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Cristiano Ronaldo hints at retirement timeline and aligns with Lionel Messi on post-soccer plans

As he approaches his 40th birthday, Cristiano Ronaldo has begun contemplating his future, hinting at a possible retirement timeline. In a candid conversation, the Portuguese superstar also revealed his post-soccer plans, which surprisingly align with those of Lionel Messi.

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By Alejandro Lopez Vega

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© IMAGO / PA Images Scotland v Portugal - UEFA Nations League - Group A1 - Hampden Park Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo ahead of the UEFA Nations League Group A1 match at Hampden Park, Glasgow. Picture date: Tuesday October 15, 2024.

In **Portugal's** commanding 5-1 victory over **Poland**, **Cristiano Ronaldo** once again showcased his brilliance. He scored twice, including a Panenka-style penalty and an acrobatic overhead kick, thrilling fans with his trademark flair. After the match, CR7 discussed his future, revealing a surprising alignment with **Lionel Messi** regarding their post-soccer plans.

"I just want to enjoy," Ronaldo said when asked about retiring. ***"If it has to happen, in one or two years... I don't know. I'm turning 40 soon."*** While he remains

focused on the present, Ronaldo admitted that his days as a professional player are numbered.

When asked about his plans after retirement, Cristiano ruled out a managerial career. ***“I don’t see myself managing a team; that’s not in my plans,”*** he stated. He also expressed uncertainty about pursuing other roles within the sport, such as becoming an agent or analyst. ***“My future lies in other areas outside of football, although time will tell what happens,”*** Ronaldo explained, signaling a desire to explore opportunities beyond the sport that has defined his life.

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Messi feels the same way

At 37, **Lionel Messi** seems further from retirement than Ronaldo, but he has similarly reflected on life after soccer. During a recent interview with journalist Fabrizio Romano, Messi shared his thoughts: ***“I don’t think I would like to be a coach,”*** he admitted.

However, like Ronaldo, Messi remained open to other possibilities, saying, ***“But I’m still not sure what I would like to do in the future.”***

Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo during the FIFA Ballon d’Or Gala 2014
(Philipp Schmidli/Getty Images)

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In a prior interview with *Star+* before the **2022 Qatar World Cup**, Messi echoed a similar sentiment, stating he did not envision himself as a coach. Yet he acknowledged that plans can change: *“(Zinedine) Zidane said that and then he was a coach and Champions (League) champion.”* For both Messi and

Ronaldo, their post-[soccer](#) paths remain uncertain, with time being the ultimate decider.

Cristiano's vision for his final years

Despite nearing 40, Cristiano continues to prove his worth as one of the world's top forwards. Speculation about potential transfers persists, with rumors suggesting [Ronaldo's possible move to Al-Hilal as a replacement for Neymar](#).

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However, CR7 firmly denied these rumors during a press conference, reaffirming his commitment to **Al-Nassr**: ***"Probably I will retire here. I'm very happy at this club. I feel good in this country, and I want to continue."*** This statement seems to close the door on a return to former clubs like **Real Madrid** or **Sporting Lisbon**, as well as the possibility of joining **MLS** as a rival to Lionel Messi.

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Alejandro Lopez Vega



Alejandro Lopez Vega is a seasoned sports journalist who joined Bolavip US in October 2024. With more than thirteen years of experience in news writing, sports analysis, and event coverage, he specializes in soccer and basketball. Fluent in both Spanish and English, Alejandro has worked with various media outlets in Rosario, Argentina, such as Radio La Red and Radio Mitre. He has also been part of the Communication and Press Department for the soccer teams Newell's Old Boys and Central Córdoba. In addition to his journalism career, Alejandro is a lawyer, having graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Rosario, which brings a unique legal perspective to his sports analysis, going beyond the athletic aspects of events.

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