

**Q. Just a few comments on coming back to what is a special place.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, Woodlands has been special for many, many years. I remember coming here for the regular tour. Actually I remember winning in '85 -- I won the Masters and Hilton Head back-to-back, and I was going to take a week off because I was toast. The tournament director from here, which was the following week, called and called and said, oh, we'd love to have you back; how often can you win three in a row? I said, not very often, but I'm tired. Come on, we need you and we want you, so he did talk me into it, and I came.

I finished about 25th or something.

I've been coming here for many, many years to the Woodlands, but more importantly, in Insperity was my first tournament victory on the Champions Tour in 2007. It was my fifth event, and I won it at Augusta Pines, a different golf course, and that was a stepping stone, knowing that I can do well out here.

It always has a special place in my heart. I will never forget my first victory. If you ask me what was your 20th victory, I don't know, or my 30th. But the first one you will always remember.

**Q. Speaking of victories, right here, the guy you're trying to pass. How much is that on your mind? I know you've been chasing that cat and mouse for a while now. How much is that on your mind?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it's a little bit on my mind, but it's not so much when I play golf because I try and focus on what's at hand, the next shot, the next hole, the next round, that kind of thing, but you guys remind me of it all the time, so it would be hard for me to forget it anyways.

It's an honor for me to have tied Hale Irwin's record out here with 45 victories. We're good friends. I never thought his number of victories could be caught, but I was fortunate enough to do it.

Yes, I will try and beat the record and go a couple better if possible.

**Q. You kind of just answered it, but I was going to ask you, when you first joined the Tour, you knew you were going to win and everything, but when you look at 45, did you think you could even come close to that?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** No, and you're never sure you can win. That's another thing people think and you think you should win, but I've seen players out here, without naming them, that had a tremendous PGA TOUR career and were expecting to win but didn't win. You can't take things for granted, and you never know when you win or if



you win again or any of that stuff. It could get to the point where you may never be able to play golf the way you played before just because of a slight injury or something else. Yeah, I had never even dreamed of winning 45 times. I was just trying to be one of the better players out here and hopefully win a bunch of times, but that number seemed way out there.

**Q. That makes it even more remarkable, the fact that every year there's a new rookie class, so you've got this group from 50 to 54 and then they get through, another 50 to 54, and yet you keep winning.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Yeah, it's not easy to win out here, let's put it that way, because it's the only really major senior tour in the world. So everybody that can really play great golf from all over the globe, from all over the world, they will try and be exempt on this tour because we have the best courses, the most money, a great schedule, and the camaraderie and everything else.

What I'm trying to say is there's only 78 guys playing on a weekly basis, and they're coming from all over the world. Everybody out here is a really good player, if not a great player. So winning is tough.

**Q. What's been the key to your longevity? I know you've been pretty healthy. What do you do to stay in shape?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, that's part of the puzzle, I would say. It's a puzzle with many pieces. To explain the success and the longevity, you've got to have good genes. I've been working out all my life, so stay physically limber, loose and strong if you can. Try and beat age or slow down aging, if that's at all possible. I don't drink alcohol much. I don't smoke. I try and sleep eight hours a night. All of that is probably helpful. I am very much at peace with myself. I became a Christian in 1985, and it's gave me a great foundation for the outlook of my life. It infiltrates everything that I do. All these things are very, very important. Obviously a good caddie, a good coach, a great family, wife and kids, now grandkids. All of that has a part in it, obviously, to be able to focus on what you need to when you have to, and hopefully pull off some victories.

**Q. What does it mean to have Justin Leonard on the Tour? He gave up his TV gig to come out and play with you guys.**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Well, I think it just shows how important it is to some guys to play golf and to compete, and Justin is one of those. He's a great champion. He's won majors. He's won tournaments throughout his whole career, and he took a little hiatus, whatever you want to call it, a little break from it, doing TV work, but he probably felt it wasn't totally fulfilling him, commentating on us when he feels like he still has the game to be out there himself winning and competing, and I suppose that's the best I can answer it. But you'd have to ask him. He would probably give you the true answer.

**Q. He's just another reason it's going to make it harder to get to 47?**

**BERNHARD LANGER:** Oh, yeah. There's 77 reasons out there, or more in a major.

