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## Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 12-04-2008 20:35

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Guardian saying that he's agreed a move in principle as 'breaking news'

I see they've learned their lesson.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by dalliance - 12-04-2008 23:22

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My immediate suspicion is that this is a ploy from Berlusconi to drum up some cheap PR to bolster his election campaign - though criticising Totti may have lost him the Roman vote at least.

I actually hope that this is an authentic transfer option though, with Ronaldinho and Shevchenko back under yolk, then Milan are going nowhere fast for the foreseeable future.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Hieronymus Bosch - 12-04-2008 23:27

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How much money is changing hands for Ronaldinho?

What did Berlusconi say about Totti?

Is Shevchenko really going back?

How do they get the figs into the fig rolls?

Why do men have nipples?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Gyuri - 12-04-2008 23:39

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1. Barca and Milan haven't agreed to a deal yet. Gazzetta said Milan has agreed to pay Ronaldinho around 8 mm Euros/year.

2. Don't know.

3. Don't know.

4. With the tiny hands of elves.

5. The guy who wrote this book once told me when I was drunk at a wedding, but, sadly, I don't remember.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Bryan - 13-04-2008 00:00

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Are AC Milan the new Inter Milan?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-04-2008 01:59

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How do they get the figs into the fig rolls?

They have a double tube that shoots out fig mixture, and in the tube around it the shoot out pastry. As it comes out of the tube it is cut into fig roll sized pieces and squashed flat. Then as it dries/cool, the edges curl down giving it it's distinctive curve.

Why do men have nipples?

Because we're all born female, and the action of hormones in the womb (triggered by our chromosomes I think) make us change to being male. The words wolfian system and I think Phillipian system are involved in the longer explanation. but Introductory psychology was many years ago and All I remember is my lecturer telling us that male rats go a bit catatonic during orgasm and fall off their ladyfriend while gripping their fur. Our lecturer was a little strange.

Dalliance, given that roma and inter have made players as prosaic as park ji sung, and dirk kuyt look like messi and eto'o, I wouldn't be too happy with the arrival of ronaldinho, even if he is snorting whiskey to get him through the harsh hours of the morning

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by erwin - 13-04-2008 02:24

How far has Ronaldinho's reputation sunk!? It seems like yesterday that he was the marketing man's dream, now he couldn't sell a dummy. I trace it back to his disastrous hairband in the 2006 World Cup.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-04-2008 02:32

I trace it back to him playing like a cripple in the 2006 world cup. nearly every mega-superstar player going into the world cup played like they had a serious brain injury, with the exception of zidane, and he was the only one that no-one expected that much from.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by dalliance - 13-04-2008 02:35

Milan more than any other club needs players who have their best years ahead of them, the sort of player they might expect proper contributions for more than a season at best.

Totti openly supports Berlusconi's election rival Walter Veltroni and during a rally Silvio called him mad, or from another planet, something along those lines. Actually pretty mild by Berlusconi's foot in mouth standards but enough to considerably rile the city it seems.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 13-04-2008 02:40

nonsense. they're going to have ronaldinho playing alongside shevchenko and ronaldo, this is going to be a combination

that will keep pato where he belongs, in the primavera, for at least another seven years.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 06-05-2008 15:39

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A Spanish tabloid is reporting that 'Dinho made a "secret, late night" visit for tests at a private clinic in Barcelona (perhaps paid for by Milan).

According to the rag, the "results were terrible, and much worse than people had previously thought", so bad, in fact, that they wonder if he will ever play again.

The same article (which is here , claims that Guardiola is certain to be the Barca manager for next season.

Either of these stories and one euro will get you 75 minutes on the Milan transit system, as long as you don't make a round trip.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 07-05-2008 14:46

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When's the last time Ronaldinho actually played a match?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-05-2008 15:08

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I think it was the home defeat to Villarreal on March 9th.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by blameless - 07-05-2008 15:36

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"Perhaps paid for by Milan", or "perhaps paid for by Milan-based lawyer"?

I know you're desperate for Barca to get shot of him ursus, but this is getting out of hand (winky smiley graemlin thing).

With Milan trawling the benches of Europe's big clubs for guys who last had a good game in 2005, I'm astounded that they managed to land Mathieu Flamini. Maybe they're going to play him in goal or something just to offset their otherwise inexplicable good judgment.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-05-2008 15:47

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Well, I've already offered to drive him from the airport . . .

I made a similar point to a Milanista friend the other day. The idea that Milan might adopt a reality-based transfer policy is seriously troubling. Their signing Frey to replace Kalac/Dida would be like the breaking of the sixth seal.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

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Posted by Crusoe - 08-05-2008 20:05

The article was half-right - time for Mr 'Dinho to be worried?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by blameless - 09-05-2008 10:08

From that BBC article:

Guardiola, who will officially take charge on 30 June, is a Barca legend who was captain when they won the European Cup for the first time in 1992

Wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong, wrong. Andoni Zubizarreta was the team captain and the trophy was actually lifted by club captain José Alexanko (who'd come on as a sub).

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by hobbess - 09-05-2008 12:43

Is it just my imagination, or is Frank Rijkaard's bottom jaw getting bigger with each passing year? He's going to look like a Disney stork in a decade.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-07-2008 15:35

This may actually happen this week, but for it do so, the gap between Milan's offer and Man City's will need to be less than the current 22 million euro.

For those with some familiarity with Romance languages, la Gazzetta is running a "real time" set of updates from Galliani's visit to Barcelona this afternoon here

Edit: Well, the meetings are over, and Barca have said that they will take a few days to consider the offers (from Man City and Milan). But la Gazzetta are putting a lot of faith in the fact that Dinho and his brother are currently in the pool at the Juan Carlos with Galliani, and have shaken hands. I think the poor schmucks who have to write this stuff have been reading Brangelina updates all weekend.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-07-2008 09:13

OK, now we are entering rational decision-making territory.

