



INTERNATIONAL RUGBY BOARD

SIX NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH PREVIEW

SCOTLAND



FRANCE

Sunday 26th February 2012, KO: 15:00

Murrayfield, Edinburgh

HEADLINES

- France scrumhalf MORGAN PARRA needs just one more point to overtake Serge Blanco on France's all-time points scoring table.
- Scotland needs just one more point to break the 1000 barrier in terms of points scored against France in all competitions.
- MORGAN PARRA and FRANCOIS TRINH-DUC make their 17th Test appearance together as France's halfbacks, equalling that of Pierre Berbizier and Franck Mesnel. They made their championship debuts together against Scotland in 2008.
- Scotland has lost their last four matches but has not lost five consecutive Tests since 2004.
- France has lost their last two Six Nations games away from their Stade de France base against Italy and England but has not lost at Murrayfield since 2006.

SIX NATIONS HISTORY

- DIMITRI SZARZEWSKI is the only France player in the starting XV who has ever experienced a Championship defeat against Scotland. That came in 2006, when Scotland beat France 20-16.
- Scotland's most recent victory against France came in 2006 when they beat Les Bleus 20-16 at Murrayfield. You have to go back 13 years to 1999 to find their most recent win before that - a famous 36-22 victory against the French at the Stade de France.
- Scotland's last victory in the Six Nations came in 21-8 win against Italy at Murrayfield last season. They have not lost five in a row since 2004, a stat that will become reality if they lose to France.

HEAD TO HEAD

- Scotland and France have played each other 84 times in total, with Scotland winning 34 times and France 47. There have been three draws in that time. Scotland have scored 999 points in these fixtures, to France's 1163.
- Scotland have scored 127 tries in the history of this fixture while the French have managed 148.
- Since the beginning of the Six Nations back in 2000, France have dominated the meetings between the two sides, winning all but one (2006) and scoring 314 points in the process while conceding only 132. They've also scored 33 tries in that time, to Scotland's 11.
- France have won the last five Test encounters between the two countries dating back to 2007. In that time they've scored an average of 29 points against Scotland, conceding an average of just 14.
- Seven of the France 22 - JEAN-BAPTISTE POUX, THIERRY DUSAUTOIR, MORGAN PARRA, FRANCOIS TRINH-DUC, JULIEN MALZIEU, JULIEN BONNAIRE and MAXIME MERMOZ - made their Six Nations debuts for their country against Scotland.

2012 6 Nations Records

>> Points

Points	Player
30	Leigh Halfpenny Wales
22	Owen Farrell England
14	Kris Burton Italy

>> Tries

Tries	Player
2	Leigh Halfpenny Wales
2	Jonathan Davies Wales
2	Charlie Hodgson England

All Time Records

>> Points

Points	Player
551	Ronan O'Gara Ireland
546	Jonny Wilkinson England
467	Stephen Jones Wales

>> Tries

Tries	Player
25	Brian O'Driscoll Ireland
24	Ian Smith Scotland
22	Shane Williams Wales



Facts & Figures

STARTING LINEUPS

- France coach Philippe Saint-André picks the same starting XV that was due to take the field in the postponed match against Ireland a fortnight ago. There are five changes from the team that beat Italy in Round 1. MORGAN PARRA starts in place of the injured Dimitri Yachvili while JEAN-BAPTISTE POUX and DIMITRI SZARZEWSKI replace VINCENT DEBATY and WILLIAM SERVAT from the side that lined against Italy. YOANN MAESTRI makes his first Championship appearance in place of LIONEL NALLET while IMANOL HARINORDOQUY comes in for JULIEN BONNAIRE.
- Scotland coach Andy Robinson has made four changes to the side beaten 27-13 by Wales at the Millenium Stadium. 19 year old STUART HOGG starts at fullback in place of RORY LAMONT who switches to the right wing. LEE JONES switches from the right to left wings for Max Evans, who drops out of the matchday 22. Elsewhere, SEAN LAMONT switches from inside to outside centre, making space for the return of GRAEME MORRISON to the 12 jersey. JOHN BARCLAY also makes a return at blindside wingforward for the injured Ally Strokosch while MIKE BLAIR is preferred to CHRIS CUSITER at scrumhalf.
- 15 of France's match day squad lined out for their clubs in last weekend's round of Top 14 matches.
- MIKE BLAIR wins his 78th cap for Scotland and will be his country's most experienced player on the field against France, having made his Championship debut in a 3-38 defeat to Les Bleus back in 2003.
- JEAN-BAPTISTE POUX, who wins his 39th cap for France this weekend, made his Six Nations debut in this fixture in 2002. France won the game 22-11.

ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

- France are able to field another experienced side against Scotland, counting a total of 582 caps in their ranks. The average age of France's starting XV is two years younger than it was against Italy in Round 1, at 28. On the bench France's four forwards have an exceptionally experienced look to them and an average age of 33.
- Scotland are nearly 150 caps lighter than France, having a total of 437 caps in their starting XV. They have a younger side however, with four players with five Test appearances or less, and an average age one year less than the French, at 27.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

- STUART HOGG starts his first Test and Six Nations start against France at Murrayfield. The Glasgow Warriors fullback, who turns 20 in June of this year, won his first cap when he came off the bench a fortnight ago against Wales.
- Glasgow Warriors flyhalf DUNCAN WEIR will win his first cap for Scotland if he comes off the bench at any stage.
- YOANN MAESTRI makes his first Six Nations start for France against Scotland, having made his debut as a replacement in the Round 1 victory over Italy.
- Stade Francais scrumhalf JULIEN DUPUY will make his Six Nations debut if comes off the bench to feature against Scotland, despite making his debut against New Zealand in 2009 and winning a total of six caps since.

SIZE MATTERS

- Toulousain YOANN MAESTRI lines out as the heaviest and tallest Frenchman at Murrayfield this weekend, weighing in at 119kg and measuring 2.01m in height.
- RICHIE GRAY (2.08m - 130kg) and JIM HAMILTON (2.03m - 124kg) are the heaviest and tallest second row combination in the Six Nations.
- The France pack are on average 5kg a man lighter than their Scottish rivals.

FAMINE OR FEAST

- Andy Robinson's winning ratio has fallen to just over 46% after the most recent defeat to Wales. Scoring tries has been a problem for the duration of his stewardship, with Scotland averaging less than one try a game (0.81 per game). In their last five matches Scotland has scored just one try. France have scored eight in their last five games although four of those came in the Six Nations clash with Italy earlier this month.

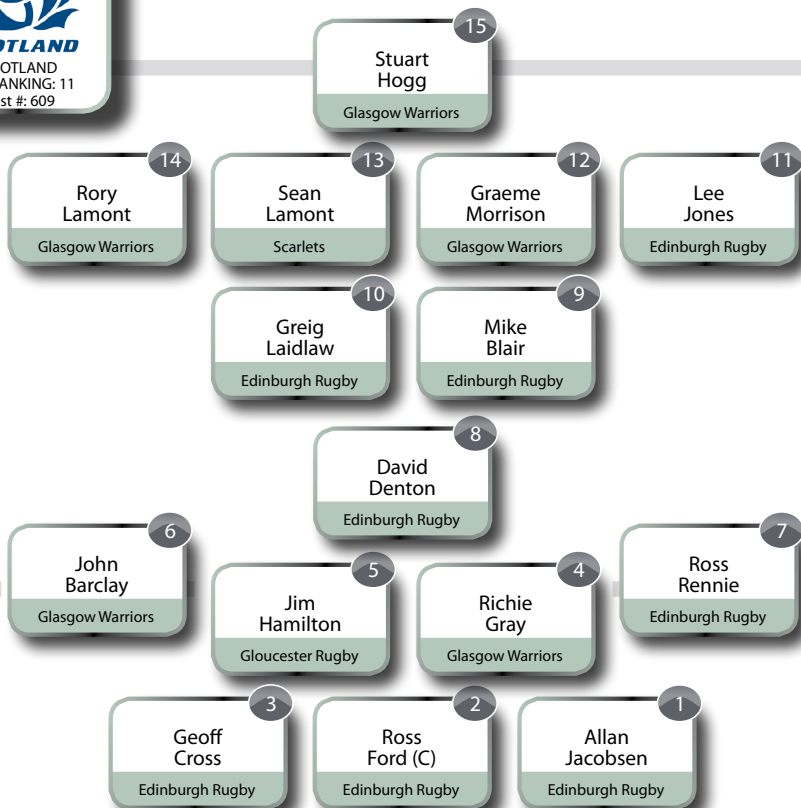
MAN IN THE MIDDLE

- Wayne Barnes officiates his 39th Test this weekend. He made his international debut in June 2006, when he refereed the Junior All Blacks versus Tonga. It will be his third Test at Murrayfield.

