



The greatest goalkeepers in World Cup history

Description

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Hugo Lloris of Los Angeles FC throws the ball during the 2022 World Cup semifinal match between Toluca and

In football, a goalkeeper does not always need to lift the trophy to secure his place in World Cup history. Some have built their legacy by enduring on the [world's biggest football stage](#) whilst others have forged their legend by keeping a clean sheet against their opponents.

Throughout the history of the World Cup, two distinct paths to immortality have emerged among goalkeepers; the first is measured by the number of matches a [goalkeeper](#) has played, and the second by the number of clean sheets he has kept.

World Cup: Hugo Lloris sits top of record books

Over the course of four World Cup appearances, Frenchman [Hugo Lloris](#) has become a symbol of consistency and reliability. The goalkeeper, who led his country to the 2018 title and the 2022 final, has become the most-capped goalkeeper in the tournament's history with 20 appearances.

Lloris's achievement was no mean feat, as he surpassed names that have been synonymous with World Cup history for decades, foremost among them Germany's Manuel Neuer (19 appearances), followed by Sepp Maier and Taffarel (18 appearances each).

[These figures reflect](#) a value distinct from tournaments and titles; they tell the story of a goalkeeper who has managed to maintain his place among the elite for many years, across successive generations of players and managers.

Goalkeepers with the most World Cup appearances

- Hugo Lloris â?? France â?? 20 matches
- Manuel Neuer â?? Germany â?? 19 appearances
- Sepp Maier â?? West Germany â?? 18 appearances
- Taffarel â?? Brazil â?? 18 appearances
- Fabien Barthez â?? France â?? 17 appearances
- Peter Shilton â?? England â?? 17 appearances
- Iker Casillas â?? Spain â?? 17 appearances
- Fernando Muslera â?? Uruguay â?? 16 appearances
- Thibaut Courtois â?? Belgium â?? 15 appearances
- Gilmar â?? Brazil â?? 14 appearances
- Emerson LeÃƒo â?? Brazil â?? 14 appearances
- Jan Jongbloed â?? Netherlands â?? 12 matches

Barthez and Shelton: The kings of clean sheets

Whilst Lloris may have won the battle of endurance, Franceâ??s Fabien Barthez and Englandâ??s Peter Shilton share the top spot as [goalkeepers with the most clean sheets](#)

Both kept 10 clean sheets at the World Cup, the most in the tournamentâ??s history, setting the standard for resilience under pressure in the biggest competition.

Just behind the duo is Dutchman Jan Jongbloed, with eight clean sheets from just 12 matches â?? the best success rate among top goalkeepers â?? alongside prominent names such as Taffarel, Sepp Maier, Emerson LeÃƒo and Hugo Lloris.

Clean sheets are not merely a defensive statistic; they often represent the difference between an early exit and progression to the knockout stages, which explains why most of those with such records feature among the greatest goalkeepers in the history of the game.

Goalkeepers with the most clean sheets

- Fabien Barthez â?? France â?? 17 matches â?? 10 clean sheets
- Peter Shilton â?? England â?? 17 matches â?? 10 clean sheets
- Jan Jongbloed â?? Netherlands â?? 12 matches â?? 8 clean sheets
- Emerson Liao â?? Brazil â?? 14 matches â?? 8 clean sheets
- Sepp Maier â?? West Germany â?? 18 matches â?? 8 clean sheets
- Taffarel â?? Brazil â?? 18 matches â?? 8 clean sheets
- Hugo Lloris â?? France â?? 20 matches â?? 8 clean sheets
- Gilmar â?? Brazil â?? 14 matches â?? 7 clean sheets
- Thibaut Courtois â?? Belgium â?? 15 matches â?? 7 clean sheets
- Fernando Muslera â?? Uruguay â?? 16 appearances â?? 7 clean sheets
- Iker Casillas â?? Spain â?? 17 matches â?? 7 clean sheets
- Manuel Neuer â?? Germany â?? 19 matches â?? 7 clean sheets

Two sides to goalkeeping greatness

Although the criteria differ, some names have managed to combine both. Hugo Lloris not only holds the record for the number of appearances, but also ranks among the goalkeepers with the most clean sheets. The same applies to Manuel Neuer, Tavaril and Sepp Maier.

Whilst the record of appearances tells the story of staying at the top, the list of clean sheets tells the story of the ability to keep the dream alive. Between these two stories lies the legacy of the goalkeepers who have left their mark on World Cup history – not through the goals they scored, but through the goals they prevented.

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