



TimberTech
CHAMPIONSHIP



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023
BERNHARD LANGER

MODERATOR: All right, Bernhard, our defending champion here at the TimberTech Championship. How's the feel to be back in Boca Raton this week?

LANGER: Oh, it's fantastic. It's always great to be playing at home and had some good success here on this golf course and other ones. So it's been a great tournament for me and very happy to be here today.

MODERATOR: Thank you. Go ahead with questions, guys.

QUESTION: How much time have you spent on this course since they have redone it?

LANGER: Yeah, very little. I was supposed to come out here several weeks ago, but something always comes up. So I saw it first time on Tuesday a couple days ago and played yesterday nine holes and another 18 today. So I have two and a half looks at it kind of thing. So we go and hopefully that's enough. Some of the holes are similar, but some are very different, totally opposite.

QUESTION: Bernhard, the wind is obviously going to be a roll this week. How is that going to affect how you play in the other way?

LANGER: The wind is always the toughest factor in golf because the ball just gets blown around up there. So we're probably going to be practicing some of the low shots, see how the ball reacts. It's especially difficult with the water holes because there's several holes you have to carry water like 10 and 14 and a bunch of other that makes it very difficult to control the distance where the ball lands. It's going to be difficult for everybody, there's no doubt about it, and the scores will be higher.

QUESTION: Bernhard, you've won six, I think, Charles Schwab Cups. This one's out of reach for everybody. Guy who won it isn't here, but does that change anything? You're still trying to win a tournament? Do you know without that attainable does it change anything for you?

LANGER: No, not at all. We're here to do the best we can. I'm sure that's the goal for everybody. Some might have goals to get into. to the top 36 or get a W so they're exempt for a year or two and things like that. There's plenty to play for to improve your position that you're in and yeah we can't win the Schwab Cup anymore, that's still a Steve Strickers but it's still worse, better to finish second than fifth. So there's a bunch of guys that try to finish second or third and get part of that bonus money.

QUESTION: The year he (Stricker) had, talk about that and just being able to do what he did and clinch that before this.

LANGER: Yeah it's phenomenal. Steve had an exceptional year with what six wins I believe and three majors and another runner up in a fourth major. It's just outstanding. I mean we know he's capable of that kind of goal but to do it week after week after week for that many months in a row it's very special.

QUESTION: We have the Champions TOUR, where rookies coming in every year. In this case though it's rookies who have a lot of experience behind them. So a guy like, you know we spoke with Justin Leonard yesterday. When these guys come in every year is that to give you an extra competitive boost to be like okay now the competition is getting even?

LANGER: I don't need an extra competitive boost. It's already there but obviously you are aware. Here comes another very accomplished player, major winner, you know where it was Ernie Els a couple of years ago, Retief Goosen and Jim Furyk. They just keep coming now Justin Leonard and there will be more in the future. It's just how it is, how our system works and they're going to have an impact. They're going to win tournaments. You know we saw Padraig Harrington and Alex Cejka they came out and started winning immediately. And so that takes wings away from you. So you gotta be at the top of your game, you know you gotta step it up to be able to compete with these young rookies we call them the 50 years.

QUESTION: I know what your incentive is, you go out and play, you're competitive, but you hold all these running, you passed Hale this year. Not chasing that now is the goal to widen that lead. What is there more that you have to look at to get incentive or just going out week to week, good enough for you?

LANGER: Generally my makeup is that I want to do the best I can every week. That's just the competitive nature in me. But you have to have goals. I always try to improve if that's possible in certain areas. Obviously the margins get thinner and thinner. But once I won number 46 I thought well, let's shoot for the moon, let's go for 50. I know that's a huge goal way out there, but who knows. I'm going to give it a few more years and see what happens.

QUESTION: How many of your family members will be here this week and how much do you interact with them during a round?

LANGER: There will be some of them for sure, some of them are out of town. I'll have a lot of not just family members but friends from church from just living here for that many years. I'll have some great support and I will notice them. I'll wave or shake hands or say hi if I can. I'm not going to be spending 10 minutes outside the ropes on every hole because we don't have that much time. We've got to keep moving. But I'm aware of that.

QUESTION: What are some of the luxuries you enjoy while being in your home town?

