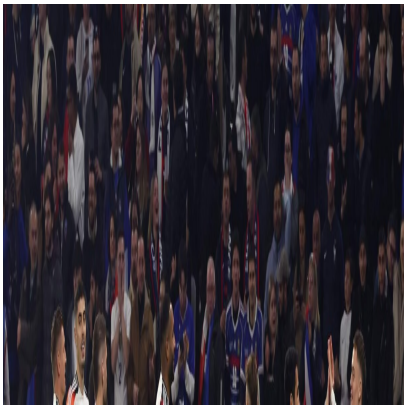


Germany World Cup 2026: Musiala, Wirtz, and the Dream of a Second Star

Description

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Germanyâ??s long wait to compete at a FIFA World Cup is over â?? and **Germany World Cup 2026** expectations have never been higher since the 2014 triumph in Brazil. Julian Nagelsmannâ??s youthful, dynamic side kick off Group E on Sunday 15 June against CuraÃ§ao in Houston, and the signs ahead of this tournament are genuinely exciting.

Germany World Cup 2026: The Squad Nagelsmann Has Built

After painful group-stage exits in 2018 and 2022 that shook German football to its core, the DFB have found a new identity. Nagelsmann has built a squad blending experience â?? Manuel Neuer, Thomas MÃ¼ller, Toni Kroos â?? with an extraordinary generation of young talent, headlined by Bayern Munichâ??s Jamal Musiala and Bayer Leverkusen star Florian Wirtz.



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Source: German Football Association (DFB) official website (dfb.de)

Musiala has been arguably the most naturally gifted player in the Bundesliga for two seasons running. His ability to ghost past opponents in tight spaces, combine at pace, and deliver in big moments makes him one of the most exciting players at this World Cup. At just 22, he is playing with the confidence of a seasoned veteran and will be central to everything Germany create going forward.

Alongside him, Florian Wirtz brings a creative intelligence that is rare at any age. The 23-year-old Leverkusen star was the heartbeat of the clubâ??s historic 2023-24 unbeaten Bundesliga season, and he carries that swagger into this tournament. The combination of Musiala and Wirtz gives Germany a

tactical flexibility that few teams in Group E can match.



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Source: German Football Association (DFB) official website (dfb.de)

Group E: Germany, Spain, Colombia, CuraÃ§ao

Group E is widely regarded as one of the toughest in this World Cup. Spain â?? the reigning European champions â?? are the other heavyweight, with Colombia and CuraÃ§ao completing the group. Germanyâ??s opener against CuraÃ§ao on 15 June at NRG Stadium in Houston is a fixture they must

win convincingly to build momentum heading into more demanding clashes with Colombia and Spain.

CuraÃ§ao, the Caribbean island nation at their second World Cup, are a spirited side but lack the quality to trouble Germany for long periods. Expect Nagelsmann to use this match to build confidence, with Musiala, Wirtz, and Kai Havertz all likely to see significant time in attack.

Neuerâ??s Last Dance, MÃ¼llerâ??s Final Chapter

Manuel Neuer, now 39, has made no secret that this is likely his final World Cup. The goalkeeper who defined a generation of German football â?? from the 2014 triumph to countless Champions League campaigns â?? will be determined to bow out with the ultimate prize. Thomas MÃ¼ller, too, brings irreplaceable big-match experience to a squad where several key players are still in their early twenties.

If this is the MÃ¼ller and Neuer swansong, there is no better stage to sign off in style. A run to the final must be the minimum ambition â?? and with the talent available, it is entirely within reach.

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Verdict: Germany to Top Group E

Germany are good enough to top this group. Musiala and Wirtz are a generational attacking partnership, the defence looks more settled than in recent tournaments, and Neuerâ??s presence in goal is a calming influence. Spain will provide a stern test, but Germany have the quality and motivation to go all the way.

Germany World Cup 2026 Group E prediction: Germany 1st, Spain 2nd

Follow all our football coverage at the Little Big Red Dot Sports section, and read our Brazil vs Morocco Group C preview for more World Cup 2026 build-up.

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