

## THE HEIR TO THE G.O.A.T? LEADING MATHS PROFESSOR LOOKS TO A FUTURE WITHOUT MESSI AND RONALDO TO REVEAL THE NEXT GENERATION TRENDING FOR THE TITLE OF THE G.O.A.T. 2.0

- Kylian Mbappé and former Manchester City forward Julián Álvarez lead the G.O.A.T Index 2.0 rankings following advanced mathematical modelling
- Oxford University mathematician Dr Tom Crawford uses innovative statistical analysis to project which of Europe's best young players will reignite the G.O.A.T debate
- International glory sees France and Argentina stars pip Erling Haaland and Jude Bellingham in standings

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024

The 'greatest of all time' debate divided the football world for a generation of fans, as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo put forward their irrefutable cases. Whilst both legends are still leaving their mark on the beautiful game, the battle to take their crown is seeing a raft of Next Gen G.O.A.T. contenders emerge to take their position at the pantheon of world football.

Commissioned by LiveScore, one of the world's leading providers of real-time sports updates, University of Oxford mathematician Dr Tom Crawford has revamped his algorithm to identify Kylian Mbappé as the game's new leading light, with an index score of 86 seeing him top the G.O.A.T. Index 2.0 rankings.

The France talisman takes the lead ahead of a surprise challenger, with former Manchester City talent Julian Álvarez (84) holding off a host of talent including English megastar Jude Bellingham (82) and ex-teammate Erling Haaland (81).

The G.O.A.T. Index 2.0, which builds on the original research that crowned Cristiano Ronaldo the all-time winner in 2021, uses a sophisticated mathematical model from Dr Tom Crawford to evaluate the achievements and potential of global footballers under the age of 25. Each player is ranked according to a range of performance metrics, utilising factors such as international and domestic goals and titles and individual honours and career milestones.

A key innovation for the new G.O.A.T Index 2.0 is the '*G.O.A.T. Curve*', which is used to predict a player's career trajectory, analysing whether it aligns more closely with the '*Ronaldo Curve*,' characterised by an s-shaped trajectory with fluctuations in performance due to early club changes and transfers, or the '*Messi Curve*,' a straight line indicating consistent high performance.

By analysing these curves, alongside all other metrics, Dr Crawford can predict each player's future potential based on their career path and achievements. While Mbappé, Phil Foden, and Lamine Yamal follow the Messi Curve, Bellingham, Haaland and Álvarez exhibit characteristics of the Ronaldo Curve.

[Click here to see Dr Tom Crawford unveil The G.O.A.T. Index on LiveScore's YouTube Channel](#)

## The G.O.A.T. Index 2.0 Top Ten:

1.	Kylian Mbappé	86
2.	Julián Álvarez	84
3.	Jude Bellingham	82
4.	Erling Haaland	81
5.	Yamine Lamal	71
6.	Vinícius Jr.	68
7.	Rodrygo	64
7.	Phil Foden	63
7.	Arla Güler	63
10.	Pedri	56

## The Six Key-Criteria

Dr Tom Crawford's algorithm assessed players against six weighted categories.

1.	Goals
2.	Assists
3.	Club Titles
4.	National Titles
5.	Individual Awards
6.	'G.O.A.T Curve'

This analysis places Álvarez in second place with a G.O.A.T. Index score of 72, just behind Mbappé, who leads with 86. At 25, Les Blues' captain is already one of football's global superstars.

At 24, Álvarez has quietly built an equally impressive trophy haul with Argentina and Manchester City, including a World Cup, two Copa Américas, a UEFA Champions League title, and two Premier League winner's medals. The now Atlético Madrid forward also became the first player to win a World Cup and a continental treble in the same season in 2023.

With Messi and Ronaldo leaving a lasting legacy in LaLiga, the G.O.A.T. Index 2.0 Top 10 similarly features a strong dominance of stars from the Spanish top division. Eight players from LaLiga made the cut, including five currently at Real Madrid. Bellingham, the highest-ranked player from that side, sits third in the Index. At just 21, he is in the early stages of building an already impressive trophy collection in the Spanish capital.

Haaland meanwhile ranks fourth, representing one of two Premier League players in the Top 10, both of Manchester City. Both Bellingham and Haaland have yet to secure major international honours with their national teams, a significant factor considered in the algorithm.

**Dominic Vye, Marketing Director at LiveScore,** said:

*"As football fans, we've all been captivated by the achievements of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but we now enter a new era of our favourite players closely contesting for the ultimate individual awards.*

*"As a leading and reliable source of football data and insight at LiveScore, we want to fuel fans' passion for the sport they love, and that's why we're delighted to once again work with Dr Tom Crawford to answer football's next greatest question."*

**Dr Tom Crawford, Mathematician at the University of Oxford,** commented:

*"As a massive football fan, I've watched Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi battle it out for many years. It's now incredibly exciting to identify who of the next generation will take their place at the very top of the game, as a new debate grips fans.*

*"It's no surprise to see players like Kylian Mbappé and Jude Bellingham come out on top of my algorithm, but to also see perhaps more unexpected players is really exciting and I can't wait to see what the future truly holds for the sport."*

To see how Dr Tom Crawford created The G.O.A.T. Index 2.0 for LiveScore, head to the LiveScore app today.

**ENDS.**



**Notes to Editors:**

For any questions, please contact [press@livescoregroup.com](mailto:press@livescoregroup.com) for further information.

**About LiveScore**

LiveScore™ has been Fuelling Fans' Passion for Sport since its founding in 1998 and has evolved to become one of the world's best loved sports media brands. As part of LiveScore Group, the brand has seen substantial growth with over 50 million monthly users across over 200 global territories.

For more than two decades it has been an essential part of the match-day experience for football fans. The hero LiveScore app delivers world-class content and editorial alongside the fastest and most reliable updates on the matches that matter to them.

The latest edition of the app features lightning-fast notifications, aggregated and curated news feeds and even post-match highlights of English Premier League matches. Player profile and rich team stats contribute to a further enhanced offering, in addition to live highlights as part of a seamless user experience.