Oh yeah, it's nice to not be in a hotel. Nice to sleep in your own bed and have a familiar environment. It's nice to commute 10 minutes or whatever instead of some things. just to have family and friends around. People have no idea we're all... it's a lonely life on tour. Many times I'm not there by myself. My wife isn't traveling, she's with her kids and grandkids. So it's nice to just be there and know everything that's going on, have some home cooked meals and see a lot of familiar faces.

QUESTION: Is there a specific meal that you make or request?

LANGER: I'm very blessed that I can eat everything and really enjoy everything. I used to not like Mexican, now I even like Mexican. I like it all.

QUESTION: Do you expect a big following? I think I do. I think you're going to have a big following out there. A lot of spectators following you around on the course. Do you expect that?

LANGER: I think people know now that the tournament is here. We've had it here many years in a row. The work goes around. People are aware of it. And then obviously as I mentioned a minute ago I have family and friends. So I'm planning on having probably a larger group with me than most people out there.

QUESTION: As the years go by, two moments ago you said you're on the road and get lonely. You don't have to do this. What keeps you going and as each year and do you, is there a countdown in your head saying, maybe this year I'll think about, have I played enough golf in my life? How are you thinking as far as the end and what keeps you going until that end?

LANGER: I take it one year at a time really. But as I look at it, I have more time for golf now than I had 10, 20, 30 years ago. I was busy with kids then raising a family and being a father and a mother. and a husband and all that. Now the kids are gone, we're empty nesters. We spent some time with the grandkids, but I have time to play golf and I'm still pretty good at it. I still enjoy it. I'm competitive, I love the camaraderie we have out here, the places we go and travel and raise some money for charities, wherever we go. So it's overall a good cause and I'm not forced to play 30 events here or whatever. I can make up my own schedule. So I still enjoy it. Probably that's the main reason I'm out here. And you know, I've been playing a lot. I've been playing probably 25, 26, for 40 years in a row. So they may be coming at a time real soon when I cut it back to 20 or 18 or something, but that's still a full schedule when you think of Tiger Woods and Nicklaus never played more than probably 18 in their whole life.

QUESTION: Do you have to spend more time in your body?

LANGER: That too, yeah. I need some time to recuperate, but you know, we have wonderful facilities that travel with us actually. The two fitness trucks, a workout truck and a therapy truck. So we're well taken care of. We can work out every day. We have physiotherapists and chiropractors at hand that know us. So it's sometimes better on

tour actually, the care I have than when I'm at home. At home I work out and do my own thing and get some rest, but the facilities are really good.

QUESTION: Is it more than when you were younger?

LANGER: Oh yeah. My body can't do what it did in the 20s and 30s. No chance. Yeah, so you have more time on it. Yeah.

QUESTION: I have an off topic one. The NFL's in Germany this weekend, the Dolphins are playing the Chiefs. How do you think the Germans are embracing American football? And do you follow it?

LANGER: I follow it because I live here, obviously, and I've been a Dolphin Fan for many years, but that's a good question. I really don't know. I imagine... A lot of Germans would be kind of excited and interested to just see the sport life. You know, some of them watch it maybe on television from afar. So, you know, I imagine the place will be packed, sold out, and it might catch on. I mean, the big issue is soccer. It's so big in Germany, nothing can even touch soccer. But there's room for another sport. I mean, who would have thought pickleball would grow away? Yes, in this country, right?

QUESTION: You play pickleball? You do, you've gotten into it. I love it. My knees don't love it, but I love it.

QUESTION: Do you find it a good, for your conditioning and for helping you out?

LANGER: Yeah, I feel good for this sport. You play non-stop for a while and yeah, it's better than sitting on the couch. Let's put it that way. Anything is. But, you know, it's tough on the joints, the knees and the ankles. Sometimes the elbows and shoulders are not too heavy.

QUESTION: Do you have to tame your competitiveness a little bit when you're out there?

LANGER: That's my problem, yeah. Whenever I do something, I go at it 100% and then I pay for it the next day.

QUESTION: How long have you lived here and what made you decide to choose Boca Return for your home?

LANGER: It was mostly because of my wife, my way here and moved here in 1986.