



FRANCE

v IRELAND

Saturday 9 February 2008

Stade de France, St Denis

Referee: Nigel Owens (Wales)

Touch judges: Wayne Barnes (England), Tim Hayes (Wales)

TMO: Hugh Watkins (Wales)

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)

TEAM v Ireland

There is one enforced change in the French team to play Ireland from the side that beat Scotland with Julien Bonnaire replacing No 8 Elvis Vermeulen, who has a broken rib, and Louis Picamoles coming onto the bench,

All the other changes are a swap between those who started against Scotland and those on the bench at Murrayfield, with the exception of Morgan Parra who remains on the bench. Aurelien Rougerie, David Skrela, Nicolas Mas, Arnaud Mela, Dimitri Szarzewski and Bonnaire come into the starting line up with Vincent Clerc, Francois Trinh-Duc, Julien Brugnaut, Loic Jacquet and William Servat having bench duties.

15 Cedric Heymans (Stade Toulousain)

- **20.07.78** **1.80m** **96kgs**
- **39th cap – 10T = 50pts**
- **Debut: 2000 v Italy**
- 5th test v Ireland – 2T = 10pts (in 2006)
- Played full back in the RWC2007 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**
- **53rd cap - 20T = 100pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v S Africa**
- 6th test v Ireland – 2T = 10pts (1T in 2002, 2006)
- Played 5 RWC2007 games, no tries, under Laporte
- 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 Darrout (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**
- **21st cap – 8T = 40pts**
- **Debut: 2005 v Italy**
- 4th test v Ireland – 2T = 10pts (in 2006)
- Started the last 6 RWC2007 games with 1T v Namibia
- 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
- 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**
- **60th cap - 12T 7C 12PG 1DG = 113pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v SA**
- 5th test v Ireland – no pts
- 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 Julien Malzieu (ASM Clermont Auvergne)

- **04.05.83** **1.93m** **95kgs**
- **2nd cap – 1T = 5pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- 1st test v Ireland
- Try on test debut v Scotland 2008
- May swap wings with Rougerie v Ireland 2008 – they are club wingers
- Played well in the Heineken Cup and in the club team that reached the French Championship final in 2007
- Has always been with Clermont, he played for France at U19 level, and his club won the French youth title
- Is from the French Sevens squad, and shares wing duties at Clermont with Aurelien Rougerie
- Fine game in 2007 European Challenge Cup win v Bath and just passed 50 first team games

10 David Skrela (Stade Francais)

- **02.03.79** **1.90m** **94kgs**
- **13th cap – 8C 21PG = 79pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v New Zealand**
- 3rd test v Ireland – 1C 2PG = 8pts (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

9 Jean-Baptiste Elissalde (Stade Toulousain)

- **23.11.77** **1.72m** **78kgs**
- **32nd cap - 4T 37C 35PG = 199pts**
- **Debut: 2000 v Scotland**
- 5th test v Ireland – 1T (in 2004) 5C 6PG = 33pts
- 12th consecutive test – current best run in this squad
- All 7 games at RWC2007 – 1T 11C v Namibia, then 5PG in win v Ireland, ran backwards to clear to touch in the final seconds in win v NZ and scored 44pts in total
- Chosen ahead of Dimitri Yachvili for the 2nd scrumhalf place in RWC2007 squad
- Returned to the squad for Scotland 2007 after missing the end 2006 autumn series and start of 2007 Six Nations with a rib injury
- 24pts v Wales 2004 equals the French record in a championship match
- Captain of France v Australia and SA on 2005 summer tour – and v Namibia at RWC2007
- First two caps in 2000, returned to squad for Grand Slam 2004 and onwards
- Now in 5th season with the 2003 and 2005 Heineken Cup holders.
- Father gained five caps for France in 1980-81 when at La Rochelle, and was coach of Japan and former coach of Beziers, while grandfather (Laurent Bidart) also played once for France when at La Rochelle. Jean-Baptiste also twice capped in 2000 with La Rochelle before switch to Toulouse in 2002.
- Can also play at fly half as club often prefer Frederic Michalak at scrum half.



8 Julien Bonnaire (ASM Clermont Auvergne)

- **20.09.78** **1.93m** **100kgs**
- **39th cap – 6T = 30pts**
- **Debut: 2004 v Scotland**
- 5th test v Ireland – no pts
- 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

7 Fulgence Quedraogo (RC Montpellier-Herault)

- **21.07.86** **1.90m** **94kgs**
- **3rd cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2007 v NZ**
- 1st test v Ireland
- 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

6 Thierry Dusautoir (Stade Toulousain)

- **18.11.81** **1.88m** **95kgs**
- **12th cap – 3T = 15pts**
- **Debut: 2006 v Romania**
- 2nd test v Ireland – no pts
- Into the RWC squad 4 days after the announcement that Elvis Vermeulen needed an operation on a disc in his back and was one of the 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.



