



FRANCE

v ENGLAND

Saturday 23 February 2008

Stade de France

Referee: Steve Walsh (NZ)

Touch judges: 1 Alain Rolland (Ireland), 2 Carlo Damasco (Italy)

TMO: George Clancy (Ireland)

2008 Six Nations

03.02.08

v Scotland

Murrayfield

Won 27-6

15-Heymans 14-Clerc 13-Marty 12-Traille 11-Malzieu 10-Trinh-Duc 9-Elissalde 8-Vermeulen 7-Ouedraogo 6-Dusautoir 5-Nallet © 4-Jacquet 3-Brugnaut 2-Servat 1-Faure

Subs used: Szarzewski, Mas, Bonnaire, Skrela, Mela, Parra, Rougerie

T: Clerc 2, Malzieu C: Elissalde 2, Skrela PG: Traille 2

RBS Man of Match: Vincent Clerc (France)

Referee: Alain Rolland (Ireland)

09.02.08

v Ireland

Paris

Won 26-21

15-Heymans 14-Rougerie 13-Marty 12-Traille 11-Clerc 10-Skrela 9-Elissalde 8-Bonnaire 7-Ouedraogo 6-Dusautoir 5-Mela 4-Nallet © 3-Mas 2-Szarzewski 1-Faure

Subs: Jacquet, Servat, Brugnaut, Picamoles, Parra, Trinh-Duc

Bench: Floch

T: Clerc 3, Heymans C: Elissalde 3

RBS Man of the Match: Vincent Clerc (France)

Referee: Nigel Owens (Wales)

TEAM v England

Following a right calf muscle injury to Jean-Baptiste Elissalde, France will field an inexperienced half back pair of Francois Trinh-Duc and Morgan Parra against England. They have two caps each and one start between them. There are two changes in the pack where lock Romain Millo-Chlusi and No 8 Louis Picamoles will win only their second caps. To accommodate Picamoles, Julien Bonnaire moves to No 6 and Thierry Dusautoir to No 7. Jean Baptiste Poux and Dimitri Yachvili, who were called up after injuries to prop Julien Brugnaut and Elissalde, find a place on the bench.

15 Cedric Heymans (Stade Toulousain)

- **20.07.78** **1.80m** **96kgs**
- **40th cap – 11T = 55pts**
- **Debut: 2000 v Italy**
- **4th test v England – no pts**
- Played full back in the RWC2007 warm-up v Wales, and the RWC opener v Argentina (12-17) then went back to the wing to play 4 more times in the event – 1T v Namibia
- Born at Brive, played senior rugby for Agen, and moved to Toulouse in 1998.
- Now in 10th season with the Toulouse club, and can play in all three-quarter positions.
- Part of 2004 Grand Slam, and 2006 and 2007 Six Nations wins
- French championship medals in 1999 and 2001, Heineken Cup winning squads 2003 and 2005



14 Aurelien Rougerie (ASM Clermont-Auvergne)

- **26.09.80** **1.94m** **93kgs**
- **54th cap - 20T = 100pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v S Africa**
- 7th test v England – 1T in 2003 (played 4 times v England in 2003)
- Played 5 RWC2007 games, no tries, under Laporte, and has scored only 1T in his last 13 tests before England 2008
- Clermont captain in losing 2007 French Championship final, scored try in semi to beat favourites Toulouse, and was equal top scorer in the competition with 12T
- Won 2007 European Challenge Cup medal v Bath in final
- Is now 8th equal on French try scoring lists with Patrice Lagisquet (20), and 6th is Christian Darrouy (23).
- 2002 Grand Slam XV– but missed the 2004 Grand Slam season through injury. Also 2006 Six nations win
- Father Jacques Rougerie played for France as prop/hooker in 1973 - one cap v Japan – and also played for Clermont-Auvergne (formerly Montferrand), though had retired before son was born. Father Jacques was nicknamed 'The Cube' at 5-11 and 16-0.
- Mother was in Clermont-Ferrand team that won French Basketball Premier division, and also played for France.
- From Clermont-Auvergne (Montferrand) club juniors, first played for them in mini rugby aged 6, and in first XV from 1999 aged 19.