Team Sheets



SCOTLAND
IRB RANKING: 11
Test #: 609



Replacements

- 16 Scott Lawson (Gloucester Rugby)
- 17 Ed Kalman (Glasgow Warriors)
- 18 Alastair Kellock (Glasgow Warriors)
- 19 Richie Vernon (Sale Sharks)
- 20 Chris Cusiter (Glasgow Warriors)
- 21 Duncan Weir (Glasgow Warriors)
- 22 Nick De Luca (Edinburgh Rugby)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 437
Avg Age Starting Lineup: 27
Oldest Player: Allan Jacobsen (33)
Youngest Player: Stuart Hogg (19)
Avg Weight Forwards: 114 kg

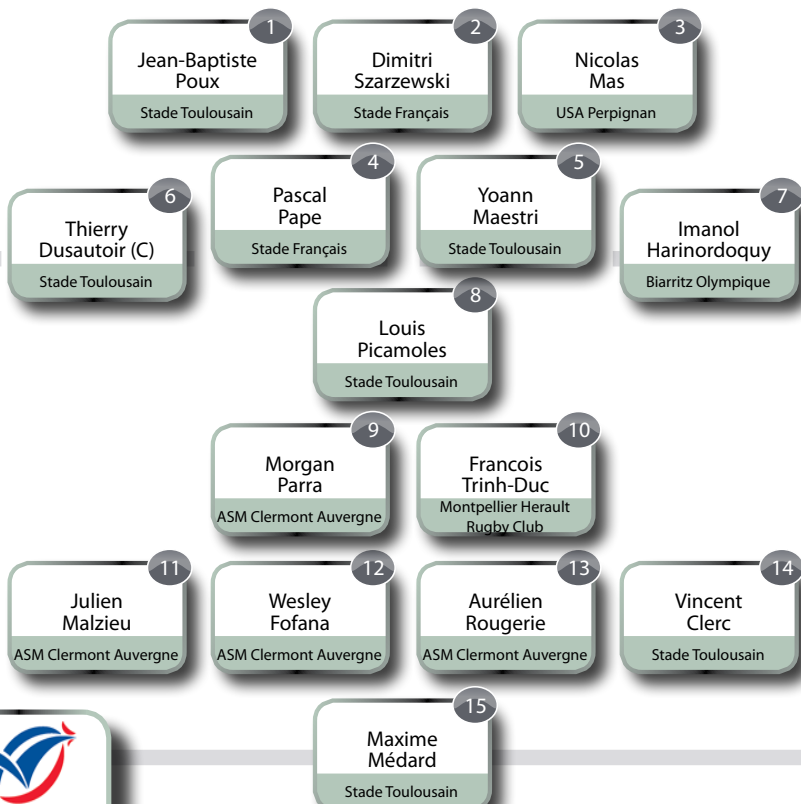
Officials

Referee:
Wayne Barnes (England) - 38 Tests
Tests at Venue: 2 Tests
Scotland: 4 Tests
France: 6 Tests
Test Debut: 17/06/2006 - Junior All Blacks v Tonga

Assistant Referee 1:
Alain Rolland (Ireland)

Assistant Referee 2:
Simon McDowell (Ireland)

TV Match Official:
Geoff Warren (England)



Replacements

- 16 William Servat (Stade Toulousain)
- 17 Vincent Debaty (ASM Clermont Auvergne)
- 18 Lionel Nallet (Racing Metro 92)
- 19 Julien Bonnaire (ASM Clermont Auvergne)
- 20 Julien Dupuy (Stade Français)
- 21 Lionel Beauxis (Stade Toulousain)
- 22 Maxime Mermoz (USA Perpignan)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 582
Avg Age Starting Lineup: 28
Oldest Player: Lionel Nallet (35)
Youngest Player: Morgan Parra (23)
Avg Weight Forwards: 109 kg



FFR
FRANCE
IRB RANKING: 3
Test #: 679



Head to Head

Recent Results

Date	Team A	Result	Team B	Venue
05/02/2011	France	34 - 21	Scotland	St Denis
07/02/2010	Scotland	9 - 18	France	Edinburgh
14/02/2009	France	22 - 13	Scotland	St Denis
03/02/2008	Scotland	6 - 27	France	Edinburgh
17/03/2007	France	46 - 19	Scotland	St Denis

Summary

Scotland		84 Matches (3 Draw)	France	
34	Won		47	
999	Points		1163	
127	Tries		148	
65	Conversions		73	
122	Penalties		111	
15	Drop Goals		27	

Player Records

For Scotland against France		For France against Scotland	
2 Players - 12	Appearances	14 - Philippe Sella	
Gavin Hastings - 116	Points	42 - 2 Players	
2 Players - 6	Tries	5 - Serge Blanco	
Frederick Turner - 9	Conversions	6 - 2 Players	
Gavin Hastings - 33	Penalties	10 - 2 Players	
3 Players - 2	Drop Goals	2 - 4 Players	

