

Shinji Kagawa Visits YANMAR

World-class football player Shinji Kagawa visited YANMAR CO., LTD. on May 24 to share Borussia Dortmund's results from last season and express his appreciation for YANMAR's continuing sponsorship to President Takehito Yamaoka.

From 2006 to 2010, Shinji Kagawa played for Cerezo Osaka, a team in Division 1 of the J League, for which YANMAR is a Partner Company. In 2011, Kagawa transferred to Borussia Dortmund, one of the top teams in Germany's professional football league, the Bundesliga. The 2011-2012 season was very special for the team as it finished top of the league for the second consecutive time. Kagawa made a significant contribution to the team's league victory.

Following Kagawa's transfer to Borussia Dortmund, YANMAR moved to support the club, becoming a Champion Partner. This has helped to



Football player Shinji Kagawa and YANMAR President Takehito Yamaoka



promote YANMAR's image and raise brand awareness in the international market. With Borussia Dortmund's Bundesliga success and Kagawa's star on the rise, YANMAR has benefitted from the increased media attention, especially in European countries.

In recognition of his contribution and efforts, Kagawa was awarded a memorial trophy and President Yamaoka also presented him with a watch. He also took away a memento of YANMAR's centennial:



a limited edition miniature of the YANMAR HB, the world's first small diesel engine.



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■ Interview with Shinji Kagawa

Scope: We have been able to enjoy watching your commanding performances on television here in Japan. The time you fired home a goal just as the YANMAR sign rolled up was a favorite here at the company.

Kagawa: I noticed it too! It warms my heart when I remember the YANMAR Group has supported me since my days at Cerezo.

Scope: Does your experience from your Cerezo days still come in handy?

Kagawa: My style of play is really something I developed during my time there. I have continued to play the same way since moving to Germany, so you could say my experience in those five years at Cerezo Osaka was actually a factor in my current success.

Scope: Regarding your playing style, did you discover some "inner strength" that enabled you to compete at the international level?

Kagawa: Europe is obviously one of the world's top footballing regions and I felt that playing in Germany required high levels of mental sharpness and physical agility, as well as of course technical skill. But these characteristics are also highly valued in Japan so I felt well prepared.

Japanese and German players also lead an ordered life off the pitch. This type of discipline is one of the marks of top athletes right around the world.

Scope: Do you have any message you would like to share with members of the YANMAR Group and its distributors and dealers?

Kagawa: Mostly I would just like to express my appreciation to YANMAR for its sponsorship of Dortmund and also send my deep thanks to all group members for their continuing support. I have received a great deal of help since I started at Cerezo and I intend to repay this by being the best player I can.

I heard that staff from our German dealerships went to see a game in April. They came all the way to support us but unfortunately I was not able to meet them that time. I would certainly love to meet some of our supporters if possible.

I would also like to ask other members of YANMAR's European family to come and see us play. We have great ambitions for next season and would love to see more supporters come to the stadium and cheer us on. In Europe, the countries are very close together so it is definitely possible.

Shinji Kagawa Born in 1989, Kagawa joined J League team Cerezo Osaka in 2006. In July 2010, an overseas transfer was finalized and he joined German Bundesliga team Borussia Dortmund. As a vibrant player with many hopes riding on him, Kagawa soon found himself in the spotlight and was selected in the Bild newspaper's Bundesliga Best Eleven. With his exciting style of play, Kagawa has set alight not just the Japanese but European football world.