

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
May 4, 2018



BERNHARD LANGER (-9)

JACKIE SERVAIS: Great play today. We have Bernhard Langer here, which I'm sure everyone already knows. You have tied the course record today, which is pretty amazing, and you had nine birdies, which is half of your holes. Would you just talk about that and how you played so well?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, it was a great day out there. Started off with not my best tee shot. I just cut the corner too much, hit the tree and came down about 120 yards off the tee or something, 150. I don't know. But managed to slice it around the corner and hit 8-iron in there, made a putt. So still made birdie, got away with that one.

And then another birdie on 2 with three great shots. Just continued to play pretty good, give myself chances. Hit one loose shot there on 7. My tee shot went in the bunker and had really not a good lie in the fairway bunker, so I couldn't even -- I didn't feel comfortable going for the green over the water. So I went way right in case I hit it a little heavy or something so it wouldn't go in the water. Managed to make good contact, got it about pin high, but it was 30 yards to the right of the green and chipped it in from there. So that was an extra bonus.

And then really played well from No. 9 onwards. Don't think I hit one loose shot from that point on, so the last 10 holes were really, really good. Got it up and down on 8 out of the trap. As I said, from starting on 9, I had every hole I was pretty much putting for birdie. I made some and I missed some.

JACKIE SERVAIS: What was your mindset going into today, was it any different than it's been in the past?

BERNHARD LANGER: Not really. Actually been playing nicely the last few weeks. I played well at the Masters and then was in two playoffs the following two tournaments out here, lost in both. So I felt like my game was in fairly good shape. But I had a week off, you never quite know how it goes.

I was very happy with the way I struck the ball the last two or three hours. Then the putter, yeah, made a few and still missed a couple, too. But it's not that easy out there. Then the wind really kicked up the last three holes. The good news is that it was all downwind. Still, playing in a 20- to 30-mile an hour gusts is not easy.

JACKIE SERVAIS: This is the lowest scoring average this tournament has had. Are you surprised you shot 9 under or did it feel like you were doing that throughout the day?

BERNHARD LANGER: I'm a little surprised but it was beautiful conditions early on. I think

it was the first day of the year out here that we didn't have any wind, or it felt like there was hardly any wind. It was really enjoyable. And the course is in great condition, the greens are good. So when you give us conditions like that, there's going to be some low scores.

Q. You've had some great rounds here, you shot a 62 on the other course the first time you played this event the first year. This round today, does it rank right there with any round you ever had here score-wise? I know it does score-wise, but in terms of the way you felt?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's somewhere up there obviously, it's one of the better rounds. I've probably had a couple better because the conditions were tougher. Sometimes you shoot 4 or 5 under in really hard conditions and it may be better than a 9 under in calm conditions, so it all depends.

But it was nice to play 18 holes with no bogey and having lots of birdie opportunities. I really hit my irons pretty close, had a birdie putt on 9 from five feet, I missed it. Four and a half feet straight down-grain, so that was not a good stroke. But 10, I hit it to about two and a half feet. So I had opportunities. 11, I missed a putt from a very short distance, but then I made one on 12, almost eagled 13, almost eagled 15, hit two really good putts but neither one went in. So I was very pleased, yeah. Would love to play golf like that more often.

Q. What's your lowest competitive round ever?

BERNHARD LANGER: 10 under in the German Masters in Berlin.

Q. You said a couple days ago that you started staying with a friend in the Woodlands and it's the same friend, somebody you've developed a relationship with. Jeff Maggert lives here, says he's four miles from the course. From the time you leave the course to your friend's house, how many minutes away are you?

BERNHARD LANGER: It's literally 200 yards.

Q. So you can walk there?

BERNHARD LANGER: He's on the 9th hole, so it's very close to the clubhouse.

Q. The point Jeff's making, you think it's great to be playing at home but your wife says take the garbage out, meet the --

BERNHARD LANGER: It's not always easy playing at home. It's great to be in your own bed and have some home cooking, but there's lots of other responsibilities.

Q. But you have the best of both worlds here, I would sense, because you said you were much comfortable there than you would be in a hotel and you don't have to take the garbage out presumably?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, the garbage doesn't bother me, but that's fine. I don't mind taking the garbage out at home, it takes five minutes.

Q. Apparently going to get some possibly heavy rains this evening. Jeff was saying that it will make the course play a little bit longer and the greens -- but the greens are in great shape. Just your thoughts on two more rounds?

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, hopefully the rain will be out of here by tomorrow morning and we'll have nice conditions the next couple days. But it will probably, depending on how much it rains, it will definitely play a little longer. Don't know if we're going to get any mud balls or not. When there's a lot of rain, there's a tendency to pick up mud. Hopefully not. Maybe we'll miss some of it, I don't know. But whatever comes our way, you know, we're going to have similar conditions, I think, and we've seen it from all spectrums, from beautiful weather to horrible weather. When you have played golf as long as we have, there's nothing new in terms of weather.

Q. What do you do to keep yourself in such good physical shape?

BERNHARD LANGER: I'm on the see food diet, so when I see food, I eat it. You've probably heard that one before.

No, I'm on no diet really. I pretty much eat anything and everything. I do like to work out. Used to live an active lifestyle and that's becoming less and less active. As we get older, we just don't have the energy or the drive or whatever, the metabolism slows down, so it's not easy. But I'm in reasonable shape. There's other guys out here that are much, much better shape than me, much fitter.

Q. You're walking just by playing, so it's not like you have to go for an extra five mile walk every day?

BERNHARD LANGER: Right. But when I'm off I like to work out at home every day, and even when I'm out here I do a lot of stretching and a little bit of cardio on top of what we're doing already and some other exercises. Nothing like Gary Player. He's one of a kind.

Q. But you're spotting most of the guys on the leaderboard a few years. When you're shooting 63 at 60, that's pretty impressive stuff. Is your weight basically the same as it would have been when you were --

BERNHARD LANGER: Yeah, somebody asked me that earlier today. I think when I was 18 or 20 I might have weighed about 155 and now I'm about 165, 167. So I've gained a little bit, but that's normal.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Thank you.