



Doha Stadium Plus ties up with Golden Foot

GOLDEN Foot is a prestigious award, given to the best footballer above 29 years old. It is not only about technical qualities, but also values and behaviour. The international prize is given away annually to one of the greatest players in history. The award ceremony will be held in October, in the Principality of Monaco, under the patronage of HSH Prince Albert II. The event is promoted by World Champions Club and Tourism Office of Monaco. Doha Stadium Plus is one of the media partners of the event and its Editor-in-Chief Dr Ahmed Al Mohammadi is a jury member.

EVENT PROFILE

Web voting: May 19-October 8
Prize giving day: October 11

PAST WINNERS

Ronaldinho (BRA)	2009
Roberto Carlos (BRA)	2008
Alessandro Del Piero (ITA)	2007
Ronaldo (BRA)	2006
Andriy Shevchenko (UKR)	2005
Pavel Nedved (CZE)	2004
Roberto Baggio (ITA)	2003

2010 NOMINEES



David Beckham (ENG) Gianluigi Buffon (ITA) Didier Drogba (CIV) Samuel Eto'o (CAM) Steven Gerrard (ENG) Ryan Giggs (WLS) Carles Puyol (ESP) Raul Gonzalez (ESP) Clarence Seedorf (NED) Francesco Totti (ITA)

Leaving a lasting footprint!

Former World Footballer Ronaldinho believes last year's Golden Foot award helped him reshape his career in a far more effective way, writes a **Special Correspondent**.



BRAZILIAN Ronaldinho, 2004 and '05 World Footballer, and 2005 Balon d'Or awardee, edged out champions like David Beckham, Gianluigi Buffon and Francesco Totti to win the Golden Foot award last year.

In an exclusive interview with *Radio Monte Carlo* before announcing the 10 shortlisted candidates for the 2010 Golden Foot Award, Ronaldinho spoke about his love for the game, his family and his future plans.

Excerpts:

Q Winning the Golden Foot award last year some what helped your career, isn't it? How important was this award for you?

A It's been very important. I'm still young, but the jury considered my career and awarded it. I felt a different emotion and it made me feel like I entered into the realm of legends. It's nice to think my son will see my foot on the champions promenade. He'll know I'm part of football history.

Q Have you ever dreamt to become such a great champion?

A I always thought I could do it.

Q And always wanted?

A Football runs in my blood. My father was a footballer, my brother too. So I thought I could become a champion. Now I'm satisfied, I made my dream come true.

Q Let's talk about the champions promenade, where you and other football legends leave their footprints. Many fans are calling us from Far East Asia, Middle East Africa. They all want you to play in their countries. But will you stay away from Milan?

A Right now, I'm happy to play in Italy. I've spent two years there and it's been great because all supporters, not only of AC Milan, gave me happy feelings. Many good things have happened there. I'm very happy there, but I don't know what'll happen in the next years.

Q Even in Australia, they're asking of you...

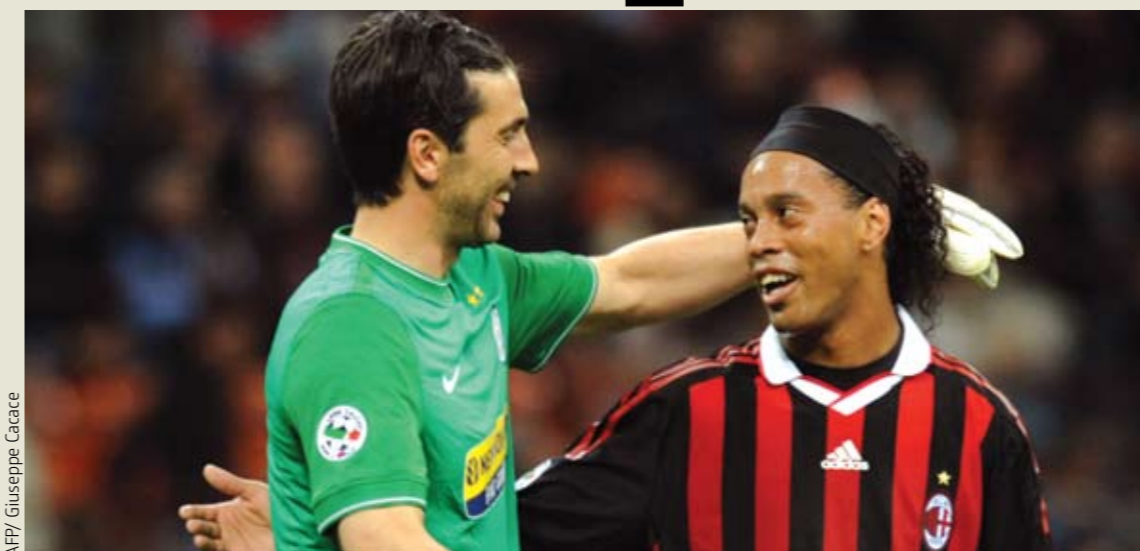
A Yes, that's why Golden Foot is important, I would say more important than others. Because the fans world over are deciding the winner.

