

# Analysis of Rugby evolution from 1871, with a particular focus on France.

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## 1 General introduction

The aim of the project was to employ data analysis tools to examine the evolution of rugby over different eras. In the first part, we will explore the evolution of the game itself and the developments in major rugby nations. In the second part, our focus will shift nation by nation.

## 1.1 The awakening of Rugby

The sport originated in England during the mid-19th century and swiftly extended its reach to encompass the British Isles, including Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. It also found a fervent following in the English colonies, most notably in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Notably, the Pacific region, with its Maori population, embraced this team combat sport with great enthusiasm. The diffusion of rugby across borders is a testament to its allure and impact. In France, rugby took root in the south-western part of the country. As the English engaged in wine trade with Bordeaux, they brought along the sport, leading to its integration within the region's culture. Similarly, the introduction of rugby in Argentina was spearheaded by British immigrants. This global game found its way to Argentina's shores, and the first recorded match in the country took place in 1873. In Italy, rugby's union with the nation's sporting landscape was fostered by the influence of its neighboring nation, France. The early 20th century saw the spark of rugby's presence in Italy, with structured development coming to fruition during the 1920s. The historical journey of rugby's spread across continents is a fascinating narrative, highlighting the interplay between culture, colonization, and the passion for sports. From England's inception to the far corners of the world, rugby has united diverse communities and transcended boundaries, leaving an indelible mark on the global sporting tapestry.

## 1.2 Introduction to the dataset

The dataset comes from kaggle and was made by the user Muzo Fitness. In the dataset, we can find records of all official rugby matches involving 10 international teams spanning from March 27, 1871, to July 15, 2023. The dataset includes various details about each match, such as the match date, the participating teams (with the host team indicated as '*home\_team*' and the visiting team as '*away\_team*'), the respective points scored by both teams, the competition in which the match was contested, and the stadium where the match was held, along with its location including the city and country. Furthermore, there are additional columns in the dataset:

- 'neutral', which indicates whether the match occurred in a third country not associated with the participating teams..
- '*world\_cup*', which specifies whether the match was part of a World Cup event.

This comprehensive dataset provides insights into the historical journey of these international rugby teams and their matches, offering a valuable resource for analyzing the evolution of the sport over time.

## 1.3 Teams and stadiums presentation

Here is a brief introduction to the teams present in the data set.

### 1.3.1 Name of the teams in the dataset

- Argentina
- Australia
- England

- France
- Ireland
- Italy
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- South Africa
- Wales

There are only 10 teams in this data set: Argentina, Australia, England, France, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa and Wales. These countries are considered as the main rugby nations. Unfortunately there is no data here about Fiji, Samoa or Tonga which is a shame as rugby is deeply rooted in local cultures, almost like a religion. Moreover it would have been also great to have data about Japan and Georgia.

### 1.3.2 Number of matches played by each team

- Argentina: 271
- Australia: 548
- England: 728
- France: 673
- Ireland: 540
- Italy: 252
- New Zealand: 540
- Scotland: 660
- South Africa: 432
- Wales: 680

We can observe that the British Isles are the regions with the highest number of games played in rugby history, followed by France. Additionally, some of the former British colonies also have notable game counts. In contrast, regions like Argentina and Italy, where rugby gained popularity later, have comparatively fewer games played. (Just to clarify: it's the number of matches between each other among these 10 nations.)

### 1.3.3 Number of games in each stadium

Here is a table displaying the top 10 stadiums that have hosted the highest number of international matches among these nations.

	Stadium	Number of Matches
1	Twickenham Stadium	320
2	Murrayfield Stadium	269
3	Lansdowne Road	229
4	Millennium Stadium	129
5	National Stadium	116
6	Stade de France	101
7	Eden Park	80
8	Parc des Princes	79
9	Aviva Stadium	56
10	Sydney Cricket Ground	50

We can observe that, unsurprisingly, the stadium that has hosted the most games by far is Twickenham in London. This stadium is often considered the cradle of rugby and is dedicated to fifteen-a-side rugby. Following that, we have the national stadiums of the other British countries, as well as the national stadium of France, 'Stade de France' and the national stadium of the kiwis, the Eden Park.

## 1.4 Conclusion

In the realm of international rugby, a group of ten nations stands tall as the driving forces of the sport. Argentina, Australia, England, France, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, and Wales collectively form the core of rugby's legacy. The rich history and passionate fan base of these nations have shaped the rugby landscape for decades. When delving into the data, it's evident that the British Isles hold a prominent place in rugby history. With a long and storied tradition, this region has witnessed the most intense clashes and memorable moments on the rugby field. Following closely is France, which has cultivated its own unique rugby heritage over the years. Notably, some of the former British colonies have embraced the sport with fervor, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of international rugby. In contrast, regions like Argentina and Italy, where rugby gained traction in later years, have carved their paths to prominence more recently. Despite the fewer games played, these nations have showcased remarkable progress and dedication on the global stage. As we turn our attention to the stadiums that have witnessed these historic battles, Twickenham in London emerges as a central figure. Revered as the birthplace of rugby, Twickenham stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the sport. It has hosted countless iconic matches and continues to be a hallowed ground for fifteen-a-side rugby. The national stadiums of the other British countries, along with the renowned 'Stade de France' in France or the Eden Park in Auckland, further contribute to the constellation of rugby venues where history is written and memories are etched. In the grand tapestry of rugby, these major teams and their hallowed stadiums serve as pillars of passion, unity, and competition, enriching the global sporting arena and captivating the hearts of fans worldwide.

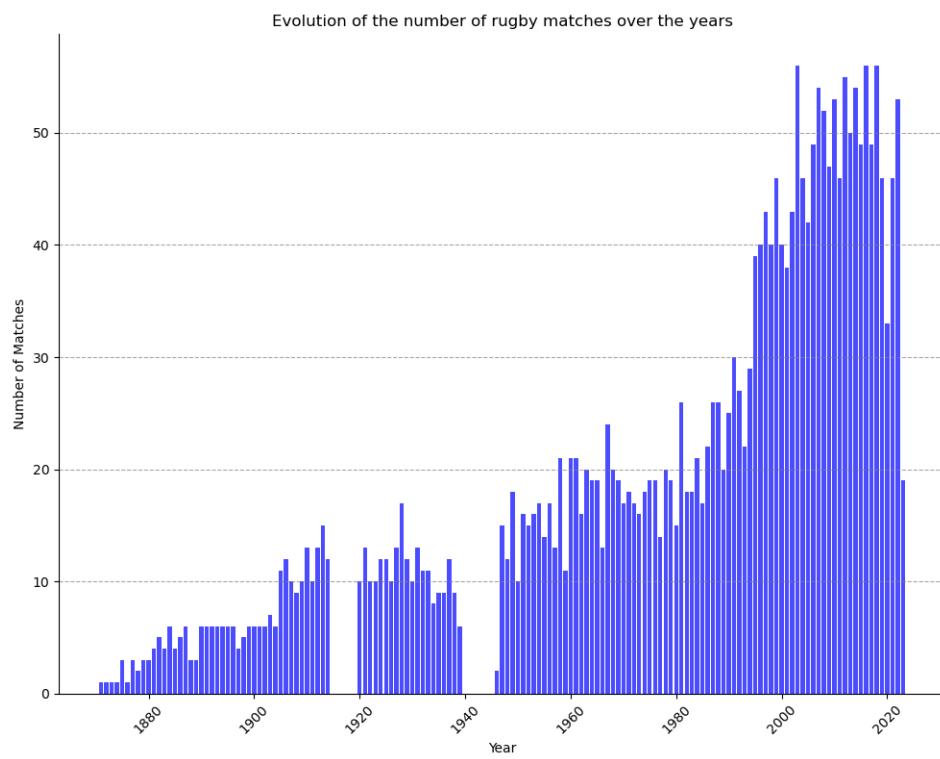
## 2 Analysis of the top 10 teams from 1871 to the present day

In order to comprehend the evolution of rugby, matches spanning from 1871 to 2023 will be analyzed.

### 2.1 Historical analysis

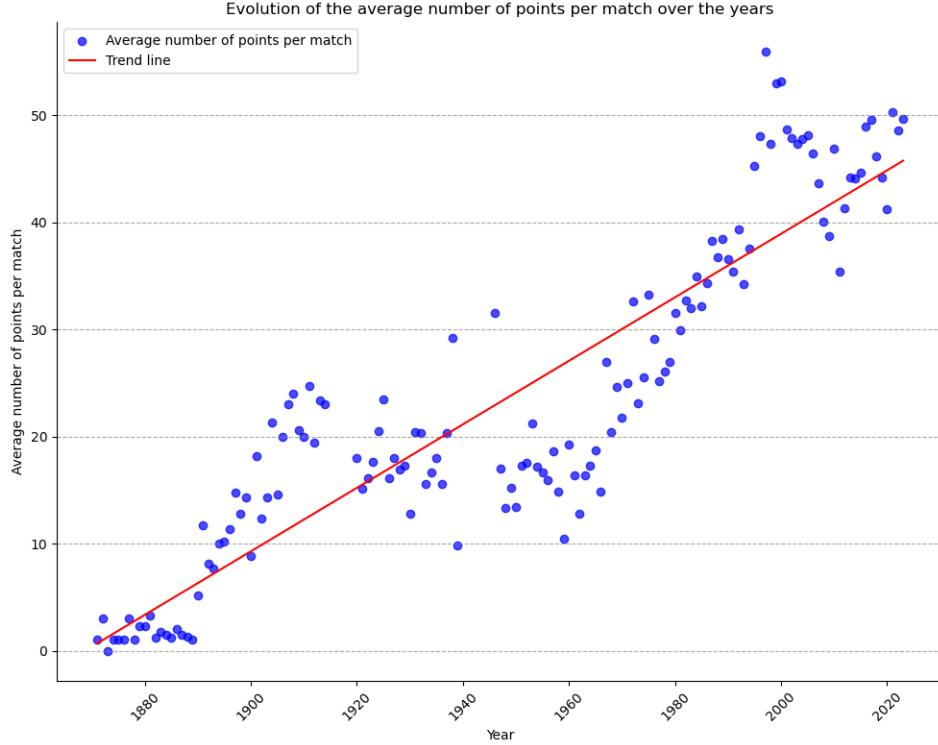
Here is a brief analysis of the data from a historical perspective and the evolution of the sport.

#### 2.1.1 Evolution of the total number of matches per year



We can observe that the number of rugby international matches has been consistently growing throughout the years. There are also two clear periods with no rugby matches at all, corresponding to World War I and World War II, respectively. Additionally, before 1995, when rugby players were not yet professional, the number of matches per year did not exceed 20. However, as the sport became professional, enthusiasm grew, leading to an increase in the number of competitions and matches.

### 2.1.2 Evolution of the total number of points per match over the years



We can observe that the average number of points scored during an international rugby match has consistently increased over the years. There are several explanations for this phenomenon: The first reason is that the rules for calculating points have changed over time. For instance, in the early days, a try was worth 0 point, and only the transformation was worth 1 point. This is why some early matches had scores like 1-0, 2-1, 0-0, etc. The rules for calculating points have evolved gradually, and now a try is worth 5 points, a conversion is worth 2 points, a drop goal is worth 3 points, and a penalty is also worth 3 points. The second reason is that as time has passed, teams have become better, more trained, and more professional, making it easier to score during a game.

### 2.1.3 Conclusion

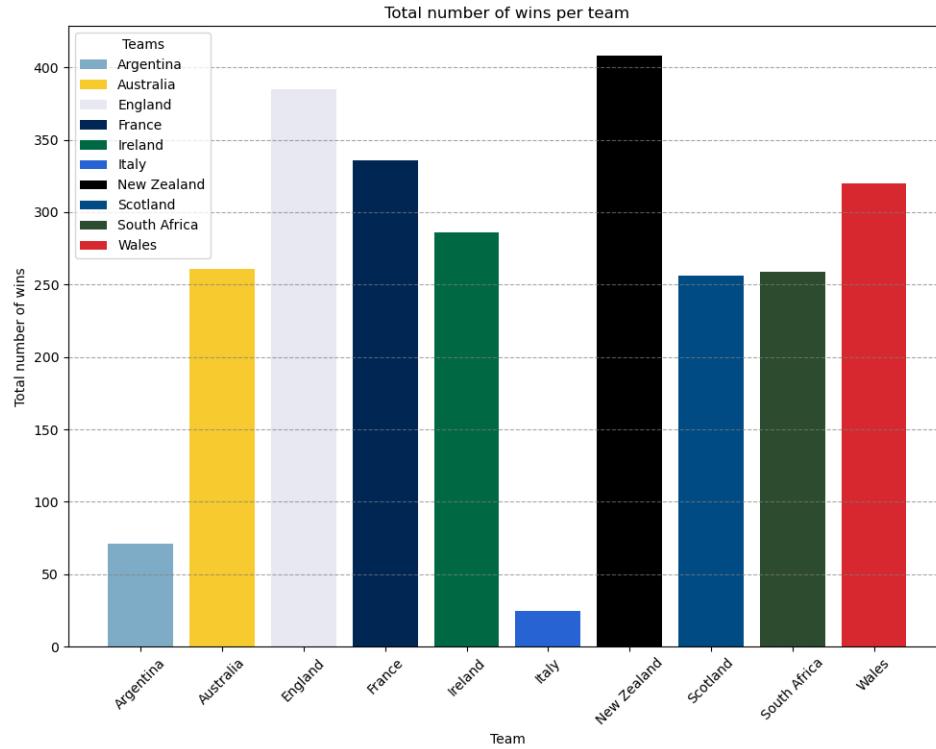
In tracing the history of rugby and its evolution, a captivating narrative emerges from the data. The journey through international rugby matches unveils a sport that has undergone substantial transformations, both in terms of frequency and game-play. The data reflects a remarkable growth in the number of rugby international matches over the years, depicting a continuous expansion of the sport's global reach and popularity. Distinct periods punctuate this historical progression, with notable absences during the tumultuous times of World War I and World War II. These gaps in the timeline serve as poignant reminders of the impact that global events can have on sporting activities, reflecting a world disrupted by conflict. Before the watershed year of 1995, when rugby officially turned professional, the number of matches per year remained relatively modest, often not exceeding 20 games annually.

However, as professionalism swept through the sport, it catalyzed an era of heightened enthusiasm and engagement. With players now dedicating themselves to the game as full-time athletes, the intensity of competition surged, leading to an upsurge in both the quantity of matches and the sheer fervor surrounding them. One of the intriguing trends observed is the consistent increase in the average number of points scored during international rugby matches. This phenomenon can be attributed to a combination of factors that have evolved over time. Initially, the rules for calculating points were notably different from today's standards, contributing to matches with scores that seem unconventional by contemporary norms. As the sport matured, these rules underwent gradual modifications, culminating in the modern point system where a try is valued at 5 points, a conversion and penalty at 2 points each, and a drop goal at 3 points. Furthermore, the evolution of teams from amateur to professional status has played a pivotal role in shaping the dynamics of the game. The dedication, training, and preparation of modern rugby players have elevated their proficiency on the field, fostering an environment conducive to scoring. This, in turn, has translated into higher-scoring matches and a more exciting spectator experience. In summary, the journey through the history and evolution of rugby is a testament to the sport's resilience, adaptability, and global appeal. From its early days with modest match counts to the fervent era of professionalism, rugby has consistently evolved to meet the changing demands of athletes, fans, and the broader sporting landscape. As we look to the future, the data offers a compelling narrative that continues to unfold, promising further growth, innovation, and excitement in the world of international rugby.

## 2.2 Triumphs insights

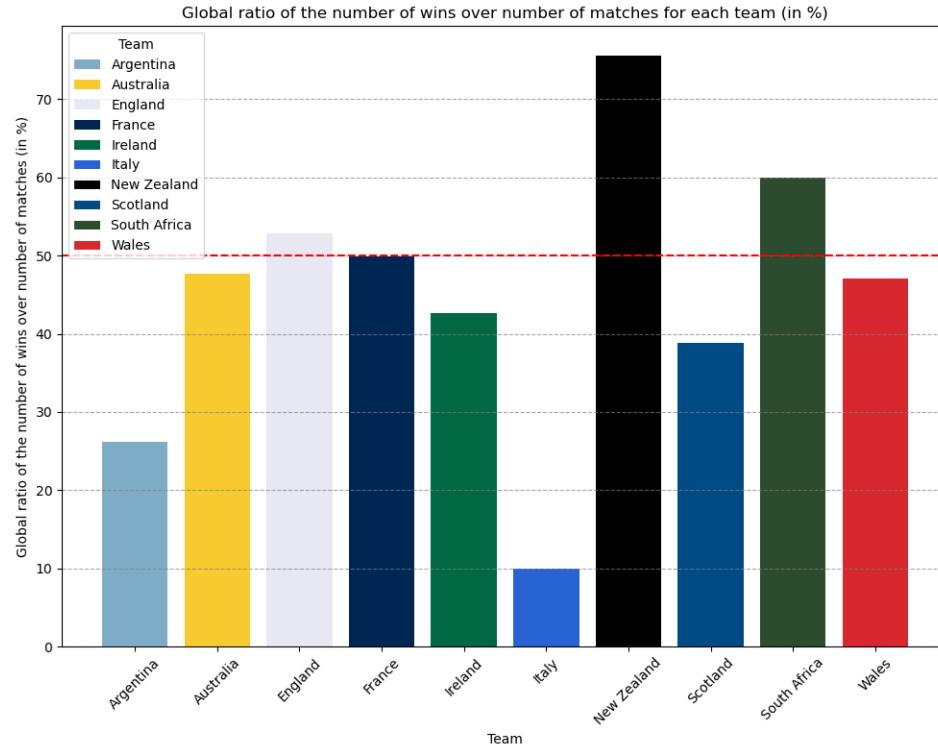
Here is a brief analysis of the data focused on winning perspectives. The aim is to unravel which teams emerge as the most prolific winners, delve into the reasons behind their success, and identify the factors that play a pivotal role in determining victory.

