[Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect" \o "Template:Redirect) [Template:Distinguish](/wiki/Template:Distinguish) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Pp-semi-blp](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-blp)[Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Portuguese name](/wiki/Template:Portuguese_name) [Template:Infobox football biography](/wiki/Template:Infobox_football_biography) **Ronaldo de Assis Moreira** (born 21 March 1980), commonly known as **Ronaldinho** ([Template:IPA-pt](/wiki/Template:IPA-pt)) or **Ronaldinho Gaúcho**,[[1]](#cite_note-1) is a [Brazilian](/wiki/Brazil) [footballer](/wiki/Association_football). His main playing position is as an [attacking midfielder](/wiki/Midfielder) or [forward](/wiki/Forward_(association_football)). He won the [FIFA World Player of the Year](/wiki/FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year) award in 2004 and 2005. Renowned for his technique, tricks, dribbling, overhead kicks, no-look passes and free kicks, Ronaldinho is regarded to be one of the best players of his generation.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) "Ronaldinho", the [diminutive](/wiki/Diminutive#Portuguese) and [term of endearment](/wiki/Term_of_endearment) for "Ronaldo", is accompanied in Brazilian usage by the nickname "[Gaúcho](/wiki/Gaucho)" (since he hails from [southern Brazil](/wiki/Rio_Grande_do_Sul)), in order to distinguish him from fellow footballer and countryman [Ronaldo](/wiki/Ronaldo), who was known as "Ronaldinho" in Brazil beforehand. Ronaldo went by his first name upon his move to Europe, thereby allowing Ronaldinho to drop the "Gaúcho" and go by the name Ronaldinho abroad.

Ronaldinho has played 97 matches and scored 33 goals for the [Brazil national football team](/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team). He was an integral part of the [2002 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2002_FIFA_World_Cup) winning team in Korea/Japan, starring alongside [Ronaldo](/wiki/Ronaldo) and [Rivaldo](/wiki/Rivaldo) in an attacking trio, and was named in the [FIFA World Cup All-Star Team](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup_awards#All-Star_Team).

At club level, Ronaldinho played first for the Brazilian club [Grêmio](/wiki/Grêmio_Foot-Ball_Porto_Alegrense) before spending the bulk of his career with European clubs [Paris Saint-Germain](/wiki/Paris_Saint-Germain_F.C.), [FC Barcelona](/wiki/FC_Barcelona), and [Milan](/wiki/A.C._Milan). He then returned to Brazil to play for [Flamengo](/wiki/Clube_de_Regatas_do_Flamengo) and [Atlético Mineiro](/wiki/Clube_Atlético_Mineiro) before moving to Mexico to play for [Querétaro](/wiki/Querétaro_F.C.). With Barcelona, he won [La Liga](/wiki/La_Liga) twice, the [UEFA Champions League](/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League_2005-06) in 2006, and accumulated numerous individual awards, including the FIFA World Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005 and the [Ballon d'Or](/wiki/Ballon_d'Or) in 2005. Ronaldinho was named in the [FIFA 100](/wiki/FIFA_100), a list of the world's greatest living players compiled by [Pelé](/wiki/Pelé), and to the [FIFPro World XI](/wiki/FIFPro_World_XI) from 2005–2007. [Template:TOC limit](/wiki/Template:TOC_limit)

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## Early and personal life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Ronaldo de Assis Moreira was born 21 March 1980 in the city of [Porto Alegre](/wiki/Porto_Alegre), the state capital of [Rio Grande do Sul](/wiki/Rio_Grande_do_Sul), Brazil. His mother, [Dona](/wiki/Don_(honorific)) Miguelina Elói Assis dos Santos (daughter of Enviro Assis),[[4]](#cite_note-4) is a former salesperson who studied to become a nurse. His father, João de Assis Moreira, was a shipyard worker and footballer for local club [Esporte Clube Cruzeiro](/wiki/Esporte_Clube_Cruzeiro) (not to be confused with [Cruzeiro EC](/wiki/Cruzeiro_Esporte_Clube)).[[5]](#cite_note-5) He suffered a fatal heart attack in the family swimming pool when Ronaldo was eight. After Ronaldo's older brother [Roberto](/wiki/Roberto_de_Assis_Moreira) signed with [Grêmio](/wiki/Grêmio_Foot-Ball_Porto_Alegrense), the family moved to a home in the more affluent Guarujá section of Porto Alegre, which was a gift from Grêmio to convince Roberto to stay at the club, but Roberto's career was ultimately cut short by injury. Today, Roberto acts as his manager, while his sister Deisi works as his press coordinator.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) Ronaldo's football skills began to blossom at the age of eight, and he was first given the nickname *Ronaldinho* because he was often the youngest and the smallest player in youth club matches.[[6]](#cite_note-6)He developed an interest in [futsal](/wiki/Futsal) and beach football, which later expanded to organized football. His first brush with the media came at the age of thirteen, when he scored all 23 goals in a 23–0 victory against a local team.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Ronaldinho was identified as a rising star at the [1997 U-17 World Championship](/wiki/1997_FIFA_U-17_World_Championship) in Egypt, in which he scored two goals on [penalty kicks](/wiki/Penalty_kick).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) Ronaldinho is the father of a son, João, born on 25 February 2005 to Brazilian dancer Janaína Mendes and named after his late father.[[11]](#cite_note-11) He gained Spanish citizenship in 2007.[[12]](#cite_note-12)

## Club career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

### Grêmio[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Quote box](/wiki/Template:Quote_box) Ronaldinho's career began with the [Grêmio](/wiki/Grêmio_Foot-Ball_Porto_Alegrense) youth squad. He made his senior side debut during the [1998 Copa Libertadores](/wiki/1998_Copa_Libertadores).[[13]](#cite_note-13) 1999 saw the emergence of the eighteen-year-old Ronaldinho, with twenty-three goals in forty-eight matches, and he put in headlining displays in derbies against [Internacional](/wiki/Internacional), most notably on 20 June 1999 in the [Rio Grande do Sul State Championship](/wiki/Rio_Grande_do_Sul_State_Championship) final.[[14]](#cite_note-14) In a match winning performance, Ronaldinho embarrassed Internacional's Brazilian legend and 1994 World Cup winning captain [Dunga](/wiki/Dunga), flicking the ball over his head on one occasion, and leaving him flat-footed in a mazy dribble on another.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Ronaldinho achieved further success with Grêmio, winning the inaugural [Copa Sul-Minas](/wiki/Copa_Sul-Minas).[[14]](#cite_note-14) In 2001, [Arsenal](/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.) expressed interest in signing Ronaldinho, but the move collapsed after he could not obtain a work permit because he was a non-EU player who had not played enough international matches.[[15]](#cite_note-15) He considered playing on loan with [Scottish Premier League](/wiki/Scottish_Premier_League) side [St Mirren](/wiki/St_Mirren_F.C.), which never happened due to his involvement in a fake passport scandal in Brazil.[[16]](#cite_note-16)

### Paris Saint-Germain[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

In 2001, Ronaldinho signed a five-year contract with French side [Paris Saint-Germain](/wiki/Paris_Saint-Germain_F.C.) in a €5 million transfer.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Upon his arrival in Paris, Ronaldinho was given the number 21 shirt and inserted into a lineup that included fellow [Brazilian](/wiki/Brazil) [Aloísio](/wiki/Aloísio_José_da_Silva), midfielder [Jay-Jay Okocha](/wiki/Jay-Jay_Okocha) and striker [Nicolas Anelka](/wiki/Nicolas_Anelka).[[18]](#cite_note-18)

