2024 PGA TOUR: The CUT #13

International Script

COLD OPEN

MCNEALY: It's like for me, beating the sun up every day is like a first victory. Also, spend a lot more time looking at clouds now than I used to. Like, that's a frontal passage. Like, total nerd.

**WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT… PRESENTED BY SERVPRO**

MAVERICK MCNEALY TAKES FLIGHT

STARTER: Next on the tee, from Las Vegas, Nevada, Maverick McNealy.

ANNC: Age 28, Stanford alum. Good college career, good amateur career. A lot of promise as he came out on TOUR and last year missed a significant chunk of the season with a left shoulder injury able to work his way back.

MCNEALY: I wasn't really having a ton of fun out there. It's really, it's a hard game. There are really, really good players and when you're not at your best and your body's not doing what you want it to do, it's really hard to compete with those guys and I found that out.

And that's when I took a look at how things were going and was really honest with myself and said, okay, my goals are in January at the Sony Open, I want to be fully healthy. I want to have a golf swing that doesn't hurt me. I want to have full status and I want to be just excited to go out and play golf.

So this summer has been different because I've had a limited ball count but the most important thing I do is hitting balls. I've been doing some pretty, I’ve been making some pretty significant swing changes because I think a few movements in my swing were what caused the injury in the first place.

When I warm up, especially now, I'm really just focusing on kind of moving my upper body the proper way.

I had a tear in the anterior ligament of the SC joint. That's the joint that connects your sternum and your collarbone. So right here and so when that would get irritated, my trap and neck would lock up. It would pull my first rib out of position, which would cause impingement under my collarbone and with the first and second ribs. So, every time I would get to impact and the way I was swinging, I created a lot of compression here. It just didn't feel good and so what really feels nice is when I get my left shoulder, what feels like working down, which just isn't working way up, and kind of having a longer right arm. Butch has always been on me to feel like I've got a long right arm and high right shoulder through impact, cover the ball that way and, you know, Scott Hamilton is saying that, you know, it doesn't hurt when at impact I'm more open than I am tilted. So I'm really just trying to feel that way and that opens up and loosens everything in there and it feels good. It's just when I get here, I really want to go this way, so I have to really tell myself to do the opposite.

170, so we're sneaking up on it.

Swinging a golf club was an important part of the recovery process. I would go to the range for 10 minutes and just move a golf club because I had a PRP injection in my SC joint, which really aggravated and, and annoyed everything in there for a while, but it was important to get that joint moving in the way that I wanted it to move so that it healed, ready to take on the stresses of a golf swing.

That one was nice. 140, let's go!

I just started taking flying lessons in my free time when I'm not practicing. Like a typical week, I'll practice seven days a week and then four days a week I'll be in the gym and the other three days I would go fly. So that's kind of how I've gotten through my pilot's license and obviously now with this break, I've had a little bit more time to pursue my instrument rating sooner than I anticipated, but it's been fun. I love it.

COMPUTER: Sky condition, view 6500, temperature 26 Celsius.

MCNEALY: I love the studying and the learning aspect of it. I love the flying aspect. I love the, the focus.

So, what I'm doing right now is because we're in Henderson, which is really close to the Las Vegas McCarran Airport, we have all of these called airspace shelves. Like this one right here goes from 4000 feet to 10,000 feet.

For what it's worth, a lot of my coaches going back to my college coaches, have always had an action item for me on my year-end review of, you know, what are you, what are you passionate about outside of golf? What do you do outside of golf now? I’m like well, I golf all day, I work out, I cook food, go to bed, and it was this kind of that and and flying and aviation is is definitely the one thing that has stuck and that I'm really passionate about and it is an escape from golf.

This is 100 low lead fuel. So, I'm looking for that light blue color. Anything that smells like kerosene, that could be jet fuel, which is really dangerous because you'll fire up to start flying, but then the engine will die. So, again, looking to make sure that it's the right type of fuel. It's does not have water in it and it doesn't have a bunch of particulate in it.

All right. All right. I'm all good. Yeah, could you pass me that door? Thank you. All right, clear.

FLIGHT CONTROL: 046 bravo golf. Henderson tower. Make a left down departure. Southwest west bound runway 35, left, cleared for takeoff.

MCNEALY: Power set. Engine green. Airspeed live. All right above 90. Safe altitude, flaps up.

FLIGHT CONTROL: Five miles, north northwest. 3000 delta control left.

MCNEALY: It's something I take seriously because I don't want to be average in an airplane. You want to be really good when you're in a box in the sky, but I absolutely love it. It's so fun to fly. I have so much fun out here. Planes are so safe and reliable.

