

**Who were your idols?**

I always admired [Pablo] Aimar; he came from River and I followed him a lot.

**Did you have problems with people because you were small?**

No, I never had any problems with my height. I was always the smallest kid, at school and in my teams.

**You weren't a regular starter until the age of 13 or 14 when Tito Vilanova, your current coach at Barcelona, took over the team. Did you ever think of giving up?**

No, never. I always thought about carrying on training and working, chasing my dream. I was lucky that when Tito came I began to play more often and from then on my career changed in the youth system.

**Is Tito the same now as he was then?**

He's the same person who coached us in the cadets team. I was little and I don't remember that much from that time, but he's the same and he treats us as he did then.

**Did you play the same way you do now, as a false number nine?**

No, the system was different. We played with one striker and I played just behind him, with two wingers out wide. I was a mediapunta. It's not a case of the false nine starting with that team because we didn't play that system.

Read more at

<http://www.worldsoccer.com/features/lionel-messi-interview-part-one-338553#o mQobmFrxBkeo0U9.99>

**Grifado em amarelo:** estrutura de pergunta no passado.

Azul: conectores.

Rosa: verbos no passado.