Player Records in a Match

For Scotland against France		For France against Scotland	
Michael Dods on 03/02/1996 - 19	Points	28 - Frédéric Michalak on 25/10/2003	
Ian Smith on 24/01/1925 - 4	Tries	3 - Eric Bonneval on 07/03/1987	
Frederick Turner on 20/01/1912 - 5	Conversions	5 - Lionel Beauxis on 17/03/2007	
Gavin Hastings on 18/01/1986 - 6	Penalties	6 - Christophe Lamaison on 15/03/1997	
Bryan Gossman on 05/02/1983 - 2	Drop Goals	2 - On 2 Occasions	

Team Records in a Match

For Scotland against France		For France against Scotland	
On 10/04/1999 - 36	Points	51 - On 2 Occasions	
On 2 Occasions - 7	Tries	7 - On 21/02/1998	
On 20/01/1912 - 5	Conversions	5 - On 2 Occasions	
On 18/01/1986 - 6	Penalties	6 - On 15/03/1997	
On 05/02/1983 - 2	Drop Goals	3 - On 19/01/1991	



Head Coach: Andy Robinson

Debut: 14/11/2009 v Fiji (W 23-10)
 Winning Ratio: 46.15%
 Average Tries per Match: 0.81

Recent Matches

Date	Opponent	Result	Venue
12/02/2012	Wales	L 13 27	Cardiff
04/02/2012	England	L 6 13	Edinburgh
01/10/2011	England	L 12 16	Auckland
25/09/2011	Argentina	L 12 13	Wellington
14/09/2011	Georgia	W 15 6	Invercargill
Points For		58	
Points Ag		75	
Tries For		1	
Tries Ag		6	

Scotland Record Under Andy Robinson

12 Wins	1 Drawn	13 Lost
408 For	Points	460 Against
21 For	Tries	42 Against
15 For	Conversions	32 Against
75 For	Penalties	59 Against
16 For	Drop Goals	3 Against

Player Info For Scotland

Player	Pos	Age	Debut	Caps	Caps as Sub	Caps v Opponent	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs
Allan Jacobsen	1	33	15/06/2002	62	14	6	24	1	37	0	0	0	0	0
Ross Ford (C)	2	27	06/11/2004	55	11	5	22	1	32	10	2	0	0	0
Geoff Cross	3	29	08/02/2009	10	5	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	0
Richie Gray	4	22	07/02/2010	18	6	2	8	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Jim Hamilton	5	29	11/11/2006	36	8	3	12	1	23	5	1	0	0	0
John Barclay	6	25	23/09/2007	34	3	4	13	1	20	10	2	0	0	0
Ross Rennie	7	25	23/02/2008	13	9	1	6	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
David Denton	8	22	06/08/2011	3	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Blair	9	30	15/06/2002	77	36	6	30	0	47	35	7	0	0	0
Greig Laidlaw	10	26	13/11/2010	4	3	0	1	0	3	13	1	1	2	0
Lee Jones	11	23	04/02/2012	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Graeme Morrison	12	29	13/06/2004	32	6	2	14	1	17	15	3	0	0	0
Sean Lamont	13	31	04/06/2004	62	3	5	26	1	35	40	8	0	0	0
Rory Lamont	14	29	13/03/2005	28	3	2	12	0	16	30	6	0	0	0
Stuart Hogg	15	19	12/02/2012	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total				437	109	36	172	7	258	158	30	1	2	0
Scott Lawson	16	30	05/06/2005	31	22	2	13	1	17	10	2	0	0	0
Ed Kalman	17	29	12/02/2012	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Alastair Kellock	18	30	06/11/2004	38	14	3	17	1	20	5	1	0	0	0
Richie Vernon	19	24	14/11/2009	15	10	1	7	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Cusiter	20	29	14/02/2004	57	22	7	19	1	37	15	3	0	0	0
Duncan Weir	21	20		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nick De Luca	22	28	03/02/2008	31	15	3	12	1	18	5	1	0	0	0

Records For Scotland

Caps

109 - Chris Paterson
87 - Scott Murray
82 - Gregor Townsend

Tries

24 - Tony Stanger
24 - Ian Smith
22 - Chris Paterson

Points

809 - Chris Paterson
667 - Gavin Hastings
273 - Andy Irvine

Player Records (In a Match)

Points: 44 - Gavin Hastings v Cote D'Ivoire on 26/05/1995
Tries: 5 - George Lindsay v Wales on 26/02/1887
Conversions: 11 - Chris Paterson v Japan on 13/11/2004
Penalties: 8 - Gavin Hastings v Tonga on 30/05/1995
Drop Goals: 2 - 11 players