Yeah, I liked school when I was in school, but I love studying airplane stuff and aviation and I you know, people say you got the aviation bug and I definitely have.

MCNEALY: We're right near the Henderson Airport, it’s a very quick flight and at all and we're pretty lucky to have such a great practice area right here. Here we go. Feeling some positive Gs. About two Gs right there in the bank. This plane is rated for 3.8, so we are just fine.

Spin around a steep turn. This is important for sometimes terrain or traffic avoidance, but just general airplane control, good instrument scan, be able to manage a bunch of things. So that is a steep turn.

FLIGHT CONTROL: 046 bravo golf [inaudible].

MCNEALY: Here we go. Touchdown. Flaps up. I hear dynamic breaking. Here we go.

FLIGHT CONTROL: 046 bravo golf. Expedite to echo. Turn right at echo. Contact ground. Have a good day.

MCNEALY: It’s been really fun over the last year to keep training and working and you know really the reason I love flying is the reason why I love golf is because you're always learning and there's always room for improvement and it's one of those things where the more you learn, the more you realize you don't know. So I'm really excited to take this instrument check, right? Because that opens up a whole new way of flying. And it's it's just fun. I love it. Every time I get in the airplane, it's a high and I don't think about anything else.

Practice area solo. Recorded and we are good.

JIMMY STANGER PROFILE

ANNC: Jimmy Stanger, lives in the northeast Florida area here. Good to see him playing well and make the cut. One of the 22 first-timers.

STANGER: I moved up here in 2021 with the desire to be around PGA TOUR pros, playing a PGA TOUR golf course, and to see how my game stacks up against them, to see if maybe that will get me to the next level, hoping that one day I'd be driving to the golf course to play in THE PLAYERS.

ANNC: Grew up in the Tampa area. Wonderful junior player. Played at the University of Virginia. Finally out on TOUR after about 6 years on the Korn Ferry Tour.

STANGER (01:27:10): PLAYERS is a home event just living here and going to church here, meeting my fiancée here and all that. Tampa's where I grew up. Tampa’s my home. Could not be a bigger Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Rays, Lightning fan. So to be able to go home and play in the PGA TOUR event in Tampa that I grew up attending, extra special in so many ways.

My dad took me out there when I was six, seven, eight years old. I loved following guys who were really, really good players that weren't necessarily big names. So Luke Donald comes to mind would always play every year out there. Jason Day would play a couple of times. Ernie, Retief… John Huston won it back in the day and loved watching him play golf.

I remember thinking, I can't imagine how professional golfers hitting shots with these many people watching him and then performing that well in the conditions that PGA TOUR makes golf courses. I've done it at Valspar as a sponsor exemption back in 17 and 18, but this time I get to do it as a PGA TOUR member. So instead of being an outsider, I've earned my way into it and that that makes it in a way even more special than before.

**WHILE MAKING HIS THIRD START AT THE VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP, AND FIRST WITH HIS TOUR CARD, THE MEMORY OF JIMMY STANGER’S CHILDHOOD BEST FRIEND REMAINS WITH HIM AS IT DOES DURING EVERY ROUND OF GOLF THAT HE PLAYS.**

STANGER: Harris would be out there at Valspar volunteering with me too, so we had some memories out there together. We lived a block away from each other, played golf every day. I remember he was chipping on the golf course and just didn't feel right. Went in, found a tumor kind of on his, top end of his spinal cord, lower end of his brain and it was pinching a nerve kindof down his left side of his left arm. About a year and a half later after fighting it, he passed away and made a huge impact on me. I was 13 years old at the time and I realized quickly that this world's a whole lot more than just about golf and that life can come at you fast like it did for Harris but I also saw the impact that Harris’ story had on others. Sometimes when I make birdie putts, I point to the sky thanking the good Lord and thanking, thanking him for helping that putt go in.

I mark my golf balls with HA just to honor him. Started doing that whenever he came down with cancer and haven't stopped. Even my wedges have “pray strong” and Romans 12:12. “Be joyful and hope, patient, affliction and faithful in prayer.” Those were the words that we clung to in that time. I'll never forget those things.

**IN ADDITION TO CARRYING ON THE MEMORY OF HARRIS, STANGER STRIVES TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON HIS COMMUNITY BY FOUNDING BIRDIES FOR HOPE WHICH RAISES MONEY FOR EVERY BIRDIE HE MAKES ON THE COURSE.**

ANNC: Stanger rolls in another one! Yeah, wow!

