Ballon d'Or 2026 contenders

Leading candidates for prestigious award as world's best player is crowned in London on October 26



Harry Kane *ENG*

Europe's top goalscorer, hitting 61 goals in 51 games as ***Bayern*** win league and cup double. Added six World Cup strikes, leading ***England*** to best finish since 1966. Could become only fifth Englishman to win award



Lamine Yamal *ESP*

Scored 24 goals and added 18 assists as ***Barcelona*** retained La Liga title. Aged 19, influential throughout ***Spain's*** World Cup triumph despite carrying hamstring injury. Runner-up for Ballon d'Or in 2025



Rodri *ESP*

Midfield maestro claimed ***Golden Ball*** at FIFA World Cup following cup double with ***Manchester City*** – Pep Guardiola's final season. Joined giants ***Barcelona,*** making strong start as club tops La Liga table



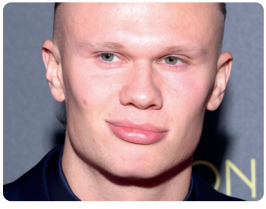
Kylian Mbappé *FRA*

Claimed ***World Cup Golden Boot,*** becoming tournament's all-time leading scorer with 22 goals – ahead of ***Lionel Messi*** (21). Amassed 42 goals in 44 games for ***Real Madrid*** despite trophyless season



Ousmane Dembélé *FRA*

Underlined importance to ***PSG*** as club retained both Ligue 1 and Champions League titles. Slow start to new campaign may harm chances of becoming seventh man to claim successive Ballon d'Or titles



Erling Haaland *NOR*

Starred as ***Norway*** reached World Cup quarter-finals in first appearance since 1998. Scored 38 goals for Manchester City – club's ongoing fight against guilty verdict over financial breaches may taint award hopes

Source: Ballon d'Or

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