

# WILLIAM SALIBA

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 · PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

■ FRANCE · ARSENAL · #2 · CENTRE-BACK




■ FIT FOR WORLD CUP — Named in France's 26-man squad. **30 PL apps, 92.9% pass accuracy, 125 duels won in 2025-26. Arsenal in UCL final vs PSG (Budapest). France open vs Senegal, June 2026.**

## ■ FEATURED ON NEKTR BLOGS

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France enter the 2026 World Cup as one of the tournament favourites — 2018 champions and 2022 finalists — with a squad that could be their deepest ever. Group stage vs Senegal, Iraq and Norway. Full previews at Nektr.

■ [blogs.nektr.co](https://blogs.nektr.co) · @cosmicknox · Sports · May 2026



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■ [fantasy.sportsbrackets.net](https://fantasy.sportsbrackets.net) · 2026 Brackets League World Tournament

## ① SHORT BIO

**Full name:** William Saliba | **Born:** March 24, 2001 — Bondy, Seine-Saint-Denis, France | **Age at WC 2026:** 25 | **Height:** 1.93 m, 92 kg | **Foot:** Right

William Saliba is one of the most complete young centre-backs in world football. Born in Bondy — the same Paris suburb as Kylian Mbappé — he came through the Saint-Étienne academy before **Arsenal signed him for £27M in 2019**. Three loan spells back in France (Saint-Étienne, Nice, Marseille) developed him into a dominant defender before he returned to the Emirates in 2022 and immediately became one of the Premier League's best centre-backs. In 2023-24 he became the **first Arsenal outfield player since Lee Dixon in 1989/90 to play every single minute of a PL season** — winning possession 213 times, more than any other central defender in the division. In 2025-26 he has recorded **30 PL appearances, 92.9% passing accuracy and 125 duels won**. Legend Marcel Desailly acknowledged Saliba's development into a *'world-class player'* was faster than anticipated. He holds 31+ France caps and enters his first senior World Cup alongside the UCL final in the same extraordinary month of June 2026.

- [Arsenal Official Profile](#)
- [Wikipedia — William Saliba](#)
- [FotMob Stats](#)

## ② PROFESSIONAL STATS

<b>30</b> PL Apps · 2025-26	<b>92.9%</b> Pass Accuracy · PL 2025-26	<b>125</b> Duels Won · PL 2025-26	<b>7.16</b> FotMob Rating · PL 2025-26
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Competition	Season	Apps	Goals	Assists	Notes
Premier League	2025-26	30	1	0	92.9% pass; 125 duels won
Champions League	2025-26	~10	0	0	UCL final vs PSG
Premier League	2024-25	~32	~1	~1	PL title challenge
Premier League	2023-24	38	~1	0	Every minute — first since Dixon
France (Senior)	Career	31+	~1	~1	31 caps; WC squad named
Euro 2024	Germany	~4	0	0	France QF exit

■ FotMob ■ FBref.com ■ Transfermarkt

## ③ SOCIAL MEDIA & OFFICIAL LINKS

■ Instagram	<a href="#">@williamsaliba.ws2</a>	Match moments, Arsenal life, France national team
■ X (Twitter)	<a href="#">@SalibaWilliam</a>	Official updates and match reactions
■ YouTube	<a href="#">Arsenal Official</a>	Saliba highlights & Arsenal content
■ Arsenal Page	<a href="#">arsenal.com</a>	Official stats, career history and news
■ FIFA WC Hub	<a href="#">FIFA Official</a>	World Cup 2026 squad & tournament hub

## ④ TOP 3 TRENDING STORIES

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### Arsenal in UCL Final — Saliba Faces PSG Teammates Before WC

Arsenal have reached the **2025-26 UEFA Champions League final against PSG in Budapest** — meaning Saliba will face PSG teammate and fellow France international Ousmane Dembélé in the biggest club match of his career, just weeks before the World Cup begins. Roundtable.io confirmed Saliba has been '*central to Mikel Arteta's side as Arsenal prepare for the Champions League final.*' A UCL winners medal would be the crowning moment of his club career heading into the tournament.

■ Sources: Roundtable.io · FotMob

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### 92.9% Pass Accuracy & 125 Duels Won — Among PL's Best CBs in 2025-26

Saliba's 2025-26 PL season has been defined by statistical excellence. myKhel's analysis confirmed: **30 league appearances, 92.9% passing accuracy, and 125 duels won over 2,525 minutes**. His 7.16 FotMob average is among the highest for any Premier League centre-back this season. Marcel Desailly's assessment that Saliba's development into a *'world-class player'* exceeded expectations is backed emphatically by this data — few defenders in world football combine his composure, physicality, and passing range.

■ Sources: [myKhel](#) · [Arsenal.com](#)

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### Bondy's Other World-Class Export — First Senior World Cup at 25

William Saliba was born in Bondy — the same Parisian suburb that produced Kylian Mbappé. The two France internationals from the same 93 arrondissement will now compete together at a World Cup for the first time. myKhel noted Saliba's **'desire for revenge after not playing in the 2022 World Cup final'** — he was part of the squad but did not feature in the final defeat to Argentina. At 25 and entering his prime, 2026 is the World Cup where he establishes himself as France's defensive pillar for the next decade.

■ Sources: [myKhel](#) · [Get French Football News](#)

## ⑤ STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

■ STRENGTHS	■ AREAS TO WATCH
<p>✓ ■ <b>Elite Ball-Playing CB</b></p> <p>92.9% pass accuracy in PL 2025-26. Among the best passing centre-backs in Europe — comfortable under pressure and in possession.</p>	<p>✗ ■ <b>International Foothold</b></p> <p>31 caps but not yet undisputed France starter — competes with Upamecano, Konaté and others. Must nail down his place in Deschamps' XI.</p>
<p>✓ ■ <b>Recovery Pace</b></p> <p>Exceptional acceleration and recovery speed for a 1.93m defender — can cover behind quickly, making him difficult to run in behind.</p>	<p>✗ ■ <b>UCL Final Fatigue</b></p> <p>Playing a UCL final days before international duty begins carries significant physical risk — recovery time before the WC opener is limited.</p>
<p>✓ ■ <b>UCL Final Experience</b></p> <p>Arsenal in the UCL final gives Saliba a unique layer of big-game experience just before the World Cup — composure in the highest stakes.</p>	<p>✗ ■ <b>Leadership Profile</b></p> <p>Yet to be a dominant vocal leader at international level — making that step up alongside experienced France leaders is the next challenge.</p>
<p>✓ ■ <b>Age &amp; Trajectory</b></p> <p>At 25 he is entering his prime years. Marcel Desailly's validation as 'world-class' and his statistical dominance point to a peak still ahead of him.</p>	<p>✗ ■ <b>WC Final Experience</b></p> <p>Unlike Mbappé, Saliba did not play in the 2022 WC final. High-pressure knockout football for France at this level remains untested for him.</p>