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Bernhard Langer Earns Second ACE Group Classic Title with Wire-to-Wire Win

NAPLES, FL (FEB. 17, 2013) – Bernhard Langer (62-70-72= -12) captured his second ACE Group Classic title with a wire-to-wire victory, the first at the tournament since 1999. Langer shot par on the day to hold off Jay Don Blake (66-71-68= -11) to earn his 17th career victory on the Champions Tour and the \$240,000 winner's check.

Langer came close to setting a tournament record during the first round, carding eight birdies and an eagle on his way to shooting a 10-under par 62. He held a three-stroke lead over Bob Tway. With a 2-under, bogey-free round on Saturday, he maintained a three-shot lead over Chien Soon Lu and Tom Pernice, Jr. However, Sunday proved to be quite dramatic.

After birdieing two of the first three holes, Langer double-bogeyed on the par-4 fourth hole, as Blake surged ahead and made up ground with three consecutive birdies. The leaderboard stayed tight between Langer and Blake throughout the day, with the two battling back and forth until the final hole. Langer took a one-stroke lead after Blake bogeyed on the 16th hole, and Blake missed a tying 20-foot birdie putt on 18. Langer clinched his victory by sinking a one-foot putt following a lengthy lag from around 50 feet, ending with a par on 18 to earn his second ACE Group Classic title in three years.

“I didn’t enjoy being caught by the other guys. At one stage I think it was three of us at 11-under,” Langer said. “The good thing is I never fell behind, I was leading the whole time. I was either leading by myself or co-leader, so that was a good thing. And in the end I was still in the driver’s seat and just had to close it off.”

Langer closed out a less than stellar round by his own admission after altering his putting grip around hole 12 or 13, reverting back to the grip he used during his first years with a long putter. After taking more putts today (32) than he had on Friday (25) and Saturday (30), Langer relied on solid iron play to remain in contention.

“Overall my shot-making was good, it’s just my putter got a little iffy there in the middle of the round,” Langer said.

Despite significant rainfall leading into the weekend, course conditions remained ideal. “The course took the rain very well. It was a little wet obviously after the Thursday, Friday we had, but it drained fantastic. The greens staff did an awesome job,” Langer said.

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The win in Naples moves Langer into 15th place on the all-time Champions Tour wins list. He became the sixth player in the history of the tournament to win the event twice, along with Lee Trevino (1990-91), Mike Hill (1993-94), Hale Irwin (1997, 2002), Gil Morgan (1998, 2011) and Loren Roberts (2006, 2009). He also is the first player with a wire-to-wire victory on the Champions Tour since Olin Browne did so at the 2011 U.S. Senior Open.

For complete information on The ACE Group Classic, visit www.acegroupclassic.com.

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About The TwinEagles Club

TwinEagles is conveniently located just 6 miles east of I-75 off Immokalee Road in Naples. Additional information on this premier community and club can be found at: www.twineagles.com.

About the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB

Whether travelers are looking for a romantic escape or family getaway, Florida's Paradise Coast – Naples, Marco Island and the western portion of the Everglades – has an array of vacation options year-round. With more than 30 miles of soft, white sand beaches, a thriving arts and culture scene, distinctive dining, great golf and the best of outdoor adventure, the Paradise Coast is truly a destination with it all.

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Octagon, (IPG: NYSE) is the world's largest sponsorship consulting practice, managing and influencing some \$3 billion in sponsorship-related spending annually. Octagon also is a pioneer and leader in athlete & personality representation and

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C L A S S I C

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About the Champions Tour

Collectively, the Champions Tour has the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game with many of its 30 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame competing regularly in its events and numerous other major championship winners among its members. The Champions Tour is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses totaling \$475,000. Points earned in 26 official Charles Schwab Cup events in 2013 will determine the Charles Schwab Cup champion, the season-long competition designed to recognize the Champions Tour's leading player. The Champions Tour's primary purpose is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back, protect the integrity of the game and generate significant charitable and economic impact in communities in which it plays. In 2012, tournaments on all five Tours (PGA TOUR, Champions Tour, Web.com Tour, PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, PGA TOUR Canada) generated more than \$122 million for local charitable organizations, bringing the TOUR's all-time total of charitable contributions to more than \$1.8 billion. The Commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Mike Stevens is President of the Champions Tour. The PGA TOUR's website is pgatour.com, the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Follow the Champions Tour at [Facebook.com/Champions Tour](https://www.facebook.com/ChampionsTour) and on Twitter @ChampionsTour.

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