

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**May 6, 2021**

**PETER MALNATI (-4)**



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**Q. I heard you mention over there the trick is to keep panicking when you're not playing well? Did you panic at all over the last couple weeks?**

**PETER MALNATI:** I've had some times Friday nights, just felt really awful. You know, that's just kind of the nature of this business, I think. There's a few guys who are good enough that they can still make cuts even when they're not playing well. I'm not in that category yet. Missed cuts are a part of the business. That's not to say it's easy, but I do think I did a nice job -- I never woke up Saturday morning and said I need to go find something new. I need to find a new philosophy, a new swing, a new anything. That is important I feel like for me.

**Q. Do you have to convince yourself that you're actually closer than you are, or do you truly believe that?**

**PETER MALNATI:** I'm pretty honest with myself. There's times when I know I'm awful. I've been way off for the last couple months frankly, but here in the last three or four weeks I've started to hit some really, really good shots. They've been flanked with awful ones and that's why my scores stink, but the really, really good shots are there and they mean something. You know, don't hit good shots if you're not doing something right. So to me, like trying to get back to playing good golf has been more about elimination than addition. The good is there, I've got to get rid of some of the bad. I don't exactly know how to do that; if I did, I wouldn't ever play bad, but I'm moving in the right direction right now and that's fine.

**Q. You're not the only player that's been in a slump.**

**PETER MALNATI:** Hundred percent. Even some really good guys do.

**Q. Because I'm thinking specifically now about Rickie Fowler. Did you talk with other players about when things get bad, this is what I try to do?**

**PETER MALNATI:** I haven't done that maybe as much as I should. We've kind of got the best resources in the world for figuring out how to be good at golf out here when you're surrounded on the PGA TOUR by the best players in the world. That's a really good point you made. I haven't had too many conversations about it. I think a lot of the guys who have been out here for a while, Rickie being in that category, they probably know better than to go out and panic and do new everything when things aren't going quite right.

But I do have a couple of good friends that are in their first year or two on tour and I've had the conversation of what I've just talked about, not panicking, not looking for everything to be some new swing, new philosophy. I've had to have that conversation with some of my

friends.

Yeah, I think there has to be some sense of remembering, you know, you didn't -- no one made it to the PGA TOUR by fluke or by accident. We made it out here because we did a lot of things right and played a lot of good golf. So there's something innately good in what we did to get here and I try to remember that even when I get in one of those down times. And I wasn't always good at that, by the way. I've panicked plenty of times over the years, but I'm trying to do better now.

**Q. So how good did today feel?**

**PETER MALNATI:** It did feel really good to go around this track and never be severely out of position. I hit a bad drive on 7 actually now that I think about it, but other than that, to never really be out of position on this golf course is a big accomplishment and it felt really nice.

**Q. I know you've already touched on it, but you're one of the happiest guys out here. How challenging has been this past stretch?**

**PETER MALNATI:** Yeah, that's the best thing I can say about it. I've had some Friday nights and Saturday morning when I was just really bummed, really down. It stinks. But at the end of the day, I get to wake up every morning and I'm playing golf on the PGA TOUR. Probably played well enough already this year to guarantee I get to do it this year and next year. That's a dream come true. So my goodness, how bad can it be.