STANGER: Birdies for Hope, it's blown me away how kind people have been, how generous they've been to donate, wanting to get involved. It's special for me to know that golf is doing more than just promoting myself. but hopefully when I'm playing well, when I'm making birdies that we're hoping to, hoping to impact other people. It's amazing that getting to put a little white golf ball in the hole can help impact those things for, for the better.

PETER MALNATI WINS THE VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP

ANNC: It’s been one of the wackiest Sundays we’ve ever seen and in the end, it looks like it’s going to be the guy with a rumpled bucket hat and a yellow golf ball. He’s never played in The Masters. In fact Peter Malnati who’s been out here for a decade has played in only three majors. That is going to change.

It was almost a finish, the kind of finish you dream of. For the first time since the 2015 Sanderson Farms Championship, Peter Malnati enjoys his day back in the winner’s circle.

MALNATI: That moment of winning a tournament and having your family come out on the green and the big hugs, you know that's something that I've seen other families have and that’s been my dream. You know, there's been a lot of stretches of golf in the last nine years when I wondered if I would ever have that, that experience and I'm at peace with who I am and the way I live and the work that I put into this. If I had never had the moment I had today, I would have been completely fine but, man, was that special.

**MALNATI’S SECOND CAREER WIN PLACES HIM JUST 6 SPOTS OUTSIDE OF THE COMCAST BUSINESS TOUR TOP TEN AND AIDS IN HIS QUEST TO FINISH THE SEASON INSIDE THE TOP TEN FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

MALNATI: It was really validating for just all the hard work, all the times I've gotten on that plane and flown away from my family when they have stayed home. It was all preparing for that moment. It's sinking in now, but it still feels completely surreal.

FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

**IN THE FEDEXCUP STANDINGS, MALNATI MOVES UP SIXTEY-ONE SPOTS TO 16TH. HIS HIGHEST RANKING SINCE NOVEMBER 2020.**

RAPID RECOVERY

**THE CUT PRESENTS… RAPID RECOVERY.**

ANNC: This is way left. Gave it the full treatment. Three in a row, Kurt, left. Left at 7, left at 9, now way left at the 10th.

Justin Thomas, second. This is fantastic. Couldn’t pitch outside sideways. He just went way down. I mean that is about as good as he could have done.

Third shot, 63 yards. Yeah, well done there.

That’s a great save right there.

SCOTT STALLINGS PLAYS GOLF WITH YAN GOMES

STALLINGS: Hey guys, Scott Stallings here from the PGA TOUR with some buddies of mine from the Cubs. We got a random Brewer here as well. My buddy Yan, we trained together back here in Knoxville. We’re out here at TPC Champions, show them a little bit of my world and kind of go back this afternoon and I get to see a little bit of their world.

GOMES: Why does that sound like a wet newspaper? I feel like even my finish looked like a pro.

STALLINGS: When is the last time you played?

GOMES: Um, confessional. About a month and a half ago.

STALLINGS: when did we play?

GOMES: If it counts that I played in Wade’s simulator, then less than a month and a half ago.

STALLINGS: Yeah that was… Wade was telling me that his, he was rating his handicap off of how he…

GOMES: Off of his simulator.

STALLINGS: Yes.

GOMES: And the thing about the simulator, you can delete your shot and then shoot again and you just keep getting a low score.

STALLINGS: The screen of lies.

GOMES: Where you have to take a glove off to putt and then people make fun of you if you don't take your glove off to putt.

STALLINGS: Yeah, don’t be that guy.

GOMES: We got to keep it on the whole time. Leave it on, yeah.

STALLINGS: No.

GOMES: Just keep it on all time. Now I gotta take it off and then put it exactly how I wanted it again.

STALLINGS: Is the base coach guy going to be there today?

MILEY: Oh yeah. Willie Chill?

STALLINGS: Yeah.

MILEY: Oh yeah, he's got to be there.

GOMES: Alright where am I putting?

MILEY: Just towards the hole.

STALLINGS: Wade was my partner yesterday and he played awful. Now he's showing his true capability. Oh well, that's about the same.

GOMES: We're all the same.

MILEY: He does it for a living.

STALLINGS: You didn't play like this at all yesterday.

MILEY: Sorry, sorry about that.

GOMES: What is happening? I need to take more months off.

MILEY: Left arm straight, right arm underneath, turn. All kind of stuff.

GOMES: This is where you blur everything… there are kids that are watching this.

STALLINGS: Keep it quick.

MILEY: And that ain’t good.

STALLINGS: Wade are you going to make a birdie?

MILEY: Yeah, probably. If you let me play from the red tees.

