

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**August 11, 2021**



**BERNHARD LANGER**

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**CONNOR STANGE:** We're here with Bernhard Langer. Can you start by just giving us some overall thoughts on being back here at the Shaw Charity Classic in Canada?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It's great to be back in Canada. It's our only stop during the year and they've done a phenomenal job over the years. Everybody loves the golf course, loves the crowd, they're really enthusiastic here. The organizers do a fantastic job. Shaw is known to do an amazing job and probably raise more money this week than we do most anywhere else. Helps a lot of local charities.

**CONNOR STANGE:** In your last two starts you finished in the top-5, both in major championships. What's been going well for you lately?

**BERNHARD LANGER:** I've been playing fairly solid golf tee to grown and just not making enough putts, I think, certainly not at Sunningdale. So working on fine tuning a couple of things, continue to try to hit fairways and greens, which is always beneficial, and avoid the three-putt routine and hopefully make a few single putts, make more birdies.

I played yesterday, 18-hole practice round, and the course is playing long right now. I hit a lot of 4-irons and 3-hybrids, but I think as the sun comes out, temperatures will get warmer, the ball should travel a little further and should play a little bit shorter, I think. It's in great condition.

**Q. You finished as high as tied for second at this event. What would it mean for you to capture that elusive win on the only Canadian stop on the Tour?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It would mean a lot. There's still a few tournaments I haven't won on this tour and this is certainly one of them. As I said, I enjoy coming back here. I think I can play this course well, just a matter of getting everything going in the right direction all at once and firing on all four cylinders. It would be very nice to have a victory in Canada. That's one country I haven't won yet, so I'm trying as hard as I can.

**Q. And if I could take you back to about a month ago, I understand, like a lot of players, you have your clubs you like, you'll keep them around for years, but did something happen with your favorite putter?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, yeah, I had a different caddie that week. My professional caddie couldn't work for me and I had a fill-in, a friend of mine, and he made the mistake of driving the golf cart in the pro-am under the rope. Put the rope on top and take off, obviously the rope comes down, snatches as one of the clubs and in this case it was the putter. And it

didn't look very pretty. Instead of being straight, it was looking like a horseshoe. We got it fixed --

**Q. And it's good to go?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** -- just a week later. Yeah, yeah, it's good to go.

**Q. How much of a difference do you feel when you've been using the same putter for so long and you switch to one with a different shaft?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** It's very awkward. It was not just a different shaft, it was a different head. I borrowed one from Scott McCarron for the first round and then played with another one for the next two rounds. It's very weird because I've had that particular putter for about 23 years and it's like part of you. It's hard to explain, but it wasn't the same, that's for sure.

**Q. But it's feeling as good as new now?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it's about the same as it was before.

**Q. You talk about playing in Canada. There's going to be four Canadians in the field, including Mike Weir. You know he's come on and had a win and a second already. What's it like to compete against him again on this tour?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Mike Weir's a wonderful person, great character and very good for the game of golf and certainly for Canada. He's achieved a lot of things in his career and he's in good form. As we've seen, he's already made an impact in the few months he's been on the Champions Tour and he's going to continue to do so. He works very hard at his fitness and at his game, he's very dedicated and I'm sure he would -- there isn't much more exciting for him than to win in his home country. So he'll be trying extremely hard to lift the trophy on Sunday afternoon.

**Q. Stephen Ames has helped bring this tournament here and played in this every year and he's having a good year, too, so there's a lot of Canadians who could be in contention against you.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yep, could be, you never know, but you certainly have some talents here and hopefully they do well because the Canadian crowd would love to have some of their hometown favorites in contention.

**Q. Yeah, we were talking with Wes Short, Jr., last year, two years ago, he got a pretty good break there on the 18th hole. Is that something you need, breaks like that, to win tournaments like this?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, absolutely. If you look back in the three or four days of play, there's usually a very good chance that the winner got a good -- one or two good breaks and

the other guys probably didn't get quite as good a break and that makes the difference of one or two strokes and that's often all it takes.

**Q. I've just got a quick one for you. I shot a little bit of your clinic last night down there and it looked like you were having just about as much fun as the guys who were watching. I learned a lot of stuff. Do you ever learn anything doing those clinics? Like what do you learn from them?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Maybe I don't learn much because I'm speaking what I've experienced and what I've learned in the past, but it's sometimes good to be reminded of certain things that we just have in the back of our heads but I don't pay attention to. So it has happened in the past 10, 15 years that just talking about a certain thing and I'm going, well, I know this but I'm not doing it anymore, so why aren't you doing it, and it helped me to perform better.