13 David Marty (USA Perpignan)

- **30.10.82** **1.80m** **89kgs**
- **22nd cap – 8T = 40pts**
- **Debut: 2005 v Italy**
- 4th test v England – no pts
- Played in both the 2006 and 2007 Six Nations wins, took over from injured Florian Fritz as first choice in 2007 success. Now takes over from Fritz again in 2008 after Fritz broke a leg in training on 30.01.08 before the Scotland game
- Started the last 6 RWC2007 games with 1T v Namibia
- Useful try scorer - 2T on test debut v Italy 2005. Also scored 2T v Ireland in 2006 and then promptly demoted to bench for next game v Italy
- Born at Perpignan, played for junior feeder clubs Villelongue and Canet, and joined USAP in 2000 aged 17. First team squad at USAP from 2002 aged 19.
- France at U21 level, and in 2004, he scored 5T v Italy A.

12 Damien Traille (Biarritz Olympique)

- **12.06.79** **1.93m** **102kgs**
- **61st cap - 12T 7C 12PG 1DG = 113pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v SA**
- 10th test v England – 2T = 10pts (1T in 2003, 2006)
- 5 games at RWC 2007 – first three in centre, then 2 at full back including mishap in semi v England
- Was an injury doubt at the time of the selection of the RWC 30 squad players on 14 June, but can play fly-half, centre and full back
- Returned to squad after injury in January 2007 – his previous 4 tests (summer 2006 v SA, and all 3 autumn series tests (v NZ (2) and Argentina) were at fly-half after injuries (Michalak) and the need to experiment
- 4th season at Biarritz, won 2005 and 2006 French Club Championships in first two seasons
- Formerly at Pau, whom he played for from 1997 to 2004 in the 1st XV, father Rene played for France A. Won 2000 European Challenge Cup medal
- Integral part of Grand Slam XV's of 2002 and 2004 playing all 10 games, then added 2006 and 2007 Six Nations medals



11 **Vincent Clerc (Stade Toulousain)**

- **07.05.81** **1.78m** **89kgs**
- **31st cap – 20T = 100pts**
- **Debut: 2002 v S Africa**
- 4th test v England – no pts
- This season's current leading try scorer in the Six Nations with 5T – all time record is 8T by Cyril Lowe (England) in 1914 and Ian Smith (Scotland) in 1925. Has already equalled the French record of 5T in a tournament
- Only the 5th player to score a hat trick in the International Championship in one half of a match (v Ireland 2008) – the last was Ireland's Eugene Davy in 1930 v Scotland (Davy scored 3T in 8 mins!)
- Also current top scorer in 2007-08 Top 14 with 7T
- Scourge of Ireland in 2007-08 – winning try in first Croke Park game, then 2T in RWC (25-3) group game, and then 3T in last match
- RWC2007 – played in the last six games and scored 3T v Namibia and 2T v Ireland
- Burst onto the scene in the 2002 autumn tests and played 10 of 11 tests in 2002-03 before being dropped after loss in NZ in summer 2003 and did not make RWC2003 squad.
- Had only played 3 tests in the 2 years of 2005 and 2006 before his 2007 recall – 2 tests in 2005 and then scored 2T v South Africa in lone 2006 test (36-26)
- Formerly with Grenoble, he won 2003 Heineken Cup medal in first season with Toulouse with the club's try in the final v Perpignan.
- Was equal top try scorer in 2002-03 Heineken Cup with 7T, and won second winners medal in 2005.

10 **Francois Trinh-Duc (RC Montpellier-Herault)**

- **11.11.86** **1.84m** **85kgs**
- **3rd cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- 1st test v England
- In fine form in the Top 14 this season and in the French U21 side that was coached by Marc Lievreumont.
- He has been at Montpellier since mini-rugby days, and broke through at the end of 2006-07 when he helped his club stave off relegation.
- Just 18 games in Top 14 but impressing quickly, and was Top 14 Player of Month for November 2007
- Originally a scrum-half, moved to fly-half when he grew in size
- Grandfather from Vietnam (Saigon)
- (Montpellier opened their youth section in 1999, with a specific project for young players, and three of the club team – Trinh-Duc, Piacamoles and Ouedraogo, all born in 1986 - are in this squad)