#### 2001-02 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

Ronaldinho made his league debut for the club on 4 August 2001 appearing as a substitute in a 1–1 draw with [Auxerre](/wiki/AJ_Auxerre).[[19]](#cite_note-19) Ronaldinho spent the majority of the 2001 portion of the season alternated between the bench and starter's role. He scored his first goal for the club on 13 October in a 2–2 draw against [Lyon](/wiki/Olympique_Lyonnais) converting the [equalizing](/wiki/Equaliser_(sports)) [penalty](/wiki/Penalty_shot) in the 79th minute after having come on 10 minutes prior.[[20]](#cite_note-20) After returning from the winter break, Ronaldinho went on a tear scoring a goal in four consecutive matches to open the new campaign. He recorded impressive goals against [Monaco](/wiki/AS_Monaco_FC), [Rennes](/wiki/Stade_Rennais_F.C.), [Lens](/wiki/RC_Lens) and [Lorient](/wiki/FC_Lorient). On 16 March 2002, Ronaldinho recorded a double in PSG's 3–1 victory against relegation strugglers [Troyes](/wiki/Troyes_AC).[[21]](#cite_note-21) He scored his final league goal of the season in the club's 2–0 win over [Metz](/wiki/FC_Metz) on 27 April.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Ronaldinho was also influential in the [2001–02 edition of the Coupe de la Ligue](/wiki/2001-02_Coupe_de_la_Ligue), helping Paris Saint-Germain reach the semi-finals where they were eliminated by [Bordeaux](/wiki/FC_Girondins_de_Bordeaux). In a Round of 16 match against [Guingamp](/wiki/En_Avant_de_Guingamp), Ronaldinho scored two second half goals in the game after having entered the match as a half-time substitute. Despite Ronaldinho's initial success with the club, the season was marred by controversy with [Paris Saint-Germain](/wiki/Paris_Saint-Germain_F.C.) manager [Luis Fernández](/wiki/Luis_Fernández) claiming that the Brazilian was too focused on the Parisian [nightlife](/wiki/Nightlife) rather than football, and complained that his holidays in Brazil never ended at the scheduled times.[[13]](#cite_note-13)

#### 2002-03 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Despite repeated rifts with Fernández, Ronaldinho returned to the team for the [2002–03 season](/wiki/2002-03_Ligue_1) with the player switching to the number 10 shirt. Though his performances in his sophomore season with the club were underwhelming compared to his first, Ronaldinho performed admirably with the club. On 26 October 2002, he scored two goals in Paris Saint-Germain's 3–1 victory over [*Classique*](/wiki/Le_Classique) rivals [Marseille](/wiki/Olympique_de_Marseille). The first goal was a [free kick](/wiki/Direct_free_kick), which curled past numerous Marseille players in the 18-yard box before sailing past [goalkeeper](/wiki/Goalkeeper_(association_football)) [Vedran Runje](/wiki/Vedran_Runje). In the return match, he again scored in Paris Saint-Germain's 3–0 victory at the [Stade Vélodrome](/wiki/Stade_Vélodrome), running half the length of the field before flicking the ball over the goalkeeper.[[23]](#cite_note-23) Ronaldinho was also praised for his performance in the [Coupe de France](/wiki/Coupe_de_France) when he scored both goals in the club's 2–0 win over Bordeaux in the semi-finals, which inserted Paris Saint-Germain into the final. After scoring his first goal in the 22nd minute, Ronaldinho capped the game in the 81st minute accurately chipping the ball at the 18-yard box over the head of goalkeeper [Ulrich Ramé](/wiki/Ulrich_Ramé), despite Ramé being in a favorable position. For his performance, Ronaldinho was given a [standing ovation](/wiki/Standing_ovation) by the Parisian supporters. Unfortunately for the club, Ronaldinho and the team failed to capture the form that got them to the final as they bowed out 2–1 to Auxerre due to a last minute goal from [Jean-Alain Boumsong](/wiki/Jean-Alain_Boumsong). Despite Ronaldinho's performances, the club finished in disappointing 11th-place position. Following the season, Ronaldinho declared he wanted to leave the club after the capital club failed to qualify for any European competition.[[24]](#cite_note-24)

### Barcelona[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|right|Ronaldinho with](/wiki/File:Rijkaard_Ronaldinho.jpg) [Frank Rijkaard](/wiki/Frank_Rijkaard) at [NASA's](/wiki/NASA) [Johnson Space Center](/wiki/Johnson_Space_Center) in 2006 Originally, [FC Barcelona](/wiki/FC_Barcelona) president [Joan Laporta](/wiki/Joan_Laporta) had promised to bring [David Beckham](/wiki/David_Beckham) to the club, but following his transfer to [Real Madrid](/wiki/Real_Madrid_C.F.), Barcelona entered the running for Ronaldinho and outbid [Manchester United](/wiki/Manchester_United_F.C.) for his signature in a reported €30 million.[[25]](#cite_note-25)[[26]](#cite_note-26)

#### 2003-04 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

Ronaldinho made his team debut in a friendly against [Milan](/wiki/A.C._Milan) at [Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium](/wiki/Robert_F._Kennedy_Memorial_Stadium) in Washington, D.C., scoring one goal in a 2–0 victory. He scored his first goal in the [La Liga](/wiki/La_Liga) on 3 September 2003 against [Sevilla](/wiki/Sevilla_FC).[[27]](#cite_note-27) After receiving the ball from his goalkeeper inside his own half, Ronaldinho ran through midfield and dribbled past two Sevilla players before striking the ball from 30 yards which hammered off the underside of the crossbar and back up into the roof of the net.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Ronaldinho suffered from injury during the first half of the campaign,[[28]](#cite_note-28) and Barcelona slumped to the 12th position in the league standings midway through the season. Ronaldinho returned from injury and scored 15 goals in La Liga, helping the team finish second in the league.[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30)

#### 2004-05 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Ronaldinho won his [first league title](/wiki/2004-05_La_Liga) in 2004–05, and was named [FIFA World Player of the Year](/wiki/FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year) on 20 December 2004.[[31]](#cite_note-31) Ronaldinho's fame was growing with his entertaining and productive play in both the [La Liga](/wiki/La_Liga) and the [UEFA Champions League](/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League). On 8 March 2005 Barcelona were eliminated from the latter competition by [Chelsea](/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.) in the [first knockout round](/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League_2004-05#Round_of_16), losing 5-4 over two legs.[[32]](#cite_note-32) Ronaldinho scored both goals in the 4–2 second leg loss in London, the second a spectacular strike where he [feinted](/wiki/Dummy_(football)#Association_football) to shoot before striking the ball with no back-lift past Chelsea goalkeeper [Petr Cech](/wiki/Petr_Cech) from 20 yards out.[[32]](#cite_note-32) With his contract expiring in 2008, Ronaldinho was offered an extension until 2014 that would have net him £85 million over nine years,[[33]](#cite_note-33) but he turned it down. In September 2005, he signed a two-year extension that contained a minimum-fee release clause that allowed him to leave should a club make an offer to Barcelona of at least £85 million for him.[[34]](#cite_note-34)

#### 2005-06 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|right|Ronaldinho taking a corner against](/wiki/File:Ronaldinhotaking_a_set_piece54.jpg) [Celta Vigo](/wiki/Celta_de_Vigo) at the [Camp Nou](/wiki/Camp_Nou) in 2005 By the end of the year 2005, Ronaldinho had started to accumulate a host of personal awards. He won the inaugural [FIFPro World Player of the Year](/wiki/FIFPro_World_Player_of_the_Year) in September 2005, in addition to being included in the 2005 [FIFPro World XI](/wiki/FIFPro_World_XI), and being named the 2005 [European Footballer of the Year](/wiki/European_Footballer_of_the_Year). Also that year, Ronaldinho was voted the [FIFA World Player of the Year](/wiki/FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year) for the second consecutive year.[[31]](#cite_note-31) He became only the third player to win the award more than once, after three time winners [Ronaldo](/wiki/Ronaldo) and [Zinedine Zidane](/wiki/Zinedine_Zidane).[[31]](#cite_note-31) His domination as the world's best footballer was undisputed as he also won the prestigious [Ballon d'Or](/wiki/Ballon_d'Or) for the only time in his career.[[35]](#cite_note-35) On 19 November, Ronaldinho scored twice as Barcelona defeated [Real Madrid](/wiki/Real_Madrid_C.F.) 3–0 on the road in the first leg of [*El Clásico*](/wiki/El_Clásico). After he sealed the match with his second goal, Madrid fans paid homage to his performance by applauding, so rare a tribute only [Diego Maradona](/wiki/Diego_Maradona) had ever been granted previously as a Barcelona player at the [Santiago Bernabéu](/wiki/Santiago_Bernabéu_Stadium).[[36]](#cite_note-36) Ronaldinho stated; "I will never forget this because it is very rare for any footballer to be applauded in this way by the opposition fans."[[36]](#cite_note-36)[Template:Quote box](/wiki/Template:Quote_box) The season is considered one of the best in Ronaldinho's career as he was an instrumental part of Barcelona's first [Champions League](/wiki/2005–06_UEFA_Champions_League) title in 14 years. After winning their group convincingly, Barcelona faced [Chelsea](/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.) in the round of 16 for a rematch of the previous year.[[37]](#cite_note-37) Ronaldinho scored a decisive goal in the second leg, going past three Chelsea defenders on the edge of the penalty area before beating the goalkeeper, sealing Barcelona's qualification to the next round.[[37]](#cite_note-37) He also contributed one goal in Barcelona's elimination of [Benfica](/wiki/S.L._Benfica) in the quarterfinals with a 2–0 home victory. After a 1–0 semifinal aggregate win over Milan, in which Ronaldinho assisted the series' only goal by [Ludovic Giuly](/wiki/Ludovic_Giuly), Barcelona progressed to the [Champions League final](/wiki/2006_UEFA_Champions_League_Final), which they won on 17 May 2006 with a 2–1 defeat of [Arsenal](/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.).[[38]](#cite_note-38) Two weeks earlier, Barcelona had clinched their second straight La Liga title with a 1–0 win over [Celta Vigo](/wiki/Celta_de_Vigo), giving Ronaldinho his first career double.[[39]](#cite_note-39) He finished the season with a career-best 26 goals, including 7 in the Champions League, and was chosen for the [UEFA Team of the Year](/wiki/UEFA_Team_of_the_Year) for the third consecutive time and was named the 2005–06 [UEFA Club Footballer of the Year](/wiki/UEFA_Club_Footballer_of_the_Year).[[29]](#cite_note-29) Ronaldinho was named in the six man shortlist for the 2006 [Laureus World Sportsman of the Year](/wiki/Laureus_World_Sports_Award_for_Sportsman_of_the_Year), and was selected in the [FIFA World XI](/wiki/FIFPro_World_XI).[[40]](#cite_note-40)[thumb|left|upright|Ronaldinho celebrates scoring with](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_Belletti_and_Giuly_9dec2006.jpg) [Belletti](/wiki/Juliano_Belletti) and [Giuly](/wiki/Ludovic_Giuly) in December 2006

