**Yohji Yamamoto (Designer) Q&A**

**Tell us about the inspiration behind the design of this boot…**

*My inspiration is a mixture of ancient traditions and modern sci-fi from Japanese culture*

*…When the Gods of Japan lived on sacred ground, with a pair of these imperial lion-dogs.*

*I used the open-mouthed guardian saying “ah” as part of a Buddhist mantra. The sound signifies the start of the universe and the beginning of all human language.*

**How do you expect a player to feel when lacing these boots up?**

*I hope the inspiration of the boot harmonises with the players and gives them extra confidence to express themselves without any fear.*

**What do you say to those who don’t agree that boots should stand out on the pitch, like these f50’s certainly will?**

*People should feel free to express themselves. Just follow your own instinct.*

**This boot represents a bit of a cross-over between the worlds of sport and fashion. Do you see this as a good thing?**

*My desire was and is to make sportswear elegant and chic. I think fashion helps us to get rid of our inferiority complex and sports allow us to do it in a practical manner. We try to find something purposeful in the body. But where are we headed with this tiny space called body. I have been thinking about this contradiction and I always want to see if sport can be elegant.*