### 2.2.1 Total number of wins per team



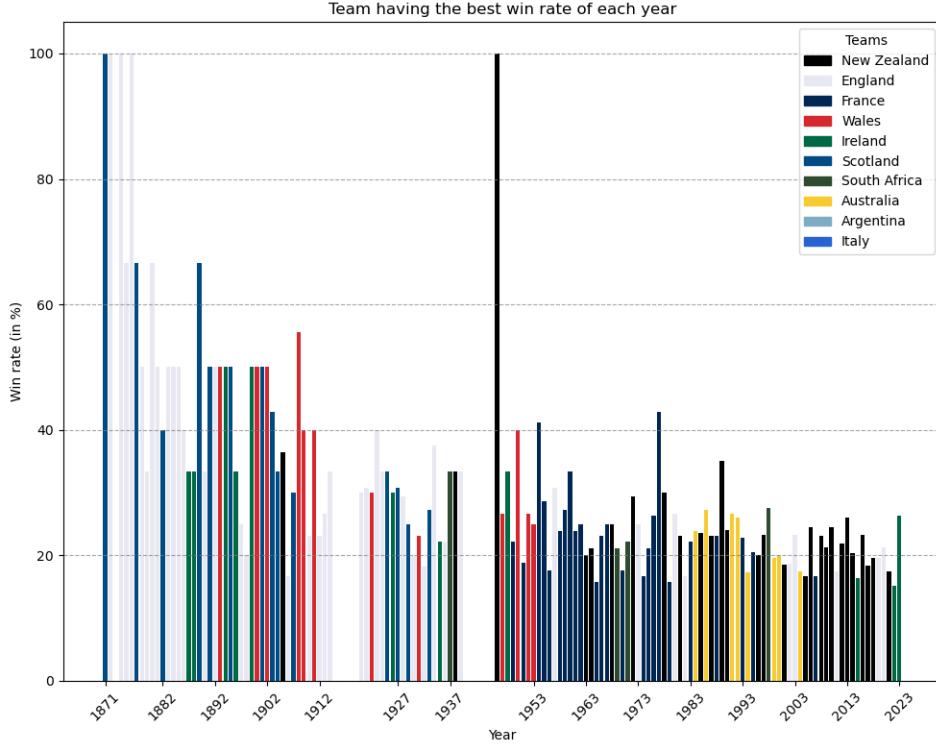
We can observe that New Zealand, famously known as the 'All Blacks', stands out with the highest number of wins in the history of rugby, despite not having the most matches played. England follows closely in second place. Among other notable teams, the British islands, France, South Africa, and Australia have each secured more than 250 victories. However, it's important to acknowledge that comparing the total number of wins might not be entirely fair, as teams have differing quantities of matches played. A more meaningful comparison could be made by analyzing the win-to-match ratio for each team. This ratio provides a better perspective on a team's success relative to its overall performance.

### 2.2.2 Global ratio of the number of wins over number of matches for each team



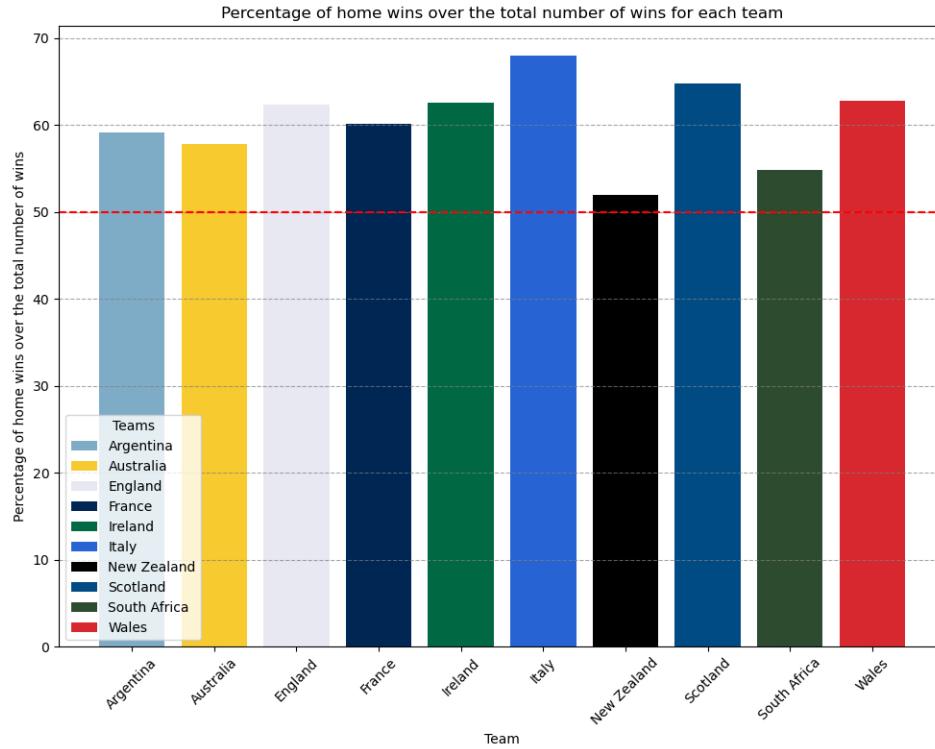
We can clearly observe that the All Blacks, representing the New Zealand rugby team, stand out from the rest with an exceptional all-time win rate of approximately 75%. Maintaining such a consistently high level of performance over the decades is truly remarkable. South Africa boasts a global win rate of 60%, which is also impressive but not surprising given rugby's deep-rooted presence in their culture. Notably, New Zealand and South Africa are the only nations that have secured three World Cup titles. Moving on, two other teams have achieved a win rate slightly above or equal to 50%: England and France. This underscores the enduring strength and rich rugby heritage of these nations. On a slightly lower scale, Australia, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales all maintain win rates just below the 50% mark. This fact also attests to their robust rugby traditions, while the challenges they face highlight the formidable competition they encounter on the field. Further down the spectrum, we find Argentina with a win rate of 25% and Italy with a win rate of 10%. These emerging rugby nations are grappling against the established powerhouses of rugby. Their struggle against these giants of the sport is evident and underlines the steep learning curve they face as they continue to develop their rugby prowess.

### 2.2.3 Team with the best win rate for each year



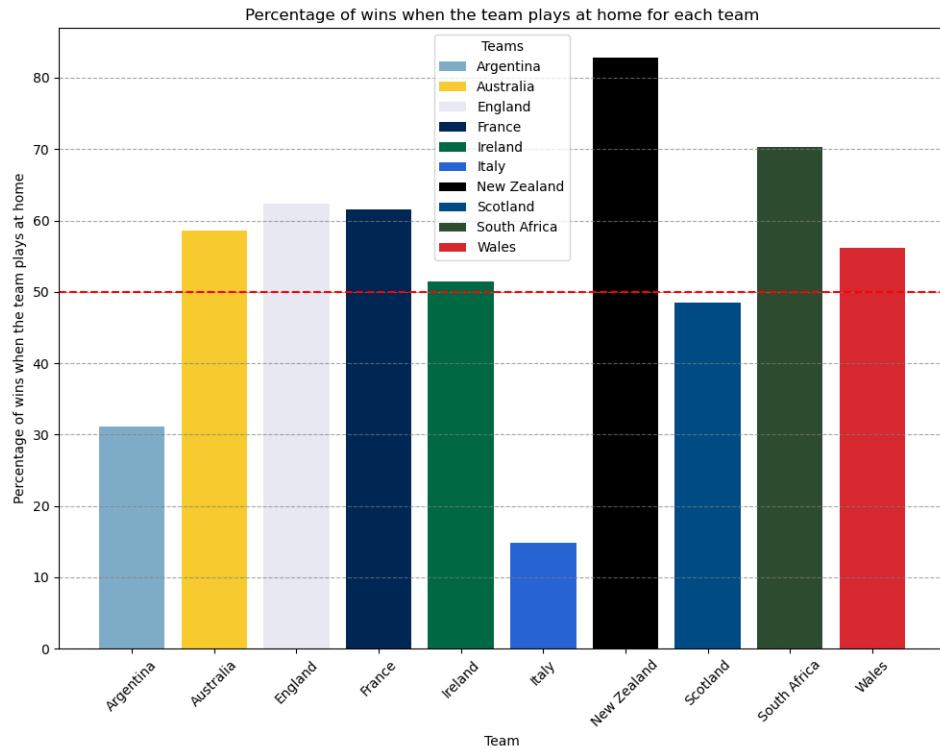
We can observe that the best win ratio for each year has been decreasing over time, dropping from 100% in 1871 to around 20% in recent times. This decline can be attributed to the increasing number of matches and opponents over the years, as well as the growing competitiveness of the teams. However, it's important to note a notable anomaly in 1946 when New Zealand achieved a perfect win rate of 100%. This exceptional performance is somewhat deceiving, as there were only two matches played that year (both between Australia and New Zealand). This scarcity of matches in 1946 in Europe can be attributed to the prevailing circumstances of the time. Upon closer examination, we can discern a pattern in the dominance of certain teams throughout history. From 1871 to 1946, the best teams were predominantly British: England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. In the 1960s and 1970s, the spotlight shifted to France, New Zealand, and South Africa. The subsequent decades saw Australian dominance from the 1980s to the 2000s, followed by a resurgence of All Blacks supremacy. These fluctuations in team dominance reflect not only the evolution of the sport but also the broader historical, geopolitical, and competitive factors that have shaped international rugby over the years.

#### 2.2.4 Percentage of home wins over total number of wins for each team

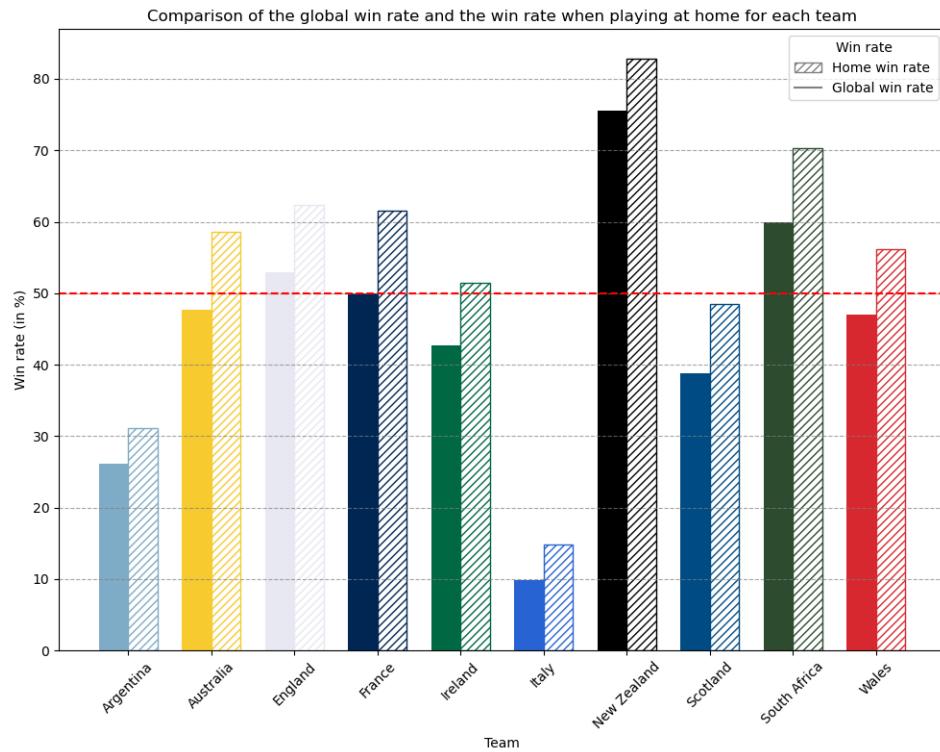


We can observe that the majority of wins for all teams have occurred during matches played at home. This trend can be attributed to the advantages of playing in a familiar stadium, where the team can benefit from its supporters and home-field advantage. Playing on home turf eliminates the need for tiring travel and provides a setting where the home team aims to showcase their best performance to their fans, instilling pride and support. Notably, Italy, a team that faces challenges in securing victories, has achieved 68% of their wins at home. This can be understood in light of the reasons mentioned earlier. Italians are renowned for their strong sense of pride and passion for their team, making their home matches especially significant. However, it's worth highlighting that New Zealand stands out as the team with the lowest percentage of wins at home. This distinction can be attributed to the exceptional caliber of the All Blacks, who maintain their high standard of play regardless of whether they are competing at home or away. This level of excellence underscores the remarkable consistency of New Zealand's rugby prowess.

### 2.2.5 Percentage of wins when the team plays at home

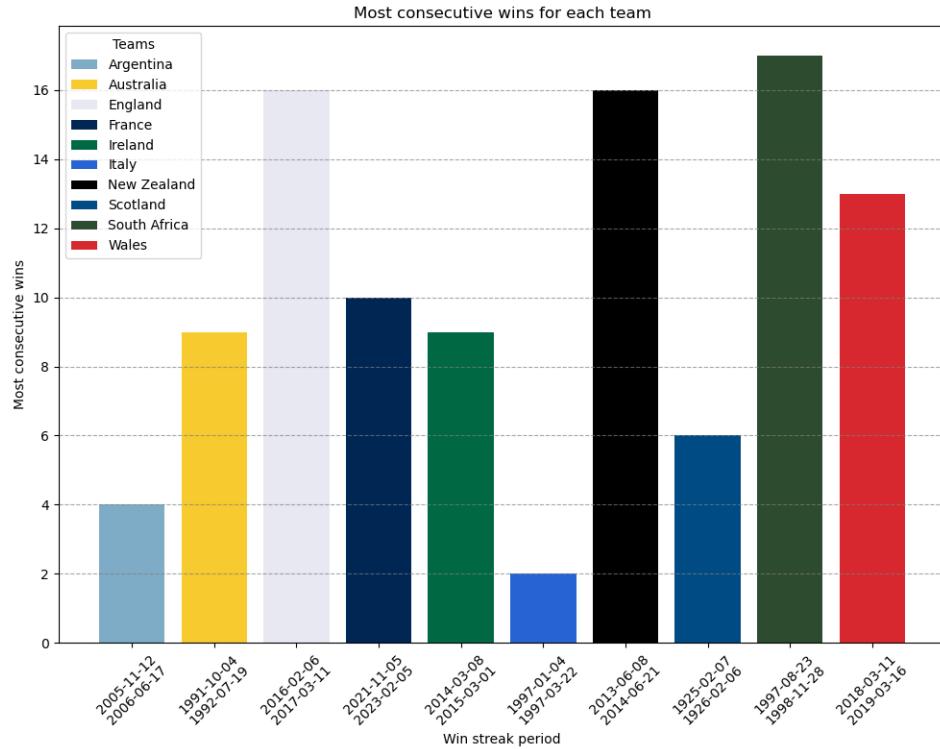


In order to draw meaningful conclusions about the impact of playing at home, it's essential to have both the overall win ratio and the home win ratio presented on the same graph. This enables a direct comparison between the two factors.



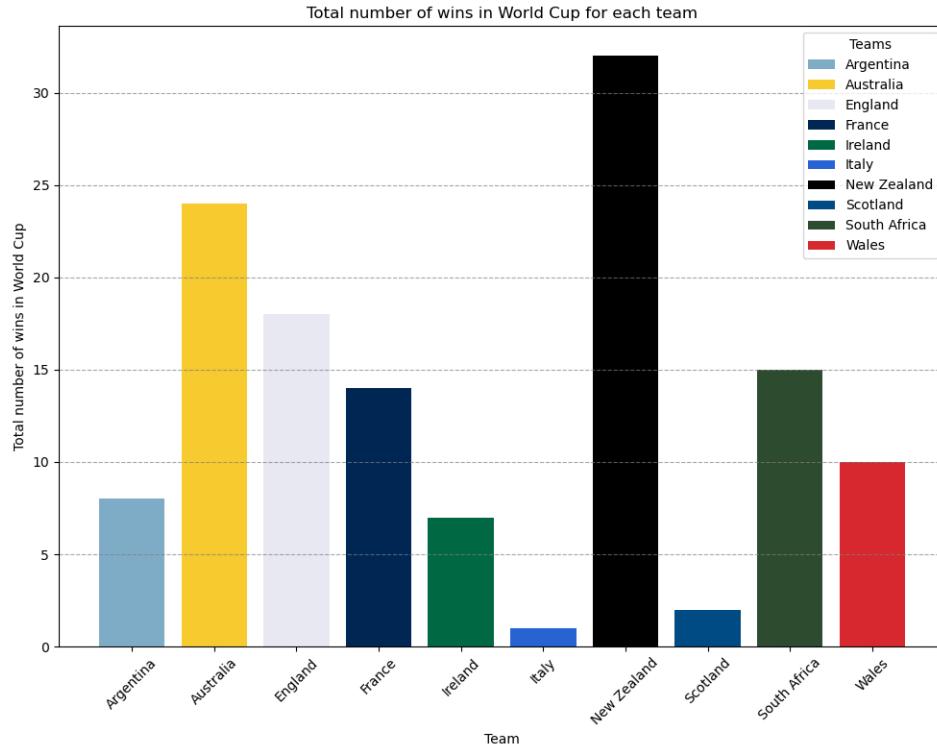
We can observe that every single team, without exception, boasts a higher win rate when playing at home compared to their overall global win rate. This observation aligns with the logical explanation provided earlier regarding the advantages of playing on home turf.

