

**ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES**  
**July 10, 2025**

**PETER MALNATI (-5)**



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**Q. Peter, let's start with the beginning, birdied four of your first seven holes. Can you talk us through that stretch, what was going well?**

**PETER MALNATI:** Yeah, I've been feeling great. I've been working -- just by the fact that I'm pretty sure I had my best finish of the year in Detroit at 41st, which doesn't sound like I've been playing great but I've been working on the right stuff and feeling really good about the work I'm doing. So I've been feeling good in general.

Had a great week of practice here. I've been really, really impressed and enjoying my time here at Hurstbourne, this is such a cool course. I'm glad the Tour and ISCO brought this event here, it's really cool. So good vibes all around.

Then went out and was really solid just throughout the round but I did a couple things that were really great. I sort of short sided myself on 10, the first hole, and hit a great bunker shot so I made birdie, which you feel like you only really get a couple chances on this course to like have an easy birdie. That's 10, and like 7's a reachable par 5 but it's kind of stressful, too. So to get birdie on the first was nice and then just played really good golf and made -- made my 8-, 10-, 12-footers for birdie, which was nice. And then a longer one on probably 16, I think, that felt really great.

**Q. You said you've been working on stuff. What specifically have you been working on lately?**

**PETER MALNATI:** For the longest time my career has always been sort of homemade, my swing's sort of homemade. I've always worked with coaches who were former players who kind of coached from that perspective of just like playing the game. I've had a couple of amazing coaches I'm really thankful for, but I just feel like from a ball-striking perspective, after my win last year I thought maybe I had figured something out and I just got worse and worse as the year went on.

So this year I actually started working with a new coach, which is hard for me to do because I've loved the guys that have helped me, but I started working with a new coach this year and he's someone who has really only approached the game from the perspective of like biomechanics and studying the swing. He's not like a former player, he is a coach. So he's really -- for the first time I feel like I'm learning something about mechanics and understanding, and for a couple months that was really daunting for me but now I've got in a spot where like I'm able to like go play and turn that part of my brain off and I can just do that in little blocks of practice and not think about the swing when I'm out on the course because I'm in a better place now and I just really feel, I feel like I'm starting to develop consistency in



my practice and I know that's going to lead to consistency on the course, so that's something I'm excited about.

**Q. Just mentally how great does it feel to have a round like that on your card?**

**PETER MALNATI:** Yeah, it's funny, the Tour is so -- I said this when I won last year, the Tour's so competitive now. Like it's so competitive. And like obviously you can't win a tournament on a Thursday, and we're literally, you know, one quarter of the way through the tournament, so I've achieved nothing yet. But to just be in a position to like feel really good walking off the course after the first round, it's a good feeling, it's a really good feeling.

**Q. I'm told I need to ask you about the rock on 7. Tell us the story.**

**PETER MALNATI:** Yeah, no, it's cool. You spend a lot of time in golf talking about the close misses, but this is a cool story where I get to talk about the time it went right.

No. 7's a great par 5 here at Hurstbourne and today it's playing downwind and the course is very firm. So I hit a beautiful drive in the fairway, but there's a creek that runs the entire length of the right side of the hole.

My drive got way out there, I hit it nice, hit it pretty far, had less than 200 yards to the front edge. I think I was like 217 total, 192 front or something like that, and really wanted to be aggressive because it's a small green that sits right on this creek, and if you miss it left, which is the safe side, probably not getting it up and down, it's daunting.

So I hit this 7-iron and I thought it was a beautiful shot when I hit it, but it just hung out to the right of the green. I was like, oh, no.

It landed in this creek bed that is eight feet below the surface of the green, and it landed on this flat rock and it bounced up onto the back fringe. So I went from my ball landing in a creek to having a 30-footer for eagle off the back fringe and I'm really thankful for that, it was cool.

**Q. Looks like the golf course was playing a lot more difficult this afternoon than it was this morning. how excited are you to get out there after --**

**PETER MALNATI:** Yeah, I am excited, I am excited. Like I was joking with the guys I was playing with today, and like this is not a knock on the courses we play or anything, it's just in the summer on the PGA TOUR you never get to hit a full wedge because the ball, like we play on greens that are just soft this time of year because it's hard to keep thin grass alive. So to come here and see these bentgrass greens be rock hard is a really interesting -- it's really interesting because, like I said, it's something we haven't done much of lately.

It was challenging to pick your landing spots today and figure out where you needed to land your approach shots to get them to stay on the green or stop near the hole, and it seemed



like in the morning early like balls were stopping a little bit better maybe. So excited to go out and throw some darts early tomorrow morning, but I'm sure -- the course is a great test regardless, so definitely will still have -- have to have some wisdom and play smart, but I think you can be a little more aggressive in the morning, which will be nice.

**Q. You mentioned that your best finish was just a couple of weeks ago and you gained confidence because of that, but how stressful is it for you, number 190 on the FedExCup standings? I hate to bring that up, but --**

**PETER MALNATI:** Yeah.

**Q. -- you've got four events left, I mean, until the Playoffs. I mean, obviously you've got the fall, but how stressful is it --**

**PETER MALNATI:** You know, I have the luxury of being in the winner's category for next season, which is something I don't take for granted. I mean, I obviously earned it with a win.

But when I started this year and made the very tough decision to part ways with a coach who had helped me win last year and start with a new coach, that was something I talked about was I don't want to get to the end of this year and then feel like I have to figure it out because I have -- playing bad golf doesn't matter. You've seen how frustrated Rory's been with his bad golf and he's exempt forever on Tour, literally for his whole life if he wants to be. You know, bad golf stinks and I haven't enjoyed playing poorly, but I committed when I started with a new coach, and really like we spend a couple, we spent probably four to six weeks like figuring out if we wanted to work together, if we were right for each other, and we really committed to this idea of like this year being, you know, an opportunity to grow. And so I've got that.

And then I've got a new little mini goal that's for me. I want to -- I want to be in the top 100 the end of the fall. THE PLAYERS is my favorite tournament, I want to make sure I'm exempt for THE PLAYERS next year. Obviously we all play on Tour to make the Playoffs and have a chance to win the FedExCup. This year hasn't really been that kind of year for me but you also never know what's going to happen. I've got this week, I'm excited to play in Truckee next week, and then I've got two more chances. Jhonny Vegas made a late run last year, made it into the Playoffs. I know it's possible, but this year for me it's about learning and growth and I feel like I'm experiencing that right now, which is really good.

**Q. Just finally, are you able to reveal the name of your new coach and how you connected?**

**PETER MALNATI:** Yeah, it's easy. His name's Liam James. His roster's completely full though, so no one get any ideas if I start playing great. But Liam's an English guy. For a long time since early in my Tour career I've worked with a trainer who is an English guy that Justin Rose introduced me to, and my trainer, when I was kind of struggling this year, he's become a really good friend in addition to my trainer, and he said, hey, I've got a friend



named Liam, he works with a lot of guys on the European Tour, but a good handful of his guys have gotten their PGA TOUR cards, so he's transitioning to coaching in America now, you know, can I send him a few of your swings on video and just see what he says, and that was how it started and it's been great.