#### 2006-07 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Quote box](/wiki/Template:Quote_box) On 25 November 2006, Ronaldinho scored his 50th career league goal against [Villarreal](/wiki/Villarreal_CF), then later scored a second time with an overhead [bicycle kick](/wiki/Bicycle_kick). He later said to reporters that the latter was a goal he had dreamed of scoring since he was a boy.[[41]](#cite_note-41) He scored once and set up two others in Barcelona's 4–0 [Club World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_Club_World_Cup_2006) win over Mexico's [Club América](/wiki/Club_América) on 14 December, but Barcelona were defeated 1–0 by Brazilian club [Internacional](/wiki/Sport_Club_Internacional) in the final.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Ronaldinho was the recipient of the Bronze Ball Award for the competition.

The next day, Ronaldinho finished third in the [2006 FIFA World Player of the Year](/wiki/2006_FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year), behind World Cup-winning captain [Fabio Cannavaro](/wiki/Fabio_Cannavaro) and [Zinedine Zidane](/wiki/Zinedine_Zidane).[[43]](#cite_note-43) He was forced to miss a charity match on 13 March due to an injury he had picked up several days earlier in Barcelona's 3–3 *El Clásico* draw with Real Madrid.[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45) Although Ronaldinho scored his career-best 21 league goals, the team lost the title to Real with a worse head-to-head record, as both teams finished the season with the same number of points.[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[46]](#cite_note-46)

#### 2007-08 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

He played his 200th career match for Barcelona in a league match against [Osasuna](/wiki/CA_Osasuna) on 3 February 2008. However, his 2007–08 campaign as a whole was plagued by injuries, and a muscle tear in his right leg on 3 April prematurely ended his season.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Having been a model professional and devoted himself to training during his hugely successful first three seasons at Barcelona, Ronaldinho's partying lifestyle and lack of dedication to training saw his physical condition decline, with many at the club believing he was now past his best.[[48]](#cite_note-48) On 19 May 2008, Barcelona club president Laporta stated that Ronaldinho needed a *"new challenge"*, claiming that he needed a new club if he were to revive his career.[[49]](#cite_note-49) [Manchester City](/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.) owner [Thaksin Shinawatra](/wiki/Thaksin_Shinawatra) confirmed on 6 June that he was interested in acquiring him.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Ronaldinho and Barcelona teammate [Lionel Messi](/wiki/Lionel_Messi) each captained a team of international stars in an anti-racism exhibition match in [Venezuela](/wiki/Venezuela) on 28 June, which ended in a 7–7 draw. Ronaldinho finished with a pair of goals and two assists in what would be his last match as a Barcelona player.[[51]](#cite_note-51) In preparation for the 2010 [Joan Gamper Trophy](/wiki/Joan_Gamper_Trophy), Ronaldinho sent an open letter to the fans and players of Barcelona, stating that his best years had been the five he spent in the Catalan club.[[52]](#cite_note-52) It was a sad moment for him and he later said in an interview that he regretted leaving without playing long enough with Messi.[[53]](#cite_note-53)

### Milan[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[thumb|upright|right|Ronaldinho playing for Milan in 2008](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_Milan.jpg) In July 2008, Ronaldinho turned down a £25.5 million offer from [Manchester City](/wiki/Manchester_City_F.C.)[[54]](#cite_note-54) to join Italian [Serie A](/wiki/Serie_A) giants [Milan](/wiki/A.C._Milan) on a three-year contract thought to be worth around £5.1 million (EUR6.5 million) a year, for €22.05M plus €1.05M bonus each season (€24.15M in 2010).[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) With the number 10 already occupied by teammate [Clarence Seedorf](/wiki/Clarence_Seedorf), he selected 80 as his jersey number.

[thumb|upright|left|Ronaldinho playing for Milan in 2010](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_by_Vicario.JPG)

#### 2008-09 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

Ronaldinho scored his first goal for Milan in a 1–0 [derby](/wiki/Milan_Derby) victory over rival [Internazionale](/wiki/F.C._Internazionale_Milano) on 28 September 2008. His first [brace](/wiki/Brace_(sports)) was in a 3–0 win over [Sampdoria](/wiki/U.C._Sampdoria) on 19 October 2008. He scored a 93rd-minute match-winner against [Braga](/wiki/S.C._Braga) in the [UEFA Cup](/wiki/UEFA_Cup_2008-09) group stage on 6 November.[[48]](#cite_note-48) He finished his first season at Milan with 10 goals from 32 appearances in all competitions. After a good start to the season, Ronaldinho struggled with fitness, and was often played from the bench to end a disappointing first season for Milan.[[48]](#cite_note-48) A perceived lack of dedication in training and a lifestyle of late night partying not befitting of an athlete saw him receive criticism, with [Carlo Ancelotti](/wiki/Carlo_Ancelotti), his coach at Milan in his first season in Italy, commenting, "The decline of Ronaldinho hasn't surprised me. His physical condition has always been very precarious. His talent though has never been in question."[[48]](#cite_note-48)

#### 2009-10 season[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

His second season did not begin on a high note, although he started nearly every match before finding himself on the bench again. After a while, Ronaldinho rediscovered his form and was arguably Milan's best player of the season. He changed his role from an attacking midfielder to a left winger, a more familiar role. [thumb|right|Ronaldinho against](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_and_Cristiano_Ronaldo.jpg) [Real Madrid](/wiki/Real_Madrid) On 10 January 2010, Ronaldinho scored two goals against [Juventus](/wiki/Juventus_F.C.) in an away match, sealing a 3–0 victory for the Rossoneri. In the following match against [Siena](/wiki/A.C._Siena) on 17 January 2010, Ronaldinho scored his first [hat-trick](/wiki/Hat-trick) for Milan when he converted a spot kick, scored with a header from a corner and finished with a wonder goal from 20 yards out.[[58]](#cite_note-58) On 16 February, Ronaldinho played his first match against [Manchester United](/wiki/Manchester_United_F.C.) in a [Champions League](/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League) game at the San Siro.[[59]](#cite_note-59) He scored early in the game to give Milan the lead. Milan ended up losing the game 3–2, with a goal from [Paul Scholes](/wiki/Paul_Scholes) and two goals from [Wayne Rooney](/wiki/Wayne_Rooney).[[59]](#cite_note-59) Ronaldinho finished the season as the assists leader of Serie A. On a less positive note, Ronaldinho missed three penalties in the 2009–10 season, to add to one botched kick the previous season. Ronaldinho ended the season scoring two goals against Juventus. [Luca Antonini](/wiki/Luca_Antonini) opened the scoring and [Milan](/wiki/AC_Milan) went on to win 3–0. It was [Leonardo's](/wiki/Leonardo_Araujo) last game in charge.[[60]](#cite_note-60)