### 2.2.6 Biggest win streaks for each team



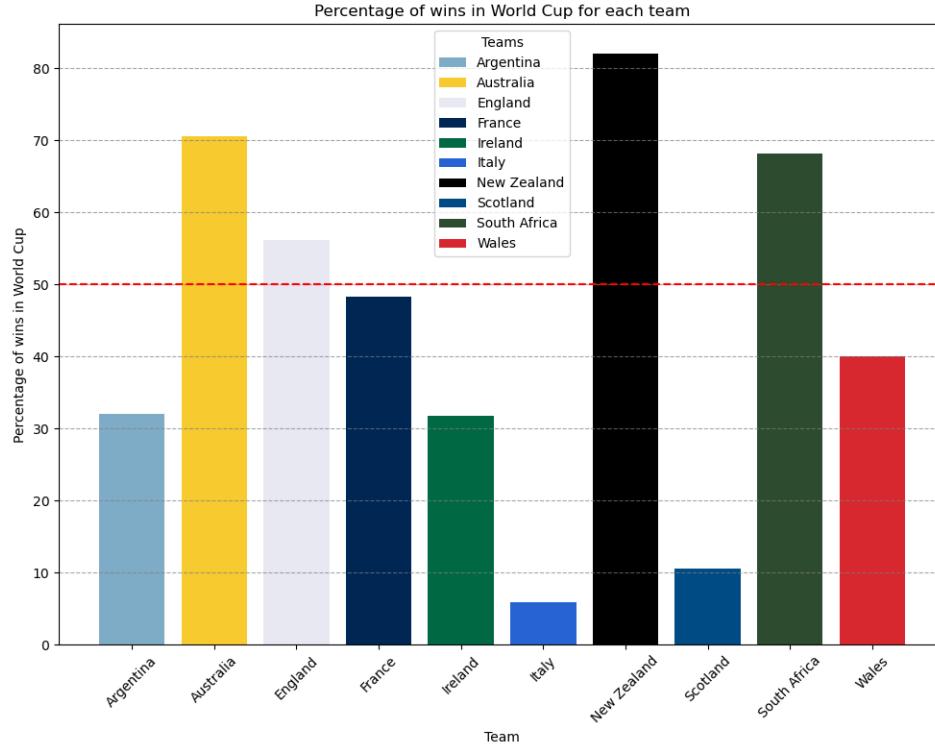
We can observe the longest winning streak periods for each team, along with the number of wins achieved during those periods. As expected, the traditional rugby powerhouses tend to have the longest winning streaks. Interestingly, examining these periods for each team reveals some noteworthy insights. For instance, Scotland showcased dominance in rugby during 1925 - 1926. Furthermore, from the 1990s inwards, there are distinct periods of domination by different teams, each making its mark on the sport.

### 2.2.7 Number of wins in World Cup for each team



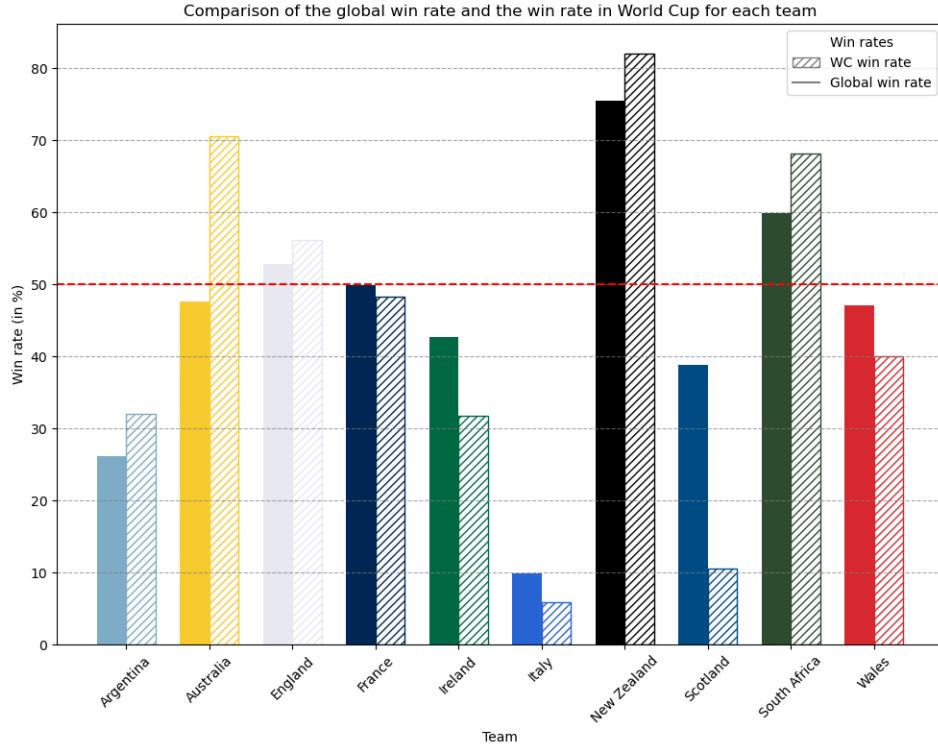
We can examine the total number of wins in the Rugby World Cup, but this statistic might not offer a complete picture. For instance, South Africa has won three World Cups but has fewer victories overall compared to England, which has secured just one World Cup title. This discrepancy can be attributed to varying levels of World Cup participation among teams. Additionally, the win count might not accurately reflect the strength of all teams, as many nations are missing from the data. Despite these limitations, we can still discern the dominance of certain nations, including Australia, England, New Zealand, and South Africa. These four countries stand as the sole winners of the rugby World Cup to date. However, a more insightful perspective would be to assess the win rate of each team in the context of the World Cup.

### 2.2.8 Ratio of the number of wins over number of matches in World Cup for each team



As expected, we witness the established dominance of Australia, England, New Zealand, and South Africa in the Rugby World Cup. France also boasts a commendable performance in the tournament, which aligns with the reputation of these teams. However, it's worth noting the unexpected win rate of Scotland, which ranks second lowest before Italy. To gain deeper insights, it would be intriguing to juxtapose the overall win rate of each team with their win rate specifically in the World Cup. This analysis could reveal whether certain teams exhibit improved or deteriorated performance under the immense pressure of such a significant event.

### 2.2.9 Win rates comparison for each team



We can clearly discern a remarkable trend in the performance of various teams during the Rugby World Cup. Australia, with a global win rate of approximately 48%, undergoes a profound transformation during the tournament, achieving an impressive win rate of 71%. Similarly, New Zealand elevates its World Cup win rate to over 82%, a staggering accomplishment considering their already elevated global win rate of above 75%. England and South Africa, although not to the same extent as Australia and New Zealand, also exhibit an improvement in their win rates during these prestigious events. This observation holds true for all previous World Cup winners — their win rates during the competition surpass their performance during other times. Notably, Argentina joins this league of enhanced performance, whereas most other nations experience a dip in their World Cup win rates compared to their global win rates. These findings underscore the immense pressure teams face in the World Cup, which can either amplify their strengths or expose their weaknesses. This environment seems to favor teams like Argentina, Australia, and South Africa, whose performances benefit from the intensified competition. On the other hand, teams like Ireland and Scotland, despite their standing as top contenders, find it challenging to thrive in this high-pressure setting. The struggles of Scotland are particularly evident, with a World Cup win rate slightly surpassing 10%. This statistic is perplexing considering Scotland's stature as a formidable team in the rugby world. It serves as a poignant reminder of the immense difficulty associated with winning a World Cup match, further highlighting the Herculean task of clinching the ultimate victory in the tournament.

### 2.2.10 Conclusion

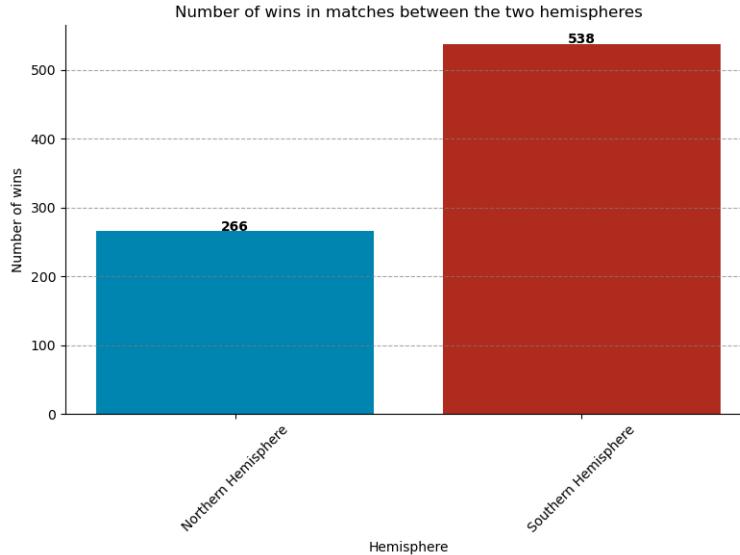
In the captivating world of rugby, certain teams have risen to prominence as dominant forces, leaving an indelible mark on the sport's history. New Zealand, the legendary 'All Blacks,' stands tall with the highest number of victories, followed closely by England. France, South Africa, Australia, and the British Isles have also etched their names among the elite with more than 250 wins each. However, a mere tally of wins doesn't paint the full picture, considering the varying number of matches played by each team. A more insightful metric is the win-to-match ratio, which reveals New Zealand's exceptional win rate of around 75%, a testament to their enduring excellence. South Africa, boasting a 60% win rate, showcases their rugby heritage, while England and France maintain ratios above 50%, reflecting their storied traditions. Australia, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales hold win rates just below 50%, underscoring their tenacity amid stiff competition. Argentina's 25% win rate and Italy's 10% underscore the challenges faced by emerging rugby nations against established powerhouses. Over time, the average annual win ratio for each team has gradually declined, partly due to the growing number of matches and opponents. Notably, New Zealand's remarkable 1946 win rate of 100% was skewed by a limited number of matches between Australia and New Zealand, influenced by historical circumstances. Historically, British teams dominated from 1871 to 1946, followed by shifts in dominance. From the 1960s to 1970s, France, New Zealand, and South Africa emerged as forces. The 1980s to 2000s saw Australian prominence, succeeded by the resurgence of the All Blacks. Considering home-field advantage, most teams exhibit higher win rates at home, thanks to familiar surroundings and spirited support. Italy, facing challenges, wins 68% at home, reflecting fans' passion. New Zealand, exceptional in skill, maintains a consistent performance home and away. Examining World Cup performance, Australia, England, New Zealand, and South Africa dominate, with Scotland's World Cup win rate standing out. Teams like Argentina exhibit improved performance during World Cups. Interestingly, Australia and New Zealand's win rates elevate remarkably during World Cups, revealing the pressure and prestige of the tournament. Conversely, Scotland faces World Cup challenges, showcasing the tournament's formidable nature. In the realm of rugby, the blend of historical legacy, talent, home-field advantage, and performance under pressure shapes the narrative of victories. These factors converge to create a tapestry of triumphs, uniting nations and fans under the banner of a sport that transcends boundaries and embodies the spirit of competition.

## 2.3 Northern hemisphere Vs Southern hemisphere analysis

Here is a brief analysis of the data from a geographical standpoint. The discourse often revolves around the concept of Northern supremacy versus Southern supremacy. Let's delve into the dataset to discern which hemisphere demonstrates superior performance.

### 2.3.1 Number of wins per hemisphere in matches between the two hemispheres

Statistic	Count
Total number of matches between the two hemispheres	829
Number of wins of the Northern hemisphere	266
Number of wins of the Southern hemisphere	538
Total number of draws	25



We can observe that it is clear that during matches opposing the North and the South, the Southern hemisphere is dominating the North having twice more victories. However this figure needs to be qualified because, as mentioned above, data from the Pacific islands of Fiji, Samoa and Tonga are missing.

### 2.3.2 Conclusion

In the world of rugby, the age-old rivalry between the Northern and Southern hemispheres has been a defining element, shaping the sport's landscape. An analysis of matches between these two regions reveals a clear dominance by the Southern hemisphere, securing approximately twice as many victories as their Northern counterparts. This apparent divide is a compelling narrative in itself, underscoring the prowess and supremacy of teams hailing from the Southern hemisphere. However, it's important to approach this observation with a certain degree of nuance. As highlighted earlier, the absence of data from rugby-strong Pacific island nations, such as Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga, presents a limitation to the analysis. The exclusion of these Pacific nations, which have contributed significantly to the global rugby stage, leaves a gap in our understanding of the true dynamics between the hemispheres. The absence of these teams' data hints at a more complex narrative, one that goes beyond a straightforward North-South rivalry. As rugby continues to evolve and thrive, the ongoing contest between the hemispheres remains a compelling aspect of the sport. However, acknowledging the incomplete picture due to missing data from prominent rugby nations adds a layer of intrigue and reminds us that the rugby world is far from a simplistic binary. The hemispheric rivalry intertwines with the broader narrative of global rugby, where diverse teams and cultures come together to shape the rich tapestry of competition and camaraderie.

### 3 Historical Analysis of *Los Pumas*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the Argentinian national rugby union team.



#### 3.1 Triumphs insights

##### 3.1.1 Argentina's win rate against each team

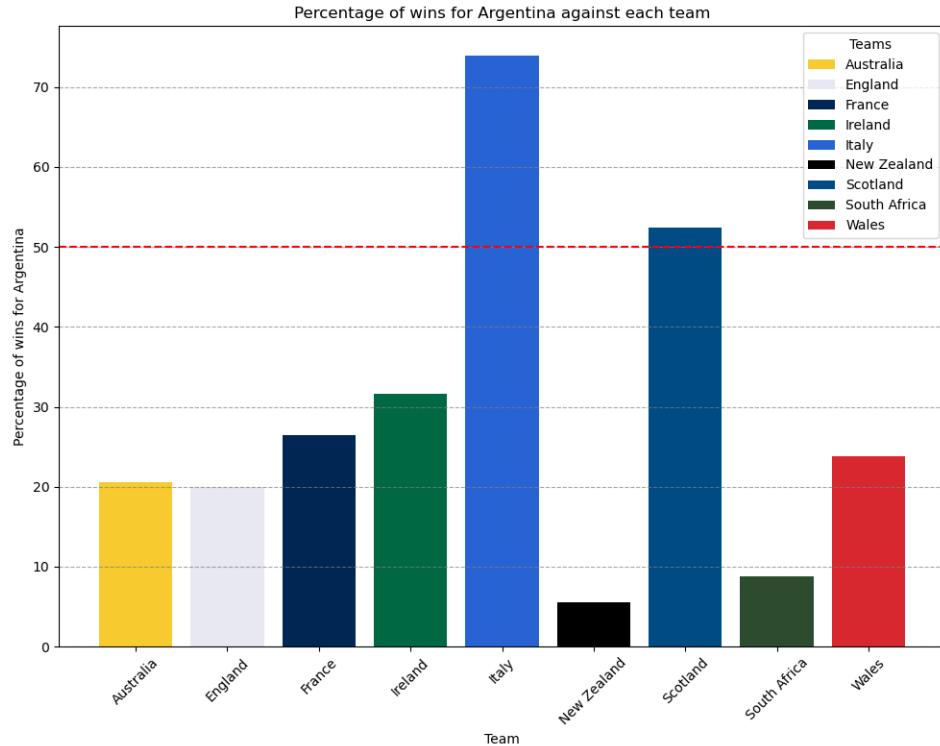
Number of official matches against Argentina for each team:

- Australia: 39 matches
- England: 25 matches
- France: 53 matches
- Ireland: 19 matches
- Italy: 23 matches
- New Zealand: 36 matches
- Scotland: 21 matches
- South Africa: 34 matches
- Wales: 21 matches

Number of wins for Argentina against each team:

- Australia: 8 wins
- England: 5 wins
- France: 14 wins
- Ireland: 6 wins
- Italy: 17 wins
- New Zealand: 2 wins
- Scotland: 11 wins

- South Africa: 3 wins
- Wales: 5 wins



We can observe that the number of matches against Argentina is relatively low, with the highest being 53 matches against France, while for other nations it is around 30. This is normal considering that Argentina is a relatively young rugby nation. Furthermore, Argentina's win rate remains consistently below 35%, dropping to less than 10% against formidable opponents like the All Blacks or Springboks. There are exceptions such as Italy, which is also a young rugby nation and thus understandable, and Scotland, which is more surprising as it's an established rugby nation but seems to struggle against Argentina. It's worth mentioning that these win rates are calculated based on data spanning from 1871 to the present day. To capture the most up-to-date trends, focusing on win rates over recent years would provide a more accurate reflection of the current team dynamics.