Team Records (In a Match)

Points: 100 v Japan on 13/11/2004
Tries: 15 v Japan on 13/11/2004
Conversions: 11 v Japan on 13/11/2004
Penalties: 8 v Tonga on 30/05/1995
Drop Goals: 3 on 2 Occasions





Head Coach: Philippe Saint-Andre

Debut: 04/02/2012 v Italy (W 30-12)
 Winning Ratio: 100.00%
 Average Tries per Match: 4.00

France Record Under Philippe Saint-Andre

1 Wins	0 Drawn	0 Lost
30 For	Points	12 Against
4 For	Tries	0 Against
2 For	Conversions	0 Against
2 For	Penalties	3 Against
0 For	Drop Goals	1 Against

Recent Matches

Date	Opponent	Result	Venue
04/02/2012	Italy	W 30 12	St Denis
23/10/2011	New Zealand	L 7 8	Auckland
15/10/2011	Wales	W 9 8	Auckland
08/10/2011	England	W 19 12	Auckland
01/10/2011	Tonga	L 14 19	Wellington
Points For		79	
Points Ag		59	
Tries For		8	
Tries Ag		5	

Player Info For France

Player	Pos	Age	Debut	Caps	Caps as Sub	Caps v Opponent	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs
Jean-Baptiste Poux	1	32	24/11/2001	38	20	1	24	0	14	15	3	0	0	0
Dimitri Szarzewski	2	29	10/07/2004	57	30	4	38	0	19	30	6	0	0	0
Nicolas Mas	3	31	28/06/2003	50	13	4	32	0	18	0	0	0	0	0
Pascal Pape	4	31	14/02/2004	36	7	3	22	1	13	15	3	0	0	0
Yoann Maestri	5	24	04/02/2012	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thierry Dusautoir (C)	6	30	17/06/2006	50	2	4	31	0	19	30	6	0	0	0
Imanol Harinordoquy	7	32	16/02/2002	78	17	7	51	1	26	65	13	0	0	0
Louis Picamoles	8	26	09/02/2008	22	10	1	12	0	10	5	1	0	0	0
Morgan Parra	9	23	03/02/2008	37	12	4	25	0	12	232	2	33	51	1
Francois Trinh-Duc	10	25	03/02/2008	36	9	3	22	0	14	70	9	2	1	6
Julien Malzieu	11	28	03/02/2008	17	5	2	12	0	5	25	5	0	0	0
Wesley Fofana	12	24	04/02/2012	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0
Aurélien Rougerie	13	31	10/11/2001	72	6	7	47	0	25	115	23	0	0	0
Vincent Clerc	14	30	09/11/2002	58	11	5	37	1	20	160	32	0	0	0
Maxime Médard	15	25	08/11/2008	29	4	2	19	0	10	48	9	0	0	1
Total				582	147	47	374	3	205	815	113	35	52	8
William Servat	16	34	14/02/2004	45	10	5	30	1	14	10	2	0	0	0
Vincent Debaty	17	30	17/06/2006	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lionel Nallet	18	35	28/05/2000	71	18	5	48	0	23	45	9	0	0	0
Julien Bonnaire	19	33	21/03/2004	71	19	7	48	1	22	30	6	0	0	0
Julien Dupuy	20	28	13/06/2009	6	2	0	3	0	3	35	0	4	9	0
Lionel Beauxis	21	26	03/02/2007	16	8	2	11	0	5	110	1	18	21	2
Maxime Mermoz	22	25	05/07/2008	16	3	2	8	0	8	5	1	0	0	0

Records For France

Caps

118 - Fabien Pelous
 111 - Philippe Sella
 98 - Raphaël Ibanez

Tries

38 - Serge Blanco
 32 - Philippe Saint-Andre
 32 - Vincent Clerc

Points

380 - Christophe Lamaison
 367 - Thierry Lacroix
 367 - Dimitri Yachvili

Player Records (In a Match)

Points: 30 - Didier Camberbero v Zimbabwe on 02/06/1987
 Tries: 4 - 2 players
 Conversions: 11 - Jean-Baptiste Elissalde v Namibia on 16/09/2007
 Penalties: 8 - Thierry Lacroix v Ireland on 10/06/1995
 Drop Goals: 3 - 3 players

Team Records (In a Match)

Points: 87 v Namibia on 16/09/2007
 Tries: 13 on 3 Occasions
 Conversions: 11 v Namibia on 16/09/2007
 Penalties: 8 v Ireland on 10/06/1995
 Drop Goals: 3 on 5 Occasions