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News Report

Ronaldo: 'The perfect player'

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NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Cristiano Ronaldo is considered to be one of the world's best footballers.

He has achieved great success with Real Madrid and Manchester United, and won FIFA's world player of the year award twice. In 2013 alone, the Portugal **captain** scored 66 goals in 56 games.

But when he first joined Manchester United in 2003, it wasn't so simple. He had a lot of **skill**, but was too **skinny**, and didn't score many goals. "Ronaldo was a natural **talent**, a **rough diamond**," said Mike Clegg, his power development **coach** at Manchester United.

But Clegg said he did "thousands and thousands of hours" of hard work to "turn himself into the perfect player." Whenever he made a mistake in a game, he kept practising until he got it right. He became **physically** stronger, and bought a house with a swimming pool to help him **recover** after games.

In 2009 Ronaldo was bought by Real Madrid for a world-record **fee** of £80m.

So, the question is: when he is already so good, is it possible for Ronaldo to improve even more?

"Ronaldo improves every day," said coach Aitor Karanka, who worked with Ronaldo at Real Madrid. "Look at his numbers three years ago and you think, 'It's impossible he can do better,' and then you look at him this year and he's done better again."

It seems that, for Ronaldo, the sky's the limit.

Vocabulary

captain

someone who leads a team

skill

ability, especially in difficult things

skinny

very thin

talent

natural ability

rough diamond

someone who is very good or nice, even though they don't look that way

coach

someone who teaches people sports or other subjects

physically

in terms of the body

recover

get better after losing something (like health or energy)

fee

price; amount of money you pay for something

This story is based on 2 original BBC News stories:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/25719657>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/25705654>