

Ballon d'Or season has begun – and Kylian Mbappe, not Vinicius Jr, is Real Madrid's current frontrunneraa

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The Frenchman has found his feet at the Bernabeu and looks best equipped to challenge the likes of Mohamed Salah and Raphinha for the Golden Ball

The Ballon d'Or is bad for football. There is simply no way that an individual honour should have attained such importance within a team sport. The hope was that it would provoke less outrage after the end of the Lionel Messi-Cristiano Ronaldo rivalry responsible for its disproportionate level of popularity – but no such luck there.



