
**Nissan Open
Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, California
February 22, 2004**

Final round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH SHIGEKI MARUYAMA

THE MODERATOR: We have Shigeki Maruyama with us. 16 under par.

THE INTERPRETER: It was close with Mike Weir instead of having pressure on my game but the 4 days I was hitting the ball very well from the tee box and also have a good putt. It was a good game and the last hole I was trying to hit the ball farther because it started raining the last three holes, and I thought I wouldn't be able to make the greens at 18. So I wasn't expecting to hit the ball that hard but it happened under the pressure. That was biggest mistake of my whole week. I'm still not good at playing rain. I start practicing in the shower today, tonight.

Q. (Inaudible)?

THE INTERPRETER: I thought of chipping and the ball was breaking a lot, so I thought it was going to break a lot but usually when I play here it breaks but it didn't break today.

Q. Shigeki, you were 7 shots down with 15 to play and still made it up, I guess you got to real pretty good about the tack that you were able to get even with him and through a scare in a guy who looked like he was going to run away with it.

THE INTERPRETER: Of course I'm very happy that my game kept up with Mike Weir after 7 shots down. I'm very happy to scare Mikey. I lost the game, but still had a lot of things to get today for Mike during my game. I try not to make the same mistake next time and play to win.

Q. Shigeki, you mentioned you were 7 down, I wanted to know A, did he ever feel he was too far behind, was he worried about that he might be too far behind to win? And 2, when did he really think he had a shot to win. And also I wanted to know what he hit in on 15, the proshot that was real tight?

THE INTERPRETER: I wasn't expecting that Mike Weir was going to make a mistake today. He won The Masters last year. He played very well, and quite often he is in the Top-10. So you sort to had to expect that Mikey, having a mistake today without thinking, getting more birdies, try to concentrate on my game today. And after the 16th

is when I catch Mike Weir. I just thought it could be, it could happen. But it was too really hard.

Q. (Inaudible)?

THE INTERPRETER: 3-iron.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. (Inaudible)?

THE INTERPRETER: I was relaxed the last three holes except the tee box at 18. It started to rain. I was. He was.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SHIGEKI MARUYAMA: I don't know.

(Laughter).

Q. Did he think that he had any chance to reach the green on his second shot on 18 and what about the third shot, the chip, can he talk a little bit about that?

THE INTERPRETER: It was in the rough that second shot. I couldn't reach, couldn't skip the green. The chipping wasn't expected the first time. It was down. I couldn't think about that. I couldn't imagine the ball bounced, yes.

Q. Did anybody get an advantage with the lift and place and would you like to see them get rid of that rule?

THE INTERPRETER: I think the rule is fair. Try to keep, get players to keep concentrating on the fairways. Even if I hit a good ball on the fairway it's got a lot of mud on the balls. I hit it nicely but you don't know where it goes, but it's a fair rule. I was hitting the ball on the fairway during the tournament so it helped my game also.

Q. (Inaudible)?

THE INTERPRETER: Of course, most of the holes on the fairway, when I picked the ball up, the ball is everywhere. And at The Masters at Augusta, they don't use this rule. So many times I made a lot of mistakes, even if I hit the ball nicely from the fairways. And how the ball goes depends on the ball, right-hand side or left side. I can't imagine how that helps.

Q. Can you describe the range of emotions that you felt today when you started the round when you realized you could catch Mike Weir, catching him and then in the end falling just a little bit short, can you just describe those emotions?

THE INTERPRETER: That was Mike. As usual, when I started, I started at the end, but I sit at the first hole, second putt when I missed it left-hand, missed it and also at the 18 tee box. That's the only point. That's the only point I was getting nervous but otherwise I was very calm.

Q. (Inaudible)?

THE INTERPRETER: I wasn't that excited, just when I made the putt up on 16 because Mike Weir got a little bit excited.

Q. He was 7 shots down, did he just shoot at every flag and say, what the hell, I'm going to go down swinging, did he just shoot at every single flag figuring he had nothing to lose?

THE INTERPRETER: I was 7 shots down, so I was attacking the holes. But at some point Stuart Appleby was coming from behind. I started worrying about Stuart Appleby's score.

Q. Shigeki, if I remember right, after you tied Mike on 16 is when the rain started to really pour down, were you looking and saying, God, I wish it would just hold off? And secondly, how much did the rain affect you over the last couple of holes do you think?

THE INTERPRETER: I start walking the 17th fairway, slowly talking with the caddy. If I start walking slowly, maybe the rain is going to stop because I hate to play in the rain. So it affected my game also, especially the 18th tee box, that's it.

THE INTERPRETER: I like the Match Play, I shot Match Play for four days. You have your opponent right in front of you. So it's -- I enjoy playing Match Play and at the moment I'm playing with Trevor (phn) in the first round, but I don't know much about him. I just know that he hits the ball farther, really far, and the club is getting longer so he has an advantage. But it's not a stroke play game. Of course, I have a lot of chance to win.

Q. Was Shigeki aware of the fact that Mike Weir was 0-5 when leading after 54 holes and did that cross his mind?

THE INTERPRETER: THE INTERPRETER: I watched channels last night and I knew (inaudible) after leading after the 54 holes. But also I never played this course well. And I have a bad image all the time, even in the rain, never had par at 18, 18th hole. It was really hard to image the good things on 18th hole. I'm very glad that if I lose I wouldn't be first person, given that stroke behind, because Mikey tied it up on the 15 hole.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.