

This document takes into account the results of all polls of the "German Footballer of the Year" (Fussballer des Jahres) since 1960. The information is taken directly from the respective issue of "Kicker" magazine.

FACTS AND FEATS

Highest Number of Votes in One Year

- in absolute numbers -

817 Kahn (2001)
556 Matthäus (1999)
538 Klinsmann (1988)
532 Klose (532)
516 Ballack (2005)
501 Bierhoff (1998)
470 Hässler (1992)
453 Breitner (1981)
443 Kuntz (1991)
433 Ballack (2002)
424 Sammer (1995)
417 G.Müller (1969)
417 Netzer (1972)
411 Beckenbauer (1974)
393 Klinsmann (1995)
379 Seeler (1960)
356 Seeler (1970)
345 Kahn (2002)
343 K.H.Rummenigge (1980)
305 Morlock (1961)
305 Beckenbauer (1966)

- in relative numbers –

As the number of sports journalists participating in the polls has increased significantly, the following list looks at the best results based on percentage of total votes:

Percent – player (year – votes/total votes)

85 % Seeler (1960 – 379 of 449)
75 % Kahn (2001 – 817 of 1,091)
70 % Klinsmann (1988 – 538 of 764)
69 % Morlock (1961 – 305 of 443)
66 % Klose (2006 – 532 of 803)
60 % Netzer (1972 – 417 of 692)
59 % Beckenbauer (1974 – 411 of 701)
57 % Matthäus (1999 – 556 of 977)
55 % Beckenbauer (1966 – 305 of 558)
55 % K.H.Rummenigge (1980 – 343 of 619)
55 % Breitner (1981 – 453 of 818)
52 % Seeler (1970 – 356 of 687)
52 % Hässler (1992 – 470 of 903)
51 % Beckenbauer (1976 – 286 of 558)
51 % Ballack (2005 – 516 of 1,012)

Highest accumulated Votes Total

- in absolute numbers -

1,965 Beckenbauer
1,720 Kahn
1,506 Klinsmann
1,445 Matthäus
1,386 Ballack
1,019 G.Müller
981 Seeler
909 Maier
891 Vogts
828 Hässler
768 Völler
768 Sammer
749 K.H.Rummenigge
694 Breitner
691 Netzer
601 Schumacher
576 Bierhoff
574 Klose
498 Kuntz
399 Gomez
396 Köpke
389 Kohler
354 Morlock
331 Grafite
329 Kh.Förster
311 Diego
289 Ribéry
272 Briegel
256 Dietz
253 Schnellinger
252 Littbarski
252 Buchwald
248 H.Schäfer
238 Overath
224 Magath
222 Lahm
218 Thon
212 Effenberg
211 A.Möller
207 Tilkowski

- in relative numbers –

Since the first poll in 1960, the number of sports journalists that participated have increased notably over the years. In 1960, 445 votes were collected. In 2009, 974 votes were collected. The highest number of votes ever was in 2001 with 1,091. Over 1,000 votes were also registered in 1997, 1998 and 2005. The lowest number of votes ever was 294 in 1964.

Because of this, the absolute number of votes received by a player over the course of his career is distorted when compared to those of players from other eras.

To even out these differences, I looked at the number of votes a player gained during his career in relation to the total number of votes registered during his active playing time. E.g., Franz Beckenbauer gained ca. 21% of all registered votes during his active time. Between 1960 and 2009, in total 35,047 votes were registered. This means that Beckenbauer would have gathered some 7,325 votes (from 35,047) in total based on his 20.9 % during his active years.

This way some kind of comparability of players from different decades is achieved:

Number votes from total votes 1960 to 2009 (35,047) based on percentage during active career:

7,325 votes, 20.9 % Beckenbauer (1,965 of 9,383 during active career)
6,484 votes, 18.5 % Morlock (354 of 1,910)
5,292 votes, 15.1 % Seeler (981 of 6,487)
5,082 votes, 14.5 % Ballack (1,386 of 9,586)
4,521 votes, 12.9 % H.Schäfer (248 of 1,910)
4,206 votes, 12.0 % Klinsmann (1,506 of 12,512)
3,855 votes, 11.0 % Sammer (768 of 6,987)
3,785 votes, 10.8 % Kahn (1,720 of 15,969)
3,645 votes, 10.4 % Maier (909 of 8,756)
3,575 votes, 10.2 % Vogts (891 of 8,756)