9 **Morgan Parra (CS Bourgoin-Jallieu)**

- **15.11.88** **1.81m** **85kgs**
- **3rd cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- 1st test v England
- First test start after caps as sub v Scotland and Ireland
- Club debut in Nov 2006 v Agen, and originally No2 to the international fly half Benjamin Boyet, so switched to scrum half
- Like Frederic Michalak and J-B Elissalde he can play in either half-back position and was four days older than Michalak v Scotland 2008. Youngest French international is Claude Dourthe at 18y 7d in 1966 v Romania
- Is from Metz and played junior rugby for Metz and Dijon, and was at the French youth academy at Marcoussis before joining Bourgoin, where Julien Bonnaire was - until recently - one of his team mates



8 **Louis Picamoles (RC Montpellier-Herault)**

- **05.02.86** **1.92m** **106kgs**
- **2nd cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Ireland**
- 1st test v England
- Called up on his 21st birthday to replace Elvis Vermeulen who broke a rib v Scotland 2008 and preferred to Sebastien Chabal etc. On as sub v Ireland for first cap
- Is the third 21 year old from midtable Montpellier in the squad along with Trinh-Duc and Ouedraogo and another from the national U21 side
- Scored 2T for France U21 v England U20 at Northampton in March 2007 in a side captained by Ouedraogo
- Also played for France U19 in 2004 and 2005 and Universities in 2006
- Joined Montpellier from Le Chesnay in 1999, and into the Montpellier youth section in 2001

7 **Thierry Dusautoir (Stade Toulousain)**

- **18.11.81** **1.88m** **95kgs**
- **13th cap – 3T = 15pts**
- **Debut: 2006 v Romania**
- 3rd test v England – no pts
- Into the RWC2007 squad 4 days after the announcement that Elvis Vermeulen needed an operation on a disc in his back and was one of the few French RWC successes – 5 starts and tries v Namibia and NZ after playing in 2 warm-up tests
- Gained first 3 caps in 2006 when he played in June v Romania and SA, then in the side that lost 47-3 to NZ at Lyon
- Born at Abidjan in the Ivory Coast, he began career with Begles-Bordeaux in 2000, then moved in 2003 to Colomiers and in 2004 to Biarritz after completing studies as a chemical engineer
- In a growing career he won the French Championship in both 2005 and 2006 with Biarritz, then moved in summer 2006 to Toulouse after a losing Heineken Cup final v Munster
- Son of French soldier, took up rugby aged 16, after being a judo player.

6 **Julien Bonnaire (ASM Clermont Auvergne)**

- **20.09.78** **1.93m** **100kgs**
- **40th cap – 6T = 30pts**
- **Debut: 2004 v Scotland**
- 7th test v England – no pts
- Only one of this squad to play all 4 tests v England in 2007
- Useful RWC campaign, played 6 of the 7 games, and scored tries v Namibia and Georgia
- Before 2007 Summer tour to NZ when rested, he had played in 28 of the previous 30 tests (there was a three game gap between 1st and 2nd caps).
- Debut in 2004 Grand Slam team, added 2006 and 2007 Six Nations winners medals
- Played in all back row positions in all the 2005 and 2006 and 2007 calendar years
- Originally gained regular place against the 2004 Grand Slam back row of Betsen, Magne and Harinordoquy.
- Born near Bourgoin-Jallieu, he played for junior side St Savin (10kms north of the town) until joining the Bourgoin club in 1999, on the recommendation of former international Marc Cecillon (now jailed), who also started at St-Savin. First Xv from 2001.
- Moved to Clermont-Auvergne after RWC2007 and a rest.



5 **Romain Millo-Chluski (Stade Toulousain)**

- **20.04.83** **1.95m** **113kgs**
- **2nd cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2005 v SA**
- 1st test v England
- One previous cap in the 30-30 draw with SA on 2005 summer tour (18.06.05 at Durban) when he partnered Pascal Pape (also called into England game) at lock
- Otherwise a loyal club servant at Toulouse – joined in 2000 from Paris suburbs club Massy, and made the Toulouse first XV from 2004, and has had 4 seasons as first choice
- 2005 Heineken Cup winners medal then won first cap.