### Flamengo[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|left|Ronaldinho celebrates scoring for](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_Gaúcho.jpg) [Flamengo](/wiki/Clube_de_Regatas_do_Flamengo) in February 2011 After being heavily linked with a move back to his childhood club [Grêmio](/wiki/Grêmio_Foot-Ball_Porto_Alegrense), Ronaldinho joined [Flamengo](/wiki/Clube_de_Regatas_do_Flamengo) on 11 January 2011 with a contract ending in 2014.[[61]](#cite_note-61) During the transfer saga, many reports had linked the former World Player of the Year to joining different clubs such as [Los Angeles Galaxy](/wiki/Los_Angeles_Galaxy), [Corinthians](/wiki/Sport_Club_Corinthians_Paulista), [Palmeiras](/wiki/Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras) and English [FA Premier League](/wiki/FA_Premier_League) side [Blackburn Rovers](/wiki/Blackburn_Rovers_F.C.). He was greeted by more than 20,000 fans at his unveiling at his new club on 13 January 2011.[[62]](#cite_note-62) He scored his first goal for Flamengo in the 3–2 victory against [Boavista](/wiki/Boavista_Sport_Club) on 6 February 2011.[[63]](#cite_note-63)On 27 February Ronaldinho converted a second-half free kick for Flamengo to beat [Boavista](/wiki/Boavista_Sport_Club) 1–0 and win his first piece of silverware with the team, the [Taça Guanabara](/wiki/Taça_Guanabara). Ronaldinho lifted his first trophy with Flamengo after curling in a right-footed shot over the wall in the 71st minute at [Engenhão](/wiki/Estádio_Olímpico_João_Havelange) stadium. The goal gave Flamengo its 19th [Taça Guanabara](/wiki/Taça_Guanabara) title, which earned the [Campeonato Carioca](/wiki/Campeonato_Carioca) title two months later, as the team also won the [Taça Rio](/wiki/Taça_Rio). On 27 July 2011, Ronaldinho scored a hat-trick in Flamengo's 5–4 away win against rivals [Santos](/wiki/Santos_FC), after being 3–0 down inside the first 30 minutes.[[64]](#cite_note-64) On 31 May 2012, after being absent for a few days, he sued Flamengo claiming lack of payment for four months and cancelled his contract with the club.[[65]](#cite_note-65)

### Atlético Mineiro[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[thumb|Ronaldinho playing for](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_2012_01.jpg) [Atlético Mineiro](/wiki/Clube_Atlético_Mineiro) in the Brazilian [Série A](/wiki/Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) in October 2012. Ronaldinho made a move to [Atlético Mineiro](/wiki/Clube_Atlético_Mineiro) on 4 June 2012 in a six-month contract, just four days after leaving Flamengo. He wore number 49 in reference to his mother's birth year since his preferred number 10 was already assigned to [Guilherme](/wiki/Guilherme_Milhomem_Gusmão) in the 2012 season.[[66]](#cite_note-66) He made his debut for Galo on 9 June 2012 playing for 90 minutes in a 1–0 away win against [Palmeiras](/wiki/Sociedade_Esportiva_Palmeiras),[[67]](#cite_note-67) and scored his first goal for the club on 23 June 2012 against [Náutico](/wiki/Clube_Náutico_Capibaribe), from the penalty spot.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Ronaldinho led Atlético Mineiro to a good 2012 season, in which the club finished second in the [2012 Brasileirão](/wiki/Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A_2012) and qualified for the [2013 Copa Libertadores](/wiki/2013_Copa_Libertadores). Ronaldinho won the [Bola de Ouro](/wiki/Bola_de_Ouro) award, selected as the best player in the league.[[69]](#cite_note-69) The following year Ronaldinho helped Atlético win the [Campeonato Mineiro](/wiki/2013_Campeonato_Mineiro) and led the club to its first title of the [Copa Libertadores](/wiki/2013_Copa_Libertadores). Ronaldinho scored four goals and assisted on seven occasions during Atletico's dramatic title run which included consecutive comebacks from 0–2 first leg defeats in both the semifinals against Argentinian [Newell's Old Boys](/wiki/Newell's_Old_Boys) and the [finals](/wiki/2013_Copa_Libertadores_Finals) against [Club Olimpia](/wiki/Club_Olimpia) from [Paraguay](/wiki/Paraguay). Both ties were determined in Atlético's favour after penalty shootouts. Even though Ronaldinho had been injured for a large period in the second half of the season, he was voted the [2013 South American Footballer of the Year](/wiki/2013_South_American_Footballer_of_the_Year).[[70]](#cite_note-70) He renewed his contract with Atlético in 2014,[[71]](#cite_note-71) and after winning the [2014 Recopa Sudamericana](/wiki/2014_Recopa_Sudamericana), Ronaldinho left the club in July, reaching an agreement to cancel his contract by mutual consent.[[72]](#cite_note-72)

### Querétaro[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

After becoming a free agent, Ronaldinho was offered contracts from English [Conference South](/wiki/Conference_South) club [Basingstoke Town](/wiki/Basingstoke_Town) and newly formed [Indian Super League](/wiki/Indian_Super_League) franchise [Chennai Titans](/wiki/Chennai_Titans) through their co-owner Prashant Agarwal,[[73]](#cite_note-73)[[74]](#cite_note-74)[[75]](#cite_note-75) but eventually signed a two-year contract with Mexican club [Querétaro](/wiki/Querétaro_F.C.) on 5 September 2014.[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77) Ronaldinho made his debut for Querétaro in a 1–0 loss to [Tigres UANL](/wiki/Tigres_UANL) where he missed a penalty kick.[[78]](#cite_note-78) However, in his next match against [C.D. Guadalajara](/wiki/C.D._Guadalajara) he had a much better game, setting up [Camilo Sanvezzo](/wiki/Camilo_Sanvezzo) to score as well as scoring himself from a penalty kick in a 4–1 win.[[79]](#cite_note-79) On 30 October 2014 he scored a free kick against [Club Atlas](/wiki/Club_Atlas) during an away match at the [Estadio Jalisco](/wiki/Estadio_Jalisco).[[80]](#cite_note-80) On 18 April 2015, Ronaldinho scored twice against [Liga MX](/wiki/Liga_MX) title-holders [Club América](/wiki/Club_América) in an away game at the [Estadio Azteca](/wiki/Estadio_Azteca), in which his team won 4-0.[[81]](#cite_note-81) All of the spectators, mostly consisting of Club América supporters, gave a standing ovation to Ronaldinho after his goals had brought him to tears. After the match, Ronaldinho stated in an interview, "It is an emotion to live more. I had an ovation at the Bernabéu and now here. I never imagined this. It is something that makes me like Mexico even more and I feel right at home."[[82]](#cite_note-82)[[83]](#cite_note-83) Ronaldinho scored two penalties in consecutive matches, the second giving [Querétaro](/wiki/Querétaro_F.C.) the classification to the [Liga MX](/wiki/Liga_MX) playoffs.[[84]](#cite_note-84) On 17 May 2015 Querétaro progressed to the semi-finals after defeating [Veracruz](/wiki/Tiburones_Rojos_de_Veracruz) 4-3 aggregate. In the second match, Ronaldinho scored a free kick with the help of the opponent's goalkeeper who made contact with the ball.[[85]](#cite_note-85)

### Fluminense[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

On 11 July 2015, Ronaldinho announced his return to Brazil and signed an eighteen-month contract with [Fluminense](/wiki/Fluminense_FC),[[86]](#cite_note-86) but on 28 September, Ronaldinho reached a mutual agreement with the club to terminate the deal.[[87]](#cite_note-87) He made nine appearances during his two-month stint at the club, failing to impress and being heavily criticized by the fans.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Fluminense sporting director Mario Bittencourt stated: "Ronaldinho asked us for a meeting. He respectfully told us he didn't feel he was able to perform as good as he wanted and that it was a bad situation for him. He made a great gesture in saying he wasn't being the player he felt he could be right now. I'll never speak about whether or not he is retiring. That's not something you say about a player of his calibre. He was always spectacular, as player and person."[[88]](#cite_note-88)

