



adidas – Q&A – Daniel Alves

You work very well with Leo Messi and provide lots of assists for him. Is this something you train for or does it happen naturally?

When you play and train with a player like Lionel Messi this sort of interaction happens naturally – there is an understanding formed and you don't need to practice it. He is such an intelligent player with his movement and speed of thought so he makes life easy for me! I'm very happy to be a part of the team and be in the dressing room with players of that standard, I hope to be there for a long time.

Why is Messi so special?

Messi makes such a difference to our side – he is a great individual talent and when you combine that with other great players in our side like Xavi, Thiago, Iniesta then he becomes unstoppable.

You have a great appetite for going forward, have you always been a fullback?

I actually used to be a striker and even started in the Champions League in that position – in fact the only position I haven't played is as a goalkeeper! I have played as a classic number 9 before and did quite well and I have the ability to adapt and play wherever I am needed. In terms of attacking from fullback, I think at Barcelona we are good at picking our moment to attack. Our players are great at making runs even if they don't end up with the ball and that distracts the opposition. I think the most positive thing I've learned at Barcelona is how to play without the ball – you can still surprise the opponent when you aren't in possession.

Why do you think Brazil has such a strong tradition of attacking fullbacks?

I think the likes of Carlos Alberto, Cafu, and Roberto Carlos are classic examples of Brazilian fullbacks – it's a characteristic of Brazilian football that every player attacks and I think that fullbacks now try and emulate those players.

You arrived in Spain in 2002, how was it coming to the country so young and trying to adapt to Spanish football?

It wasn't very difficult for me to adapt to Spanish football, however it was difficult to adapt to their concept of a right back. When I first arrived they thought that right back shouldn't go further than the half way line and certainly shouldn't be attacking. That was a big challenge for me to try and adapt my game – I also arrived in the middle of the season so the team was already established. However, I had some great years at Sevilla and now at Barcelona.

Who was your idol growing up?

I watched the likes of Cafu, Carlos Alberto, Jorginho, they were the role models for me in my position.

Whats the moment of your career you are most proud of?

There are two moments in my career that stand out – the first is coming to Barcelona. The second is making my dream come true, and my father's dream for me, which is to play for Brazil – it's a huge honour for me.