### 3.1.2 Argentina's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)

Number of official matches against Argentina since 2019 for each team:

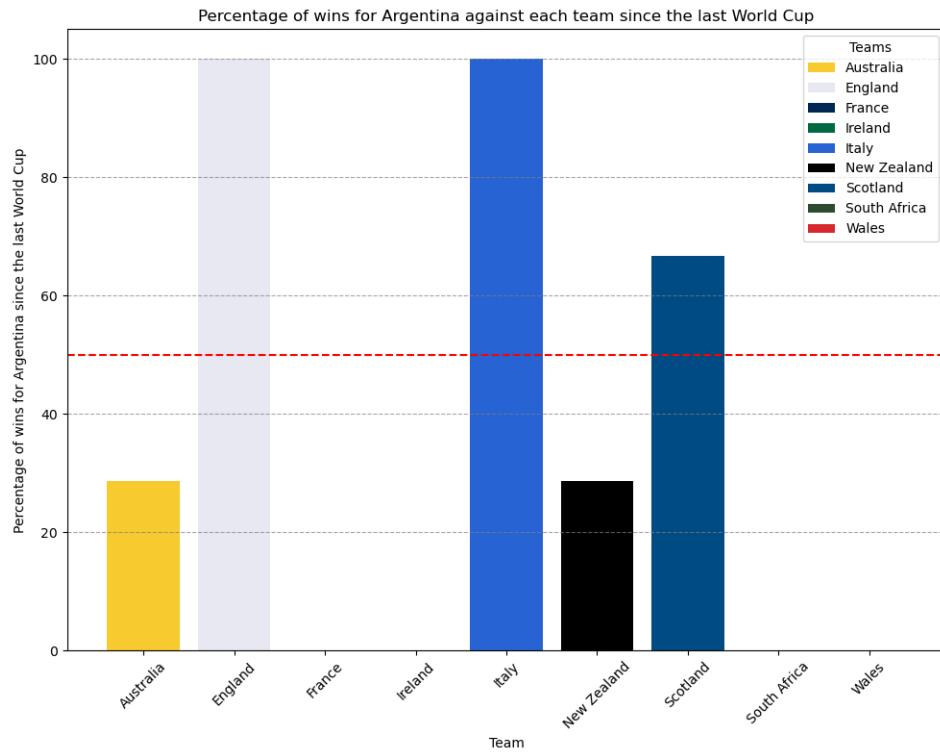
- Australia: 7 matches
- England: 1 match
- France: 1 match
- Ireland: 1 match

- Italy: 1 match
- New Zealand: 7 matches
- Scotland: 3 matches
- South Africa: 4 matches
- Wales: 3 matches

**Number of wins for Argentina against each team:**

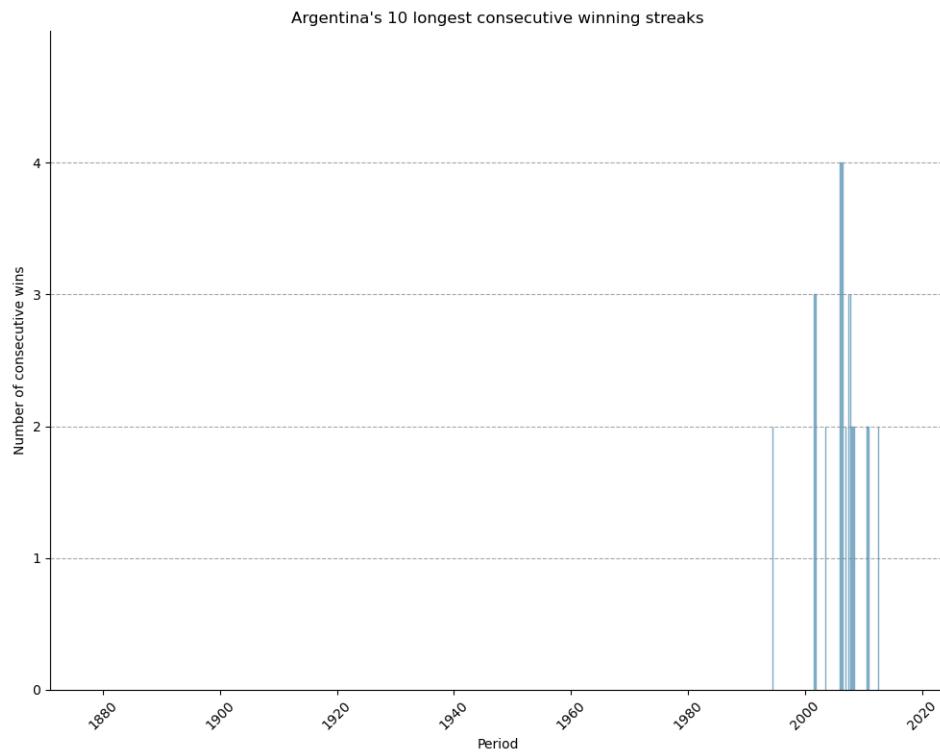
- Australia: 2 wins
- England: 1 win
- France: 0 win
- Ireland: 0 win
- Italy: 1 win
- New Zealand: 2 wins
- Scotland: 2 wins
- South Africa: 0 win
- Wales: 0 win

**Global win rate for Argentina since the last WC: 28.57%**



We can observe that the overall win ratio is only 28.57%. Although Argentina's results have been relatively favorable against Australia, New Zealand, and Scotland, indicating improvement, there are four teams against which Argentina holds a 0% win rate, contributing to the low overall ratio. The challenges are greater when facing strong opponents like South Africa and Wales. These teams pose formidable competition for Argentina. When facing other teams, it's difficult to make a judgment based on only one match. During this period, France and Ireland emerged as strong opponents for Argentina, while England and Italy secured victories against them.

### 3.1.3 Argentina's longest winning streaks



We can observe the longest winning streaks of Argentina. All of these streaks occurred after the 1990s, reflecting Argentina's status as a relatively young rugby nation. In the early 2000s, Argentina experienced victories against some of the top 10 teams, although the win streak never extended beyond 4 consecutive wins. This pattern is understandable given that Argentina was still in the process of development, competing against well-established and formidable opponents.

### 3.1.4 Argentina's largest wins against each team

- **Australia**  
Score Difference: 31  
Home Score: 48  
Away Score: 17  
Stadium: Estadio San Juan del Bicentenario  
Date: 2022-08-13

- 
- **England**  
Score Difference: 20  
Home Score: 33

Away Score: 13  
Stadium: Ferrocarril Stadium  
Date: 1997-06-07

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- France  
Score Difference: 28  
Home Score: 41  
Away Score: 13  
Stadium: José Amalfitani Stadium  
Date: 2010-06-26
- 

- Ireland  
Score Difference: 23  
Home Score: 20  
Away Score: 43  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2015-10-18
- 

- Italy  
Score Difference: 32  
Home Score: 6  
Away Score: 38  
Stadium: Stadio Flaminio  
Date: 2002-11-16
- 

- New Zealand  
Score Difference: 10  
Home Score: 15  
Away Score: 25  
Stadium: Bankwest Stadium  
Date: 2020-11-14
-

- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 9

Home Score: 22

Away Score: 31

Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium

Date: 1999-08-21

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- **South Africa**

Score Difference: 13

Home Score: 32

Away Score: 19

Stadium: Malvinas Argentinas

Date: 2018-08-25

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- **Wales**

Score Difference: 18

Home Score: 45

Away Score: 27

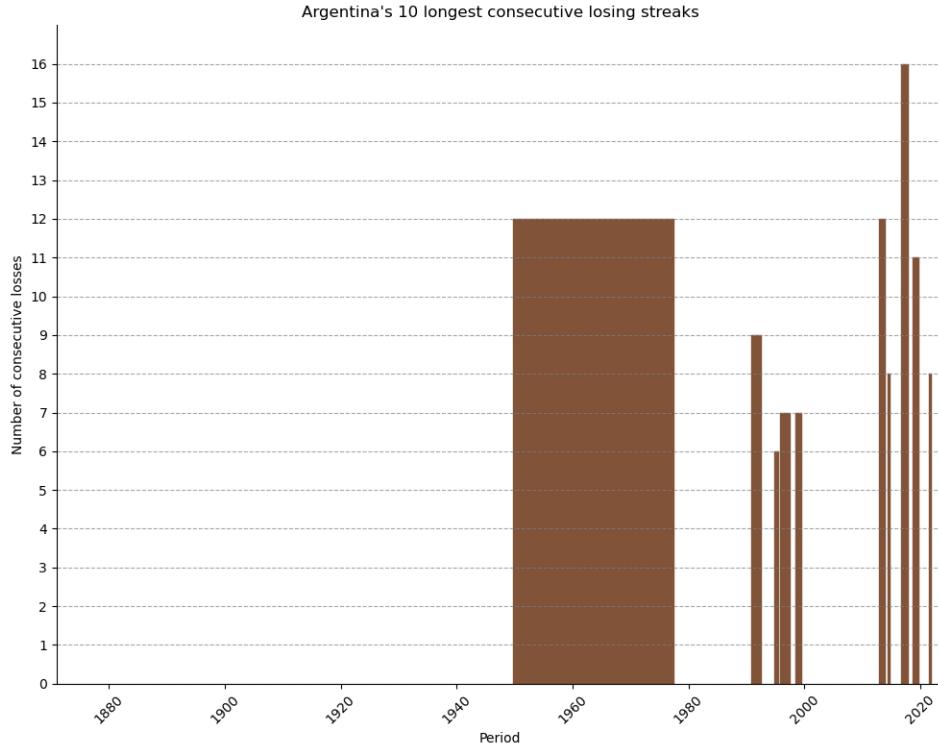
Stadium: José Amalfitani Stadium

Date: 2006-06-17

We can observe the most significant victories of Argentina in terms of score difference against each of the other teams. Interestingly, these victories all occurred between the 1990s and the present day, as explained earlier. It's also noteworthy that despite being a relatively young rugby nation, Argentina has achieved significant victories against every team, including against the All Blacks, often with substantial score differences. This is not the case for every team, and such achievements are commendable. Furthermore, it's intriguing to observe that despite Argentina's relatively high winning ratio against Scotland (over 50%), their biggest win against Scotland was by a margin of only 9 points. This suggests that the matches between these two nations are closely contested, with uncertain outcomes.

## 3.2 Debacles insights

### 3.2.1 Argentina's longest losing streaks



We can observe that between the 1950s and 1970s, Argentina faced significant challenges when competing against other nations. The 1990s also marked a difficult period for Argentina, characterized by numerous losses. Additionally, another challenging phase occurred between 2010 and 2021, reaching its peak with consecutive losses between 2016 and 2017. As other teams gained strength and momentum, it became increasingly challenging for Argentina, a younger rugby nation, to establish itself and excel in the competitive rugby landscape.

### 3.2.2 Argentina's largest losses against each team

- **Australia**

Score Difference: 47

Home Score: 53

Away Score: 6

Stadium: Ballymore Stadium

Date: 2000-06-17

- [England](#)  
Score Difference: 51  
Home Score: 51  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 1990-11-03
- 

- [France](#)  
Score Difference: 39  
Home Score: 10  
Away Score: 49  
Stadium: Estadio José Fierro  
Date: 2012-06-23
- 

- [Ireland](#)  
Score Difference: 46  
Home Score: 53  
Away Score: 7  
Stadium: Aviva Stadium  
Date: 2021-11-21
- 

- [Italy](#)  
Score Difference: 13  
Home Score: 19  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Stadio Comunale Mario Battaglini  
Date: 1978-10-24
- 

- [New Zealand](#)  
Score Difference: 85  
Home Score: 93  
Away Score: 8  
Stadium: Athletic Park  
Date: 1997-06-21

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- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 46

Home Score: 49

Away Score: 3

Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium

Date: 1990-11-10

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- **South Africa**

Score Difference: 60

Home Score: 73

Away Score: 13

Stadium: FNB Stadium

Date: 2013-08-17

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- **Wales**

Score Difference: 34

Home Score: 40

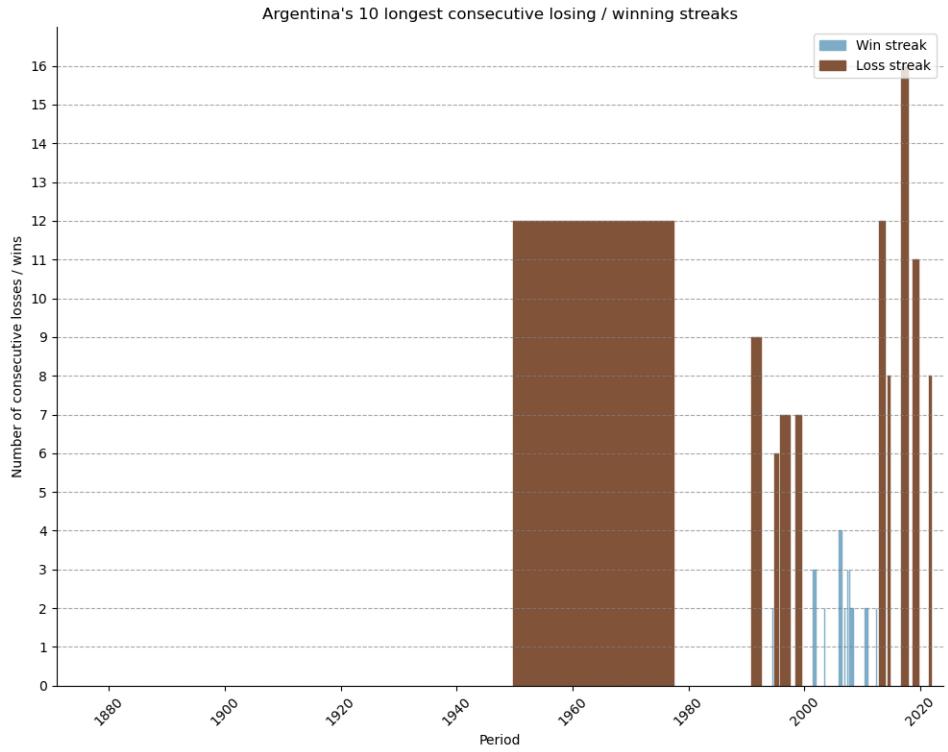
Away Score: 6

Stadium: Millennium Stadium

Date: 2013-11-16

We can observe the most significant losses of Argentina (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to note that all of these losses occurred during the periods mentioned earlier.

### 3.3 Argentina's winning and losing periods



We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the Argentina national rugby team. The diagram highlights a clear improvement over the years: initially, there were no winning streaks at all, only losing streaks until the 2000s. However, we observe that the team faced a crisis during the 2010s after experiencing a great period of winning streaks during the 2000s. Furthermore, we can see that the number of consecutive losses is much more substantial than the number of consecutive wins.

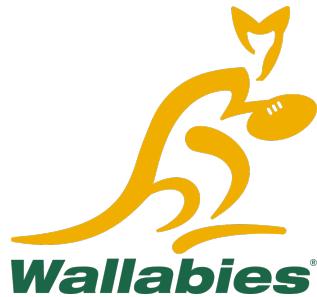
### 3.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, the evolution of the Argentine national rugby team's performance against the top 10 teams in the world reveals a story of progress, challenges, and determination. Despite the relatively low number of matches played against Argentina, their journey reflects the trajectory of a young rugby nation striving to establish its presence on the international stage. Argentina's win rates consistently fall below 35%, with particularly daunting odds against powerhouses like the All Blacks and Springboks, where their win rates drop to single digits. This trend is expected given Argentina's status as a developing rugby nation. Notably, Italy shares a similar situation, whereas Scotland's struggles against Argentina are intriguing for a well-established team. The overall win ratio since the last World Cup stands at 28.57%, influenced by a 0% win rate against four teams. While Argentina's performance has improved against certain opponents, South Africa and Wales pose significant challenges. Argentina's longest win streaks all occurred after the 1990s, showcasing their development in the face of formidable adversaries. Their ability to achieve significant victories against

every team, even the All Blacks, speaks volumes about their determination and progress. Notably, the tight matches against Scotland demonstrate a competitive spirit. Throughout history, Argentina faced challenges in different eras, notably during the 1950s-1970s, the 1990s, and the period between 2010 and 2021. As other teams gained strength, Argentina navigated through peaks and valleys, striving to solidify their presence in the competitive rugby landscape. The summarized diagrams illustrate periods of both winning and losing streaks, underscoring the team's journey. A positive trajectory emerged, punctuated by a challenging spell in the 2010s. Despite facing obstacles, Argentina's commitment to improvement remains evident, and their evolution continues to contribute to the rich tapestry of international rugby.

## 4 Historical Analysis of *the Wallabies*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the [Australian national rugby union team](#).