Q From Portugal, the fans are asking... "You've played with Messi at Barcelona, what do you think about him? Is he the new Maradona? Who's the best between him and Cristiano Ronaldo?"

A It was great to live and play with Messi for some years. I saw him grow in football. Ronaldo and Messi are both great players, but I like Messi's style more. Also because he's a great friend of mine. If I don't say he's better, I don't know what could happen next time I'll go to Barcelona...

Q You had the honour to announce the 10 candidates for the 2010 Golden Foot award...

A It was quite fascinating, but the final choice is done by the fans all over the world. Last year, more than two million people visited the Golden Foot website and more than 300,000 cast their votes. Media all over the world published/broadcast programmes about it. Golden Foot is like the Oscars in Hollywood. It's the only award chosen by fans. The 10 candidates are shortlisted by our media partners, almost 50.



AFP/ Giuseppe Cacace

But then there are the fans, who're supposed to vote. So we can be proud of what we did so far. It's the best way to choose the award winner from among so many great champions — David Beckham, Gigi Buffon, Didier Drogba, Samuel Eto'o, Steven Gerrard, Ryan Giggs, Carles Puyol, Raul, Clarence Seedorf and Francesco Totti.

Q Who's your favourite?

A They're all great players.

Q Who do you dream to play with?

A I had the pleasure to play with Beckham, Seedorf, Puyol and Eto'o. But all others are also great players. I don't know if I'll have the chance to play with them too. But, you never know.

Q Who do you think will win the 2010 Golden Foot award?

A I would like to win again, but it isn't possible (laughs). So it's difficult to support someone else. They're all great. They've all played at the highest level for long time. Beckham has done a lot for his country and the sport in general. Everyone knows him. But anyone can win.

Q We all can't wait to know who'll be the winner. All the supporters

will vote, but the jury is also very important, isn't it?

A Of course, the jury shortlisted these 10 players. And the jury is formed by journalists from all over the world — from almost all

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European countries, Africa, Far East Asia, Australia and the Middle East, including Iraq and Qatar.

Q Yes, someone said it was better to have remorse than regrets. What do you think about it?

A No, I haven't got any regrets. Everything went the right way. I don't look back, I'm just looking forward as usual. I just need to think about my future and stay positive.

Q Do you have any new goals in your career? Is there something missing?

A I've been lucky. I've realised all my dreams. I need to thank God for this.

Q You like music a lot. Maybe it was your second dream...

A Yes, in my family we all love music — football and music. I never thought about becoming

anyone else but a footballer, but I could also have worked in music.

Q What kind of music do you prefer?

A I've always been curious, from Brazilian music to jazz. If there's something good, I pick it.

Q Is there an artist that you prefer? Maybe to relax yourself...

A In Brazilian music, there're a lot of artists. I like a lot of samba groups.

Q Have you ever suffered of loneliness?

A Always. I've always been missing my friends, family and country. But I'm happy that I always lived in great cities like Paris, Barcelona and Milan.