## International career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|right|Ronaldinho takes a corner kick for Brazil during the](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_corner_brazil.jpg) [2006 World Cup](/wiki/2006_FIFA_World_Cup)

### Youth teams[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

Ronaldinho is one of few Brazilian players to have played at every international age level. In 1997 he was part of the first Brazilian team to win the [FIFA U-17 World Championship](/wiki/1997_FIFA_U-17_World_Championship), which was held in [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt), in which his first goal was a penalty against [Austria](/wiki/Austria_national_football_team) in the first group match, which Brazil won 7–0.[[89]](#cite_note-89) Ronaldinho finished with two goals and was awarded the Bronze Ball award as Brazil scored a total of twenty-one goals while only conceding two.[[89]](#cite_note-89) 1999 was a busy year for Ronaldinho in terms of international play. First he appeared in the [South American Youth Championship](/wiki/1999_South_American_Youth_Championship), where he scored three goals and helped the [U20s](/wiki/Brazil_national_under-20_football_team) to reach the third place.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Then he took part in [that year's](/wiki/1999_FIFA_World_Youth_Championship) [FIFA World Youth Championship](/wiki/FIFA_World_Youth_Championship) in [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria), scoring his first goal in Brazil's last group match.[[91]](#cite_note-91) In the round of sixteen, he scored two first-half goals in a 4–0 win over [Croatia](/wiki/Croatia_national_football_team), and finished with three goals as Brazil were eliminated by [Uruguay](/wiki/Uruguay_national_football_team) in the quarterfinals.[[91]](#cite_note-91)

### Early success[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

On 26 June, three days before the start of the [1999 Copa América](/wiki/1999_Copa_América), he earned his first cap for Brazil in a 3–0 win over [Latvia](/wiki/Latvia_national_football_team), and he scored one goal during Brazil's victorious Copa América campaign. One week after the conclusion of the Copa América, he was called up for the [1999 Confederations Cup](/wiki/1999_FIFA_Confederations_Cup), in which he scored in every match except the final, including a hat-trick in an 8–2 semifinal rout of [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia_national_football_team).[[92]](#cite_note-92) In the final, Brazil lost 4–3 to [Mexico](/wiki/Mexico_national_football_team). Ronaldinho won the Golden Ball award for the best player in tournament as well as the Golden Boot award for the tournament top-scorer.[[92]](#cite_note-92) [thumb|left|Ronaldinho with](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_and_Lula.jpg) [Brazilian president](/wiki/Brazilian_president) [Lula](/wiki/Luiz_Inácio_Lula_da_Silva) at [Wembley Stadium](/wiki/Wembley_Stadium), London

In 2000, Ronaldinho participated in the [Summer Olympics](/wiki/Football_at_the_2000_Summer_Olympics) in [Sydney, Australia](/wiki/Sydney,_Australia) with [Brazil U-23 team](/wiki/Brazil_Olympic_football_team). Earlier that year, Ronaldinho led Brazil to win the [Pre-Olympic Tournament](/wiki/CONMEBOL_Men_Pre-Olympic_Tournament), scoring nine goals in seven matches. However, in the Olympics, Brazil were eliminated in the quarterfinal by [Cameroon](/wiki/Cameroon_national_football_team), who later won the gold medal.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Ronaldinho appeared four times and scored only one goal, which came in the quarterfinal defeat by Cameroon.[[93]](#cite_note-93)

### 2002 World Cup glory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

Ronaldinho participated in his first [World Cup](/wiki/2002_FIFA_World_Cup) in 2002, as part of a formidable offensive unit with [Ronaldo](/wiki/Ronaldo) and [Rivaldo](/wiki/Rivaldo), dubbed the "three R's", who were also on the [1999 Copa América](/wiki/1999_Copa_América) winning squad.[[94]](#cite_note-94) The World Cup was held in Korea/Japan, and Ronaldinho appeared in five matches during the tournament and scored two goals, as well as contributing several important assists. His first goal came in the group stage match against [China](/wiki/China_national_football_team), which Brazil won 4–0.[[95]](#cite_note-95) The most memorable match in Ronaldinho's World Cup career took place in the [quarterfinal](/wiki/2002_FIFA_World_Cup#quarter-finals) against [England](/wiki/England_national_football_team) on 21 June.[[96]](#cite_note-96) With Brazil trailing after [Michael Owen's](/wiki/Michael_Owen) 23-minute strike, Ronaldinho turned the game around. Having received the ball inside his own half, Ronaldinho ran at the England defence and wrong footed star defender [Ashley Cole](/wiki/Ashley_Cole) with a trademark [step over](/wiki/Step_over) before passing the ball to [Rivaldo](/wiki/Rivaldo) on the edge of the penalty area to score the equalising goal just before half-time.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Then, in the 50th minute, Ronaldinho took a free-kick from 40 yards out which [curled](/wiki/Curl_(football)) into the top left corner of the net, completely surprising England's goalkeeper [David Seaman](/wiki/David_Seaman), giving Brazil a 2–1 lead.[[96]](#cite_note-96) However, seven minutes later, he was controversially sent-off for a foul on England's defender [Danny Mills](/wiki/Danny_Mills). Ronaldinho was suspended for the semifinal, but returned to Brazil's starting lineup for the 2–0 victory over [Germany](/wiki/Germany_national_football_team) in the final as Brazil won the World Cup for the fifth time.[[98]](#cite_note-98) [thumb|Ronaldinho against Switzerland's](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho061115-03.jpg) [Xavier Margairaz](/wiki/Xavier_Margairaz)

### 2005 Confederations Cup title[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

Ronaldinho's next international tournament was the [2003 Confederations Cup](/wiki/2003_FIFA_Confederations_Cup), in which he went scoreless as Brazil were eliminated in the group stage. The following year, he was dropped from Brazil's [2004 Copa América](/wiki/2004_Copa_América) squad, as coach [Carlos Alberto Parreira](/wiki/Carlos_Alberto_Parreira) decided to rest his stars and used a largely reserve squad.[[99]](#cite_note-99) After falling short in 1999 and 2003, Ronaldinho was the captain of Brazil and led his team to its second ever [Confederations Cup](/wiki/2005_FIFA_Confederations_Cup) title in 2005. He converted a penalty kick in a 3-2 semifinal win against host Germany and was named [Man of the Match](/wiki/Man_of_the_Match) in a 4–1 victory over archrival [Argentina](/wiki/Argentina_national_football_team) in the final on 29 June.[[100]](#cite_note-100) Ronaldinho scored three goals in the tournament and is currently tied with Mexican forward [Cuauhtémoc Blanco](/wiki/Cuauhtémoc_Blanco) as the tournament's [all-time scorer](/wiki/FIFA_Confederations_Cup_goalscorers) with nine goals.[[101]](#cite_note-101)

### 2006 World Cup disappointment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|left|185px|Ronaldinho with Brazil in 2006](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho061115-01.jpg) For the [2006 World Cup](/wiki/2006_FIFA_World_Cup) finals, Ronaldinho was part of Brazil's much-publicized "magic quartet" of offensive players alongside [Adriano](/wiki/Adriano_Leite_Ribeiro), [Ronaldo](/wiki/Ronaldo), and [Kaká](/wiki/Kaká), which was expected to provide the "[Joga Bonito](/wiki/The_Beautiful_Game)" style of play that was the focus of an extensive advertising campaign by [Nike](/wiki/Nike,_Inc.) leading up to the tournament. However, the group finished with only six goals in five games, with Ronaldinho himself going scoreless and finishing with only one assist (for [Gilberto's](/wiki/Gilberto_da_Silva_Melo) goal in a 4–1 group stage victory over [Japan](/wiki/Japan_national_football_team)), as he turned in his worst collective performance in his international career. Brazil endured a disappointing campaign that culminated in a 1–0 loss to France in the quarter-finals, during which the *Seleção* had only one shot on goal for the entire match.[[102]](#cite_note-102) The team was harshly criticized by Brazilian fans and media following their return home. On 3 July, two days after Brazil's elimination, vandals immolated and destroyed a 7.5-meter (23-foot) tall [fiberglass](/wiki/Fiberglass) and [resin](/wiki/Resin) statue of Ronaldinho in [Chapecó](/wiki/Chapecó).[[103]](#cite_note-103) The statue had been erected in 2004 to celebrate his first FIFA World Player of the Year award. That same day, Ronaldinho, joined by Adriano, returned to Barcelona and held a party at his home, which was continued into the early morning hours at a nightclub. This aggravated the hard feelings of many Brazilian fans, who believed that they were betrayed by the lack of effort from the squad.[[104]](#cite_note-104)