### 4.1 Triumphs insights

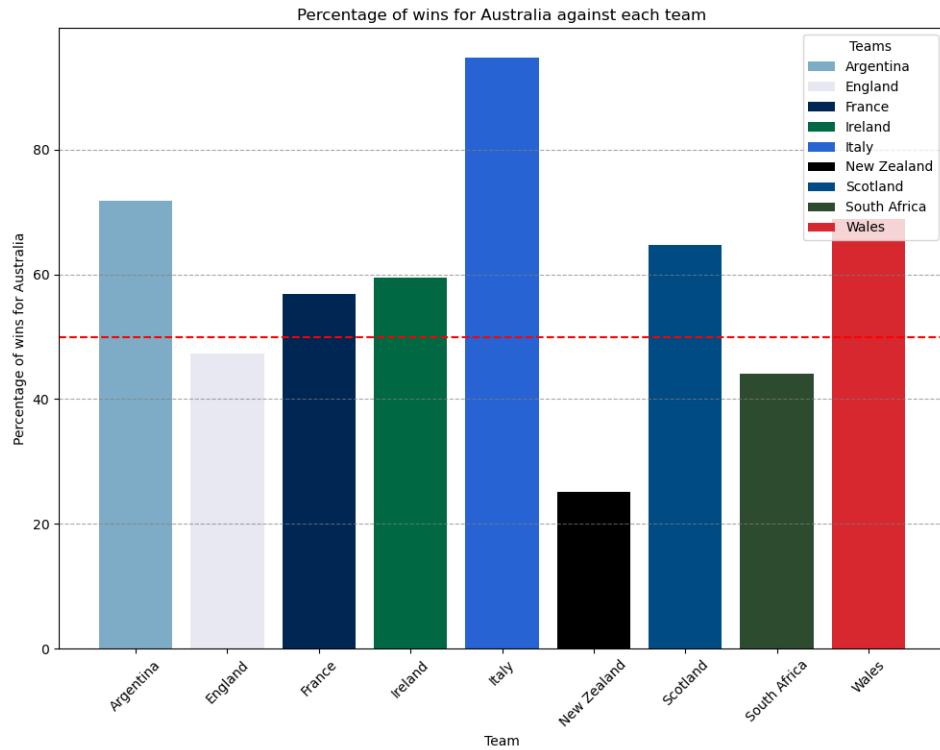
#### 4.1.1 Australia's win rate against each team

**Number of official matches against Australia for each team:**

- Argentina: 39 matches
- England: 55 matches
- France: 51 matches
- Ireland: 37 matches
- Italy: 19 matches
- New Zealand: 175 matches
- Scotland: 34 matches
- South Africa: 93 matches
- Wales: 45 matches

**Number of wins for Australia against each team:**

- Argentina: 28 wins
- England: 26 wins
- France: 29 wins
- Ireland: 22 wins
- Italy: 18 wins
- New Zealand: 44 wins
- Scotland: 22 wins
- South Africa: 41 wins
- Wales: 31 wins



We observe that the number of matches against New Zealand logically surpasses those against other teams. This can be attributed to their proximity as neighboring nations, making it more feasible to arrange matches, particularly in the earlier years when travel distances were more extensive than today. The number of matches against South Africa, just shy of a hundred, is also impressive compared to other teams. This can be partly attributed to the fact that Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and more recently Argentina are part of an annual tournament, The Rugby Championship. Furthermore, Australia's win rate is consistently above 50% against the majority of the teams, showcasing the strength

of this nation over the years. It's also interesting to note that Australia faces slightly more challenges when playing against England and South Africa. Of course, the inevitable All Blacks give the Australians a formidable competition, with only 44 wins for Australia compared to 131 losses against New Zealand. It's worth mentioning that these win rates are calculated based on data spanning from 1871 to the present day. To capture the most up-to-date trends, focusing on win rates over recent years would provide a more accurate reflection of current team dynamics.

#### 4.1.2 Australia's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)

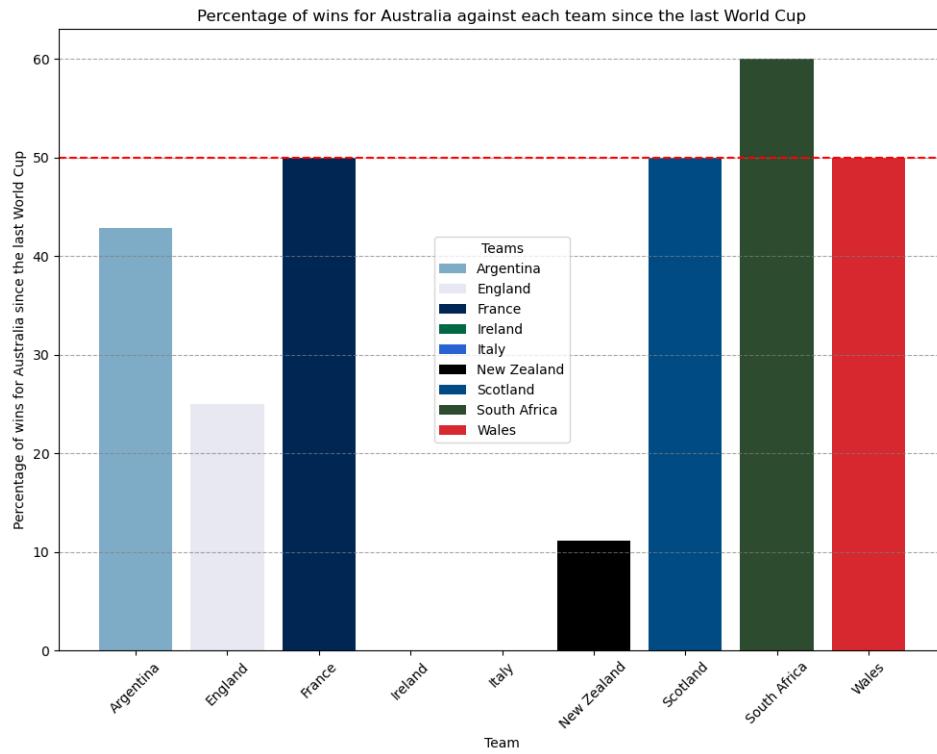
**Number of official matches against Australia since 2019 for each team:**

- Argentina: 7 matches
- England: 4 matches
- France: 4 matches
- Ireland: 1 match
- Italy: 1 match
- New Zealand: 9 matches
- Scotland: 2 matches
- South Africa: 5 matches
- Wales: 2 matches

**Number of wins for Australia against each team:**

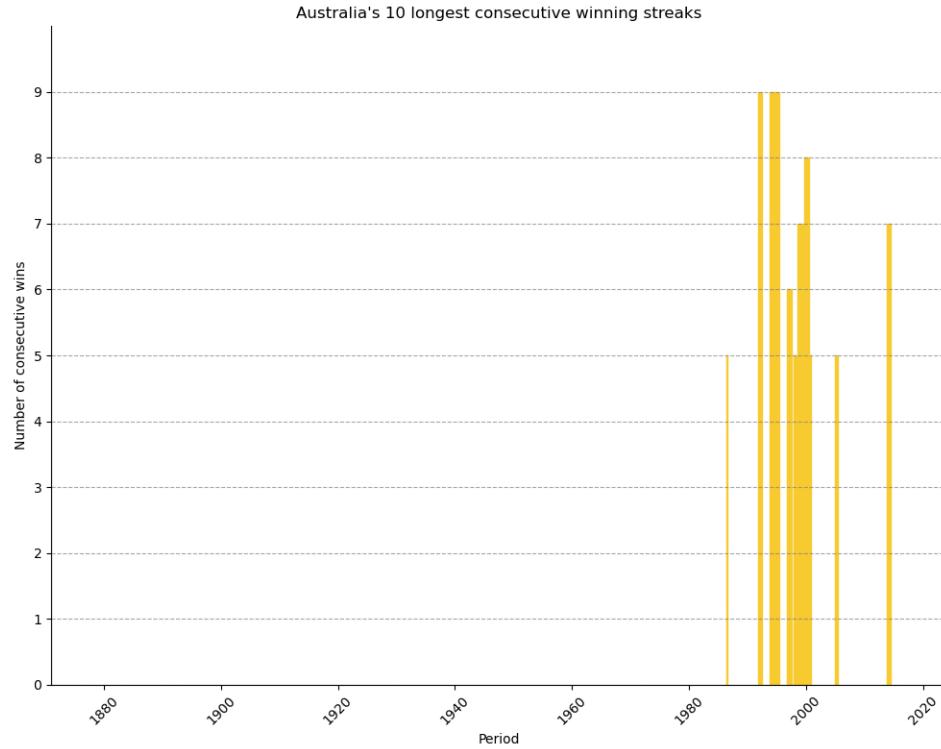
- Argentina: 3 wins
- England: 1 win
- France: 2 wins
- Ireland: 0 win
- Italy: 0 win
- New Zealand: 1 win
- Scotland: 1 win
- South Africa: 3 wins
- Wales: 1 win

**Global win rate for Australia since the last WC: 34.29%**



We can observe that since 2019, Australia's overall win rate has notably declined compared to its historical standards, standing at just 34.29%. Apart from matches against South Africa, Australia's win rate has seen significant drops against all other teams. Notably, Australia even suffered a loss against Italy, which is unusual for the Australian team.

#### 4.1.3 Australia's longest winning streaks



We can observe the longest winning streaks of Australia, all of which took place after 1985. Despite being considered an established rugby nation, Australia took time to establish dominance over other teams. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Australia demonstrated its stature as a prominent rugby nation. This era marked the Wallabies' victory in the World Cup, clinching the title in 1991 and 1999. Additionally, Australia secured triumphs in the Tri-Nations (now known as the Rugby Championship before Argentina joined the tournament) three times, specifically in 2000, 2001, and 2011.

#### 4.1.4 Australia's largest wins against each team

- [Argentina](#)  
Score Difference: 47  
Home Score: 53  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Ballymore Stadium  
Date: 2000-06-17
- 

- [England](#)  
Score Difference: 76

Home Score: 76  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Lang Park  
Date: 1998-06-06

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- France

Score Difference: 43  
Home Score: 16  
Away Score: 59  
Stadium: Stade de France  
Date: 2010-11-27

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- Ireland

Score Difference: 36  
Home Score: 46  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Ballymore Stadium  
Date: 1999-06-12

---

- Italy

Score Difference: 49  
Home Score: 6  
Away Score: 55  
Stadium: Stadio Flaminio  
Date: 1988-12-03

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- New Zealand

Score Difference: 21  
Home Score: 28  
Away Score: 7  
Stadium: Stadium Australia  
Date: 1999-08-28

---

- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 42

Home Score: 45

Away Score: 3

Stadium: Sydney Football Stadium

Date: 1998-06-13

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- **South Africa**

Score Difference: 49

Home Score: 49

Away Score: 0

Stadium: Lang Park

Date: 2006-07-15

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- **Wales**

Score Difference: 57

Home Score: 63

Away Score: 6

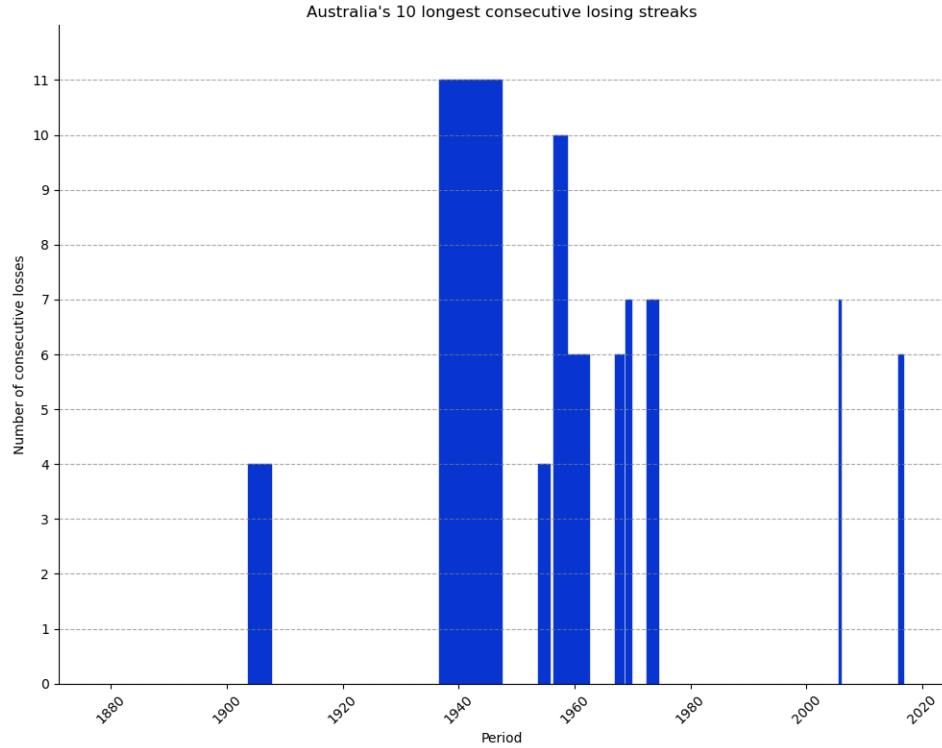
Stadium: Ballymore Stadium

Date: 1991-07-22

We can observe the most significant victories of Australia (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. All of these glorious victories for Australia occurred during the golden era of Australian rugby, spanning from the 1990s to the early 2000s.

## 4.2 Debacles insights

### 4.2.1 Australia's longest losing streaks



We can observe the longest losing streaks of Australia. The Wallabies experienced a significant number of losses during the era spanning from the 1930s to the 1970s. During this period, although Australia was actively participating in rugby matches, it was not yet considered a major rugby nation and faced numerous defeats.

### 4.2.2 Australia's largest losses against each team

- Argentina
    - Score Difference: 31
    - Home Score: 48
    - Away Score: 17
    - Stadium: Estadio San Juan del Bicentenario
    - Date: 2022-08-13
- 

- England
  - Score Difference: 24
  - Home Score: 30

Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2017-11-18

---

- France  
Score Difference: 28  
Home Score: 34  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Parc des Princes  
Date: 1976-10-30
- 

- Ireland  
Score Difference: 15  
Home Score: 12  
Away Score: 27  
Stadium: Ballymore Stadium  
Date: 1979-06-03
- 

- Italy  
Score Difference: 1  
Home Score: 28  
Away Score: 27  
Stadium: Stadio Artemio Franchi  
Date: 2022-11-12
- 

- New Zealand  
Score Difference: 38  
Home Score: 5  
Away Score: 43  
Stadium: Stadium Australia  
Date: 2020-10-31
-

- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 29

Home Score: 53

Away Score: 24

Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium

Date: 2017-11-25

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- South Africa

Score Difference: 45

Home Score: 53

Away Score: 8

Stadium: Ellis Park Stadium

Date: 2008-08-30

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- **Wales**

Score Difference: 25

Home Score: 28

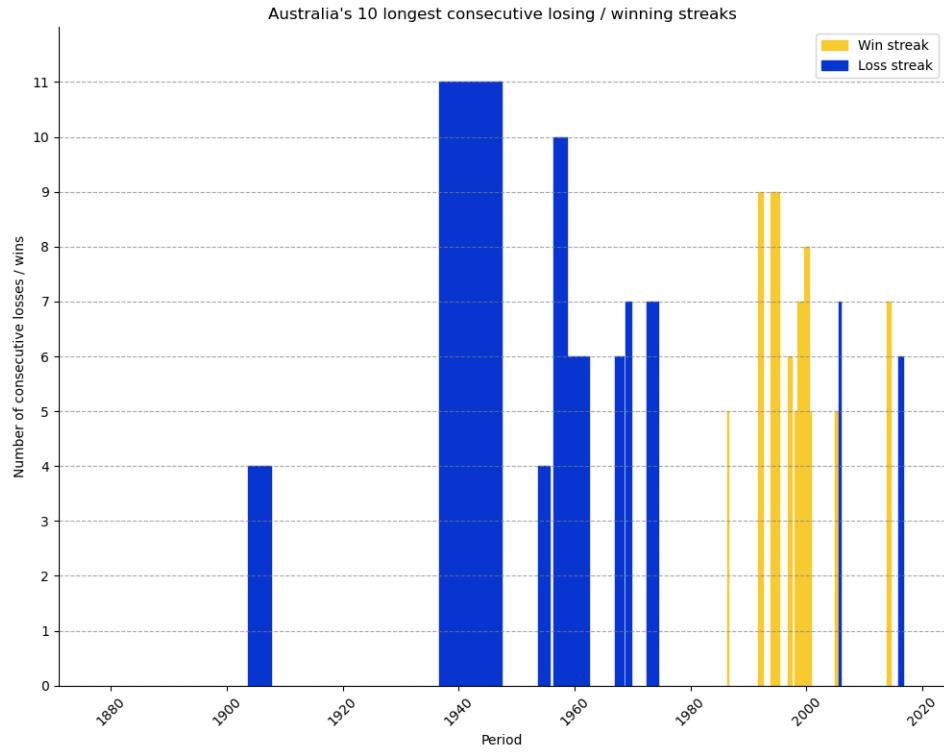
Away Score: 3

Stadium: National Stadium

Date: 1975-12-20

We can observe the most significant losses of Australia (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to note that some of these losses occurred during the 1970s, a challenging period for Australia as discussed earlier. Additionally, we can see that Australia has experienced substantial defeats between 2017 and the present day, indicating a challenging phase for the Wallabies in recent times.

### 4.3 Australia's winning and losing periods



We can observe that Australia went through challenging times between the 1930s and the 1970s before experiencing a glorious period in the 1990s and early 2000s. However, the numerous losses from the past have been overshadowed by Australia's transformation into an established and formidable nation in World Rugby, feared by its opponents.

