

THOMAS MÜLLER

Germany & Bayern Munich

Golden Boot winner at FIFA World Cup™ 2010

GERMAN LANGUAGE

SLATE

Story: Thomas Müller collects adidas Golden Boot Award for top Goalscorer at FIFA World Cup™ 2010

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Thomas Müller of Germany collected the adidas Golden Boot for the top scorer of the FIFA World Cup™. Müller netted five goals the same number as Diego Forlán of Uruguay, David Villa of Spain and Wesley Sneijder of the Netherlands but thanks to three assists, Müller claimed the trophy.

The Bayern Munich player follows in the footsteps of countryman and namesake Gerd Müller who scored ten goals at the 1970 FIFA tournament in Mexico.

Asked about Germany's third place finish in South Africa Müller said it was fairly rare to hear the whole world saying positive things about German football. "of course Germany has already had a lot of success in the past but it never became the beautiful game or there was never praise about Germany's lively playing and that was the greatest recognition, the whole world saying that Germany's playing super football."

Twenty-one year old Müller also became the second-youngest player off all time to net five goals at a FIFA World Cup™, only the legendary Pele has bettered him with six goals at the age of seventeen at the 1958 event in Sweden. Although in that year the Golden Boot award went to Frenchman Just Fontaine for a record thirteen. Müller is the second German in a row to win the award after Miroslav Klose also netted five goals four years ago when the tournament was hosted in Germany.

SOUNDBYTES: Thomas Müller

Q. Gerd Müller, Gabriel Batistuta, Pele all past winners of the award, Tell me about what that feels like

A. German Language

English Translation

"I think it's a bit unbelievable although I am actually very laid-back and don't let myself get worked up by much, you could say somewhat proud, yes, it's a rare thing in my life but I think, yes, the Golden Boot is something special and just the players who have already won it, to join their ranks and at a young age too, yes I am proud of it, I have to say."

Q. How important are these awards for players?

A. German Language

English Translation

“I think you go into a tournament to win the World Cup and you don't think about somehow getting a personal trophy as a player but then it happens, it comes with it, and maybe you then think about it in the quarter-final or however long the tournament lasts that there's a chance of getting the thing, I even sat in the plane on the flight home nervous that Villa would score a goal or Sneijder because, yes, I knew I was in the lead and of course you want to have the Golden Boot then. So I think at the beginning of a tournament the team title is the most important thing and then at the end when you see that it's possible then of course you try to get the title personally as well.”

Q. Do you think that the German public expected a young team to do as well as you did, or did they want more from you?

A. German Language

English Translation

“I think there was a kind of uncertainty in Germany, nobody knew what was going to happen, especially because of the young team, some people said, yes, it's good what the national coach is doing, others said nothing will come of it, they're too young, and then right from the first game – yes – we just thrilled our country, our home, but what was much nicer was that the whole world said positive things about German football and that's fairly rarely been the case, of course Germany has already had a lot of success in the past but it never became the beautiful game or there was never praise about Germany's lively playing and that was the greatest recognition, the whole world saying that Germany's playing super football.”

Q. How difficult is it to get to a Champions League Final two years in a row and are you on track?

A. German Language

English Translation

“I think it's very difficult to get there but we'll find out this year, last year everything went kind of automatically and then somehow we were in the final but this year the expectation will be greater for us than last year and, yes, we'll have to see that we get to the last 16, survive it well, then it's always crucial from day to day and a question of luck a little bit as well and, at the crucial moments the players decide whether they're getting the goal or not. Champions League I think is very high-level and seconds and maybe even fractions of seconds are crucial and that'll be the concern and always a bit of luck.”

Q. Outside of Bayern Munich which teams are ones to watch in the Champions League?

A. German Language

English Translation

“Of course you have to mention FC Barcelona, they have super individual players with Messi, Xavi, Iniesta and yes, you can name lots there, they have a good coach who keeps the team together and has good tactics and they have been playing together a long time already, know each other in and out and so I think Barcelona is very dangerous.”