### 2008 Olympic medal[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

On 24 March 2007, he scored twice in a 4–0 win over [Chile](/wiki/Chile_national_football_team), which marked his first goal since the 2005 Confederations Cup final and thus ended a scoreless streak that lasted nearly two years.[[105]](#cite_note-105) He was not called up for the [2007 Copa América](/wiki/Copa_América_2007) after asking to be excused from the tournament due to tiredness.[[106]](#cite_note-106) On 18 October, he was controversially benched by Barcelona after he was late returning to Spain following Brazil's 5–0 friendly win over [Ecuador](/wiki/Ecuador_national_football_team). He and several Brazil players celebrated the win by partying through the night at a posh [Rio de Janeiro](/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro) nightclub. Ronaldinho left at 11 am the next morning, allegedly in the trunk of a car in order to avoid the media.[[107]](#cite_note-107) [thumb|upright|right|Ronaldinho at the](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho_olympics-soccer-6_cropped.jpg) [2008 Summer Olympics](/wiki/Football_at_the_2008_Summer_Olympics)

On 7 July 2008, Ronaldinho was named in Brazil's [2008 Summer Olympics](/wiki/Football_at_the_2008_Summer_Olympics) squad as one of the over-age players.[[108]](#cite_note-108) Barcelona initially blocked the move because of his then-upcoming Champions League commitments with the club, but the decision was later nullified following Ronaldinho's transfer to Milan, who in turn permitted him to make the trip to [Beijing](/wiki/Beijing), China.[[109]](#cite_note-109) Ronaldinho captained the team, and he scored his only two goals in a 5–0 victory over [New Zealand](/wiki/New_Zealand_national_football_team) before Brazil were beaten by Argentina in the semifinal. Brazil finished with the bronze medal after defeating [Belgium](/wiki/Belgium_national_football_team) 3–0 in the bronze medal match.[[110]](#cite_note-110)

### 2010 and 2014 World Cup absence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Despite having returned to good form and being named as a member of the 30-man provisional squad that was submitted to FIFA on 11 May 2010,[[111]](#cite_note-111) he was not named in Coach [Dunga's](/wiki/Dunga) final squad of 23 for the Brazilian squad in South Africa for the [2010 World Cup](/wiki/2010_FIFA_World_Cup)[[112]](#cite_note-112) despite his deep desire to participate in the competition.[[113]](#cite_note-113) Critics claimed that the exclusion of players such as Ronaldinho, [Alexandre Pato](/wiki/Alexandre_Pato), [Adriano](/wiki/Adriano_Leite_Ribeiro) and [Ronaldo](/wiki/Ronaldo) signaled a move away from the classic Brazilian attacking "[Jogo Bonito](/wiki/The_Beautiful_Game)" style of play.[[114]](#cite_note-114) At the tournament Brazil was eliminated by the Netherlands in the quarter-final.[[115]](#cite_note-115) In September 2011 he made his return to the national team under coach [Mano Menezes](/wiki/Mano_Menezes) in a friendly against [Ghana](/wiki/Ghana_national_football_team) at [Fulham F.C.'s](/wiki/Fulham_F.C.) [Craven Cottage](/wiki/Craven_Cottage),[[116]](#cite_note-116) playing the full 90 minutes in a 1–0 win for Brazil. He then had solid performances in back to back friendlies against Argentina in the same month. In October he had a great performance against Mexico in a friendly, scoring a spectacular free kick to equalize after [Dani Alves](/wiki/Dani_Alves) was sent off. Brazil went on to win the match with a goal from [Marcelo](/wiki/Marcelo_Vieira_da_Silva_Júnior).

His good form continued in 2013, and in January he was unexpectedly called up by coach [Luiz Felipe Scolari](/wiki/Luiz_Felipe_Scolari)[[117]](#cite_note-117) for a friendly against England played on 6 February at [Wembley](/wiki/Wembley) as part of the [English FA's](/wiki/The_Football_Association) 150th anniversary.[[118]](#cite_note-118) Ronaldinho started in what was his 100th cap (including non-official matches), and had a chance to score from the penalty kick, but his shot was saved by [Joe Hart](/wiki/Joe_Hart). Brazil lost the match 1–2.[[119]](#cite_note-119) He was again called up for the [Seleção](/wiki/Brazilian_national_football_team), being named captain of the national team for an international friendly with Chile on 24 April 2013.[[120]](#cite_note-120) However, Ronaldinho was not selected for the national team for the [2013 Confederations Cup](/wiki/2013_Confederations_Cup) and he was also omitted from Scolari's [2014 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2014_FIFA_World_Cup) squad.[[121]](#cite_note-121)

## Style of play[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[thumb|right|upright|Barcelona 2005-06 season home shirt. Ronaldinho wore the](/wiki/File:Ronaldinho-fcb-2005-2006-home-shirt.jpg) [number 10](/wiki/Playmaker) for much of his club and international career. Ronaldinho is regarded as one of the greatest and most skilful players of his generation.[[122]](#cite_note-122)[[123]](#cite_note-123) Due to his ability to score and create goals, he is capable of playing in several offensive positions, on either wing or in a central position.[[124]](#cite_note-124)[[125]](#cite_note-125) Throughout his career, he has been deployed as a [forward](/wiki/Forward_(association_football)), a [winger](/wiki/Winger_(association_football)), although he usually plays as a [classic number 10](/wiki/Squad_number_(association_football)) in an [attacking midfield](/wiki/Attacking_midfield) role.[[125]](#cite_note-125)[[126]](#cite_note-126) Despite primarily being a creative player, he is an accurate finisher with either foot, both from inside and outside the penalty area, and is also a [free-kick](/wiki/Direct_free_kick) and [penalty kick](/wiki/Spot_kick) specialist.[[125]](#cite_note-125)[[127]](#cite_note-127) Throughout his career, Ronaldinho has been praised in particular for his technical [skills](/wiki/Association_football_tactics_and_skills) and creativity; due to his pace, acceleration, agility, balance, ball control, and [dribbling](/wiki/Dribbling) ability, he is capable of beating players when undertaking individual runs, often using [feints](/wiki/Dummy_(football)) in one on one situations.[[125]](#cite_note-125)[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[129]](#cite_note-129) Among his repertoire of moves, Ronaldinho is one of the best exponents of the ["Elastico"](/wiki/Flip_flap_(association_football)), a move he learned by watching videos of one of his idols, the 1970s Brazilian star [Rivelino](/wiki/Rivellino).[[130]](#cite_note-130)[[131]](#cite_note-131) [ESPN](/wiki/ESPN) has described Ronaldinho as being "skillful by nature, his tricks are unparalleled and he is wonderful with the ball at his feet. One of the coolest players in pressure situations" and a "fast, brash, skilful, tricky, an uninhibited [playmaker](/wiki/Playmaker)" who provides "a mix of goals, assists, skills and a large repertoire of crafty moves."[[132]](#cite_note-132) The former Portugal midfield playmaker, [Rui Costa](/wiki/Rui_Costa), has said of his vision and passing ability: "There are not many players who can offer goalscoring passes like he can. He is just marvellous. He is a rare case of an [assist](/wiki/Assist_(football)) man who can provide the ball from anywhere."[[133]](#cite_note-133)