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

- **14.09.76** **1.96m** **116kgs**
- **34th cap – 5T = 25pts**
- **Debut: 2000 v Romania**
- 4th test v Ireland – no pts
- Second captaincy of France – after Ibanez and Pelous retired – and is the 12th lock to captain France. 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 club colleague and deputised for 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

4 **Arnaud Mela (SC Albi)**

- **19.01.80** **1.96m** **116kgs**
- **2nd cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- 1st test v Ireland
- Plays for Albi, a Top 14 club, an hour north of Toulouse
- First from Albi to play for France since Bernard Mommejat – 22 caps from 1958-63
- Played earlier in career for Lannemezan, Pau and Tours, and played for France at schools, youth and U21 levels and now has had 4 fine seasons with Albi.
- Was with Pau until 2001, and Tours from 2001-03
- Has been at Albi since 2003, and was in the team promoted to the Top 14 in 2006
- Fan of Martin Johnson

3 **Nicolas Mas (USA Perpignan)**

- **23.05.80** **1.80m** **110kgs**
- **16th cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2003 v NZ**
- 2nd test v Ireland – 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 now replaces J-B Poux who has 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, where he plays 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**
- **24th cap – 3T = 15pts**
- **Debut: 2004 v Canada**
- 3rd test v Ireland – 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 Elissalde's father who was recently the Japan coach.
- 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**
- **2nd cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- First test v Ireland
- 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 Traille
- * Now won Premiership with Sale in 2006 and extended contract to 2010



Substitutes

16 William Servat (Stade Toulousain)

- **09.02.78** **1.85m** **103kgs**
- **18th cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2004 v Ireland**
- 2nd test v Ireland – 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 Julien Brugnaut (US Dax)

- **17.11.81** **1.83m** **120kgs**
- **2nd cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- 1st test v Ireland
- Solid, dependable Top 14 prop who played under coach Lievreumont for the Dax club from 2006
- One of the few rugby men from the north, he was born at Lille, and then played for Lormont until 2003 and Bordeaux-Begles in 2003-04.
- Switched to Montpellier for 2004-06 seasons, and then helped Dax out of Pro2 last season

18 Loic Jacquet (ASM Clermont Auvergne)

- **31.03.85** **1.98m** **109kgs**
- **4th cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2006 v NZ**
- 1st test v Ireland
- First 2 caps in 2006 autumn series v NZ (sub) and Argentina, recalled for 2008 Six Nations
- Is from the French U21 team that won the World U21 Championship in 2006 under Marc Lievreumont – he was captain
- Developed in the Clermont academy, debut aged 19, he has passed 40 senior games for the club.
- 2007 European Challenge Cup medal

19 Louis Picamoles (RC Montpellier-Herault)

- **05.02.86** **1.92m** **106kgs**
- **First cap (if he plays)**
- Called up on his 21st birthday to replace Elvis Vermeulen who broke a rib v Scotland 2008 and preferred to Sebastien Chabal etc
- 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



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

- **15.11.88** **1.81m** **85kgs**
- **2nd cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- 1st test v Ireland
- Club debut in Nov 2006 v Agen, and originally No2 to the international fly half Benjamin Boyet
- Like Frederic Michalak and J-B Elissalde he can play in either half-back position and will be four days older than Michalak if he debuts v Scotland. 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

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

- **11.11.86** **1.84m** **85kgs**
- **2nd cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2008 v Scotland**
- 1st test v Ireland
- 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 17 Top 14 games, 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

22 **Vincent Clerc (Stade Toulousain)**

- **07.05.81** **1.78m** **89kgs**
- **30th cap (if he plays) – 17T = 85pts**
- **Debut: 2002 v S Africa**
- 5th test v Ireland – 4T = 20pts (1T in 2004, 2007, 2T at RWC2007)
- Scourge of Ireland in 2007 – winning try in first Croke Park game, then 2T in RWC (25-3) group game
- This season's current leading try scorer in the Top 14 with 5T
- Surprisingly left out of the 2003 RWC squad, but made it for 2007 – 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.
- Try scorer at Croke Park 2007 to end Ireland's Championship dreams, he wears No 14 but often played left wing to accommodate Dominici's preferences



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