1998 Presidents Cup – Shigeki Maruyama Features

**[Piece #1 – Shigeki remembers the 1998 Presidents Cup]**

Intro: *“From Japan, Shigeki Maruyama.” (1998 THE PRESIDENTS CUP - CAMERA A - FIELD TAPE 18 -1\_1, ISO, LOW ANGLE, \_27)*

A.00:11 ~ In 1998, I was selected as a member of the Presidents Cup for the first time…

Peter Thompson was the head coach that year. What really made me feel so confident was that we had these two international superstars – Greg Norman and Steve Elkington on the team as well. To me, I really felt that we had an extremely powerful international team that year.

*{announce from telecast}*

A.00:43 ~ It was held at Royal Melbourne. The members of the international team all come from their respective countries to play in America, but to the Americans, we are all just foreigners. There are many aspects that are harder on us when competing over there. And if you’ve got a struggling international team and you pit them against an American team at a competition in the States, of course the fans are going to be rooting for the Americans. But when we completed in Australia in ’98, it was the complete opposite.

*{Aussie fans from telecast}*

Throughout the week we could really feel the support of the local fans.

I really think that was a big factor in beating the American team.

*{telecast…International team highlights…Maruyama highlights}*

*“Maruyama…a little left to right (crowd cheers).”* *1998 THE PRESIDENTS CUP - SATURDAY - 17\_3, 18' BIRDIE PUTT\_20*

A.01:28 ~ I was a rookie. I think 28 years old at the time. Every American player was a superstar, but myself, I was the challenger in the fight. I had no fear. I played like I didn’t care if I lost. There was nothing that scared me.

*{Murayama announce from telecast}*

*“Shigeki Maruyama for the birdie to win the hole to go 2-up with three to play.”*

*1998 THE PRESIDENTS CUP - SATURDAY - PART 7- 15.8, 15' BIRDIE AND WIN, ARM RAISED*

A.01:52 ~ Once it was all over, I did think to myself, “Whoa, that was pretty amazing!” But during the week it wasn’t anything at all like that. Every day it was just a grind. Doing anything we could to win. The only thing I could think of was beating the American team.

*{Maruyama goes 5-0 announce from telecast}*

Everyone was saying, “five-in-a-row!!”

And I’m thinking to myself, “It wasn’t really that great, was it?”

It was in that moment that I first realized we had really accomplished something special.

*{announce, Maruyama puts cup on head}*

A.02:27 ~ I was so young at the time and was thinking to myself, “I’ve gotta do something to show off a bit.” So, I quickly grabbed the cup and put it on my head and just started smiling and yelling and everyone was laughing and celebrating along together with me. *“Shigeki Maruyama, he charmed them all and beat them all this week.” ZOZO Championship Hype video (1:32mark)* My character has always been a bit comedic, so that just felt like the right thing to do.

A.02:44 ~ …My seniors Greg Norman, Nick Price, Steve Elkington and many others were all coming up to me saying “Congratulations!” and “You’re so amazing!” The moment when Ernie Els turned to me and said “Hey, quit playing in Japan, you gotta come to America!” --- That was probably the biggest turning point in my life.

**[Piece #2: Shigeki Maruyama Junior Foundation]**

Q.00:02 ~

This is amazing! It must feel pretty good seeing all these junior golfers. This is all thanks to you.

A.00:10 ~

It makes me happy to hear that.

Especially because there was nothing at all like this when I was a junior player. We’d just got into trouble.

*{break for music}*

A.00:21 ~

This all got started around the ‘98 Presidents Cup. Each player received a guarantee that they can then donate back to a charity and when I was asking the guys about where they would donate their money to, every single one of them said they had their own junior foundation. When I heard that I thought to myself, “Oh man, I don’t have anything like that! I’ve got some catching up to do!”

A.00:44 ~

I’d love to get up closer and cheer them on, but I’m sure that would just make them even more nervous when they saw me coming. They’d be like, “Oh, I am being watched!” If a bunch of pro golfers lined up to watch you play, you’d be nervous as well, right?

I grew up playing junior golf and eventually made it as a professional golfer, so I definitely feel a responsibility to pay it forward and continue doing the same thing for Japan. Taking the opportunity I was given by being part of the ‘98 Presidents Cup, I was able to establish this foundation and donating that money was just the starting point. The Presidents Cup and the Maruyama Jr. Foundation are two things I definitely feel very passionately about.

A.01:23 ~…There are many earthquakes and other kinds of natural disasters in Japan, so of course I thought of donating to those kinds of charities, but when it came to creating my own junior foundation, I had no idea of what that would even look like.

A.01:34 ~

Now we have 4 or 5 events every year. Anything from full scale tournaments to par 3 contests for small kids, but my philosophy remains the same, put on a lot of events and do it all for free. And thanks to the donations of many different Japanese businesses we are able to operate these events for our juniors at no cost to them.

There is an inherent image that golf in Japan is expensive. I want to change this image.

A.02:08 ~

My son grew up in the U.S. where there are many junior tournaments. Every week you can find various kids’ tournament there, but in Japan there are far from enough. I hope to develop the junior foundation even further into the future and do even more kinds of events. I want to help develop players who will be active in the world.