?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, on 18 I did. I think first look was on 17 that I took and I saw that I had a two-shot lead, and then I birdied that to go with a three-shot lead. Woody Austin, who was next behind me, was already through 17, and 18 is a tough hole anyway. So I figured the best he could do if he holes his second shot is 18, so I just had to keep it out of the water on 18, hit a great 3-wood off the tee and had a 6-iron in there, which was not a very good shot, but almost chipped in and almost holed the putt, but almost doesn't count.

Q. Bernhard, what is it that makes you so dominant at this level? Talk about your crazy workout ethic and how much you think that plays a part?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, a big part is my faith in Jesus Christ, it really is. I did my (indiscernible) this morning and read the Bible and went to Philipians where it says don't be anxious about anything, and golf is such a sport of being anxious. You look at some of these shots, you go over water, you go on the edge of the water, you go over bunkers and all that stuff and it's easy to get a little worried or a little scared. So I just reminded myself

that there's a bigger picture and went with that mindset, which I think is the best mindset to play golf to the audience of one and don't care about the outcome.

Q. How did having the lead affect your strategy off the tee on 17 and 18?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, on 17 tee I didn't know I was in the lead, but it wouldn't have mattered, I would have taken the same club no matter what.

Q. Driver?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I took driver to a long part of the edge of the water and then tried to stop it short of that big tree down there and I hit it perfect, hit it perfect, exactly where I wanted to hit it. Got lucky, it finished on the fairway. Sometimes they bounce and roll into the trees. Hit a good shot. And when I came off 15 I guess, the other par 5, I looked at that pin on 17 and I said to my caddie, the front bunker's a good place to finish, I feel I can get up and down maybe eight out of 10 times. So I ended up in there and got it up and down.

Q. And would you have hit 3-wood off of 18 tee whether you were tied or behind?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yes, because it was the right club. You know, maybe if I needed to make birdie to tie I might have taken a driver, but today, the way the wind conditions were and where the tee box was and all that, I felt the 3-wood gave me the biggest target to hit to.

Q. So you're playing a fade there, basically aiming at the mound or a little bit right of the mound?

BERNHARD LANGER: Well, the ideal line is just to the right side of the mound because anytime you go left of the mound, it kicks left and you end up in the water, it's like a highway down there. If you hit the top of the mound, the last 25 yards are straight downhill, so it's better to go right of the mound.

But my caddie said left water's better than right water. You're going to say why's that. Well, if I hit it in the left water, I get to drop it where it goes in; if I hit it in the right water, I probably have to reload and bring double bogey into play.

Q. That didn't end up mattering.

BERNHARD LANGER: Nope.

Q. Nor did a bogey --

BERNHARD LANGER: He just said keep it dry and we're in good shape.

Q. Is there any part of you, do you ever let yourself think, wow, what you've accomplished, do you ever let yourself think about all you've accomplished at 41 and

what you're still doing out here?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I've got to pinch myself sometimes. Where I come from, a little village of 800 people in Bavaria, out in the boondocks basically. Just to start playing golf was crazy in a sense, or was very unlikely. Everybody was playing soccer and ping pong and other stuff and here I am, you know, playing golf. So that was really unusual.

And then to go into actually having to make a career out of playing golf was just incredible, and to have the span of 44, 45 years now as a pro on tour, winning in every decade on any tour possible, actually five different continents around the world, yes, I have to pinch myself and be very grateful, and I am, for the gift I've been given. Yes, I put the work in, I've got a good work ethic and work out, train hard, but put a lot of work into my golf game as well.