Mundo Deportivo, which is almost as close to Barca as Marca is to Real Madrid, is reporting that Barca will accept 25 million euro from Milan (20 cash and 5 in bonuses), which will get them close enough to Man City current offer of 32 million (27 and 5) as to not make it worth the club's while to get into yet another pissing match with Dinho and his entourage.

And a number of other Spanish sources are saying that Milan is prepared to do just that.

So we may have a deal today or tomorrow morning after all. Milan clearly see a major media boost in having Dinho for the opening of training at Milanello tomorrow, and it looks like Silvio has told Galliani that he can't come home empty-handed (I do hope that he has some flunkies to help him carry Dinho).

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Hofzinsler - 15-07-2008 11:00

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I bet they wish they'd sold him to Chelsea for about 100 million last year.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Harri Saer - 15-07-2008 11:15

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This may have been mentioned already but my paper claims Barca would be happy to sell him to Milan as it means they will then be less likely to be able to compete for Adebayor.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 15-07-2008 11:17

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On the other hand, he's only 28. Everyone knows his form fell off but he's also young enough to regain it. In theory. I confess I'd be looking forward to seeing the Pato-Kaka-Ronaldinho look. (I know, I'd probably be disappointed, but still, it does have a mouthwatering element to it.)

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-07-2008 12:04

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You are such a hopeless romantic, Bruno. I'm surprised you left out Ronaldo.

He obviously prefers to go to Milan than Man City, but I think that Milan has to sweeten their current offer to make that happen. Barca will take less from them than City have offered, but not 20 million less.

And yes, Hof, I bet Laporta still has nightmares about turning Roman down.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-07-2008 14:05

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Well, lunch is over, and Galliani left expressionless and unwilling to speak to any of the hordes of media camped outside.

Looks like he's going to have to ask Uncle Silvio for some more spending money.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 15-07-2008 16:16

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You are such a hopeless romantic, Bruno. I'm surprised you left out Ronaldo.

Well, Ronaldo is injured. (duh) When he's on form he's...phenomenal!

(And he really is going to lose the weight this time...and there's a newfound dedication to overcoming the latest tragic setback.)

Also, ancora Maldini!

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I mean, some players really do play champion-level football into their 30s. Look at Clarence Seedorf. He's six months older than Ronaldo.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 15-07-2008 16:21

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Seedorf seemed to take most of his 20s off.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-07-2008 16:32

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Looks like this is getting done tonight for around 20 million and that Milan are giving him a 3 year contract.

Will be an interesting redemption story to watch. I hope they've locked all the minibars and blocked Adriano's mobile number.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 15-07-2008 16:40

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Lucky Milan isn't a party town.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 15-07-2008 16:56

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Seedorf is the coolest cat on the block, has been for many years

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 15-07-2008 23:03

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And oddly enough, Ronaldinho has in fact chosen to live in Milan over Manchester.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by Eggchaser - 16-07-2008 10:11

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Perhaps the lure of the UEFA Cup wasn't enough. More fool him, I say!

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by Harri Saer - 16-07-2008 10:12

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Er, Milan are in the UEFA Cup.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 16-07-2008 11:05

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And I'm sure the prospect of Ronnie winning another \$6.3 million will further inspire them to regain the Champions League.

As supremely gifted forwards go I'll take the one who doesn't think his middle name is Showtime, who therefore is constantly tempted to "give the fans what they want" (Ronaldinho, Ibrahimovic, Totti). Give me Kaka, Drogba, or Ronaldo in the day, players whose main concern is running around their opponents. It's practically inevitable that Ronaldinho will want to bedazzle at the San Siro, totally unlike how Kaka approaches his own game and exactly why the latter is the better champion. (I'm extremely bored by the "Impress us" conceit of Barcelona and Madrid supporters, whatever the extent to which Milanistas also fall prey to it.)

Come to think of it, fuck Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka is still the best all-around player. Yes Ronaldo is more powerful (though not faster?) and scores more goals, but he's at a severe disadvantage from being a complete douche with an embarrassing haircut and mile-wide petulant streak. There's always Lionel Messi, who would be the world's best if he weren't constantly trying to dribble into the 6-yard box before scoring.

Anyways, who knows maybe Ronnie will become infected by Milan's team-first spirit and great things will ensue.

I find I'm actually more interested in how Zambrotta and Flamini will perform next season. With Pirlo and Kaka in the mix Ronaldinho is one more playmaker. I expect the two Brazilians could cancel each other out.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 16-07-2008 12:26

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At least he dressed for the occasion:

[http://www.gazzetta.it/Fotogallery/Tagliate/2008/07\\_Luglio/16/Ron/01.JPG](http://www.gazzetta.it/Fotogallery/Tagliate/2008/07_Luglio/16/Ron/01.JPG)

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Inca - 16-07-2008 15:28

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ursus arctos wrote:

At least he dressed for the occasion:

[http://www.gazzetta.it/Fotogallery/Tagliate/2008/07\\_Luglio/16/Ron/01.JPG](http://www.gazzetta.it/Fotogallery/Tagliate/2008/07_Luglio/16/Ron/01.JPG)

I hope he still has that outfit three years from now when he joins the LA Galaxy. He can cruise down Crenshaw in that and fit right in.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Tony C - 16-07-2008 17:29

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I really think we dodged the bullet with this.

I mean, I really hope he regains his old brilliance in Milan but I think the odds are against it.

Hughes could use this money more wisely.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by dalliance - 16-07-2008 20:25

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Expect a good first 6 months at Milan until the novelty wears off and his interest wanes again.