## Outside football[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

Ronaldinho has had endorsements with many companies, including [Nike](/wiki/Nike,_Inc.), [Pepsi](/wiki/Pepsi), [Coca-Cola](/wiki/Coca-Cola), [EA Sports](/wiki/EA_Sports), [Gatorade](/wiki/Gatorade) and [Danone](/wiki/Danone).[[134]](#cite_note-134)[[135]](#cite_note-135) One of the world's highest paid players, in 2006 he earned over $19 million from endorsements.[[136]](#cite_note-136) Having endorsed Pepsi for much of his career and appeared in commercials with [David Beckham](/wiki/David_Beckham), [Thierry Henry](/wiki/Thierry_Henry) and [Lionel Messi](/wiki/Lionel_Messi), Ronaldinho signed a deal with Coca-Cola in 2011, however this was terminated in July 2012 after he was caught sipping a Pepsi in a news conference.[[137]](#cite_note-137) Ronaldinho features in [EA Sports'](/wiki/EA_Sports) [*FIFA* video game series](/wiki/FIFA_(video_game_series)), appearing in the cover of [*FIFA Football 2004*](/wiki/FIFA_Football_2004), [*FIFA 06*](/wiki/FIFA_06), [*FIFA 07*](/wiki/FIFA_07), [*FIFA 08*](/wiki/FIFA_08) and [*FIFA 09*](/wiki/FIFA_09).[[135]](#cite_note-135) At the beginning of his career Ronaldinho signed a lucrative 10-year deal with American sportswear company Nike.[[134]](#cite_note-134) He has appeared in Nike commercials, including the 2002 "[Secret Tournament](/wiki/Secret_Tournament)" commercial (branded "Scopion KO") directed by [Terry Gilliam](/wiki/Terry_Gilliam).[[138]](#cite_note-138) His 2005 Nike advertisement, where he is given a new pair of [boots](/wiki/Football_boot) and then proceeds to juggle a football and appears to repeatedly volley it against the [crossbar](/wiki/Goalpost#Structure) of a goal and recover it without the ball touching the ground, went [viral](/wiki/Viral_video) on YouTube, becoming the site's first video to reach one million views.[[139]](#cite_note-139) A wax sculpture of Ronaldinho was unveiled at [Madame Tussauds Hong Kong](/wiki/Madame_Tussauds_Hong_Kong) in December 2007.[[140]](#cite_note-140) Ronaldinho has had an official role with [UNICEF](/wiki/UNICEF), the United Nations Children's Fund, since February 2006.[[141]](#cite_note-141) In 2011, he was recruited by the [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS](/wiki/Joint_United_Nations_Programme_on_HIV/AIDS) to promote awareness among young people of the disease and how to avoid it.[[142]](#cite_note-142) In March 2015, Ronaldinho was the sixth most popular sportsperson on [Facebook](/wiki/Facebook), behind [Cristiano Ronaldo](/wiki/Cristiano_Ronaldo), Messi, Beckham, [Neymar](/wiki/Neymar) and [Kaká](/wiki/Kaká), with 31 million Facebook fans.[[143]](#cite_note-143)

## Career statistics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

### Club[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Updated](/wiki/Template:Updated)[[144]](#cite_note-144)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **rowspan=2|Club** | **rowspan=2|Season** | **colspan=3|League** | **colspan=3|Cup** | **colspan=3|Continental** | **colspan=3|Other**[**Template:Ref**](/wiki/Template:Ref) | **colspan=3|Total** |
| **Apps** | **Goals** | **Assists** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Assists** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Assists** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Assists** | **Apps** | **Goals** | **Assists** |
| rowspan=4|[Grêmio](/wiki/Grêmio_Foot-Ball_Porto_Alegrense) | [1998](/wiki/1998_Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) | 14 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 4 | – | **48** | **8** | **2** |
| [1999](/wiki/1999_Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) | 17 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | – | 24 | 15 | – | **48** | **23** | **0** |  |
| [2000](/wiki/Copa_João_Havelange) | 21 | 14 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | – | – | – | 22 | 21 | – | **49** | **41** | **0** |  |
| **Total** | **52** | **21** | **0** | **11** | **6** | **0** | **19** | **5** | **2** | **63** | **40** | **–** | **145** | **72** | **2** |  |
| rowspan=3|[Paris Saint-Germain](/wiki/Paris_Saint-Germain_F.C.) | [2001–02](/wiki/2001-02_Division_1) | 28 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 2 | 2 | – | – | – | **48** | **13** | **10** |
| [2002–03](/wiki/2002-03_Ligue_1) | 27 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | – | – | – | **38** | **12** | **8** |  |
| **Total** | **55** | **17** | **14** | **13** | **5** | **0** | **18** | **3** | **4** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **86** | **25** | **18** |  |
| rowspan=6|[Barcelona](/wiki/FC_Barcelona) | [2003–04](/wiki/2003-04_La_Liga) | 32 | 15 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | – | – | – | **45** | **22** | **14** |
| [2004–05](/wiki/2004-05_La_Liga) | 35 | 9 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 4 | – | – | – | **42** | **13** | **14** |  |
| [2005–06](/wiki/2005-06_La_Liga) | 29 | 17 | 15 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | **45** | **26** | **23** |  |
| [2006–07](/wiki/2006-07_La_Liga) | 32 | 21 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | **49** | **24** | **14** |  |
| [2007–08](/wiki/2007-08_La_Liga) | 17 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 2 | – | – | – | **26** | **9** | **4** |  |
| **Total** | **145** | **70** | **46** | **13** | **4** | **3** | **45** | **19** | **17** | **4** | **1** | **3** | **207** | **94** | **69** |  |
| rowspan=4|[Milan](/wiki/A.C._Milan) | [2008–09](/wiki/2008-09_Serie_A) | 29 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | – | – | – | **36** | **10** | **8** |
| [2009–10](/wiki/2009-10_Serie_A) | 36 | 12 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 1 | – | – | – | **43** | **15** | **19** |  |
| [2010–11](/wiki/2010-11_Serie_A) | 11 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | **16** | **1** | **4** |  |
| **Total** | **76** | **20** | **26** | **1** | **0** | **1** | **18** | **6** | **3** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **95** | **26** | **31** |  |
| rowspan=3|[Flamengo](/wiki/Clube_de_Regatas_do_Flamengo) | [2011](/wiki/2011_Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) | 31 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 4 | – | **52** | **21** | **8** |
| [2012](/wiki/2012_Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | – | **19** | **7** | **6** |  |
| **Total** | **33** | **15** | **7** | **5** | **1** | **1** | **11** | **4** | **6** | **22** | **8** | **–** | **71** | **28** | **14** |  |
| rowspan=4|[Atlético Mineiro](/wiki/Clube_Atlético_Mineiro) | [2012](/wiki/2012_Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) | 32 | 9 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – | – | – | – | – | – | **31** | **9** | **15** |
| [2013](/wiki/2013_Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) | 14 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | – | **36** | **18** | **11** |  |
| [2014](/wiki/2014_Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) | 2 | 0 | 0 | – | – | – | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | – | **13** | **1** | **2** |  |
| **Total** | **48** | **17** | **17** | **2** | **0** | **2** | **23** | **7** | **9** | **12** | **4** | **–** | **85** | **28** | **28** |  |
| rowspan=2|[Querétaro](/wiki/Querétaro_F.C.) | [2014–15](/wiki/2014–15_Liga_MX_season) | 25 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | – | – | – | – | – | – | **29** | **8** | **4** |
| **Total** | **25** | **8** | **4** | **4** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **29** | **8** | **4** |  |
| rowspan=2|[Fluminense](/wiki/Fluminense_F.C.) | [2015](/wiki/2015_Campeonato_Brasileiro_Série_A) | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | – | – | – | – | – | – | **9** | **0** | **0** |
| **Total** | **7** | **0** | **0** | **2** | **0** | **0** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **9** | **0** | **0** |  |
| **Career total** | | **441** | **165** | **116** | **51** | **16** | **7** | **132** | **44** | **43** | **99** | **53** | **3** | **723** | **279** | **168** |

[Template:NoteOther](/wiki/Template:Note) includes Brazilian state competitions and national super cups.

