Brody Lange World Soccer
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The wait is over. On Monday night in London, Harry Kane of Bayern Munich was named the 2026 Ballon d'Or winner, handed the trophy by Brazilian legend Ronaldo. For the first time in 25 years, an Englishman is officially the best player in the world. Kane beat out Kylian Mbappé and Lamine Yamal, who finished second and third, after a remarkable season: 73 goals and 8 assists in 65 games, a Bundesliga title, three trophies in total, and semifinal runs in both the Champions League and the World Cup. He showed every part of his game this year, and there's no sign he's slowing down. As a German and a Bayern fan, I couldn't be happier. This wasn't an easy call for the voters. Unlike past years, there was no clear favorite, and any of the top three could have won. The confusion even reached the official website, which published articles naming all three as winners hours before the ceremony. Mbappé had a strong case after breaking the all-time World Cup scoring record, and Yamal won the whole tournament with Spain. In the end, the voters rewarded the best year over the best month, and Kane took the prize. Spain didn't leave empty-handed, though. Yamal won Young Player of the Year, goalkeeper Unai Simón was named best keeper, and Luis de la Fuente took Coach of the Year. Still, the night belonged to Kane. Winning the Ballon d'Or at 33, finally holding the trophy that always seemed just out of reach, is a testament to his work. He's also the first Bayern player to win it since Karl-Heinz Rummenigge in 1981, ending a 45-year wait for the club. As a Bayern and football fan, all I can say is: well done, Harry. Now lead us to another Bundesliga title, and dare I say it, the Champions League.