Most Successive Appearances in the Top 10

The most consistent players have been the following:

13 Beckenbauer (1966-1978)
7 Vogts (1973-1979)
7 K.H.Rummenigge (1978-1984)
6 G.Müller (1969-1974)
6 Maier (1974-1979)
6 Breitner (1978-1983)
6 Kh.Förster (1979-1984)
6 Völler (1983-1988)
6 Klinsmann (1993-1998)
5 Seeler (1968-1972)
5 Netzer (1969-1973)
5 Schumacher (1980-1984)
5 Völler (1990-1994)

Biggest Lead

The biggest domination of players in a single year:

2001 Kahn – 753 votes ahead of #2
1988 Klinsmann – 476 votes
2006 Klose – 450 votes
2005 Ballack – 413 votes
1999 Matthäus – 395 votes
1960 Seeler – 360 votes
1969 G.Müller – 357 votes
1992 Hässler – 329 votes

1991 Kuntz – 306 votes
1998 Bierhoff – 305 votes
1972 Netzer – 290
1974 Beckenbauer – 287 votes
1980 K.H.Rummenigge – 262 votes
1981 Breitner – 240 votes
1970 Seeler – 233 votes
1976 Beckenbauer – 229 votes

Closest Winning Margin

1977 Maier – only 4 votes ahead of Fischer
1979 Vogts – only 4 votes ahead of Dietz
1985 Briegel – only 12 votes ahead of Völler
1996 Sammer – only 12 votes ahead of Klinsmann
1973 Netzer – only 14 votes ahead of Beckenbauer
1982 Kh.Förster – only 18 votes ahead of Littbarski
2007 Gomez – only 21 votes ahead of Diego

Lowest Number of Votes in One Year sufficient to Win

102 H.Schäfer (1963)
104 Seeler (1964)
122 Maier (1977)
125 Briegel (1985)
128 Netzer (1973)
147 Tilkowski (1965)
149 Schnellinger (1962)
164 Kh.Förster (1982)
166 Sammer (1996)
172 Ailton (2004)
175 U.Rahn (1987)
177 Vogts (1979)
194 Köpke (1994)
196 Gomez (2007)

Highest Number of Votes in One Year without Winning

393 Klinsmann (1995)
345 Kahn (2002)
213 K.H.Rummenigge (1981)
196 Matthäus (1998)
175 Diego (2007)
173 Dietz (1979)
171 Gomez (2009)

Most Victories

4 times, Beckenbauer (1966, 1968, 1972, 1976)
3 times, Seeler (1960, 1964, 1970)
3 times, Maier (1975, 1977, 1978)
3 times, Ballack (2002, 2003, 2005)

2 times, G.Müller (1967, 1969)
2 times, Netzer (1972, 1973)
2 times, Vogts (1971, 1979)
2 times, Schumacher (1984, 1986)
2 times, Klinsmann (1988, 1994)
2 times, Hässler (1989, 1992)
2 times, Matthäus (1990, 1999)
2 times, Sammer (1994, 1995)
2 times, Kahn (2000, 2001)

Runner-Up Most Often

4 times, Beckenbauer (1967, 1969, 1971, 1973)
3 times, Matthäus (1988, 1994, 1998)
2 times, Seeler (1961, 1966)
2 times, G.Müller (1970, 1972)
2 times, Magath (1983, 1986)
2 times, Klinsmann (1995, 1996)

Longest Span between First and Last Win

Players with the most longevity at the very top:

10 years, Seeler (between 1960 & 1970)
10 years, Beckenbauer (1966 & 1976)
9 years, Matthäus (1990 & 1999)
8 years, Vogts (1971 & 1979)
6 years, Klinsmann (1988 & 1994)

Seeler and Beckenbauer are the only ones of these that managed to top the poll in between that span as well.