4 **Lionel Nallet (Castres Olympique)(captain)**

- **14.09.76** **1.96m** **116kgs**
- **35th cap – 5T = 25pts**
- **Debut: 2000 v Romania**
- 5th test v England – no pts
- Third captaincy of France – after Ibanez and Pelous retired – and is the 12th lock to captain France. Is Lievreumont's first captain
- 4 games at RWC 2007 – 2T v Namibia and 1T Georgia more than doubled his test try tally, but was dropped by Laporte for the semi v England
- Recalled for the 2005 autumn tests (played all 4 games) in place of the injured Pascal Pape (back operation) and has since kept ahead of his former club colleague and recently deputised for the injured Pelous
- Then played 9 of the 10 tests of 2006 (3 starts) and retained place in 2007, and had a run of 14 consecutive tests until rested for 2007 summer tour to NZ. Picked up Six Nations winners medals in 2006 and 2007
- His previous caps before 2005 recall had all been in 2000-03 era
- Good solid lock for several seasons in the French championship, he moved from Bourgoin to Castres in 2003.
- Test try on debut v Romania 2000, 2nd test try v Wales 2007, before 3 tries at RWC2007

3 **Nicolas Mas (USA Perpignan)**

- **23.05.80** **1.80m** **110kgs**
- **17th cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2003 v NZ**
- 4th test v England – no pts
- Into the RWC2007 squad when Sylvain Marconnet failed to recover from a broken tibia when skiing during a gap in the Six Nations, and injured ankle during recovery, Mas had been in the squad as cover and he then replaced J-B Poux who had a quadriceps injury for the start of the 2008 Six Nations
- First test in summer 2003 v NZ, missed the RWC2003, then recalled to national squad after De Villiers shoulder injury v Scotland in 2005 opener, and played last four Six Nations games in 2005 for his last caps before 2007.
- Played for France at U19, U21, A, and full levels and then onto full honours.
- 8th season with Perpignan, alongside Perry Freshwater at prop, joined from local junior club Argeles-sur-Mer, which is the Lievreumont's base.
- Played in 2003 Heineken Cup final.



2 **Dimitri Szarzewski (Stade Francais)**

- **26.01.83** **1.81m** **102kgs**
- **25th cap – 3T = 15pts**
- **Debut: 2004 v Canada**
- 4th test v England – no pts
- Played first six games at RWC2007 as back-up to Raphael Ibanez, the captain.
- Has had two serious injuries in 2006 (achilles) and 2007 (shoulder), which has meant long absences, but returned as sub in the 2007 French Championship final win for Stade Francais. And went on to RWC.
- 3 games in 2006 Six Nations win, only the first game (Italy) in 2007 success
- Emerged as first choice in the 2005 autumn tests (v Australia and SA) after moving from Beziers (relegated to D2) to Stade Francais in summer 2005.
- Has put on 10kgs (92 to 102kgs) at Stade.
- Brought up in the Beziers system, where the coach was French scrum half J-B Elissalde's father
- First test try v SA in autumn 2005, then scored tries v Wales and Romania in 2006

1 **Lionel Faure (Sale Sharks, England)**

- **26.11.77** **1.86m** **118kgs**
- **3rd cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- 1st test v England
- Test debut at start of 2008 Six Nations aged 30
- Has been at Sale since summer 2005 and England may have had a look at him from June 2008 – Andrew Sheridan is also a Sale prop – and is the only one of Sale's French contingent in the squad with Chabal and Bruno left out.
- Played senior rugby from the age of 17 at Valence-d'Agen, then in 1998 moved to Clermont Auvergne until 2001.
- Then had spells at La Rochelle alongside Elissalde from 2001-03, and Pau from 2003-05 alongside Traillie
- Now won Premiership with Sale in 2006 and extended contract to 2010

