



## READING COMPREHENSION

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### **BAYERN MUNICH V BARCELONA**



#### **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG**

- Venue: The Allianz Arena
- Date: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- Kick-off: 19:45

Bayern Munich manager Jupp Heynckes says he is not worried at the possible return of Lionel Messi to Barcelona's side for Tuesday's Champions League semi-final first leg in Germany.

Messi has not played since coming off the substitutes' bench to help Barça overcome Paris St-Germain on away goals in the quarter-finals, but the 25-year-old is set to feature in Munich following a thigh injury.

"Barça are about more than just Messi," Heynckes said. Messi has scored eight times in this season's Champions League in what has been a phenomenal season for the Argentina international. Last month the forward became the first player in Spanish football history to score against every other team in La Liga consequently.

Messi has not featured in either of Barcelona's two league games since they overcome Paris St-Germain, but Barcelona

assistant manager Jordi Roura said that Messi has travelled to Germany with the team and could play.

### **Battle of the Euro heavyweights**

Barcelona are looking to win the Champions League for the third time in five seasons, with Bayern Munich seeking to reach their third final in four seasons.

"I expect he will be able to play and it is not something which is causing me a headache," added Heynckes.

Former Real Madrid manager Heynckes has not sought the advice from ex-Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola as his Bundesliga champions prepare to meet the leaders of La Liga.

Guardiola will replace Heynckes in the Bayern this summer and his history as Barça coach, with whom he won the Champions League twice, could have given Heynckes some useful insight.

However, the current Bayern boss, while displaying respect for his successor, reiterated he does not need any help in preparing for the biggest game of his side's season so far; "I admire Pep Guardiola, but I don't need any advice from other coaches," he said. "I know my team better than anybody and I also know a lot about Spanish football and Barcelona."

Meanwhile, Roura says he will wait until the day of the match before deciding whether to play Messi following his recent injury; "Messi has been feeling pretty good, but we'll wait until Tuesday to see if he can play," he added.

Barcelona's Xavi claimed on Monday that winning La Liga was more important than the Champions League.

Barça are currently 13 points clear of Real Madrid at the top of their domestic league with six games remaining. "La Liga is the most important title for us, but the Champions League also motivates us," said midfielder Xavi. "We want to show the very best of ourselves against Bayern. I think this tie is at 50/50, but we will try to play our style. It's important score an away goal, it's vital." The return leg takes place at the Nou Camp on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

## **Questions**

1. Bayern Munich manager Jupp Heynckes...
  - a. Says he is worried about Lionel Messi's return to the semi-final first leg.
  - b. Says he is not concerned about his return to that match.
  - c. Thinks Lionel Messi will not play in the match.
  
2. Bayern Munich manager states that...
  - a. The most important player in Barcelona is Messi.
  - b. Messi has not been very luck recently regarding goal scoring.
  - c. Barcelona does not depend on Messi.
  
3. To prepare the match, Jupp Heynckes...
  - a. Has not asked for Pep Guardiola's advice.
  - b. Has sought the advice from the ex-Barcelona coach.
  - c. Has asked other German coaches for advice.
  
4. Roura says...
  - a. Lionel Messi will play in the match for sure.
  - b. Messi will not play because he is still recovering from his thigh injury.
  - c. He will wait until the very last minute before he decides it.
  
5. Xavi...
  - a. Thinks that winning La Liga is more important than winning the Champions League.
  - b. Prefers winning the Champions League to La Liga.
  - c. Says that both competitions are really important.