Featured Most Consecutively in the Poll

Players that managed to save a place in the poll year after year without a break:

14 years, Beckenbauer (from 1965 to 1978)
12 years, Klinsmann (from 1988 to 1999)
11 years, Matthäus (from 1984 to 1994)
10 years, Effenberg (from 1992 to 2001)
9 years, Maier (from 1972 to 1980)
9 years, Kh.Förster (from 1979 to 1987)
9 years, Köpke (from 1991 to 1999)
9 years, Kahn (from 1996 to 2004)
8 years, G.Müller (from 1969 to 1976)
8 years, Schumacher (from 1980 to 1987)
8 years, Hässler (from 1992 to 1999)
7 years, Seeler (from 1960 to 1966)
7 years, Netzer (from 1969 to 1975)
7 years, Dietz (from 1977 to 1983)
7 years, K.H.Rummenigge (from 1978 to 1984)
7 years, Stielike (from 1978 to 1984)
7 years, Briegel (from 1980 to 1986)

7 years, A.Möller (from 1992 to 1998)
7 years, Sammer (from 1991 to 1997)

From Nowhere to the Top

Players that managed to top the poll with their first ever appearance in a yearly poll (not counting Uwe Seeler in 1960):

1961 Morlock
1967 G.Müller
1983 Völler
1988 Klinsmann
1989 Hässler
2002 Ballack
2004 Ailton
2007 Gomez
2008 Ribéry
2009 Grafite

Ailton is the only player ever to have been voted "German Footballer of the Year" to never be featured in another year's poll. However it must be noted that "Kicker" only listed the Top 10 players from 2002 onwards and thus Ailton might have been featured in other years if the complete list had been published.

Biggest Discrepancy between German & European Poll (Golden Ball)

There have been 12 occasions in which the winner of the German poll failed to gain even a single vote in the European poll:

1963 H.Schäfer
1964 Seeler
1965 Tilkowski
1977 Maier
1978 Maier
1979 Vogts
1982 Kh.Förster
1987 U.Rahn
1991 Kuntz
1993 Köpke
2004 Ailton
2007 Gomez

While most winners of the German poll managed a place in the European poll, the following only barely made it:

1983 Völler #33 in Europe
2000 Oliver Kahn # 24 in Europe
1989 Hässler #23 in Europe
1961 Morlock #23 in Europe

Highest Congruence between German & European Poll

There have been four occasions in which the winner of the German poll also topped the European poll:

1976 Beckenbauer
1980 K.H.Rummenigge
1990 Matthäus
1996 Sammer

In 1972, the German Top 3 also was the European Top 3.

In 1971, the entire German Top 5 was also part of the European Top 10.

In 1975, five players of the German Top 10 also made the European Top 10.

In 1970, 1974, 1980 & 1990 four players of the German Top 10 also made the European Top 10.

The 'Alternate' List of German Football Players of the Year

Just for fun, these are the players that made #2 in the respective years:

1960 Helmut RAHN
1961 Uwe SEELER
1962 Hans SCHÄFER
1963 Max MORLOCK
1964 Helmut HALLER
1965 Petar RADENKOVIC
1966 Uwe SEELER
1967 Franz BECKENBAUER
1968 Hermann NUBER
1969 Franz BECKENBAUER
1970 Gerd MÜLLER
1971 Franz BECKENBAUER
1972 Gerd MÜLLER
1973 Franz BECKENBAUER
1974 Berti VOGTS
1975 Berti VOGTS
1976 Rainer BONHOF
1977 Klaus FISCHER
1978 Jürgen GRABOWSKI
1979 Bernard DIETZ
1980 Paul BREITNER
1981 Karl-Heinz RUMMENIGGE
1982 Pierre LITTBARSKI
1983 Felix MAGATH
1984 Asgeir SIGURVINSSON
1985 Rudi VÖLLER
1986 Felix MAGATH
1987 Miroslav OKONSKI
1988 Lothar MATTHÄUS
1989 Klaus AUGENTHALER
1990 Andreas BREHME
1991 Thomas DOLL
1992 Guido BUCHWALD
1993 Andreas HERZOG
1994 Lothar MATTHÄUS

1995 Jürgen KLINSMANN
1996 Jürgen KLINSMANN
1997 Dariusz WOSZ
1998 Lothar MATTHÄUS
1999 Michael PREETZ
2000 Stefan EFFENBERG
2001 Ebbe SAND
2002 Oliver KAHN
2003 Fredi BOBIC
2004 Philipp LAHM
2005 Lukas PODOLSKI
2006 Jens LEHMANN
2007 DIEGO
2008 Michael BALLACK
2009 Mario GOMEZ