There's a pretty strong pattern established with his career thus far, he starts off in a blaze of glory and then fades rapidly when his interest and motivation fades.

I think this is a comedy signing by what is rapidly becoming a comedy club. I would wager all of AIATL's bodyparts on Mourinho's Inter winning the League next season.

Roma have done nothing to suggest they can move on and only Juventus are approaching the transfer market like a serious club at the moment.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 16-07-2008 23:22

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dalliance is perhaps being overly harsh. His blaze of glory at Barcelona was considerably longer than six months. I think one can make the point that Milan isn't rebuilding its side intelligently enough without calling this signing of the 2005 WPOTY "comedy." I mean, he's still pretty good isn't he.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Etienne - 17-07-2008 07:23

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Even if Ronaldinho only plays to his early Barca level for 6 months, that would probably be enough to win Milan the league.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Etienne - 17-07-2008 07:23

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But at best, I think there's a 5% chance of that happening.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 10:27

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But at best, I think there's a 5% chance of that happening.

Seriously? I'd give Ronaldinho at least a 50% chance of performing well. Or did you mean Milan have a 5% chance of winning the league? I'll bet against those odds any day...dalliance is probably right that the excitement of a new venue, and one he apparently has always wanted to play at, will bring out better play. At this point there needs to be some kind of corrective for the level of contempt this guy is inviting, it's distinctly faddish. True, before the last World Cup the hype was sky high (is he the greatest player in history? the Michael Jordan of soccer, etc) but that was because he was doing frigging amazing stuff. I clearly remember thinking then that I hadn't seen a player quite like him in my lifetime. And now after basically one season of injury and off form he's suddenly shit. Guess we'll see.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 10:31

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My main curiosity is how/whether he'll complement Kaka. Sometimes I think a team does better with one attacking midfielder of that sort rather than two.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ad hoc - 17-07-2008 10:41

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Being off form and being an alcoholic (allegedly) are two entirely different things.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 17-07-2008 10:43

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Hasn't Galliani said that Milan's mercato is done?

Doesn't the absence of any reinforcements at the back beyond Abbati and Zambrotta concern you after the last two seasons?

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 10:54

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That is so, ad hoc. Do you have any information that Ronaldinho is an alcoholic? Are his close friends and family about to intervene? Do you think Berlusconi would spend what he did knowing there was a decent chance he was buying an "alcoholic"? I figure if he were that stupid he probably wouldn't be a billionaire.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 10:57

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ursus arctos wrote:

Hasn't Galliani said that Milan's mercato is done?

Doesn't the absence of any reinforcements at the back beyond Abbati and Zambrotta concern you after the last two seasons?

Did you have any particular reinforcements in mind? Are you saying it's time to replace Nesta and Kaladze?

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by dalliance - 17-07-2008 11:27

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At least when Ronaldinho went to Barcelona he still had motivation to win some major prizes. As soon as he did his form slumped, just as his international form declined after he won the World Cup with Brazil in 2002.

I'm not sure he has the motivation to try and drag Milan to win the Champions League, especially as that will take 2 years minimum. Is he that motivated to win the Serie A when he has a couple of Spanish titles locked away already ?

I realise he's not old and he could find new drive but the odds do seem to be stacked against him with the amount of legacy stuff he has built up now. Look at Ronaldo, his career effectively stalled at the age of 21 and apart from a good spell from the summer of 2002 to the end of the following season he has done little. Injuries blighted him more than Ronaldinho perhaps, but he didn't do the work to get back from them as rapidly as he could have most of the time.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 17-07-2008 11:37

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Bruno, there were persistent rumours in Barcelona about his "issues" this spring being alcohol-related. Surely, those stories had something to do with Milan only having to pay 25 million for a player they were offering 60 million for a year ago and the fact that no one other than Thaksin was offering more.

As to the defence, I don't think you have a first class keeper (of course, this is not a new situation for Milan), that Kaladze is showing significant signs of strain, that Zambrotta was largely disappointing for Barca (though much better for Italy), that neither Bonera nor Oddo were completely convincing last season and that Favalli and Brocchi were worse than that. I also think that what appears to be a commitment to all out attack up front will put additional strain on Gattuso, Flamini and Ambrosini (and that you probably can't play all three of them at once).

But I also think that Milan have a better than 5% chance of winning the league.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 11:57

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dalliance wrote:

At least when Ronaldinho went to Barcelona he still had motivation to win some major prizes.

As soon as he did his form slumped, just as his international form declined after he won the World Cup with Brazil in 2002.

So he had no motivation to win a second World Cup, because once you've won one, the rest are just yawns. I'm rarely convinced by Green Lantern theories where a lack of success has to be attributed to a lack of will. Much more plausible explanations for his indifferent 2006 World Cup would be too much pressure to live up to his own hype and/or a lack of team chemistry.

I'm not sure he has the motivation to try and drag Milan to win the Champions League, especially as that will take 2 years minimum. Is he that motivated to win the Serie A when he has a couple of Spanish titles locked away already ?

Given that such habitual complacency would guarantee that an athlete could never rise to that level in the first place, it's asking rather a lot to believe it instantly sets in once success is achieved. Getting to the top is hard and staying on top is harder. It's far from a given that his failure to sustain peak form was somehow a conscious decision.

I realise he's not old and he could find new drive but the odds do seem to be stacked against him with the amount of legacy stuff he has built up now. Look at Ronaldo, his career effectively stalled at the age of 21 and apart from a good spell from the summer of 2002 to the end of the following season he has done little. Injuries blighted him more than Ronaldinho perhaps, but he didn't do the work to get back from them as rapidly as he could have most of the time.