### 4.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, the evolution of Australia's national rugby team in terms of victories and defeats against the top 10 teams worldwide is a journey marked by distinct phases and remarkable achievements. The analysis of their match history unveils intriguing insights into their performance. The prominence of matches against New Zealand and South Africa is evident, driven by geographic proximity and annual tournaments like The Rugby Championship. This proximity facilitated arranging matches, particularly in the early years when travel distances were greater. Australia's consistent win rate of over 50% against most teams underscores its enduring strength. However, challenges arise against formidable opponents like England, South Africa, and the indomitable All Blacks. Recent trends show Australia's win rate declining since 2019, standing at 34.29%. Matches against various teams have seen drops in win rates, with even unexpected losses against Italy. This serves as a reminder that the dynamics of international rugby continue to evolve, as the team experienced substantial defeats from 2017 onwards. The longest winning streaks reflect Australia's ascent since 1985, culminating in the golden era of the 1990s and early 2000s. During this period,

Australia displayed its prowess, clinching the World Cup in 1991 and 1999, along with multiple victories in the Tri-Nations. Significant victories against other teams were achieved during this golden era, testifying to Australia's dominance. Conversely, the longest losing streaks during the 1930s to 1970s signify a developmental phase when Australia faced formidable challenges and growing pains. The most significant losses against other teams reveal Australia's struggles during the 1970s. In essence, Australia's rugby journey encapsulates challenges and triumphs that have shaped its status as an established force in the rugby world. From periods of adversity to glorious victories, Australia's transformation highlights the dynamism of international rugby and the enduring pursuit of excellence.

## 5 Historical Analysis of *the Red and Whites*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the [English national rugby union team](#).



### 5.1 Triumphs insights

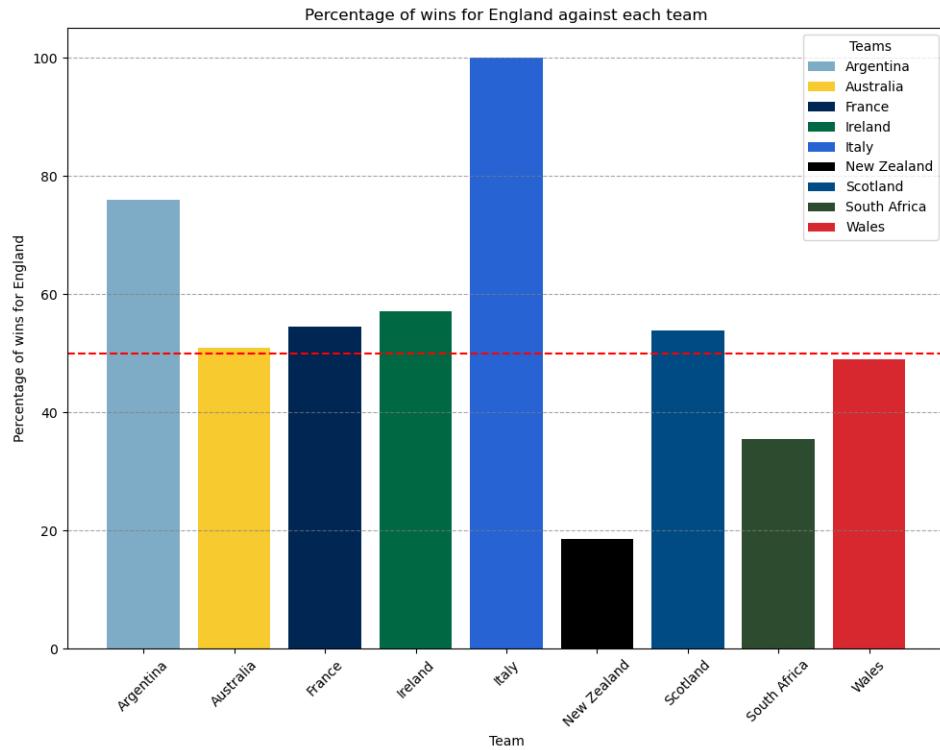
#### 5.1.1 England's win rate against each team

Number of official matches against England for each team:

- Argentina: 25 matches
- Australia: 55 matches
- France: 110 matches
- Ireland: 140 matches
- Italy: 30 matches
- New Zealand: 43 matches
- Scotland: 141 matches
- South Africa: 45 matches
- Wales: 139 matches

Number of wins for England against each team:

- Argentina: 19 wins
- Australia: 28 wins
- France: 60 wins
- Ireland: 80 wins
- Italy: 30 wins
- New Zealand: 8 wins
- Scotland: 76 wins
- South Africa: 16 wins
- Wales: 68 wins



We can observe that the number of matches against British teams and France logically surpasses those against other teams (approximately 140 to approximately 50). This can be attributed to their proximity as neighboring nations, making it more feasible to arrange matches, particularly in the earlier years when travel distances were more extensive than today. Additionally, considering that the origins of rugby lie in the British Isles, it's only fitting that most matches originated there. Also, the tournaments organized between these nations, like the 4 and 5 Nations, have contributed to the higher number of matches. Furthermore, a clear trend emerges in the win rates against various teams. Notably, the win

rate against Argentina and Italy stands out as notably high. It is worth to notice that England has always won against Italy. The win rates against Australia, France, Ireland, and Scotland are just above the 50% mark, indicating a favorable performance. However, the win rates against other formidable teams like New Zealand, South Africa, and Wales fall below the 50% threshold, dropping even under 20% against New Zealand. This reflects the consistent strength of the teams that pioneered rugby through the years, even if they faced greater challenges against New Zealand and South Africa. It's worth mentioning that these win rates are calculated based on data spanning from 1871 to the present day. To capture the most up-to-date trends, focusing on win rates over recent years would provide a more accurate reflection of current team dynamics.

### 5.1.2 England's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)

Number of official matches against England since 2019 for each team:

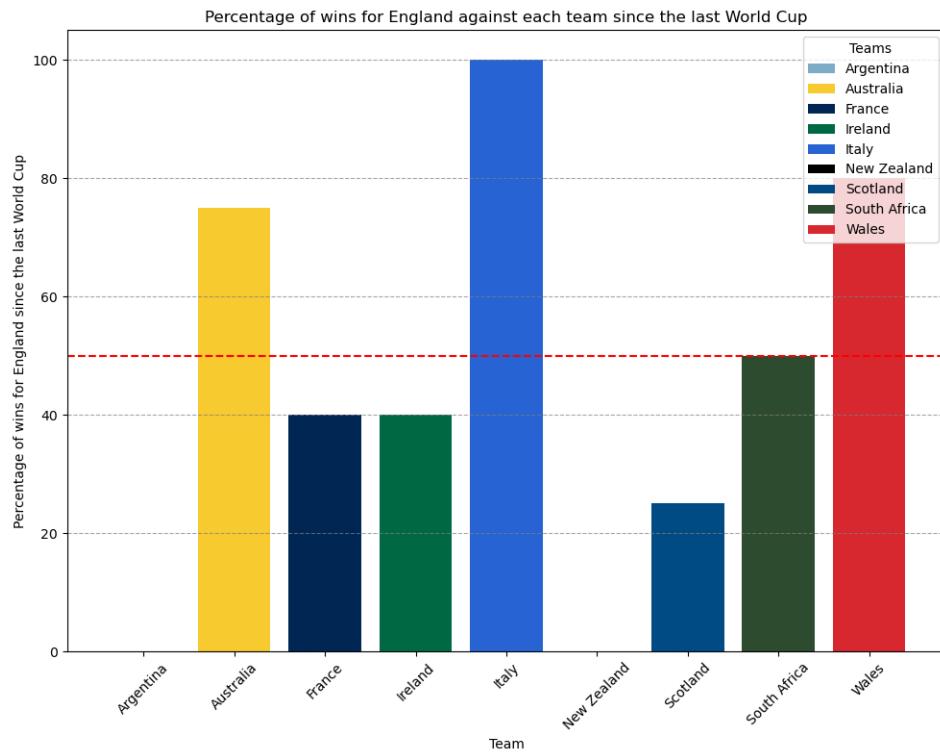
- Argentina: 1 match
- Australia: 4 matches
- France: 5 matches
- Ireland: 5 matches
- Italy: 4 matches
- New Zealand: 1 match
- Scotland: 4 matches
- South Africa: 2 matches
- Wales: 5 matches

Number of wins for England against each team:

- Argentina: 0 win
- Australia: 3 wins
- France: 2 wins
- Ireland: 2 wins
- Italy: 4 wins
- New Zealand: 0 win
- Scotland: 1 win
- South Africa: 1 win

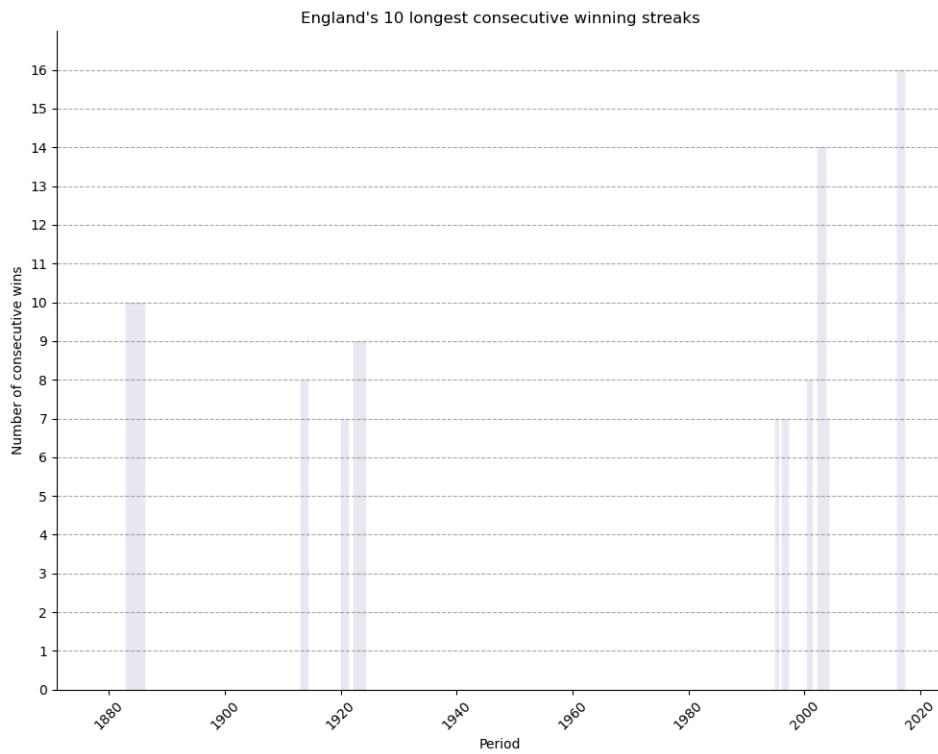
- Wales: 4 wins

**Global win rate for England since the last WC: 54.84%**



We can observe that the global win rate since the last World Cup is somewhat disappointing by English standards, standing at only 54.84%. While the win rate against Italy remains at a perfect 100%, and the win rate against Australia and Wales is also relatively high, ranging between 75% and 80%, these teams have encountered challenging periods since 2019. However, the results against France, Ireland, and Scotland are slightly less favorable compared to historical records.

### 5.1.3 England's longest winning streaks



We can observe that the longest winning streaks of England occurred during two distinct periods. The first one took place in the early years of international rugby, spanning from the 1880s to the 1920s. This period aligns with a time when the British teams were dominating world rugby, particularly between 1910 and 1929. This era is often regarded as the golden age of rugby in England. The second notable winning streak occurred in the professional era, specifically between 1995 and the early 2000s. This timeframe coincides with England's triumph in the 2003 World Cup, marking their sole championship victory to date. Additionally, there is another noteworthy peak in England's winning streak history, which stands as their highest consecutive wins record. This occurred between 2016 and 2017, attributed in part to Eddie Jones' leadership. Under his guidance, England achieved the Grand Slam in 2016, a feat not accomplished since 2003.

### 5.1.4 England's largest wins against each team

- [Argentina](#)

Score Difference: 51

Home Score: 51

Away Score: 0

Stadium: Twickenham Stadium

Date: 1990-11-03

---

- **Australia**

Score Difference: 24  
Home Score: 30  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2017-11-18

---

- **France**

Score Difference: 37  
Home Score: 37  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 1911-01-28

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- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 57  
Away Score: 15  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2019-08-24

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- **Italy**

Score Difference: 60  
Home Score: 67  
Away Score: 7  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 1999-10-02

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- **New Zealand**

Score Difference: 17  
Home Score: 38  
Away Score: 21

Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2012-12-01

---

- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 40  
Home Score: 43  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2001-03-03

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- **South Africa**

Score Difference: 50  
Home Score: 53  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2002-11-23

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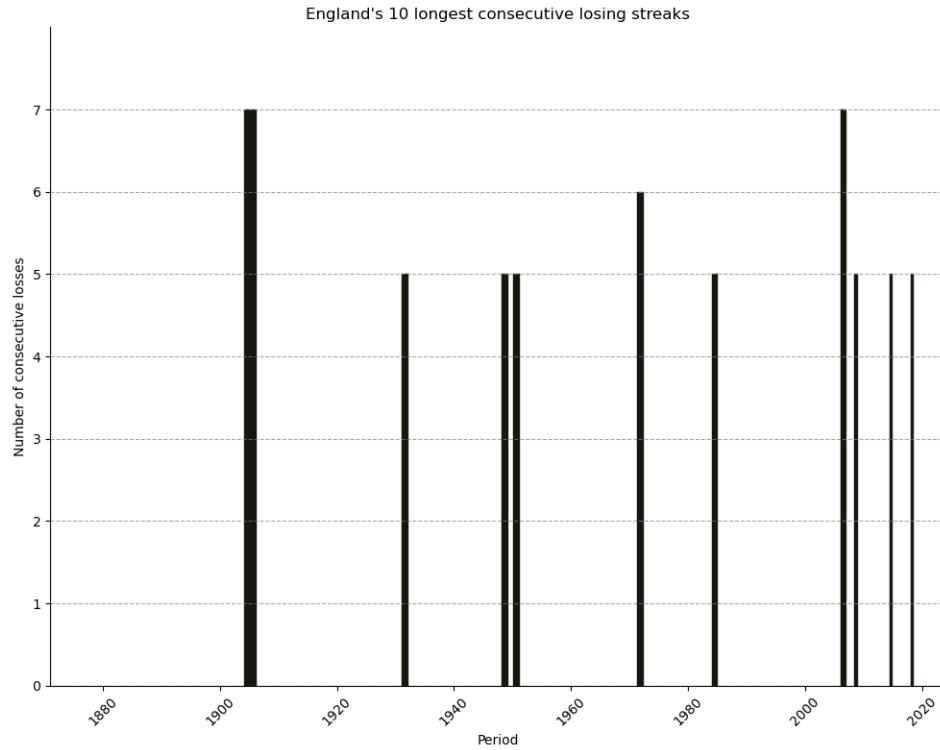
- **Wales**

Score Difference: 57  
Home Score: 62  
Away Score: 5  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2007-08-04

We can observe the most significant victories of England (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to notice that all of these victories align with the glorious periods mentioned earlier.

## 5.2 Debacles insights

### 5.2.1 England's longest losing streaks



We can observe the longest losing streaks of England. There isn't a specific period of extended losses for the English team; instead, throughout each decade, the national team has faced challenging times. It is interesting to note that there was a sequence of defeats for the team from 2006 to 2014, as well as another string of losses in 2018.

### 5.2.2 England's largest losses against each team

- [Argentina](#)

Score Difference: 20

Home Score: 33

Away Score: 13

Stadium: Ferrocarril Stadium

Date: 1997-06-07

---

- [Australia](#)

Score Difference: 76

Home Score: 76

Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Lang Park  
Date: 1998-06-06

---

- France  
Score Difference: 43  
Home Score: 10  
Away Score: 53  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2023-03-11
- 

- Ireland  
Score Difference: 30  
Home Score: 43  
Away Score: 13  
Stadium: Croke Park  
Date: 2007-02-24
- 

- Italy  
Italy NEVER DEFEATED England
- 

- New Zealand  
Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 64  
Away Score: 22  
Stadium: Carisbrook  
Date: 1998-06-20
- 

- Scotland  
Score Difference: 27  
Home Score: 33  
Away Score: 6

Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 1986-02-15

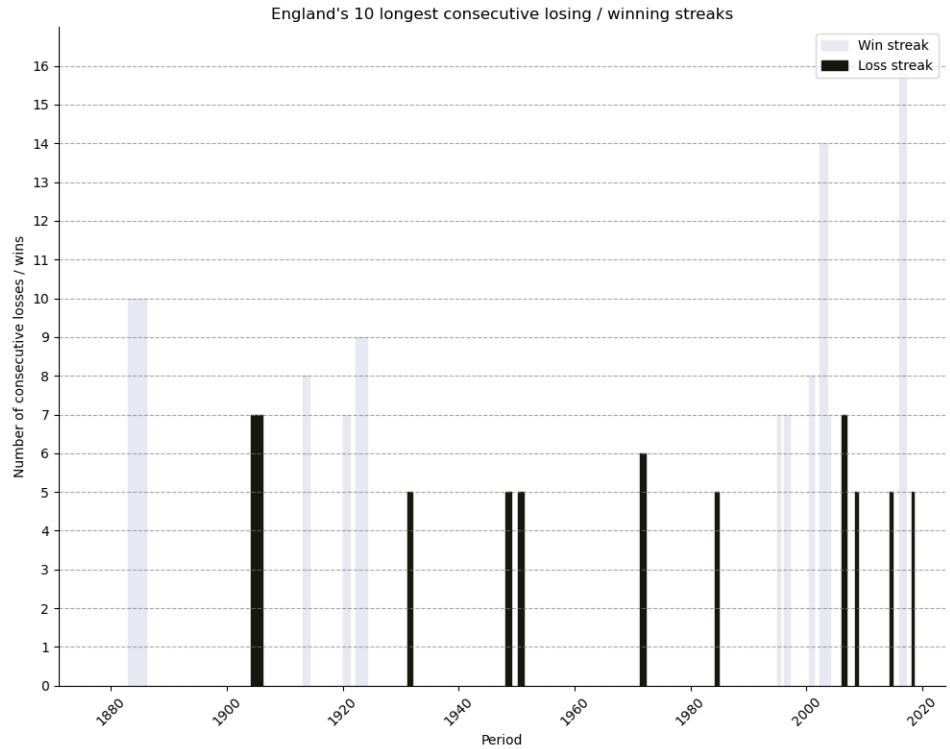
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- South Africa  
Score Difference: 48  
Home Score: 58  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Free State Stadium  
Date: 2007-05-26
- 

- Wales  
Score Difference: 27  
Home Score: 30  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2013-03-16

We can observe the most significant losses of England (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. All of these losses took place during the periods of losing streaks mentioned earlier. It is interesting to note that the recent loss against France in Twickenham, with a score of 10 - 53, stands as the worst defeat England has ever suffered at home. This match turned into a truly humiliating experience against their fiercest rival. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, Italy has never secured a victory against England.