Substitutes

16 **William Servat (Stade Toulousain)**

- **09.02.78** **1.85m** **103kgs**
- **19th cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2004 v Ireland**
- 3rd test v England – no pts
- Won 16 caps in 2004 and 2005 out of 17 tests, and was a starter in all 2004 Grand Slam teams
- Now recalled for 2008 Six Nations after missing 32 tests while France used Szarzewski, Bruno and the returning Ibanez as hooker
- Has continued to shine with the Toulouse club side, whom he joined in 1998 and has won a French Championship medal in 2001, and Heineken Cup winners medals in 2003 and 2005



17 **Jean-Baptiste Poux (Stade Toulousain)**

- **26.05.79** **1.80m** **105kgs**
- **21st cap (if he plays) - 3T = 15pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v Fiji**
- 5th test v England – no pts
- Returned to squad v England 2008 after quadriceps injury and shoulder injury to Julien Brugnaut (Dax). Had played 6 games at RWC2007 and can play both sides of the scrum
- Was recalled for RWC squad in June 2007, despite his previous cap being in the 2003 RWC third place game v NZ, he played 4 games in the 2003 event
- Born at Beziers, but played for the local rivals Narbonne from 1998 to 2002, and was first capped while at Narbonne, which alerted Toulouse
- Played in 2002 Grand Slam success
- Joined Toulouse in summer 2002, and in his 5th season with the club after RWC2007. Heineken Cup winner in 2003 and 2005

18 **Pascal Pape (Stade Francais)**

- **05.10.80** **1.96m** **112kgs**
- **20th cap (if he plays) – 2T = 10pts**
- **Debut: 2004 v Ireland**
- 2nd test v England – no pts
- Recalled after captaining France in his last two tests - v NZ on summer tour 2007 when those from the French championship semi finals could not tour (Stade Francais, Stade Toulousain, Clermont Auvergne, Biarritz) – he then missed RWC warmups, RWC2007 and first two 2008 Six Nations games
- One of 4 recent French captains who were locks – Pelous, Thion, Pape and Nallet
- Moved to Stade Francais in summer 2007 after being Nallet's lock partner at Castres and has refound form
- Try scoring test debut v Ireland 2004. 2nd test try v SA 2005
- Ankle injury in 2005 and a shoulder operation in 2006
- Had been with Bourgoin since the age of 17 in 1997, first team debut in 2002 championship play-offs. Moved to Castres in 2006 to partner Nallet, before his summer 2007 move to the capital

19 **Fulgence Ouedraogo (RC Montpellier-Herault)**

- **21.07.86** **1.90m** **94kgs**
- **4th cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2007 v NZ**
- 1st test v England
- Born at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and moved to France aged 3 though often returns as family have contacts. Bill McLaren –“they'll be dancing in the streets of Ouagadougou when he scores”....
- Debut on NZ tour in summer 2007 when the top 4 clubs could not send players on tour as they were involved in the Championship semis
- Sub in 2nd test v NZ (10-61) for first cap, then started v Scotland in 2008 Six nations opener
- Has been at Montpellier through his career from mini rugby – made Top 14 debut aged 19
- Is from the French U21 team that won the World U21 Championship in 2006 under Marc Lievreumont – and was captain of the national U21 side in 2007 (beat England U20 at Northampton in March)
- Just reached 50 first team games for club



20 **Dimitri Yachvili (Biarritz Olympique)**

- **19.09.80** **1.83m** **84kgs**
- **34th cap (if he plays) - 2T 34C 50PG 2DG = 234pts**
- **Debut: 2002 v Canada**
- 6th test v England – 1T 3C 17PG = 62pts
- Recent scourge of England scoring 19pts in 2004 then 18pts in 2005, and 16pts in 2006 in the 3 French wins
- Is now the top points scorer for France in the Six Nations with 164pts before England 2008
- Not played since the 2007 Six Nations loss to England, and has missed 15 test
- Captain of France on 2005 summer tour in 2nd test v SA
- RWC2003 – played twice v USA (1DG) and in 3rd place v NZ (1C 1PG 1DG)
- Brother played for Georgia in RWC2003, the Yachvili's were one of four sets of brothers to play for different countries at RWC2003. Father played hooker and flank for France - won 16 caps (from 1968-75) - and played for Tulle and Brive. Rugby family
- 5th season back in France and playing for the 2002 and 2005 club champions after his return from Gloucester.
- Originally with PUC (Paris University) and Brive, Dimitri was at Gloucester for one season.

