



TOURNAMENT NOTES - FRIDAY, FEB. 8



[CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS FROM THE FIRST ROUND OF THE OASIS CHAMPIONSHIP.](#)
[PLEASE PHOTO CREDIT SCOTT HALLERAN.](#)

Photos include Jesper Parnevik, Bernhard Langer, Tim Petrovic, Gary Nicklaus, Jack Nicklaus, Rocco Mediate, John Daly, Mark Calcavecchia, Gene Sauers, Scott McCarron, Tom Lehman and Fred Couples.

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Parnevik (63) Leads Langer (64) After First Round At Oasis Championship

BOCA RATON, Florida -- They can be viewed as golf's Odd Couple.

Jesper Parnevik is sort of a Swedish meatball, always trying different things such as eating volcanic sand and wondering things like if you stretch a piece of string 6 inches off the ground across the globe, how long would it be?

He changes swings like the rest of us changes socks. He has won just one PGA TOUR Champions event in 84 starts after earning five PGA TOUR titles.

Bernhard Langer is a German machine. As disciplined as the sun.

He never wavers, never changes his swing and rarely misses a shot. He has won 38 PGA TOUR Champions events and has been Player of the Year eight times.

Friday, Parnevik shot a 9-under 63 to lead the Oasis Championship by a shot over Langer. They are atop a star-studded leader board after the first round at The Old Course at Broken Sound.

Parnevik thought he had more of a chance of shooting 83 instead of 63 after he went into “panic mode” on Thursday while struggling with his game.

“I probably tried 40 putters just this week and probably 50 different strokes,” he said. “Nothing was working. At the last second, I said I'll do everything opposite from what I think.

“If I slide my hips like crazy, I feel like I'm hanging back, bam, that works. So I did that, which felt like terrible, but man, it was unbelievable. Man, I'm mostly shocked right now.”

Langer, meantime, was as flawless as expected. He made eight birdies, no bogeys and came within a roll of an eagle putt on No. 18 that would have tied him for the lead.

His 64 might have sounded sensational, but it's the 18th time he has shot 64 or lower on the PGA TOUR Champions. His first-round scoring average during his hometown event is 67.25.

“It's fantastic,” Langer said of his start. “It's a three-day event. You can't afford to have a mediocre day somewhere. You need three good rounds if you want to win the tournament. I played fairly solid golf most of the time, a couple of good up-and-downs, a couple long putts, so very happy with it.”

Four players are tied for third place with 65s: Tim Petrovic, Woody Austin, Gene Sauers and Ken Tanigawa. Four more are tied for sixth with 66s: Marco Dawson, Tom Lehman, Tom Byrum and Kevin Sutherland.

Gary Nicklaus, with his famous father Jack in the gallery, birdied four consecutive holes on the front nine and actually led the Oasis Championship at 5-under after 11 holes.

He played his last seven holes at even par and finished tied for 11th place after a 67 – a solid score for someone making his first competitive start since 2003.

“I was out of my element and kind of shaking like a leaf, which I didn't expect,” Nicklaus said. “But I kind of pulled it together, birdied the third hole and was off to the races.”

As funny as it sounds, Parnevik said he sometimes plays his best when he feels at his worst.

“That happens a lot actually,” he said. “Actually, last time I won in Houston I came up with this weird swing move. It actually was a very good move. I don't know why I quit doing that. I won that tournament and I had no clue what was going on, but it happens.

“And then some weeks you feel absolutely fantastic and you finish 72th. But that's this game. It's a messed-up game, absolutely messed up.”

Langer has plenty of motivation to play well this week. His daughter, Jackie, is caddying for him. He would become the first repeat winner in the 13-year history of the event. And if he earns the \$255,000 first prize, he would pass Hale Irwin as the No. 1 leading career earner on the PGA TOUR Champions (\$27,196,050).

Parnevik and Langer know each other well. They played together on several European Ryder Cup teams and have lived in Palm Beach County since the 1980s. But they don't have much else in common. They will play with Tim Petrovic in Saturday's final grouping.

“I think I'm going to have a more interesting round than he has,” Parnevik said. “He doesn't miss much. Every shot is an adventure for me, so it should be fun. He's like German machinery that doesn't fail too often.”

Chip shots: Rocco Mediate, the 2013 champion, thrilled the crowd with hole-outs on the par-4 fourth (111 yards, gap wedge) and 12th hole. “What's the big deal? That's where I was aiming,” Mediate said after shooting a 68 ... Two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen shot a 69 and is tied for 23rd in his PGA TOUR Champions debut.

Junior Clinic with Kenny Knox: There will be a Junior Clinic on the back of the range at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Children 18 and under are welcome to learn about what a fun sport golf can be with U.S. Kids instructor and PGA TOUR professional Kenny Knox. The Oasis Championship is free for children 18 and under.

[CLICK HERE FOR ROUND ONE RESULTS](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR ROUND ONE STATS](#)

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS

Friday, February 8:

Click on the name to see the transcript.

[Jack Nicklaus](#)

[Olin Browne \(-4\)](#)

[Gary Nicklaus \(-5\)](#)

[Tim Petrovic \(-7\)](#)

[Gene Sauers \(-7\)](#)

[Woody Austin \(-7\)](#)

[Bernhard Langer \(-8\)](#)

[Jesper Parnevik \(-9\)](#)

Thursday, February 7:

Click on the name to see the transcript.

[Fred Couples](#)

[Gary Nicklaus](#)

Wednesday, February 6:

Click on the name to see the transcript.

[Retief Goosen](#)

[Bernhard Langer](#)

[John Daly](#)

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Media contact: Rebecca Seelig, APR; PBPR; 561-628-5929; rebecca@pb-pr.com

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