### 5.3 England's winning and losing periods



We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the English national rugby team. The diagram underscores the fluctuating and unpredictable nature of England's performance over the years. It's evident that periods of glory are often followed by periods of defeat, and vice versa. This trend is particularly noticeable since the 2000s. After perhaps experiencing one of its most triumphant eras, marked by winning the Webb Ellis Cup, England faced a subsequent decline with numerous losing periods. However, in 2016-2017, the team mounted an impressive comeback, achieving its best win streak ever. This pattern illustrates the resilience of the team – once at rock bottom, the only way to go is up, and that's precisely what England did, emerging even stronger.

### 5.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, the evolution of the English national rugby team's performance in terms of victories and defeats against the top 10 teams worldwide is a fascinating journey rich with historical significance. As the birthplace of rugby with William Webb Ellis's historic actions in 1823, England's rugby legacy is deeply intertwined with the sport's origin. Examining the team's match history against various opponents unveils intriguing patterns and trends that shed light on their prowess on the field. The prevalence of matches against fellow British teams and France is notably higher, which can be attributed to geographical proximity and historical ties. Additionally, the legacy of rugby's origins in the British Isles contributes to the higher frequency of matches with these nations. The historic tournaments like the 4 and 5 Nations further amplify the number of matches played. Analyzing win rates against

different teams reveals valuable insights. Notably, England has maintained a remarkably high win rate against Argentina and Italy. It's worth noting that England has consistently emerged victorious against Italy. While their win rates against Australia, France, Ireland, and Scotland hover just above the 50% mark, indicating a favorable performance, they face greater challenges against formidable teams like New Zealand, South Africa, and Wales, where win rates dip below 50% and even approach 20% against New Zealand. This underscores the enduring strength of the teams that pioneered rugby, albeit facing steeper competition against certain opponents. The recent global win rate of 54.84% since the last World Cup falls somewhat short of English standards. While England maintains a flawless record against Italy, their win rates against Australia and Wales remain solid, but these teams have faced challenges since 2019. Meanwhile, England's results against France, Ireland, and Scotland have been slightly less favorable than historical records suggest. The longest winning streaks of England have occurred during two distinct eras. The early years of international rugby, from the 1880s to the 1920s, marked a period of British dominance and are often referred to as the golden era of rugby in England. The professional era also witnessed a significant winning streak from 1995 to the early 2000s, culminating in their 2003 World Cup victory. Additionally, the remarkable win streak between 2016 and 2017, under Eddie Jones' leadership, stands out as a testament to the team's resilience and determination. Conversely, England's losing streaks do not follow a consistent pattern, with challenging periods scattered across decades. Notably, the team faced sequences of defeats from 2006 to 2014 and in 2018. The most significant losses, in terms of score difference, have occurred during these challenging periods of losing streaks. A recent standout loss against France, with a score of 10 - 53 at Twickenham, stands as England's most significant home defeat, underscoring the team's vulnerability even on home turf. Furthermore, Italy has yet to secure a victory against England, further highlighting England's strong competitive record. The summary diagram vividly illustrates England's roller-coaster journey of winning and losing streaks. This graph emphasizes the team's unpredictable nature, with periods of glory frequently succeeded by periods of adversity. This pattern has been particularly pronounced since the 2000s. Despite facing setbacks, the team's ability to rebound is evident, with their resilience culminating in their impressive win streaks. As of 2023, England is navigating challenging times, as Eddie Jones' departure and the appointment of Steve Borthwick as his successor have not yet yielded desired results. The team remains determined to overcome their current difficulties and continue their storied legacy in the world of rugby.

## 6 Historical Analysis of *Le XV de France*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the French national rugby union team.



## 6.1 Stadiums in which the French national team played

Stadium in France	City	Number of Matches
Stade de France	Saint-Denis	101
Stade Olympique Yves du Manoir	Colombes	89
Parc des Princes	Paris	79
Stade Vélodrome	Marseille	13
Stadium Municipal de Toulouse	Toulouse	8
Stade de la Beaujoire	Nantes	5
Stade de Gerland	Lyon	5
Stade Lesdiguières	Grenoble	3
Parc Lescure	Bordeaux	3
Stade Chaban-Delmas	Bordeaux	2
Stadium Lille Métropole	Lille	2
Stade Pierre Mauroy	Lille	2
Stade du Moulias	Auch	1
Stade des Ponts Jumeaux	Toulouse	1
Stade de la Meinau	Strasbourg	1
Stade de la Mosson	Montpellier	1
Allianz Riviera	Nice	1
Stade Pershing	Vincennes	1
Gare de La Croix du Prince	Pau	1
Stade Municipal de Bordeaux	Bordeaux	1
Stade Mayol	Toulon	1
Stade Maurice Trélut	Tarbes	1
Stade Marcel Saupin	Nantes	1
Stade Marcel Michelin	Clermont-Ferrand	1
Stade Geoffroy-Guichard	Saint-Étienne	1
Stade Félix Bollaert	Lens	1
Stade Armandie	Agen	1
Stade Antoine-Béguère	Lourdes	1
Stade Municipal de Chambéry	Chambéry	1

We can observe that the vast majority (approximately 80%) of national matches took place in Paris, the capital city, or its suburbs. This concentration is understandable since national matches are typically played in the national stadium, which is why 'Stade de France' accounts for a significant portion of the matches. Furthermore, stadiums like 'Stade Olympique Yves du Manoir' and 'Parc des Princes' were utilized in the era before rugby turned professional. Because as well as being in the capital region, Paris is also one of the cradles of rugby in France, so they hold historical significance for French rugby. Marseille, as the second-largest city in France, hosted a substantial number of matches as well. Meanwhile, Toulouse, often referred to as the epicenter of French rugby, boasted its own club, 'Stade Toulousain,' which holds the record for the most titles won by a French club. The city's strong rugby tradition and the presence of 'Stade Toulousain' players in the national team contributed to the fervor of rugby fans in Toulouse, leading to a desire for national matches to be played there. Just like Bordeaux, because it was on the west coast of France that rugby was imported by the English, and in particular in the south-west that rugby developed. It's worth noting that matches in other major cities such as Lyon or Lille are likely associated with France hosting international events like the Rugby World Cup. These cities were chosen as host locations due to their infrastructural capabilities and prominence on the national stage.

## 6.2 Triumphs insights

### 6.2.1 France's win rate against each team

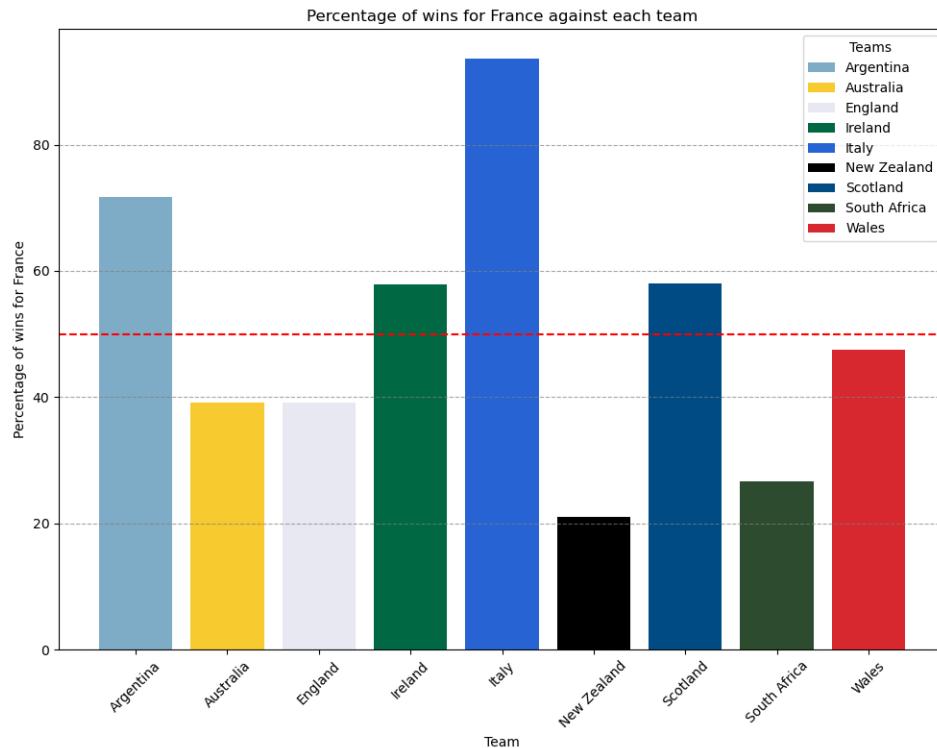
**Number of official matches against France for each team:**

- Argentina: 53 matches
- Australia: 51 matches
- England: 110 matches
- Ireland: 102 matches
- Italy: 47 matches
- New Zealand: 62 matches
- Scotland: 100 matches
- South Africa: 45 matches
- Wales: 103 matches

**Number of wins for France against each team:**

- Argentina: 38 wins
- Australia: 20 wins
- England: 43 wins
- Ireland: 59 wins

- Italy: 44 wins
- New Zealand: 13 wins
- Scotland: 58 wins
- South Africa: 12 wins
- Wales: 49 wins



We observe that the number of matches against British teams logically surpasses those against other teams (approximately 100 to approximately 50). This can be attributed to their proximity as neighboring nations, making it more feasible to arrange matches, particularly in the earlier years when travel distances were more extensive than today. Additionally, considering that the origins of rugby lie in the British Isles, it's only fitting that most matches originated there. Furthermore, a clear trend emerges in the win rates against various teams. Notably, the win rate against Argentina and Italy stands out as notably high. The win rates against Ireland and Scotland also exceed the 50% mark, indicating a favorable performance. However, the win rates against other formidable teams like Australia, England, and Wales fall below the 50% threshold. This trend holds true for matches against New Zealand and South Africa, where the win rates are notably lower due to the strength of these teams. It's worth mentioning that these win rates are calculated based on data spanning from 1871 to the present day. To capture the most up-to-date trends, focusing on win rates over recent years would provide a more accurate reflection of current team dynamics.

### 6.2.2 France's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)

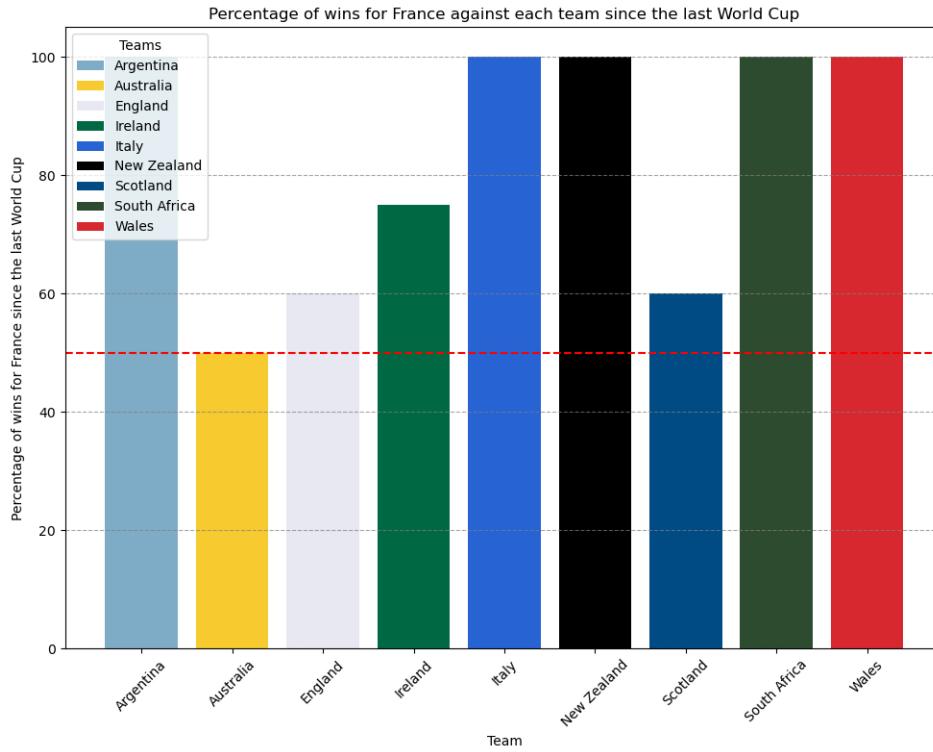
**Number of official matches against France since 2019 for each team:**

- Argentina: 1 match
- Australia: 4 matches
- England: 5 matches
- Ireland: 4 matches
- Italy: 5 matches
- New Zealand: 1 match
- Scotland: 5 matches
- South Africa: 1 match
- Wales: 5 match

**Number of wins for France against each team:**

- Argentina: 1 win
- Australia: 2 wins
- England: 3 wins
- Ireland: 3 wins
- Italy: 5 wins
- New Zealand: 1 win
- Scotland: 3 wins
- South Africa: 1 win
- Wales: 5 wins

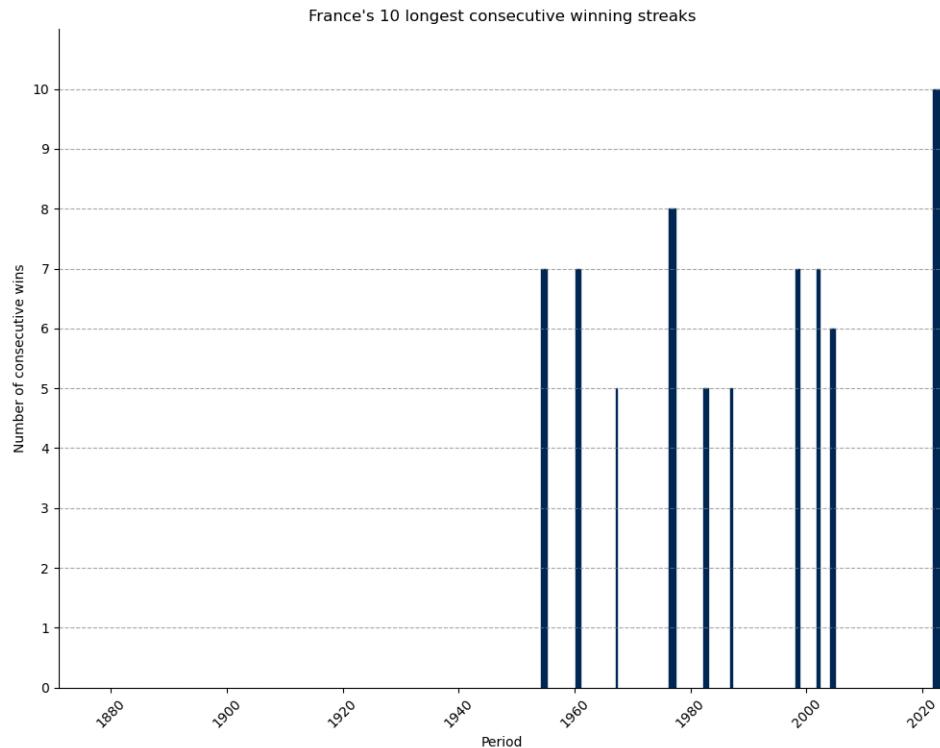
**Global win rate for France since the last WC: 77,42%**



We can observe that the win rate against all other teams is consistently at least 50%. Following the 2019 World Cup in Japan, the French rugby federation introduced a new management team led by Fabien Galthié. This new leadership includes Raphaël Ibañez as the team's general manager, supported by four coaches: William Servat and Karim Ghezal as co-coaches of the forwards, Laurent Labit as the backs coach, and the Englishman Shaun Edwards responsible for defense. Thibault Giroud, who previously worked with Galthié at RC Toulon in 2017-2018, has taken on the role of performance director. Nicolas Buffa continues to oversee video analysis and now serves as the director of the analysis unit. This comprehensive overhaul of the coaching staff signals a fresh start for the French team. Notably, the outcomes have been quite positive. France's overall win rate since the last World Cup stands at an impressive 77.42%. This includes victories against traditionally challenging opponents like New Zealand and South Africa. Furthermore, as previously observed, the team's most significant winning streak occurred between November 5, 2021, and May 2, 2023, which aligns well with their current strong performance.

