

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
August 17, 2018

PETER MALNATI (-9)



Q. What's been the strength of the game so far?

PETER MALNATI: I made a lot of birdies. I hit a lot of good iron shots, my play off the tee has been solid. I would say I would like to putt even better. We always do, though, we always want to. My play off the tee and my iron play's been quite good.

Q. The golf course today, does it feel as scorable as yesterday? No one's going to shoot 59 like Brandt did. It seems like the morning scores aren't quite as good as yesterday morning?

PETER MALNATI: Yeah, it's interesting. I thought the greens, the greens here hold up really well. They're wonderful, but the greens were better this morning than they were late in the day, but for some reason it didn't seem quite as good. Maybe just seeing the 59 in the morning made it seem easier yesterday. But no, I agree, it didn't seem quite as easy today. I don't know why because the greens were perfect.

Q. You come into this event 164 in the FedEx rankings (inaudible). What's been your approach to this?

PETER MALNATI: I wrote down at the beginning of the week in my little -- I keep a little practice journal and I wrote down "just be yourself and have fun." At the end of the day, it's a long shot this week for me to get in the top 125, but I've been doing all the hard work, I'm as prepared as I can be, so I just want to relax and enjoy this and see where we can go.

Q. You won on the PGA TOUR at Sanderson Farms back in 2015. How does the pressure these last few weeks in this situation compare to contention?

PETER MALNATI: It's interesting, I always thought contention is so much fun because you feel like winning's a bonus and a top finish is just as good. I really have always -- I've won a couple times on the Web.com Tour and I won the one event here on the PGA TOUR. Sunday pressure is really fun, but this kind of keep-your-job pressure is definitely different, more challenging to deal with. But at the end of the day the game is the same, so it's only what's going on in our head that makes it feel different.

Q. You're wearing the hat in memory of Jarrod Lyle, who obviously passed away last week from leukemia, a PGA TOUR player. Does that give you a sense of perspective as well?

PETER MALNATI: Yeah, it gives an amazing sense of just appreciation for being here.

And with that, the five-foot putt that has been so nerve wracking for me lately doesn't seem nearly as bad. Because if I make it, yay. If I miss it, I'm still right here. So definitely, to have Jarrod on the top of our minds is great, great perspective for us as golfers just to realize this isn't as important as we try to make it sometimes.

Q. Peter, you back up a 66 with a 65, pretty good shooting, and your numbers at least approaching the green, seem like your ball-striking has come into really fine form?

PETER MALNATI: Yeah, it's been nice. I definitely -- I would say those strokes gained, approach the green numbers have been -- really off the tee, my entire long game has kind of been the weaker side of my game obviously. But my iron play has been feeling really good in practice for several months now, and to see it start to turn around on the course is really fun.

Q. We love your perspective, we love your optimism and everything out here. You know what you need this week, but I'm wondering, what is that target? You want to win the golf tournament, is top-150 really important to you, obviously getting in the Playoffs would be big. What are we looking at this week?

PETER MALNATI: Yeah, so I wrote down at the beginning of the week on my practice journal that I keep, I wrote down "just be yourself and have fun." The reason I wrote that down is because I've already done all the hard work. I'm prepared to play well. Now that I'm out here, I just need to let go and let it happen.

Certainly all those things you mentioned are in my mind, you know, top-150 is better than not, top-125's much better than not. And then I've also had the thought, too, that even if I don't accomplish either of those, just to get some good positive momentum rolling into those Web.com Finals is another great thing that can come from this week. So at the end of the day I try not to worry about any of it and just enjoy and have fun. Yeah, it's been fun.

Q. This golf course obviously got harder today than it was yesterday. Do you want to grind it out over the weekend or would you prefer Thursday conditions if you had to do it all over again?

PETER MALNATI: Yeah, I definitely think when it gets tougher, it benefits me. I just feel like, you know, having to grind, having to use some short game, that kind of stuff's important. That's a skill that I have, it's an advantage for me. So yeah, if it wants to get tougher, that's great, but if it stays how it is or stays how it was Thursday, I'll just go try to fill it up.