So winning the World Cup and a third Player of the Year in 2002 was a "good spell" then. Ronaldo's career did indeed stall because of injury and he rather heroically made quite a comeback I think. Your prognosticating may be right; my point is it's still too early to write him off. And it would also be silly to heap scorn on him for perhaps not regaining his 2004-05 form if he still makes a meaningful contribution to the team. I wouldn't want to start judging players on their inability to be elected World Player each and every season.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 12:13

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ursus arctos wrote:

Bruno, there were persistent rumours in Barcelona about his "issues" this spring being alcohol-related.

And it would be quite a leap from alcohol-related to alcoholism would it not. I'm sure partying and top-flight football don't mix, but that's different from suggesting he just can't help himself.

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Surely, those stories had something to do with Milan only having to pay 25 million for a player they were offering 60 million for a year ago and the fact that no one other than Thaksin was offering more.

Granted.

As to the defence, I don't think you have a first class keeper (of course, this is not a new situation for Milan), that Kaladze is showing significant signs of strain, that Zambrotta was largely disappointing for Barca (though much better for Italy), that neither Bonera nor Oddo were completely convincing last season and that Favalli and Brocchi were worse than that. I also think that what appears to be a commitment to all out attack up front will put additional strain on Gattuso, Flamini and Ambrosini (and that you probably can't play all three of them at once).

Yes we can criticize Milan for not having a bulletproof roster top to bottom, but then who does. They could certainly be a lot worse off, not to sound complacent. For me Nesta and Kaladze both have the job as long as they want it, and I can't think of any team that would spend real money to replace them yet. I'm not at all worried (yet) about Zambrotta, I think Milan is much better suited to him than Barcelona. But I am worried about the rest. Favalli is average, Brocchi is past it, Oddo needs to go, he does not deliver. But Bonera is somewhat underrated. I'm not sure why you couldn't play Gattuso, Flamini and Ambrosini at once.

Bottom line, I'm not predicting they'll win Serie A this season and I agree there needs to be more improvement in the fullback and midfield depts. I don't see the central defenders or keeper (Kalac) as being a big part of the problem, but admittedly my "analysis" is not exactly based on rigorous statistical observation.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Etienne - 17-07-2008 12:16

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5% chance of him playing as well as he did when he first joined Barca. I don't doubt he'll start better at Milan than he finished at Barca.

"I figure if he were that stupid he probably wouldn't be a billionaire."

Hahahahahaahahahahaha.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 12:47

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Etienne wrote:

5% chance of him playing as well as he did when he first joined Barca. I don't doubt he'll start better at Milan than he finished at Barca.

Who is asking him to play "as well as he did when he first joined Barcelona"? If anyone believed that he would have fetched a much higher price just now. The logic goes that he's still very much an impact player, and possibly one to be had at a modest bargain. Not that he's going to reconquer the world every season.

"I figure if he were that stupid he probably wouldn't be a billionaire."

Hahahahahaahahahahaha.

It wasn't a joke. Billionaires are generally pretty savvy at knowing whether to buy or sell. Knowing not to plop down millions on a known or likely alcoholic would not be placing Berlusconi's decision-making abilities at a very high premium. I expect a modicum of sensibility from him on that front. In short, I think the "he's an alcoholic" rumors are 99% likely to be wrong.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Etienne - 17-07-2008 12:52

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I'm sure it wasn't intended as a joke.

But a) in general people put far too much faith in the: so and so is very rich, thus s/he must be very smart, ignoring a long history of colossal misjudgements by billionaires in pretty much every area outside the one in which they made their fortunes - sport and politics being the two prime examples.

And more importantly b) Berlusconi personally has provided manifold examples of lack of good judgement.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 13:22

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To be clear, I wasn't intending to extol His Billionaire's intelligence and impeccable judgment, rather was just making the point that I doubted he was as stupid as all that. Buying the wrong sort of player is one thing, throwing \$33 million away on a known drunk is another. You don't need to know anything about sport not to do that, I would think.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 13:24

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And however manifold his poor judgment may be I wouldn't say AC Milan has exactly withered under his ownership.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 17-07-2008 13:25

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A man who could give the job of equal opportunities minister to a person who believes that anti-gay discrimination doesn't exist any more is capable of anything.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 13:45

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Interesting example. That would actually be the smart thing to do if your wish were to see anti-gay discrimination proceed.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 13:46

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I mean, are we going to make the case that Berlusconi lacks the judgment to act in his own best interests or aren't we.

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**Re:Ronaldinho to Milan**

Posted by ursus arctos - 17-07-2008 14:12

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I think there is an open question as to whether his own best interests and those of Milan are congruent, especially in the long term.

There is a Wag the Dog element to this transfer.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 14:36

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Could you elaborate on that?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 17-07-2008 14:39

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I wonder would ronaldinho be considered an alcoholic in english football? Ronaldinho won't have to be anywhere near as good as he was at his peak to shine like a supernova in serie A, and he won't even have to be particularly good to be acclaimed as the best footballer in the world by the Mediaset empire.

By the way, has anyone seen the pictures of ronaldao Grosso lately as he lolls around on the beach? going on a height of about 6 feet, I would estimate that that belly has him tipping the scales at at least 16 stone.

And the idea that berlusconi would be above buying a footballer with a drink problem because he's a billionaire is hilarious.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 14:44

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And I am the Life wrote:

I wonder would ronaldinho be considered an alcoholic in english football? Ronaldinho won't have to be anywhere near as good as he was at his peak to shine like a supernova in serie A, and he won't even have to be particularly good to be acclaimed as the best footballer in the world by the Mediaset empire.

You stopped hearing yourself a long time ago didn't you.

And the idea that berlusconi would be above buying a footballer with a drink problem because he's a billionaire is hilarious.

