

Information on content

In the "Teams" section, the rosters of all teams can be found. If a player was an international, the number of FIFA-recognized "A" international appearances by the start of the season (August) is indicated by an "A" following the number of games. The year in which a player signed a contract is also indicated, as are his previous clubs.

The line-ups of the first two Bundesliga seasons are structured according to shirt numbers assigned to players in each game. They read as follows (German terms in brackets):

- 1 Goalkeeper (*Torhüter*)
- 2 Right Back (*rechter Verteidiger*)
- 3 Left Back (*linker Verteidiger*)
- 4 Right Half (*rechter Läufer resp. rechter Aussenläufer*)
- 5 Centre Half (*Mittelläufer, Stopper*)
- 6 Left Half (*linker Läufer resp. linker Aussenläufer*)
- 7 Outside Right (*Rechtsaussen*)
- 8 Inside Right (*halbrechter Innenstürmer resp. halbrechter Verbinder*)
- 9 Centre Forward (*Mittelstürmer*)
- 10 Inside Left (*halblinker Innenstürmer resp. halblinker Verbinder*)
- 11 Outside Left (*Linksaussen*)

For those of us who are interested in the tactical development over the course of football history, the 1960s are an interesting decade. For some 30 years, the 3-2-2-3 system ("WM-system") was the prevalent tactical formation in European football:



However by the late-1950s, the Brazilian World Champions introduced the "revolutionary" 4-2-4 system. Over the next few years, this new system was adopted among European club football. It was not an overnight success story, though, as many clubs struggled to implement the tactical changes. Public opinion was also restrained, as the 4-2-4 was considered a "defensive" system, because the number of defenders was increased and the number of offensive players was decreased.

The West German football national team still played in the WM formation in the 1962 World Cup. By the mid-1960s however the old 3-2-2-3 system had been replaced by and large by the 4-2-4 system. Football magazines however continued to list the lineups in the old "pyramid" system (2-3-5) despite having been phased out already in the 1930s. This meant that players were not listed according to the role they played on the pitch but according to the shirt numbers, ascending from 1 (goalkeeper) to 11 (outside left).

Hence in 1963-64 and 1964-65, the first two Bundesliga seasons, lineups in "kicker" as well as "Sportmagazin" both clinged to the 2-3-5 system, despite a number of Bundesliga clubs using the 4-2-4 formation.

It was in 1965-66 that this gradually changed, when "Sportmagazin" began to list the lineups of some teams in the 4-2-4 system. Whenever this was the case, it is indicated in the document. The huge majority however was still lined-up in the "pyramid" way.

Example of the "pyramid":



By 1966-67 "Sportmagazin" however started to reflect actual tactical formations in almost every game. I guess the influence of the 1966 World Cup played a role, as probably not a single team was using the WM-system anymore.

Example:



This allows to indicate the actual tactical formation for every game.