### International[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Updated](/wiki/Template:Updated)[[145]](#cite_note-145)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **National team** | **Year** | **Apps** | **Goals** |
| [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil_national_football_team) | 1999 | 13 | 7 |
| 2000 | 5 | 1 |
| 2001 | 4 | 1 |
| 2002 | 10 | 4 |
| 2003 | 8 | 2 |
| 2004 | 10 | 6 |
| 2005 | 12 | 6 |
| 2006 | 9 | 0 |
| 2007 | 11 | 5 |
| 2008 | 2 | 0 |
| 2009 | 3 | 0 |
| 2010 | 1 | 0 |
| 2011 | 5 | 1 |
| 2012 | 1 | 0 |
| 2013 | 3 | 0 |
| **Total** | **97** | **33** |

## Honours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Col-begin](/wiki/Template:Col-begin) [Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

### Club[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

Grêmio

* [South Cup](/wiki/Copa_Sul) (1): 1999
* [Campeonato Gaúcho](/wiki/Campeonato_Gaúcho) (1): 1999

Paris Saint-Germain

* [UEFA Intertoto Cup](/wiki/UEFA_Intertoto_Cup) (1): [2001](/wiki/2001_UEFA_Intertoto_Cup)

Barcelona

* [La Liga](/wiki/La_Liga) (2): [2004–05](/wiki/2004-05_La_Liga), [2005–06](/wiki/2005-06_La_Liga)
* [Supercopa de España](/wiki/Supercopa_de_España) (2): [2005](/wiki/2005_Supercopa_de_España), [2006](/wiki/2006_Supercopa_de_España)
* [UEFA Champions League](/wiki/UEFA_Champions_League) (1): [2005–06](/wiki/2006_UEFA_Champions_League_Final)
* [FIFA Club World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_Club_World_Cup) Runner-up (1): [2006](/wiki/2006_FIFA_Club_World_Cup)

Milan

* [Serie A](/wiki/Serie_A) (1): [2010–11](/wiki/2010-11_Serie_A)

Flamengo

* [Campeonato Carioca](/wiki/Campeonato_Carioca) (1): [2011](/wiki/2011_Campeonato_Carioca)

Atlético Mineiro

* [Campeonato Mineiro](/wiki/Campeonato_Mineiro) (1): [2013](/wiki/2013_Campeonato_Mineiro)
* [Copa Libertadores](/wiki/Copa_Libertadores) (1): [2013](/wiki/2013_Copa_Libertadores)
* [Recopa Sudamericana](/wiki/Recopa_Sudamericana) (1): [2014](/wiki/2014_Recopa_Sudamericana)

### International[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

Brazil

* [Copa América](/wiki/Copa_América) (1): [1999](/wiki/1999_Copa_América)
* [FIFA World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup) (1): [2002](/wiki/2002_FIFA_World_Cup_Final)
* [FIFA Confederations Cup](/wiki/FIFA_Confederations_Cup) (1): [2005](/wiki/2005_FIFA_Confederations_Cup_Final)
* [Superclásico de las Américas](/wiki/Superclásico_de_las_Américas) (1): [2011](/wiki/2011_Superclásico_de_las_Américas)

Brazil U23

* [CONMEBOL Men Pre-Olympic Tournament](/wiki/CONMEBOL_Men_Pre-Olympic_Tournament) (1): 1999
* [Olympic Bronze Medal](/wiki/Summer_Olympic_Games) (1): [2008](/wiki/Football_at_the_2008_Summer_Olympics)

Brazil U17

* [South American Under-17 Football Championship](/wiki/South_American_Under-17_Football_Championship) (1): [1997](/wiki/1997_South_American_Under-17_Football_Championship)
* [FIFA U-17 World Championship](/wiki/FIFA_U-17_World_Championship) (1): [1997](/wiki/1997_FIFA_U-17_World_Championship)

[Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

### Individual[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

* [FIFA Confederations Cup Golden Ball](/wiki/Golden_Ball_(FIFA_Confederations_Cup)) (1): [1999](/wiki/1999_FIFA_Confederations_Cup)
* [FIFA Confederations Cup Golden Shoe](/wiki/FIFA_Confederations_Cup#Golden_Shoe) (1): [1999](/wiki/1999_FIFA_Confederations_Cup)
* [Rio Grande do Sul State Championship Top Scorer](/wiki/Campeonato_Gaúcho) (1): 1999
* [CONMEBOL Men Pre-Olympic Tournament Top Scorer](/wiki/CONMEBOL_Men_Pre-Olympic_Tournament) (1): 2000
* [FIFA World Cup All-Star Team](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup_awards#All-Star_Team) (1): [2002](/wiki/2002_FIFA_World_Cup)
* [FIFA 100](/wiki/FIFA_100)
* [La Liga Ibero-American Player of the Year](/wiki/Trofeo_EFE) (1): 2004
* [FIFA Confederations Cup Bronze Ball](/wiki/FIFA_Confederations_Cup) (1): [2005](/wiki/2005_FIFA_Confederations_Cup#Awards)
* [World Soccer Magazine World Player of The Year](/wiki/World_Soccer_Magazine) (2): 2004, 2005
* [FIFA World Player of the Year](/wiki/FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year) (2): [2004](/wiki/2004_FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year), [2005](/wiki/2005_FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year)
* [Ballon d'Or](/wiki/Ballon_d'Or) (1): [2005](/wiki/Ballon_d'Or_2005)
* [Onze d'Or](/wiki/Onze_d'Or) (1): 2005
* [UEFA Club Forward of the Year](/wiki/UEFA_Club_Football_Awards) (1): 2004–05
* [UEFA Club Footballer of the Year](/wiki/UEFA_Club_Footballer_of_the_Year) (1): 2005–06
* [UEFA Team of the Year](/wiki/UEFA_Team_of_the_Year) (3): 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06
* [ESM Team of the Year](/wiki/European_Sports_Magazines#ESM_Team_of_the_Year) (3): [2003–04](/wiki/European_Sports_Magazines#2003–04), [2004–05](/wiki/European_Sports_Magazines#2004–05), [2005–06](/wiki/European_Sports_Magazines#2005–06)
* [Don Balón Award](/wiki/Don_Balón_Award) (2): 2003–04, 2005–06
* [FIFPro World Player of the Year](/wiki/FIFPro_World_Player_of_the_Year) (1): 2005
* [FIFPro World XI](/wiki/FIFPro_World_XI) (3): 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07
* [FIFA World Player of the Year](/wiki/FIFA_World_Player_of_the_Year) – Bronze award (1): 2006
* [Golden Foot](/wiki/Golden_Foot_award) (1): 2009
* [Bola de Ouro](/wiki/Bola_de_Ouro) (1): 2012
* [South American Footballer of the Year](/wiki/South_American_Footballer_of_the_Year) (1): [2013](/wiki/2013_South_American_Footballer_of_the_Year)
* [Brazilian Football Museum Hall of Fame](/wiki/History_of_the_Brazil_national_football_team#Brazilian_Football_Museum_–_Hall_of_Fame)
* [UEFA Ultimate Team of the Year](/wiki/UEFA_Team_of_the_Year#UEFA_Ultimate_Team_of_the_Year) (substitute; published 2015)[[146]](#cite_note-146)[Template:Col-end](/wiki/Template:Col-end)

### Other[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

In 2012, two Brazilian entomologists named a new species of bee, from Brazil, *Eulaema quadragintanovem*, stating that "the specific epithet honors the Brazilian soccer player Ronaldo de Assis Moreira, famous worldwide as 'Ronaldinho' and in Brazil as ‘Ronaldinho Gaúcho’. 'Quadraginta novem' means forty-nine, the number of Ronaldinho's T-shirt at Clube Atlético Mineiro (CAM), his former team in Brazil. Ronaldinho chose the number 49 as homage to his mother, born in 1949."[[147]](#cite_note-147)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category) [Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote)

* [Template:Medio Tiempo](/wiki/Template:Medio_Tiempo)
* [Template:FIFA player](/wiki/Template:FIFA_player)
* [Tactical Profile](http://www.football-lineups.com/players/player.php?route=11) – Football-Lineups.com
* [European Champions Cup/UEFA Champions League Winning Squads](http://www.rsssf.com/players/ec1winningsquads.html)
* [Ronaldinho Gaúcho Official Website](http://www.ronaldinhogaucho.com/) [Template:Es icon](/wiki/Template:Es_icon) [Template:Pt icon](/wiki/Template:Pt_icon) [Template:En icon](/wiki/Template:En_icon) [Template:It icon](/wiki/Template:It_icon)
* [Ronaldinho profile](http://www.fcbarcelona.com/web/english/futbol/temporada_06-07/plantilla/jugadors/ronaldinho.html) at FC Barcelona website
* [Ronaldinho profile](http://www.acmilan.com/LM_Actor.aspx?idSquadra=3&idStagione=15&idPersona=1315&name=Ronaldinho) at AC Milan website
* [Template:Lfpfr2](/wiki/Template:Lfpfr2)
* [Template:Soccerbase](/wiki/Template:Soccerbase)
* [Ronaldinho profile](http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/shared/bsp/hi/football/statistics/players/internationals/r/ronaldinho_199729.stm) at BBC Sport website
* [Ronaldinho career stats](http://futpedia.globo.com/jogadores/ronaldinho-gaucho) at Futpédia

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[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

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