Based on what exactly. Do you have any arguments or do you just assert things.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by dalliance - 17-07-2008 14:45

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So winning the World Cup and a third Player of the Year in 2002 was a "good spell" then.

There is probably a decent body of opinion to suggest a player who had played next to no football then crops up to play competently and score a few goals against broadly weak opposition over half a dozen matches should never have got near any sort of award.

So yes, a good spell.

Berlusconi seems to have been engaging in a transfer policy of late which is all heat and very little light. There has been a massive campaign to link themselves erroneously with just about every player of worth around, even ones there are no chance of signing. The ones they do bring in are hyped up beyond their worth.

It all seems a poor attempt to disguise a relative (by Milan's standards anyway) lack of spending. I'd be interested to see some figures that detail monies spent and recouped by Milan over the past 3 or 4 seasons. I'd wager the net outlay is not substantial.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 17-07-2008 15:00

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You stopped hearing yourself a long time ago didn't you.

what is wrong with that statement? That ronaldinho probably wouldn't be considered an alcoholic by northern european standards? that berlusconi's personal media empire won't be full of propaganda about ronaldinho regardless of what happens? or that ronaldinho won't have to be absolutely brilliant to shine in a league where Julio cruz is considered to be a viable forward at a top team?

As for suggesting that Berlusconi is liable to make fewer mistakes in the transfer market because he is a billionaire, I mean i just don't know where to start.

It all seems a poor attempt to disguise a relative (by Milan's standards anyway) lack of spending. I'd be interested to see some figures that detail monies spent and recouped by Milan over the past 3 or 4 seasons. I'd wager the net outlay is not substantial.

This is spot on, but I'd stretch it back even further than 3 or four seasons. The last two huge transfer signings milan made were inzaghi from Juve and rui costa from fiorentina, and that was seven years ago. This is probably the fourth big signing in six or seven seasons (nesta, gilardino and pato being the others, and even they weren't particularly big in the context of the wider european market) a lot of the high profile signings have been free transfers from borderline bankrupt clubs like stam, cafu and bonera, or european transfer market flotsam like seedorf. Silvio has been very lucky that his plot to hide his lack of investment by getting his creaking aging players to focus on the cl worked for so long.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 15:31

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Yes, whenever a player doesn't deserve his accolades it's because of "weak opponents." No sale.

what is wrong with that statement? That ronaldinho probably wouldn't be considered an alcoholic by northern european standards?

I'm not privy to the quantity of alcohol Ronaldinho consumes on a daily basis, nor the average consumption in "northern Europe" whatever that's supposed to mean. Presumably you are, to be able to bandy the diagnosis so free and easy like.

that berlusconi's personal media empire won't be full of propaganda about ronaldinho regardless of what happens?

GMAFB. Propaganda, oh noes! It's called advertising, get over it.

or that ronaldinho won't have to be absolutely brilliant to shine in a league where Julio cruz is considered to be a viable forward at a top team?

Julio Cruz? I mean, do we need to start going down the list of Premier League forwards? So Cruz doesn't even rise to the level of "viable" then. As I said, I assume you've stopped listening to yourself.

As for suggesting that Berlusconi is liable to make fewer mistakes in the transfer market because he is a billionaire, I mean i just don't know where to start.

Great. Now would you like to address the point I made?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 17-07-2008 15:38

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I'm not privy to the quantity of alcohol Ronaldinho consumes on a daily basis, nor the average consumption in "northern Europe" whatever that's supposed to mean. Presumably you are, to be able to bandy the diagnosis so free and easy like.

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my point here is that ronaldinho's reported boozing probably wouldn't raise too many eyebrows in england, but in spain or italy.....

as for julio cruz? do you honestly think he would get within an asses roar of a top premiership or la liga teams' front line?

Do you think Berlusconi would spend what he did knowing there was a decent chance he was buying an "alcoholic"?

yes, he's a global star available at a knockdown price. It gets him enormous bang for his money, and as such the purchase is more heat than light. It's not really about the football.

I figure if he were that stupid he probably wouldn't be a billionaire.

I don't know where to begin with this.

=====

## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 15:38

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This is spot on, but I'd stretch it back even further than 3 or four seasons. The last two huge transfer signings milan made were inzaghi from Juve and rui costa from fiorentina, and that was seven years ago. This is probably the fourth big signing in six or seven seasons (nesta, gilardino and pato being the others, and even they weren't particularly big in the context of the wider european market) a lot of the high profile signings have been free transfers from borderline bankrupt clubs like stam, cafu and bonera, or european transfer market flotsam like seedorf. Silvio has been very lucky that his plot to hide his lack of investment by getting his creaking aging players to focus on the cl worked for so long.

And other than Gilardino which of those signings didn't pan out? None of them were "creaking" yet when he signed them. You seem to be using the argument that Silvio found a bunch of great players without spending like Abramovich, and used them to win a couple European Cups and a Scudetto, as evidence that he must not know what he's doing. Or, maybe I just can't tell what your point is.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 17-07-2008 15:44

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I think it's the last sentence to be honest. Silvio's been doing the Big man in charge of a football club thing on the cheap for a while now, and has ben very lucky to get away with it for so long. he didn't get away with it last year, and I don't think that the signings he made this season are going to work out either.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 15:49

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And I am the Life wrote:

my point here is that ronaldinho's reported boozing probably wouldn't raise too many eyebrows in england, but in spain or italy.....

In Italy, evidence that his boozing has raised eyebrows. Apparently a lot of people are curious enough to come see him throw up on himself.

as for julio cruz? do you honestly think he would get within an asses roar of a top premiership or la liga teams' front line?

