

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
March 4, 2019



BERNHARD LANGER

Q. There's eight Hall of Famers in the field this week, including a guy named Hale Irwin. Do you think he's like trying to protect his record? Is he a little nervous?

BERNHARD LANGER: I don't think so. I think he's got other things to worry about.

Q. You talked about every year there are new young guys coming out that you have to contend with and they're coming after you, but you keep winning. Ernie Els is in the field this week, he's a new Hall of Famer. He said yesterday that he was very surprised how competitive it is. He wasn't sure it was as competitive as it is, but he knows now it is. He said, "We've got a 63-year-old out here who wins every other week."

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, not quite.

Q. Ernie is coming after you.

BERNHARD LANGER: Oh, I know. Everybody is, everybody's coming after everybody, right? That's how it is and that's how it should be. That's why we're here, we're all competitors, right? We have a lot of fun, but we still like to beat each other.

Q. Your win here was your second on Tour. Can you just take us through that and just reflect back on your memories of that event?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it was a very special win because it was against one of the best players out here, Jay Haas, and it was in a playoff and we battled seven extra holes, I think. I don't think we would have finished if it hadn't been for the time change that Saturday night or whatever, Sunday morning, so we had an extra hour of daylight.

Yeah, it was cool. You don't forget those kind of things. We're dear friends, known each other a very long time and it was sad that somebody had to lose. We should have both gotten a trophy, I think, for the way we played.

Q. Didn't his eagle chip lip-out before he missed that putt on that last hole?

BERNHARD LANGER: I think it did, yeah. It was tight, it was close. We both had our chances as we went along those seven holes.

Q. So you won eight now since you turned 60, which to you is an irrelevant number, you've told me many times, but that's pretty impressive.

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, I guess it is, compared to most guys, right?

Q. I was looking at a list of most wins in each decade. Tiger won 46 times in his 20s, Arnold Palmer won 44 times in his 30s, Hogan, 43. These are all PGA TOUR. Vijay won 22 in his 50s, I mean 40s, and then Hale won 42 in his 50s. You had 33 in your 50s and now you've got eight in the 60s. Which one of those is most impressive, the 46 in the 20s or the eight in the 60s?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's hard to say. Maybe the eight in the 60s, but what I was just reminded, I won in six decades. That's something not many can do, so I've been very -- I started young and I've been very fortunate to have a long, good career if you want to call it that, right? I won in the '70s, '80s '90s, and 2020 we're just starting.

Q. And 23 of your 41 since 57, that also goes against the conventional --

BERNHARD LANGER: Against the grain, yes. I'm trying to go against the grain, swim against the water or whatever they call it, against the flow. Well, I always say there's exceptions, right? There's always exceptions. Tom Watson was an exceptional player, he almost won the British Open when he was close to 60, And Hale Irwin is one of those and there's always some of those. Hopefully I'll be one of those where I defeat the normal rules or expectations or whatever you call it. They say once you're 55 out here, you don't win much anymore. I've proven that wrong already, so hopefully I can prove a few more things wrong, give some hope to the older guys, whether amateur or pro, right?

Q. Does McCarron give you the rib about "I finally got you"? Does he mention last year?

BERNHARD LANGER: No, he didn't, but I was happy for him really.

Q. Yeah, it looked like it.

BERNHARD LANGER: Even though I was trying to win again. You know, I had my chances, but it was such an exciting and thrilling finish last year for the Schwab Cup. There were several guys in it until the very end and he probably played the best golf all year, so he deserved it.