Q Where did you learn to control the ball?

A I was born with the skill and it was easy for me to play since I was a kid. But you need to train a lot.

Q It wasn't an easy year for you and AC Milan, also because Inter did a great job. How did you feel?

A That's life, this is football. You can't always win. But it's good to see a friend of mine win with Inter. I think we can win some titles next season.

JURY MEMBERS AND MEDIA PARTNERS

Elena Chahanova (7dni Sport/BNR, Bulgaria)
Paulo Jorge Santos (A Bola, Portugal)
Dundar Kesapli (Ajansspor.com, Turkey)
Mostafa Badri (Almountakhab, Morocco)
Chener Abdwl Qader (Awene Sport, Iraq)
Cosimo Baldini (Calciomercato.com, Italy)
Henve Kouamouo (Camfoot.com, Cameroon)
Nikolay Petrosyan (Championat.ru, Russia)
Qasim Elegbede (Complete Sports, Nigeria)
Victor Jose Lopez (Diario Meridiano, Venezuela)
Carlos Arturo Nolasco (Diez, Honduras)
Dr Ahmed Al Mohammadi (Doha Stadium Plus, Qatar)
Javier Bruses Manresa (Don Balon, Spain)
Andrej Mijlkovic (Klicka, Slovenia)
Lorge Esteves Seminario (El Boron, Peru)
Ahmed Lakrouf (El Heddaf, Algeria)
Arnout Verzijl (Elf Voetbal, Netherlands)
Daniele Novello (ESPN Classic, Europe-Middle East-Africa)
John Brewin (ESPN SoccerNet.com, United Kingdom)
Mehmet Demircan (Fanatik, Turkey)
Artem Frankov (Football, Ukraine)
Gregory Hangard (Football.fr, France)
Thiago Dias (Globoesporte.com, Brazil)
Marteo Marani (GS Guerin Sportivo, Italy)
Oleksandr Glyvynskyy (Information Centre Ukraine 2012)
Jung Kyeong-Moon (Igan Sports, Republic of Korea)
Arnaldo Cardoso Pires (Jornal dos Sports, Brazil)
Richard Maguire (Kick Off, South Africa)
Farid Ait Saada (Le Buteur, Algeria)
Vasko Arsovski (Makedonski Sport, Macedonia)
Patricio Villalobos (MedioTiempo.com, Mexico)
Dan Silver (MirrorFootball.co.uk, United Kingdom)
Peter Csillag (Nemzeti Sport, Hungary)
Leonardo Farinella (Ole, Argentina)
Kamil Burzek (Pilkas Nozka, Poland)
Soren-Mikael Hansen (Politiken, Denmark)
Sergey Nikolaev (Pressball, Belarus)
Robert Vatafu (Prosport, Romania)
Matthias Van Halst (Quebec Soccer, Canada)
Andrea Munari Galantino (Radio Monte Carlo, Monaco)
Marco Foroni (SKY Sport, Italy)
Osama Saleh (Soccer, Sudan)
Mark van Aken (Soccer International, Australia)
Peter Surin (Sport, Slovakia)
Akis Tsopelas (SportDay, Greece)
Alfred Lleshi (Sporti Shqiptar, Albania)
Robert Matteoni (Sportske Novosti, Croatia)
Luo Ming (Tian Sports, China)
Mohammad Yusuf Kumawan (Top Skor, Indonesia)
Masahiko Tejima (World Soccer Digest, Japan)

CHARITY HELPED

Fight Aids Monaco (Since 2009),
presided by HSH Princesse Stephanie of Monaco.
ELA, Association Europeenne contre les
Leucodystrophies (2008),
promoted by Zinedine Zidane.
Champions for Children (2007),
promoted by Clarence Seedorf.
Fundacion PUP (2008),
promoted by Javier Zanetti.
Fondazione Milan (2005),
promoted by AC Milan.
FIFA Goal Programme (2004),
promoted by FIFA.
Restinga Olympic Village (2003),
promoted by Carlos Dunga.

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