Gee, I guess I never gave it much thought. He was Inter's top scorer last year,

EDIT: check that, it was one of the recent seasons anyway.

he regularly appears with the Argentine national side, but then that will mean nothing to you, since Inter are probably on par with Wigan Athletic by your lights.

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yes, he's a global star available at a knockdown price. It gets him enormous bang for his money, and as such the purchase is more heat than light. It's not really about the football.

Or, why can't it be about both? He's a global star because of his football. Of course it'll boost ticket sales, I just fail to see how buying up Ronaldinho constitutes some wacky, cynical move. Btw do you think Man City were thinking more heat than light when they bid up for him?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 15:56

And I am the Life wrote:

I think it's the last sentence to be honest. Silvio's been doing the Big man in charge of a football club thing on the cheap for a while now, and has ben very lucky to get away with it for so long. he didn't get away with it last year, and I don't think that the signings he made this season are going to work out either.

I just find it tendentious. It also appears to discount Ancelotti's and Galliani's involvement in these decisions. A less biased person might be inclined to look at some of these purchases as shrewd, not merely lucky. I think Pato was a great coup, and they paid huge money for him based on his unproven status. Perhaps you're somewhat tainted by the more inflated norms of the top English and Spanish clubs. Anyway nothing succeeds like success, or fails like failure, so if the music has really stopped presumably they'll have to adjust their strategy.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by And I am the Life - 17-07-2008 15:57

Gee, I guess I never gave it much thought. He was Inter's top scorer last year, zlatan was actually.

he regularly appears with the Argentine national side,

he's the only argentine striker over 5'8". it doesn't mean that he's any good.

since Inter are probably on par with Wigan Athletic by your lights.

well wigan did manage to score against liverpool and managed a draw.....

It's difficult to make a direct comparison Given the age profile of their squad, and the patchy quality I'd say that inter would be a mid ranking premiership team at best. They would be well behind Roma or fiorentina who have younger, faster fitter players. Inter would be West ham.

Btw do you think Man City were thinking more heat than light when they bid up for him?

yes, that is exactly what they were thinking. They wanted to sign him so they would fill their stadium, that and to make themselves look like a bigger club.

That was their explicit reason.

---

## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 16:04

And I am the Life wrote:

zlatan was actually.

earlier post edited. I believe he scored 13 last season.

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he's the only argentine striker over 5'8". it doesn't mean that he's any good.

True...The fact that he's really good means he's really good, though.

well wigan did manage to score against liverpool and managed a draw.....

To be sure. QED.

It's difficult to make a direct comparison Given the age profile of their squad, and the patchy quality I'd say that inter would be a mid ranking premiership team at best. They would be well behind Roma or fiorentina who have younger, faster fitter players. Inter would be West ham.

Fascinating stuff.

yes, that is exactly what they were thinking. They wanted to sign him so they would fill their stadium, that and to make themselves look like a bigger club.

That was their explicit reason.

Okay. 's what I figured.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 17-07-2008 16:24

BrunoMaggiore wrote:

I'm not privy to the quantity of alcohol Ronaldinho consumes on a daily basis, nor the average consumption in "northern Europe" whatever that's supposed to mean. Presumably you are, to be able to bandy the diagnosis so free and easy like.

A professional athlete doesn't develop a stomach like this from drinking water and isotonic liquids. Hey, I should know!

Given that he would have been training five times a week and playing a game at the weekend, he must have been putting away a lot of beer to get that flabby.

[http://www.javno.com/slike/slike\\_3/r1/g2007/m02/x74133300521068208.jpg](http://www.javno.com/slike/slike_3/r1/g2007/m02/x74133300521068208.jpg)

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 17-07-2008 16:25

Julio Cruz is fucking useless, by the way.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Taylor - 17-07-2008 16:37

Maybe he has Irritable Bowel Syndrome?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 16:45

Hieronymus, even if I thought that picture was open-and-shut evidence of a flabby belly (it's actually a bit difficult to tell - some guys with muscular abs can look slightly paunchy from that angle) it's still a fairly big assumption that "a lot of beer" must be the culprit. Just sayin'. What does he weigh? Is he overweight? I don't keep track of these things.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 17:06

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Ok, having found this picture I'm a bit more convinced:

<http://soccerlens.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/ronaldinho-overweight.jpg>

Let's shape things up, Ronnie!

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 17-07-2008 17:13

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To be fair to Dinho, that picture was at the worst of his "issues". He's in much better shape now.

I also don't think he is an alcoholic. I do think that he may have lost the edge that made him what he was, but none of us know (and neither do Barca or Milan).

As to my Wag the Dog comment, Berlusconi has some history of creating media events of various sorts when he is under pressure politically. I think that the huge wave of mostly positive publicity he's gotten out of this (including things like exclusive interviews and the like) entered into his personal calculus. He's also always been Ronaldinho's biggest fan among the Milan management.

I am much more interested in seeing how this plays out on the field than in any conjecture about how much the guy drinks. There is also a pretty wide range of opinion among the serious Milanisti that I talk regularly as to their reactions to the transfer. The bandwagon fans are all very excited, but the diehards wonder whether he was the kind of player the club needed at this point in time.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 17:27

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Well put me in the "wonder whether he was the kind of player the club needed at this point in time" column.

Still. I find I'm looking forward to the season more now, UEFA Cup be darned. Should be drama-packed one way or another.

As for Wag the Dog, I find it all a bit meh. The only way you can create a big media event to make yourself look good is to buy a popular player, and popular players tend to be, you know, really good. Now if he tried to poach Becks away from Los Angeles that would be a whole nother thing.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 17-07-2008 17:39

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When you control as many major media outlets as Silvio does, you can make a major media event out of pretty much anything.

