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## Giggs: 'Messi – the Greatest Player in Champions League History'

Ahead of the draw for the Champions League Round of 16 which saw two of the world's greatest clubs, Manchester United and Real Madrid, paired against each other, Ryan Giggs, English football's most decorated player, talks exclusively to bwin about what he called "the highest thing you can win in club football".

A two times winner of the Champions League, Giggs puts experience at the top of the qualities needed for success: "We found that with United in the early 90s we struggled a little bit until '99 when we won it. I think it is key you have the experience. It is different from playing in the Premier League or domestic league, European football is so much more different. You go to different countries and play against different playing styles, different cultures. It takes a few years to get used to."

Despite the fact that both the holders Chelsea and Premier League champions Manchester City crashed out at the group stage, when asked about the season's biggest surprise so far, the United winger was quick to laud Celtic's efforts: "I think you have to look at Celtic's achievements, beating Barcelona at home and going through in a very tough group. Not [so much] surprised me but a great achievement by them to get through to the last 16."

Giggs is undoubtedly one of the all-time greats with over 140 appearances in Europe's premier competition to his name, so his opinion on who is the greatest ever to feature in the Champions League carries huge weight: "You have to think Messi. At the moment he is breaking all sorts of records. He is one of the greatest players to ever live and he has won it a couple of times. I would have to go for Messi."

Identifying just what makes the Argentine so good, Giggs has an extensive list: "He is a goal scorer - he scores so many goals but he is a team player as well. He sets up so many goals for his team mates and having experience playing against him, he is tough. It is difficult to get the ball off him. He can dribble, he can score any type of goal, left foot, right foot, headers. He has so many assets; it's very, very tough to pin him down."

However, before Giggs and company have to worry about containing Barcelona's maestro in this year's Champions League they must overcome the challenge of Real Madrid. In what promises to be the tie of the round, bwin have United as 13/10 (2.30) underdogs to qualify for the quarter-finals, with Real favourites at 11/20 (1.55).

The exclusive bwin interview is available to [view here](#).

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