



READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and choose the correct answer for the questions below.

A RIVALRY FROM HELL BUT A MATCH IN HEAVEN?

Nowadays, there are two players that continually whet the appetite where fantasy football is concerned. They are, of course, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. The latter is aiming to equalise against Messi in the Ballon D'Or stakes, and betting markets indicate that Ronaldo, along with his Real Madrid team-mates, is the most fancied of the two players to lift the Champions League trophy yet again in May.

Both players have a personal rivalry akin to nothing the world has seen before, but how exactly would they combine in a dream starting XI?

Joining forces; a match made in heaven?

Firstly and most importantly, the players would not necessarily have to overlap as part of any attacking setup. Ultimately, the dream XI, with Ronaldo and Messi, contains more of a combination made in heaven rather than a match, or any sort of partnership. Being ambidextrous, Ronaldo's primary objective would be to provide quality from the left flank in a wide 4-3-3, with Messi doing the same from the right. Moreover, both players are obviously well-known for their deadly accuracy.

Since there is no explicit need for the two players to overlap under normal circumstances, the combination could very easily work. However, with Ronaldo generally being seen as the greatest showman, there would always be underlying concerns that Ronaldo's love for the limelight could affect the team. With Ronaldo and Messi in the same squad, a combination of big personalities would be an inevitable factor. Nonetheless, it should be remembered that Ronaldo has been highly praised playing alongside other celebrated luminaries of European football and his personality has never prevented his club from fulfilling its expectations.

Messi v Ronaldo. The war continues

Most neutrals would argue that Ronaldo is the greatest player, but Messi's low centre of gravity gives him extra stability on the ball when running to the goal. Under the right coaching, such complementary qualities could be present to have a devastating effect. However, this is the real world and the debate regarding which player is the best continues to rage amongst football fans across the world.

In each of the last nine editions of the Ballon d'Or awards, the award has gone to Messi or Ronaldo. This year, Ronaldo has every chance of equalising against Messi by winning a fifth award. However, the fact is that Messi outscored Ronaldo 37-25 in the 2016/17 La Liga season.

Although it is naive to say that a sixth Ballon d'Or for Messi to Ronaldo's four ones would be an unassailable lead, time is the only unbeatable element in football. There are now a number of younger players waiting to pounce on football's most coveted personal prize, and the time of the final reckoning in the battle of the world's greatest two football players is close.

Questions

- 1. According to bets,**
 - a. Messi and his team-mates will win the Champions League trophy.
 - b. Ronaldo is the least fancied to lift the Champions League trophy.
 - c. Ronaldo is as fancied as Messi to lift the Champions League trophy.
 - d. **Ronaldo and his team are the favourite ones to win the Champions League trophy.**

- 2. If a football player is ambidextrous, it means that...**
 - a. He can play football just with his right leg.
 - b. **He can play football with both legs: right and left.**
 - c. He can play football just with his left leg.
 - d. He doesn't have the ability to play football at all.

- 3. Ronaldo's prominence in every match, as well as his urge to be in the limelight, ...**
 - a. Have sometimes stopped his club from achieving its goals
 - b. Have caused some occasional trouble in his club
 - c. **Have never stopped his club from getting its aims**
 - d. Are considered a problem by most clubs as these factors usually affect the club he plays in

- 4. Messi has got extra stability on the ball when running to the goal because...**
 - a. **He is short.**
 - b. He is of average height.
 - c. He is not short enough.
 - d. He is tall enough.