Having the formal presentation at San Siro tonight strikes me as a bit OTT. He's not Maradona coming to Napoli.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 18:21

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ursus arctos wrote:

When you control as many major media outlets as Silvio does, you can make a major media event out of pretty much anything.

Yes yes, but people still have to believe it. It still has to be convincing.

Having the formal presentation at San Siro tonight strikes me as a bit OTT. He's not Maradona coming to Napoli.

Meh. Good times.

Ronal-fuckin-dinho, man! Cmon! Prime time, baybee!

=====

## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ursus arctos - 17-07-2008 20:47

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Actually, I'm not sure that people have to believe it; there is a whole culture of spectacle at work here, and by the time one shiny bauble has lost its short-lived lustre, another appears to take its place (or at least distract the attention of the populace from the troubles at hand).

Panem et circenses, innit?

Supposedly 30,000 at San Siro to see him "presented". I chose not to go.

But don't let me bunk your high. His arrival makes what was already going to be an interesting season that much more interesting.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 21:51

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Then I wouldn't so much blame Berlusconi. If he owes his political popularity to wielding a big shiny kaleidoscope, and not to good old-fashioned fixed elections, then the Italians have themselves to blame. Kind of like how we reelect Bush because we can't find the Middle East on a map. People tend to get the leaders they deserve.

The better term is "unveiled" btw.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Pietro Paolo Viridis - 17-07-2008 22:11

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If I was able to give myself a blowjob, I'd rather give meself one than see this Ronaldinho/Milan deal go through.

Maybe if I go have a try and muster a solo family member incest, the transfer will not go through on some shite wee bit, like Ronaldinho NOT WORTH THAT KIND OF MONEY!

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 17-07-2008 22:25

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Why not just have a tug?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by dalliance - 17-07-2008 22:55

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Amidst all of this unseemly fuss it's easy to forget that Milan have actually done the best transfer deal on the continent this close season - signing Flamini for free is a great coup.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ad hoc - 18-07-2008 05:10

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I think the question Milan fans should really be asking themselves is - why did no-one else come in for him? I mean he was until very recently the best player in the world, who is still only 28, yet even at a well-publicised knock-down price got only the interest of two megalomaniac publicity-obsessed club owners. There must be about 20 clubs who could have stumped up the necessary cash, and only two of them tried? Even Chelsea, for whom 25m is basically pocket change, couldn't be bothered (and obviously Scolari knows Ronaldinho fairly well).

I hope Ronaldinho does recover his form - not for Milan really because I think that club is vile - but because when he was at his peak he was an absolute joy to watch. It's a shame that he's drifted into premature retirement.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 18-07-2008 09:07

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WHS

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Harri Saer - 18-07-2008 10:40

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Hieronymus of Hesselink wrote:

Given that he would have been training five times a week and playing a game at the weekend

Not necessarily, from Sid Lowe in The Guardian;

When Eto'o launched his infamous attack on Ronaldinho in February 2007 he suggested that his team-mate attended "eight of every 50 training sessions". It was only a slight exaggeration: over the past two seasons the Brazilian attended fewer than half. "Ronaldinho is in the gym" became a running joke and there was no hiding his expanding girth.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Mr Beast - 18-07-2008 10:48

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I hope Ronaldinho gets it back because at his best for Barca he was irresistible and god knows there aren't enough players that watchable.

Having said that (unless it was an unflattering camera angle) he did look as though he could do with 2 or 3 good pre seasons

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 18-07-2008 11:34

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ad hoc wrote:

I think the question Milan fans should really be asking themselves is - why did no-one else come in for him? I mean he was until very recently the best player in the world, who is still only 28, yet even at a well-publicised knock-down price got only the interest of two megalomaniac publicity-obsessed club owners.

I know! It's almost as though everyone assumed his career was beyond salvaging what with all the drinking and weight gain.

There must be about 20 clubs who could have stumped up the necessary cash, and only two of them tried? Even Chelsea, for whom 25m is basically pocket change, couldn't be bothered (and obviously Scolari knows Ronaldinho fairly well).

I think this discounts the fact that Ronaldinho clearly wanted to go to Milan and nowhere else. A second megalomaniac, from a second-tier club, decided to try and outbid out of desperation. But I assume Scolari figured he wasn't worth bothering about since Ronaldinho had given no indication he wanted to play in England (to my knowledge). Given that there are only a handful of clubs with the stature to appeal to a star at his level, I don't find it all that surprising that none of that handful tried to get him since he so clearly wanted to play for Milan, and had for some time.

=====

### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ad hoc - 18-07-2008 15:33

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I think this discounts the fact that Ronaldinho clearly wanted to go to Milan and nowhere else.

Ohh, i see. It's another one of your wind-ups.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 18-07-2008 16:23

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What do you mean?

=====

### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Harri Saer - 18-07-2008 16:47

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You mean this;

Given that there are only a handful of clubs with the stature to appeal to a star at his level, I don't find it all that surprising that none of that handful tried to get him since he so clearly wanted to play for Milan

isn't satirical?

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 18-07-2008 16:54

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I think Ronaldinho at this stage of his career would only consider playing for a top club, and the top club he wanted to play for was Milan. Why would that be satirical?

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Harri Saer - 18-07-2008 17:11

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I just thought that "handful of clubs with the stature to appeal to a star at his level...none of that handful tried to get him since he so clearly wanted to play for Milan" was deliberately blowing the trumpet too hard for a club that hasn't even managed to scrape in to the enormously bloated Champions League this season.

It seems clear to everyone else that this is largely a stunt signing, you've already got Kaka, why would you want his predecessor who has been effectively out of serious football for nearly two years.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 18-07-2008 17:22

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Yeah, it'd be cool if we judged the importance of every football club by whether they'd gotten into Champions League that season.

