

***BERNHARD LANGER – ALLIANZ CHAMPIONSHIP – pre-tournament interview, 2/5/2014***

**What are your thoughts about coming and playing this event?**

Well it's always fun being in your own bed and having lots of family and friends support you. I have lived here for 30 years, more or less, have friends in church and neighbors and other people I have met over the years just want to come and cheer you on. It is nice to have a nice crowd on your side and not go on an air plane and get sick cause someone else is sick and that kind of thing. It is one of my favorite parts of the year. I enjoy playing in Florida, I have gotten used to the Bermuda grass over the years.

**Can you talk about the course here at Broken Sound?**

The course is in great shape as it has been in the past. We had some rain last Thursday – quite a few inches – which softened it all up and the course will play a little firmer. Otherwise it is in good shape. The course is a lot harder than it looks. The greens are elevated so you have to shoot for the green or else it will land in the water or somewhere else. You need to drive it well to set up your second shot. Another thing is the wind. For those of you that live here you know that there is hardly a day when the wind is not blowing, 10 or 15 MPH, sometimes more. That is challenging for a golfer.

**What have you done since your last victory?**

I haven't done a whole lot. Just rested and worked out. I got sick and got the flu. I have fever and body aches. I was supposed to go over to Naples for media day but I couldn't do that because I was sick in bed for 3 days. I am gradually getting over it. I did some practicing the last few days. I am looking forward to the weekend.

One thing you might not be aware of is that we are doing an outreach at my church Calvary Chapel of Boca Raton. It's Scott Simpson, Larry Miz and myself. We talk about golf, how we got into golf and some stories about the Masters and the Ryder Cup and at the end we also share out faith. This is tomorrow night at 7:30 anybody is welcome. It is at the Calvary Chapel by 95.

**What do you think is the key to success?**

You have to be healthy. If you're not healthy you cannot play and do what you need to do. You have to have the desire to still work at it. I am 56 now and you need to have certain people around you that support you and help you. You have to live away from family and friends which when you have done it has long as me, which is almost 40 years now, it can become old. It becomes old living in a hotel room, often by you, and not have your kids or wife or close friends around. You need a good golf swing; you need to be mentally tough to pull through under the

pressure. There is a list of why you are successful while others work hard at it. I do work hard at it. I pride myself on it...pride if the wrong word. I like to come to a tournament early. I don't like to arrive on Thursday and play the Pro-Am and win. I put a little effort in to it and I expect some results at the end.

**Are there any aches and pain that come along with getting older?**

Every day I have some aches and pains. I don't want to talk about it. No one wants to hear about it. The best thing to do is ignore it.

**At the third round of the Masters, you said that a player over 50 years old will win a major. Are you still confident about that statement?**

I believe that very strongly. It's just a matter of time. It's going to happen. You have some very good players going through, winning a regular tour at 49. Why can't they win a major at 50, 51, 52 or 53? Watson almost did it when he was 60. It's going to happen. You have guys like Vijay Singh, there's a list of guys who can pull it off. Nobody has done it yet but I think its going to happen. Modern equipment has helped them hit it a reasonable distance, not as far as these young players. I just watched a bit of golf last week and it was ridiculous how some guys were hitting it on the 18<sup>th</sup>. When we were hitting it, it was narrow and they hit is 40 years further and they hit it wide open. Not all courses are built like that so it doesn't always help.

**What do you do to stay in shape? What do you do for physical workouts and workouts that involve playing golf and hitting balls?**

A bit of everything. Some cardiovascular work 30-45 minutes, a little bit each day. Some ropes and bands and things. You have to be creative and stretching. Stretching at our age is one of the most important things you can do because we all get stiff. Hitting balls is part of it. If you do not walk for 2 or 3 weeks you get tired. People thing it is a piece of cake but it's not when you are walking 18 holes for 6 hours a day. When you walk 18 holes plus all of the rest and in between and before it's a lot.

**Since you've been living here so long, when will you apply to become an American Citizen?**

It has nothing to do with Heidi Klum. I am going to become an American citizen when I decided I want to or need to. I don't feel the need at this point. I pay my taxes here like every citizen here does. I still have a German passport. Why should I trade in my German passport for an American one when I can vote in Germany? Right now, I'm not sure I want to vote the way it is going. Actually I need to vote, I need to have 1,000 votes. At this point I do not see any necessity to do it. It doesn't mean I will not in the future. I have a green card, I pay my taxes. The only thing I cannot do it vote.

**Does your desire to stay great diminish at all or get harder every year?**

It's a matter of desire to be the best you can be. If you do not have the desire you are not going to put in the hours. If you do not have the desire to stay great you are not going to go out and hit golf balls when it's 90 degrees out and your sweaty. The practice that I put in, I could say I have enough money in the bank and play with the kids and put my feet up and play semi-retired. I'm not going to do that. The aches and pains don't help and there are many days when it's not a tiny bit of pain...you just have to be willing to work through it and get rid of it. You have to do everything that's necessary to overcome it. You need to slow down the process of aging.

**Are there any aspects of your game that are better now?**

I totally agree. I think my technique is better now than it has been. I would say that about a lot of guys now. I said it about Tom Watson 5 or 10 years ago, I said he is swinging better now than he did when he won all of his majors. We have more wisdom now, not just gray hairs but wisdom. I know more about myself the shots I can hit and can't. I have more experience and hopefully that makes up for the lack of power, flexibility and distance.

**What're you going to do in two years when the forbidden club (long putter/anchored) rule goes into effect?**

I do not know yet. If you ask me in a year I will give you a concrete answer. I have two years to use the long on and I will. Then I will put some effort and time into saying what feels better. They haven't forbid the long putter so you can still use that. You can use a long putter but you cannot anchor it. Again there is a lot of room...again I can hold it here and you can say it's anchored but I can say it's not. I am wearing a sweater but I may be touching my sweater but not my body. What are you going to do bring in a referee to judge every putt? Golfers are known to play by the rules and we are known to give ourselves penalties when we break the rules. Hopefully people will be a fair competitor, which we pride ourselves to be, and don't break the rule. But there are always people who are jealous and want to get you into trouble.

**What does Colin Montgomery bring to the Champions Tournament?**

He played a number of tournaments last year. People like to see him, he is known as a great competitor. They know him from the Ryder Cup and other major championships. Even doing some television work. It is a somewhat controversial player and he has grown up to really enjoy his game. He enjoys the role he plays. I was paired with him the first three rounds he's played. I believe he has grown as a golfer and embrace his role. People love and cheered them on. He is very welcome here but he has had a tough time in American with some of the people here if I

remember correctly. He adds some great color to the tournament and he will let you know what he thinks.

**Are you happy where your game is coming into this tournament?**

Yeah I played extremely well at Hawaii. The game was pretty decent the last few days when I practiced. I am hopeful and have some expectations to do well this week. I know the golf course, I have played here 6 tournaments already and a couple of practice rounds. I do not have many excuses it just comes down to execution.