STALLINGS: You’re putting for a birdie.

MILEY: Bag it, bag it, bag it! Taking it.

STALLINGS: That was the easy part. Maybe not for them, but definitely for me. So we're going to go to the Cubs facility and, you know, we'll see what happens.

TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOUSTON OPEN LOOKAHEAD

ANNC: For the third time in his last seven PGA TOUR starts, Tony Finau is a winner.

FINAU: I’ve always had belief but the confidence when you win is contagious. I’ve worked extremely hard on my body and on my game and now I’m starting to bear the fruits of that labor. It feels amazing.

**TONY FINAU RETURNS TO HOUSTON SEEKING TO DEFEND HIS TITLE AT THE TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOUSTON OPEN. AFTER A YEAR AWAY FROM THE TOUR’S SCHEDULE, THE TOURNAMENT RETURNS, SHIFTING BACK TO THE SPRING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2018.**

ANNC: The renovation of the course, the investment in the local community, have transformed this beloved property and the good folks here in Houston, are better for it. When PGA TOUR arrives each year, the energy capital of Texas gets energized.

TV TIMES

**IN ADDITION TO FINAU, WORLD NUMBER ONE SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER MAKES HIS FIFTH START IN HOUSTON AND WORLD NUMBER FOUR WYNDHAM CLARK MAKES HIS FOURTH.**

SCOTT STALLINGS AT CHICAGO CUBS SPRING TRAINING

STALLINGS: This is my try out. Y’all just tell Jay, enjoyed my 14 years on TOUR. I’m taking my talents to Chicago.

GOMES: What’s up guys? This is Yan Gomes. We're here at the Cubs facility bringing Scott to, to our environment now.

Do ten burpees for every ball you miss.

STALLINGS: What if I do If I actually hit one over the fence?

GOMES: Ohh! There you go. There we go. Yeah!

STALLINGS: That was high. Why didn't we do this when we played golf. All those Bogeys.

Dude, y’all are hitting a moving ball. The ball I hit is on the ground. Imagine, like in golf you would basically start with your club that way and then the club would just come down.

GOMES: That's the difference in baseball. We’re trying to like create like everything here, instead of like…

He knows how to hit the ball. Now, we’re trying to get him to hit a ball over the fence. There we go. We're putting the ball in the air now. Hey, we're done with the warm-ups. There we go. That's it.

STALLINGS: That was pretty good.

GOMES: Another 100 swings.

STALLINGS: It's way harder than it looks. I did hit a lot of balls though.

GOMES: No, dude. That’s the most swings I’ve seen anyone take, and you did hit the fence.

STALLINGS: I feel pretty good. Dude, my arm… (Feels dead?)… yeah.

GOMES: You’ve haven’t seen this guy go at it. He doesn't, there's no… this guy’s tank doesn't empty.

STALLINGS: Yeah, my arm will fall off before I quit. Hey, I never threw the bat. I didn't use one curse word. Those are positives. One time in three holes he was beating me through, and then…

GOMES: I birdied one, and then we find parred par. He parred, par, par. So, I had the lead for a little bit.

STALLINGS: Yeah.

GOMES: And then we went downhill after that.

PRODUCER: But for a three-hole stretch, you were TOUR ready?

GOMES: I was ready. (Yes) I thought, you know what? Maybe I can do this.

STALLINGS: As baseball ready as I am. Carrying this bat around this way cooler than a golf club.

GOMES: You ever been to a weight room before?

STALLINGS: I’ve been a time, some time, I have been in weight rooms.

GOMES: If you know what’s good for you, this is where you spend most of your time.

STALLINGS: The gym is where we met. Yan and I became friends through the gym. We needed some more training partners and I don’t know, it took me a while to kind of validate myself into like the baseball kinda training world, but, you know, thankfully they took a chance on me and, you know, that’s when our friendship kind of started in training and it’s cool to kind of see how the two worlds come together and like we have two completely different jobs but we’re both trying to be the best at it, what it is. You know it kind of starts and ends in here. Baseball’s my first love and you know obviously a huge fan of Yan and all the stuff that he does and so it’s cool to kind of have a chance to kind of you know look behind the curtain a little bit. I clearly don't have a future at this, so.

GOMES: No, you do. Just you know, the biggest thing that we have is we start in the minor leagues and then we come up to the big leagues. The thing is I don’t have a future in yours either. We both know what the work behind the scenes can look like and it’s cool just to kind of get a little bit more behind the scenes.

STALLINGS: I appreciate the time and hospitality and best of luck this year.

GOMES: Absolutely man.