To the extent that you think Ronaldinho is irretrievably past it I'm sure this would look like a stunt signing. As for "you've already got Kaka" so does Brazil but that never stopped them from fielding both players.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Jimmy Bignutz - 18-07-2008 17:40

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Both completely different players.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by dalliance - 18-07-2008 18:16

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I'm not sure on what basis Milan could not be considered a top club, regardless of their European status next season.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ad hoc - 18-07-2008 19:40

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I actually didn't realise that anyone over the age of 12 was ever taken in by these "It's always been my boyhood dream to play for Barcelona/Milan/Chelsea/Coventry City/Northwich Victoria" speeches. That's why I assumed it was another wind up

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 18-07-2008 19:48

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I didn't say it was his boyhood dream, but he's indicated a desire to play in Milan for some time now. You're welcome to be jerk about it to me and assume he's putting a brave face on things. Whether he'd secretly prefer to be at Chelsea or wherever is anybody's guess.

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### Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ad hoc - 18-07-2008 19:52

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Well, I don't think he'd secretly prefer to be anywhere - he's just interested in what pays well. If Chelsea had put in an offer for him with a better wage I think it's pretty obvious he would have taken it.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 18-07-2008 20:15

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ad hoc wrote:

Well, I don't think he'd secretly prefer to be anywhere - he's just interested in what pays well. If Chelsea had put in an offer for him with a better wage I think it's pretty obvious he would have taken it.

Maybe. Especially if you believed the reports that he put out feelers in 2007. At any rate I see no reason to doubt that he's quite happy to play for Milan this year, all things considered. No one's saying Milan aren't taking some risk in buying him, or that he hasn't lost a lot of his luster recently.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by ad hoc - 18-07-2008 20:18

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But you wrote: I think this discounts the fact that Ronaldinho clearly wanted to go to Milan and nowhere else. Which is "clear" to very few people, I reckon. All we know is that he'd rather play for Milan than Man City. Which isn't a massive surprise, let's face it.

=====

## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 18-07-2008 20:37

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But you wrote: I think this discounts the fact that Ronaldinho clearly wanted to go to Milan and nowhere else. Which is "clear" to very few people, I reckon. All we know is that he'd rather play for Milan than Man City. Which isn't a massive surprise, let's face it.

There were sniffs and rumors of other pursuers in recent months (like Inter), and in recent months Ronaldinho made it known that he was interested in Milan above all. It doesn't mean it's always been Milan for him, or that he never considered Chelsea or would never consider them in future. But in the climate that existed for him, he wanted to go to Milan and it was clear the interest was mutual. I have little doubt that that prevented other lesser clubs from making the effort, but Man City went and had a go. Now maybe his desire to be in Milan was in some way a product of having been snubbed by Chelsea, but that would likely be an exceptional case.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Harri Saer - 18-07-2008 21:58

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BrunoMaggiore wrote:

Yeah, it'd be cool if we judged the importance of every football club by whether they'd gotten into Champions League that season.

It doesn't matter if we do but players do and if Ronaldinho could command his Milan fee and wages at a club that is in next season's CL then he'd be there now.

The idea that he might have signed for Milan for their "importance" is one of the funnier delusions you've betrayed on this thread.

Why exactly do you think he wants to play for them so much, exactly?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by Harri Saer - 18-07-2008 21:59

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BrunoMaggiore wrote:

As for "you've already got Kaka" so does Brazil but that never stopped them from fielding both players.

Effectively? In recent years?

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 19-07-2008 00:04

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Harri Saer wrote:

It doesn't matter if we do but players do and if Ronaldinho could command his Milan fee and wages at a club that is in next season's CL then he'd be there now.

Not necessarily. You can't think of any likely exceptions? I don't think it unlikely he'd rather live in Italy than in England for one thing, but maybe he would like Chelsea even more than Milan. The reasons that never went through may be complex. Mancini at Inter went public wanting him, too, but then they apparently decided they didn't need him at that position. The partying and weight gain fofoeraw were well known to Mancini. Other clubs may not have bid for him for reasons having nothing to do with his recent poor form. Others he likely would not want to sign a contract with despite their being in next season's Champions League.

The idea that he might have signed for Milan for their "importance" is one of the funnier delusions you've betrayed on this thread.

I assume he signed for Milan because they were more important than Man City anyway. The club is known to offer attractions for players apart from salary.

Why exactly do you think he wants to play for them so much, exactly?

Maybe he liked what he saw and heard from the players there? Maybe he likes the coach and the facilities? Maybe being part of a team with that kind of worldwide fan base is important to him? Why don't you ask him? While you're at it ask him why he started going to seed at Barcelona. Maybe it was for personal reasons having little or nothing to do with boredom with his recent success. Sometimes players like or fall out with clubs for reasons other than money.

Again I'm not saying this wasn't a less than ideal career position he created for himself. And heck, it prolly won't come up roses in the end. But as gambles go I don't think it's a crazy one.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by BrunoMaggiore - 19-07-2008 00:10

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Harri Saer wrote:

BrunoMaggiore wrote:

As for "you've already got Kaka" so does Brazil but that never stopped them from fielding both players.

Effectively? In recent years?

Look, what are you doing here instead of out coaching some top flight team. Clearly you know best. Ronnie and Kaka have played together well with Brazil, though no, they did not do well at the last World Cup. How they play together at Milan will be affected by the entirely different roster around them there than with the Brazilian national side. Your point that they don't need him because they "already have Kaka" implied they were interchangeable players, but of course they aren't. Whether they get the right chemistry remains to be seen.

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## Re:Ronaldinho to Milan

Posted by garcia - 19-07-2008 01:23

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kaka is joining chelsea for £80m.

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