

NICO WILLIAMS

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 · PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

■■ SPAIN · ATHLETIC BILBAO · #10 · LEFT WINGER




■■ INJURY UPDATE — Moderate hamstring strain, left leg (May 11 vs Valencia). Athletic Bilbao season over. **Grade 1** — ~3 weeks recovery. Expected fit for World Cup. Spain open vs Cabo Verde on June 15, 2026.

■ FEATURED ON NEKTR BLOGS

La Roja Reloaded: Spain's Top 3 Players to Watch at the FIFA World Cup 2026

Spain are back with a new generation hungry for glory. This Nektr deep-dive covers the three La Roja stars — including Nico Williams — set to dominate on North American soil this summer. Essential reading for \$BRACKETS fantasy managers before lock-in.

■ blogs.nektr.co · @cosmicknox · Sports · May 9, 2026



Play Nico Williams in \$BRACKETS Fantasy

Pick Spain's squad, lock in Nico Williams, and compete for USDC prizes in the only crypto-native World Cup fantasy platform — built on Solana.

■ fantasy.sportsbrackets.net · 2026 Brackets League World Tournament

① SHORT BIO

Full name: Nicholas Williams Arthuer | **Born:** July 12, 2002 — Pamplona, Navarre, Spain | **Age at WC 2026:** 23 | **Height:** 1.80 m | **Foot:** Right

Born in Pamplona to Ghanaian refugee parents who crossed the Sahara Desert to reach Spain, Nico Williams joined Athletic Bilbao's academy in 2013 and made his La Liga debut in April 2021 — on the same pitch as elder brother Iñaki, the first siblings to play together for the club in 35 years. A natural left winger who favours his right foot, Nico creates a uniquely difficult angle for defenders. He won the 2023-24 Copa del Rey with Athletic and earned global recognition at **UEFA Euro 2024**, scoring the opening goal in the final against England and named **Player of the Match** as Spain lifted the trophy for a record fourth time. Finished 15th in the 2024 Ballon d'Or. Despite ongoing transfer speculation — most prominently linked to Barcelona due to his friendship with Lamine Yamal — he remains at Athletic Bilbao.

■ [Wikipedia — Nico Williams](#) ■ [Athletic Club Official Page](#)

② PROFESSIONAL STATS

11 Goals · 2024-25	~9 Assists · 2024-25	39 Apps · 2024-25	182 Career Apps (Athletic)
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Competition	Season	Apps	Goals	Assists	Notes
La Liga	2025-26	24	6	4	Injury-disrupted
All Competitions	2024-25	39	11	~9	0.28 G/90 avg
La Liga	2023-24	34	9	9	Ballon d'Or nom.
Copa del Rey	2023-24	—	—	1	Final MOTM
Spain (Senior)	Career	40+	8+	8+	Euro 2024 MOTM
2022 World Cup	Qatar	4	0	0	1 start

[Full career stats — FBref.com](#)
[Live stats & ratings — SofaScore](#)
[Transfermarkt](#)

③ SOCIAL MEDIA & OFFICIAL LINKS

■ Instagram	@nicowilliams10	Primary platform — match moments, lifestyle, training updates
■ X (Twitter)	@NicoWilliams10	Match reactions and official announcements
■ YouTube	Athletic Club Channel	Nico Williams highlights & Athletic Club behind-the-scenes
■ Official Club Page	athletic-club.eus	Official stats, bios and news from the club
■ FIFA Profile	FIFA Official	World Cup 2026 squad & tournament hub

④ TOP 3 TRENDING STORIES

1

Hamstring Injury Threatens World Cup Opener

Williams was forced off after 36 minutes of Athletic's 1–0 defeat to Valencia on May 11, replaced by brother Iñaki — immediately sparking World Cup fears. Scans confirmed a **Grade 1 hamstring strain** in his left leg with the tendon unaffected. Coach De la Fuente said: *"He should be OK in three or four weeks."* A ~3 week recovery puts him in line for Spain's June 15 opener vs Cape Verde in Atlanta.

■ Sources: ESPN · beIN Sports

2

Injury-Plagued 2025-26 Season Raises Durability Concerns

Williams spent **85+ days sidelined** in 2025-26 with a recurring sports hernia, with Athletic withdrawing him from the squad in February 2026 for intensive treatment. He showed flashes of his best — a solo effort vs Real Oviedo was voted Goal of the Month — but consistency eluded him all season. The cumulative injury load heading into the World Cup is the biggest question mark around one of Spain's most dangerous attackers.

■ Sources: Wikipedia · Football España

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Transfer Saga — Liverpool, Arsenal & Chelsea Circle

Despite signing a contract extension last summer, Williams is one of the most wanted wingers in Europe. Barcelona reportedly agreed personal terms but could not meet Athletic's demand for the full ~€58M release clause in one payment. Liverpool have been contacted by intermediaries, Arsenal have received encouragement from his camp, and Chelsea are monitoring. A strong World Cup could push his value beyond his release clause and force Athletic's hand this summer.

■ Sources: [Yahoo Sports](#) · [Goal.com](#)

⑤ STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

■ STRENGTHS	■ AREAS TO WATCH
<p>✓ ■ Explosive Pace</p> <p>One of the fastest wingers in La Liga — consistently near the top of sprint speed charts. Near-impossible to stop once he has space.</p>	<p>✗ ■ Chronic Injury Record</p> <p>Multiple hamstring, muscle, and hernia issues across recent seasons. Spent 85+ days out in 2025-26 alone — fitness is the biggest question mark.</p>
<p>✓ ■ Big-Game Clutch</p> <p>Scored the opening goal of the Euro 2024 final vs England and named Player of the Match. Raises his game on the biggest stages.</p>	<p>✗ ■ Inconsistency</p> <p>When fully fit he is elite, but injury disruptions have prevented sustained form, particularly throughout 2025-26.</p>
<p>✓ ■ Inverted Winger Threat</p> <p>Plays left wing but shoots with his stronger right foot — creates a cutting angle that is notoriously difficult to defend against.</p>	<p>✗ ■ World Cup Inexperience</p> <p>Made only 4 appearances (1 start) at Qatar 2022. The 2026 tournament is his first as a genuine star — major-tournament pressure is an unknown.</p>
<p>✓ ■ Partnership with Yamal</p> <p>The Yamal–Williams left-right combination is arguably the most dangerous winger pairing at the tournament. Chemistry is natural and deep.</p>	<p>✗ ■ Decision-Making</p> <p>Can rush final-third choices under pressure — occasionally opts for a difficult shot over a simpler pass when fatigued.</p>