

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
January 29, 2021



PETER MALNATI (-7)

Q. Peter, with the conditions that we knew we were going to have today, what mindset did you bring to the course this morning?

PETER MALNATI: Yeah, I mean, the weather I thought we were going to have when we went to bed last night was a lot different than the weather we had when I woke up this morning, so that was actually nice.

I just came out and when I saw that we were going to have some good playing conditions, came out and just tried to keep kind of my momentum going from yesterday and keep playing well. Yeah, it was actually super pleasant to get to play all 18 holes, no delays.

Q. Well, speaking of that momentum that you had, 6 under yesterday, 1 under today, seems like something is really clicking. Would you say that?

PETER MALNATI: Yeah, definitely. I would say I played the first -- what's 18 plus 13? The first 31 holes of the tournament was some of my best golf, it really felt good. I don't know why I played lousy the last five holes, but that's golf. So I've got it clicking nicely, I'm feeling really good, so it's a lot of fun.

Q. For you to say something is your best golf, what's going well?

PETER MALNATI: You know, not making tons of mistakes, hitting it pretty solidly, hitting it consistently well. I don't think I've hit a lot of fairways this week statistically, but I've actually driven the ball pretty well for me and I've been able to -- I worked really hard on my putting and my putting has been good, so that's nice to see. Yeah, it's fun to play, and like I said, for the first 31 holes I just didn't make very many mistakes, I was pretty clean and hit my wedges really well, drove it decently well and putted nicely.

Q. Is there one thing that you're hoping to do particularly well going into the weekend?

PETER MALNATI: I mean, you've got to do everything well here obviously, there's no -- you can't be off in any area around either one of these courses, but the South Course for the weekend, so need to come out and just play well. Obviously driving's really important here, and on the poa annua greens you've got to putt really well and have a really good attitude about the putting, too, because you're going to hit some good ones that might not go in. So that's -- I'll try to come out this weekend and stay really upbeat and go do my thing.

Q. (No microphone.)

PETER MALNATI: I didn't really hear -- I know I've never made a cut here, I'm going to answer that. Obviously it is a big, long golf course, that's for sure. I've not always been a big, long hitter, but I am now, which is fun. If you look at people who have won here, it's not always big, long hitters. This golf course also rewards really good ball-striking, straight driving, keeping it in play, but that was something I knew coming into this week actually. I can actually tell you, too, there's only -- I think this and Phoenix are the only two events on Tour I've played more than once without ever making a cut so I check this one off, this is nice.

Q. How did you become a big, long hitter?

PETER MALNATI: I don't know, I really don't. Osmosis, I think. If you see what's going on in the game, I sort of just kept paying attention and it soaked in a little bit. Honestly, I mean, setting out to get longer, I've seen that be a bad idea for a lot of people for a long time, so that was never exactly something I was doing, but definitely trying to get strong and stay fit and just hit it a little more solid and a little more solid each year. When I say I'm a big, long hitter, I'd say I'm still slightly below average, but I'm closer now.