

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 (2006)  
516 Ballack (2005)  
501 Bierhoff (1998)  
470 Hässler (1992)  
453 Breitner (1981)  
445 Robben (2010)  
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)  
367 De Bruyne (2015)  
356 Seeler (1970)  
345 Kahn (2002)  
343 K.H.Rummenigge (1980)  
331 Grafite (2009)  
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)  
73 % G.Müller (1969 – 417 of 567)  
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 -

1,966 Beckenbauer  
1,721 Kahn  
1,506 Klinsmann  
1,483 Matthäus  
1,423 Ballack  
1,081 Seeler  
1,020 G.Müller  
911 Maier  
891 Vogts  
851 Hässler  
769 Völler  
768 Sammer  
750 K.H.Rummenigge  
749 Lahm  
695 Breitner  
692 Netzer  
653 Robben  
651 Gomez  
604 Schumacher  
596 Klose  
581 Bierhoff  
528 Neuer  
498 Kuntz  
490 Kroos  
472 T.Müller  
424 Schweinsteiger  
399 Köpke  
397 Ribéry  
389 Kohler  
394 Reus  
367 De Bruyne  
354 Morlock  
331 Grafite  
330 Kh.Förster  
329 Lewandowski  
311 Diego  
273 Briegel  
257 Dietz  
255 Schnellinger  
255 Buchwald  
253 Littbarski  
248 H.Schäfer  
239 Overath  
225 Magath  
223 Thon  
212 Effenberg  
212 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. 16.8% of all registered votes during his active time. Between 1960 and 2017, in total 42,083 votes were registered. This means that Beckenbauer would have gathered some 7,070 votes (from 42,083) in total based on his 16.8 % during his active years.

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

Number votes from total votes 1960 to 2018 (42,083) based on percentage during active career:

7,912 votes, 18.8 % Morlock (354 of 1,879 during active career)  
7,070 votes, 16.8 % Beckenbauer (1,966 of 11,692)  
6,986 votes, 16.6 % Seeler (1,081 of 6,510)  
5,429 votes, 12.9 % Klinsmann (1,506 of 11,716)  
4,587 votes, 10.9 % H.Schäfer (248 of 2,279)  
4,587 votes, 10.7 % Maier (911 of 8,524)  
4,503 votes, 10.7 % Kahn (1,721 of 16,111)  
4,419 votes, 10.5 % Vogts (891 of 8,524)  
4,419 votes, 10.5 % Ballack (1,423 of 13,503)  
4,419 votes, 10.5 % Robben (652 of 6,383)  
4,335 votes, 10.3 % Sammer (768 of 7,434)

### **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  
2015 De Bruyne – 273 votes  
2010 Robben – 265 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  
2013 Schweinsteiger – only 5 votes ahead of Ribéry  
2014 Neuer – only 9 votes ahead of Reus  
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  
2011 Neuer – only 20 votes ahead of Gomez  
2007 Gomez – only 21 votes ahead of Diego

## **Lowest Number of Votes in One Year sufficient to Win**

092 Schweinsteiger (2013)  
102 H.Schäfer (1963)  
104 Seeler (1964)  
122 Maier (1977)  
125 Briegel (1985)  
128 Netzer (1973)  
144 Neuer (2014)  
147 Tilkowski (1965)  
149 Schnellinger (1962)  
163 J.Boateng (2016)  
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)  
192 Kroos (2017)  
190 Gomez (2011)  
180 Schweinsteiger (2010)  
175 Diego (2007)  
173 Dietz (1979)  
171 Gomez (2009)

## Most Victories

4 times, Beckenbauer (1966, 1968, 1974, 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)  
2 times, Neuer (2011, 2014)

## 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)  
2 times, Gomez (2009, 2011)

## 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)  
10 years, Lahm (from 2008 to 2017)  
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)  
8 years, Schweinsteiger (from 2008 to 2015)  
8 years, T.Müller (from 2010 to 2017)  
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  
2011 Robben  
2015 De Bruyne

Ailton, Grafite, De Bruyne are the only players 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 16 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  
2009 Grafite  
2011 Neuer  
2012 Reus  
2016 J.Boateng

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 & 2014, 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  
2010 Bastian SCHWEINSTEIGER  
2011 Mario GOMEZ  
2012 Mats HUMMELS  
2013 Franck RIBÉRY  
2014 Marco REUS



2015 Arjen ROBBEN  
2016 Thomas MÜLLER  
2017 Toni KROOS