

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: BERNHARD LANGER**  
**August 1, 2016**



**DAVE SENKO:** You tied Lee Trevino on the all-time victory list. Bernhard, maybe just go back to last week. You were at one point T14 at the turn and you shot a 6-under 30 on the back nine. Maybe just talk about that win last week to get us started.

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, I was four shots behind going into the last round and got off to not my best start really, even though I played good the first few holes but just couldn't make anything going, ended up 1 over after nine.

But on the eighth hole I hit a tee shot to the right, in the right bunker, I realized what I was doing with my swing because there's only one way I can hit that shot. So from that point on I kind of figured I knew what I had to do to fix it and I fixed it the rest of the round and it all of a sudden went from mediocre to really good. Hit it close on a number of occasions. Also made one or two good putts and ended up in a playoff shooting 6 under on the last nine holes, and then was the only one to birdie the playoff, which was in a way a surprise win when you go with nine holes to go on six or seven shots behind. That doesn't happen very often but it's happened before. I won the Spanish Open once being seven shots behind and I won it by two. In golf you just never know what's around the corner.

**DAVE SENKO:** You've had a remarkable run on this tour. How would you assess your season so far in comparison to some of your past years?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, I would like to say all the years were very good out here. Actually, I had one bad year when I had surgery on my thumb and I was out for months, and the other four, five months, I played injured so that was my weakest year. But all the other years were really good, and this is probably one of the better ones out of those other eight, so far anyways, with two major wins and two other wins on top of that. Can only go back to 2010 when I won two majors and five tournaments in total. Hopefully I can do the same this year or maybe even top it, but I'm very pleased with the way things are.

**DAVE SENKO:** A little more satisfying this year with having to change the whole thing with the putting style from last year?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, that was a major change, it really was. Difficult at first and still is to some extent because I putted one style for 17 years or 18 years, and then all of a sudden you have to change, which puts a lot of hours of practice in the garbage can basically, useless, and you start from scratch in a way. So that was difficult but it's going fairly well.

**Q. In 2010 and the standard you set there with the two and five, is that a driver for you at this point? Will that be a motivation for the remainder of the season to make this your best season on the tour?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** You know, I never thought about it that way. My goals are different, they're not really that. My goals are to improve my game. It might sound weird to you, me being 59 years old now, or 58 or 57, but I'm a strong believer that I can still become a better golfer. By saying that, I mean I can still improve my technique, my short game, the way I think, my self-talk, my outlook, just the mental game, my putting. There's so many areas where if you just improve five percent or two percent, it turns into half a stroke a day or something like that, and over three or four days it's enormous. That's what I'm really working on. I know the rest will come. If I achieve these little goals, these little minute improvements here and there, the rest, the results will show up.

**Q. Can you describe what it's like when every time you come into the media tent or every time you do a scrum after a good round, people want to know how you're doing it? Can you describe what it's like to constantly being asked the question how are you still doing this at 58 or 59?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I don't mind the questions, because if I wouldn't be asked in here and nobody would recognize me, that would mean I'm not doing very well. I've learned a long time ago it's better to be recognized in a restaurant or get asked for an autograph because even though it may be inconvenient sometimes, you're in the middle of your dinner and you have to sign a couple autographs, but it's much better that way than going unnoticed, so I don't mind that and I'm happy to share what makes me tick, what works for you. I often talk about my faith because it's a great -- plays a great part of my life and what drives me and what helps me. It's an opportunity to share and pass on some of the things that I've learned.

**Q. Does it seem strange at all that a lot of people seem to think that at 59 a guy shouldn't be doing still what you're doing? As someone who's worked as hard as you have, does it seem weird that people maybe are caught by surprise that you are still playing at such a high level?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Maybe some are and maybe not many can play at that level, but there's different levels throughout your life. There's not many 20, 30, or 40-year-olds that play at a PGA Tour level or that they're in the top 50 in the world for many, many years in a row. So I've been very blessed to be part of that smaller group that's had a long and successful career. As I said, I think I can still get better even at that age, which may be a surprise to some people but I think other people can relate to it. You know, any time one of us old guys does well, all the other old guys are happy for him and cheer for the old guys.

**Q. Your last trip to Canyon Meadows by your standard was not one of your best finishes, kind of middle of the pack if I remember. Is there anything about the course, was it just a tough week for you or what do you remember about that week?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, I just remember not playing my best golf and getting some bad breaks and just not making the putts and not hitting the right shots at the right time, just

didn't get a lot going that week, but I'm here to change that this week. I love the golf course, it's in phenomenal shape, the people do a fantastic job running this event in all aspects. Great venue. It's just too bad the forecast we're having right now. Hope the weatherman is wrong, things will improve, but the last few days, things have been just phenomenal out there, beautiful.