21 **David Skrela (Stade Francais)**

- **02.03.79** **1.90m** **94kgs**
- **14th cap (if he plays) – 8C 21PG = 79pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v New Zealand**
- 4th test v England – 5PG = 15pts (played 3 games v England in 2007)
- Played 3 games at RWC2007 and was not fully fit after injury in opener v Argentina
- First Six Nations season in 2007 win, first rugby union points scorer at Croke Park 2007, then RBS Man of Match v Wales with 19pts. Then picked up injury v England
- Championship medal in 2007 to go along with the 2004 win with Stade Francais
- Is the son of the great Jean-Claude Skrela of Toulouse and France, who won 40 caps from 1971-78 and was in the 1977 Grand Slam XV. J-C is now France's technical director
- David first played for France on the summer 2001 tour scoring all 12pts in a 12-37 defeat v New Zealand. Won 2nd cap with 11pts in 2007 Six Nations opener v Italy nearly six years later
- Originally with Colomiers and moved to Paris in 2003
- Into squad for Frederic Michalak, who had a knee ligament injury and fly-half is a key position after France had tried the centre Damien Traille at No 10 for the previous 4 tests.
- There were 34 half-back pairings under coach Bernard Laporte since 1999 and may switch to his father's club Stade Toulousain in summer 2008

22 **Anthony Floch (ASM Clermont Auvergne)**

- **12.02.83** **1.82m** **80kgs**
- **First cap (if he plays)**
- Joined the squad for Ireland 2008 after his club mate Julien Malzieu withdrew with a thigh injury. Now retains his place after the recalled Clement Poitrenaud broke an ankle on 16.02.08 in a club game for Toulouse v Perpignan
- Played for France U21 in 2004, France A from 2006 and was in the 40-man pre-training squad for RWC2007
- Born at Clermont-Ferrand, joined the local club in 2001, and made first XV debut in 2004
- 2007 European Challenge Cup winners medal (v Bath) and 2007 French Championship finalist (drop goal in final). Prefers full back.



COACH

Marc Lievremont

- **28.10.68**
- Former international back row - took over from Bernard Laporte after RWC2007
- Coaching career: Biarritz Academy (2003-05), France U21 (2003-05 – world U21 champions in 2006), Dax (2005-07 – promoted to Top 14 in 2007)
- International career ended with his 25th cap at the 1999 RWC final when Australia beat France. Scored 5 tries in international career from 1995-99.
- Played for Argeles (1974-88), Perpignan (1988-97), Stade Francais (1997-2000) and Biarritz (2000-2002)
- Born to a military family at Dakar, Senegal, but based at Argeles-sur-Mer, brother Thomas won 37 caps from 1998-2006 and brother Matthieu played for Perpignan and now Dax



FRANCE

No 5 Romain Millo-Chluski has withdrawn with an achilles injury.

No 18 Pascal Pape now starts the match v England in Millo-Chluski's place, and Jerome Thion comes in on the bench at No 18

18 Jerome Thion (Biarritz Olympique)

- **02.12.77** **1.99m** **117kgs**
- **43rd cap (if he plays) - 1T = 5pts**
- **Debut: 2003 v Argentina**
- 9th test v England – no pts
- Played all 4 tests v England in 2007 (along with Bonnaire in this squad)
- Started 6 of the 7 RWC2007 matches
- 1st test try in 36th international (v Wales on 26.08.07)
- Captain of France for the last 3 autumn tests in 2005 following Pelous citing v Australia. But was injured during the SA game (broken larynx) which resulted in a citing for John Smit, and that ended his captaincy spell for time being.
- Returned to play in all 2006 and 2007 Six Nations tests
- First capped on summer tour 2003 to Argentina and NZ in place of Olivier Brouzet and kept place for RWC2003
- Has started all his tests to date, except Romania 2006 and Ireland 2007 (sub).
- 5 seasons at Perpignan who reached Heineken Cup final 2003, switched in summer 2003 to Biarritz. Won 2005 and 2006 Championship medals with Biarritz.
- 26 test caps in tandem at lock with Pelous, which is 2nd to Brouzet (31) as partner to Pelous.