### 6.2.3 France's longest winning streaks

Rank	Win Streak	Begin Date	End Date
1	10	2021-11-05	2023-02-05
2	8	1976-03-20	1977-06-25
3	7	1954-04-10	1955-02-26
4	7	1960-03-26	1961-01-07
5	7	1998-02-07	1998-11-14
6	7	2001-11-10	2002-04-06
7	6	2004-02-14	2004-11-13
8	5	1967-02-11	1967-04-15
9	5	1982-03-20	1983-02-05
10	5	1986-11-15	1987-03-21



We can observe the longest winning streaks of France. They all occurred after the 1950s when rugby was firmly established in the country. During this period, the national team started achieving numerous consecutive victories. The most extended winning streak occurred from the 5th of November 2021 to the 5th of February 2023.

### 6.2.4 France's largest wins against each team

- Argentina
- Score Difference: 39

Home Score: 10  
Away Score: 49  
Stadium: Estadio José Fierro  
Date: 2012-06-23

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- [Australia](#)

Score Difference: 28  
Home Score: 34  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Parc des Princes  
Date: 1976-10-30

---

- [England](#)

Score Difference: 43  
Home Score: 10  
Away Score: 53  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2023-03-11

---

- [Ireland](#)

Score Difference: 39  
Home Score: 44  
Away Score: 5  
Stadium: Stade de France  
Date: 2002-04-06

---

- [Italy](#)

Score Difference: 47  
Home Score: 60  
Away Score: 13  
Stadium: Stade Mayol  
Date: 1967-03-26

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- New Zealand  
Score Difference: 15  
Home Score: 40  
Away Score: 25  
Stadium: Stade de France  
Date: 2021-11-20
- 

- Scotland  
Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 51  
Away Score: 9  
Stadium: Stadium Australia  
Date: 2003-10-25
- 

- South Africa  
Score Difference: 20  
Home Score: 30  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Stade Vélodrome  
Date: 2002-11-09
- 

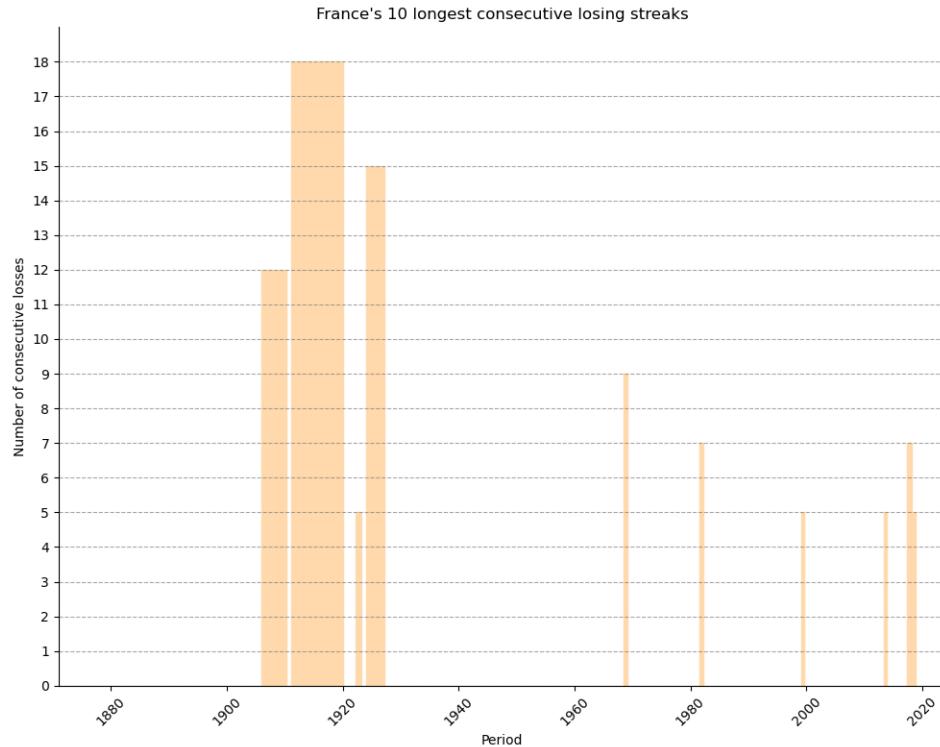
- Wales  
Score Difference: 51  
Home Score: 0  
Away Score: 51  
Stadium: Wembley Stadium  
Date: 1998-04-05

We can observe the most significant victories of France (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to notice that some of those victories occurred at the beginning of the 00s, at the beginning of the 70s, and after the 2019 World Cup. These periods correspond to the peak glory periods for French rugby as seen previously.

## 6.3 Debacles insights

### 6.3.1 France's longest losing streaks

Rank	Loss Streak	Begin Date	End Date
1	18	1911-01-28	1920-02-17
2	15	1924-01-26	1927-02-26
3	12	1906-01-01	1910-03-28
4	9	1968-07-13	1969-02-22
5	7	1981-07-05	1982-03-06
6	7	2017-06-10	2018-02-11
7	5	1922-03-23	1923-04-02
8	5	1999-03-06	1999-08-28
9	5	2013-06-08	2013-11-23
10	5	2018-03-17	2018-11-10



We can observe the longest losing streaks of France. The most significant ones occurred between 1905 and 1930 when rugby was relatively new in France, and the British neighbors proved to be formidable opponents, resulting in a series of consecutive losses. Another notable period of losing streaks is from 2013 to 2018. During this time, French rugby experienced one of its worst phases in decades, with defeats becoming a regular occurrence.

### 6.3.2 France's largest losses against each team

- **Argentina**

Score Difference: 28

Home Score: 41

Away Score: 13

Stadium: José Amalfitani Stadium

Date: 2010-06-26

---

- **Australia**

Score Difference: 43

Home Score: 16

Away Score: 59

Stadium: Stade de France

Date: 2010-11-27

---

- **England**

Score Difference: 37

Home Score: 37

Away Score: 0

Stadium: Twickenham Stadium

Date: 1911-01-28

---

- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 24

Home Score: 24

Away Score: 0

Stadium: Mardyke

Date: 1913-03-24

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- **Italy**

Score Difference: 8

Home Score: 32

Away Score: 40

Stadium: Stade Lesdiguières

Date: 1997-03-22

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- New Zealand  
Score Difference: 51  
Home Score: 61  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Westpac Stadium  
Date: 2007-06-09
- 

- Scotland  
Score Difference: 28  
Home Score: 31  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Inverleith  
Date: 1912-01-20
- 

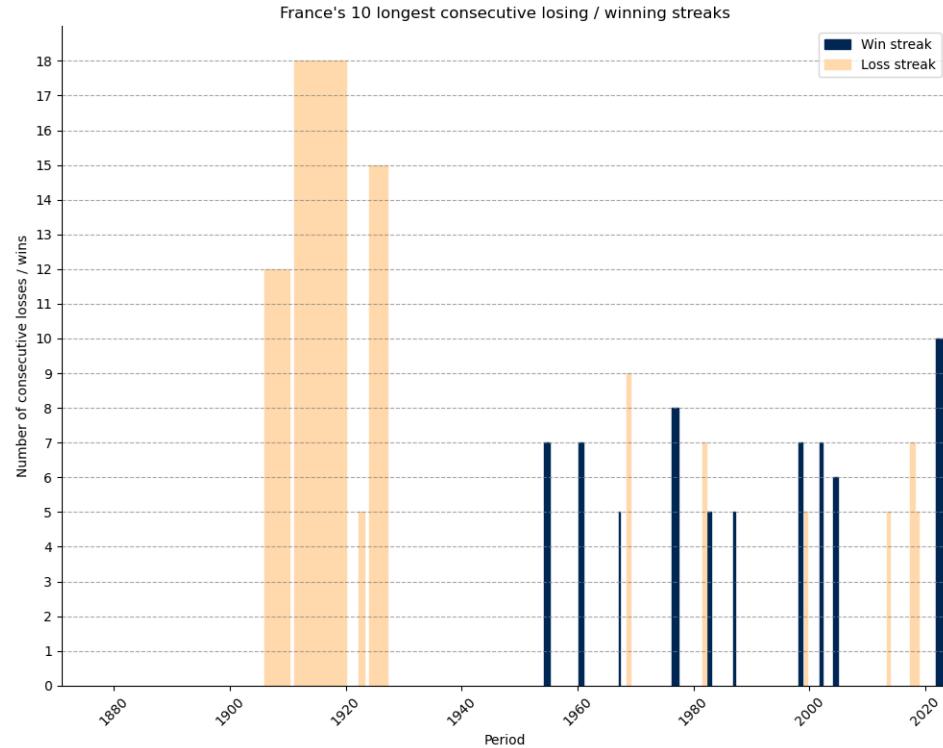
- South Africa  
Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 10  
Away Score: 52  
Stadium: Parc des Princes  
Date: 1997-11-22
- 

- Wales  
Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 5  
Away Score: 47  
Stadium: Stade Olympique Yves du Manoir  
Date: 1909-02-23

We can observe the most significant losses of France (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to notice that some of those losses occurred around 1910 against the British neighbors when rugby started to emerge in France. Additionally, losses in 1997 and 2010 stand out, which were the years when France succeeded in winning

the Grand Slam in the 5 and 6 Nations tournaments respectively. Perhaps these losses were influenced by overconfidence during those years?

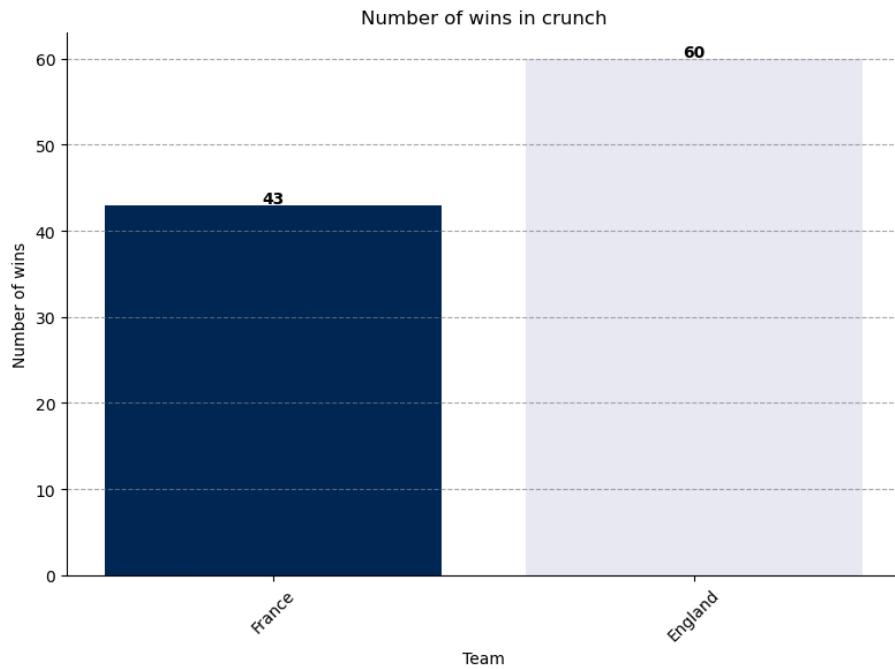
#### 6.4 France's winning and losing periods



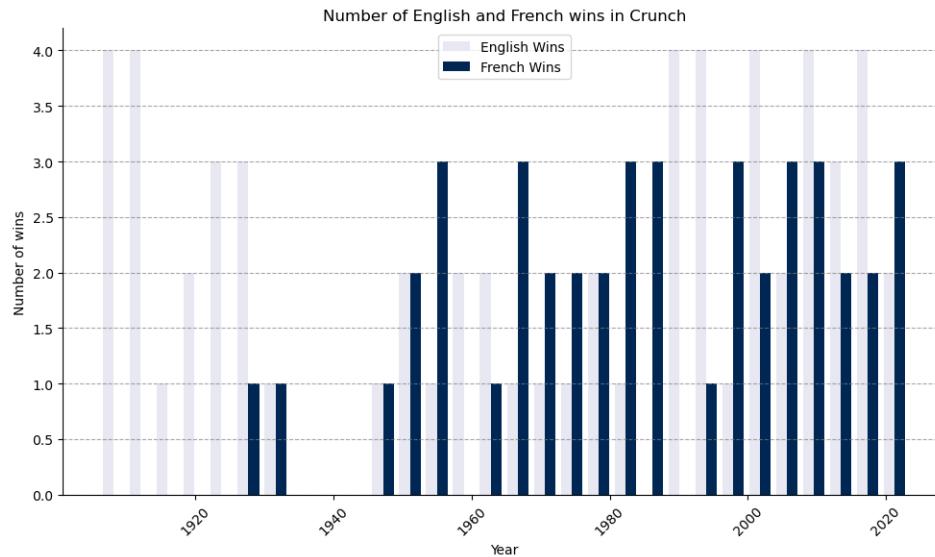
We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the French national rugby team. The diagram highlights a clear improvement over the years, even though the team faced a crisis during the 2010s before reaching its peak performance in 2021.

#### 6.5 The Crunch (France Vs England)

Statistic	Count
Total number of crunches	110
Number of English wins	60
Number of French wins	43
Total number of draws	7



We can observe that England has won the majority of all-time encounters between the two teams. However, it would be interesting to examine the distribution of these victories over the years. Given that England invented rugby, it is likely that in the early years, England frequently secured victories against France.



We can observe that, as predicted, England dominated France before World War II, winning almost all matches against them. This dominance can be attributed to the fact that

rugby originated in England, giving them an advantage over a nation with less experience. However, since the end of World War II, the contests between the two historical rivals have become more balanced. The number of victories per year has become more equal, reflecting a more competitive rivalry.

## 6.6 Honors list of *les Bleus*

### 6.6.1 6 Nations / Grand Slam honors list



		<b>England</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Wales</b>
0	Tournaments	127	94	129	24	129	129
1	Outright wins (shared wins)						
2	Home Nations	5 (4)	—	4 (3)	—	9 (2)	7 (3)
3	Five Nations	17 (6)	12 (8)	6 (5)	—	5 (6)	15 (8)
4	Six Nations	7	6	5	0	0	6
5	Overall	29 (10)	18 (8)	15 (8)	0 (0)	14 (8)	28 (11)
6	Grand Slams						
7	Home Nations	—	—	—	—	—	2
8	Five Nations	11	6	1	—	3	6
9	Six Nations	2	4	3	0	0	4
10	Overall	13	10	4	0	3	12
11	Wooden Spoon						
12	Home Nations	7	—	10	—	5	6
13	Five Nations	10	12	15	—	15	10
14	Six Nations	0	1	0	18	4	1
15	Overall	17	13	25	18	24	17

We can observe that in 94 participations in those tournaments, France has won 18 Five / Six Nations titles along with 10 Grand Slams. Additionally, they finished in the last position 13 times. Out of these 13 instances, 12 occurred during the Five Nations era, primarily due to the entry of Italy. The presence of Italy meant that the other nations were less likely to finish last. Italy has finished last in 18 out of 24 tournaments (75% of the time). Among the 12 victories in the Five Nations, 8 were shared victories. This implies that France finished

first jointly with another team. France, along with Wales, holds the record for the most Grand Slams in the Six Nations. England and Wales have won the most Five / Six Nations tournaments by a significant margin. Surprisingly, Scotland has never won a Six Nations title. Scotland's victories are limited to Five Nations and Home Nations tournaments, which were held before France's entry into the competition. This trend aligns with the historical fact that Scotland's golden era was in the distant past.

#### 6.6.2 World Cup honors list



	<b>Team</b>	<b>Champions</b>	<b>Runners-up</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>	<b>Quarter-finals</b>
0	New Zealand	1987, 2011, 2015	1995	3	1	1
1	South Africa	1995, 2007, 2019	—	2	—	2
2	Australia	1991, 1999	2003, 2015	1	1	3
3	England	2003	1991, 2007, 2019	—	1	3
4	France	—	1987, 1999, 2011	1	2	3
5	Wales	—	—	1	2	3
6	Argentina	—	—	1	1	2
7	Scotland	—	—	—	1	6
8	Ireland	—	—	—	—	7
9	Samoa	—	—	—	—	2
10	Fiji	—	—	—	—	2
11	Canada	—	—	—	—	1
12	Japan	—	—	—	—	1

We can observe that despite never having won the Webb Ellis Trophy, France is the fifth-best nation in the World Cup. France reached the final three times in 1987, 1999, and 2011, and is one of the most consistent teams along with Australia, England, and New Zealand. It has reached the quarter-finals at every edition, a total of nine times.

## 6.7 French Clubs

### 6.7.1 History of the league

The *Ligue Nationale de Rugby* (LNR) manages professional rugby in France, established on July 24, 1998. It operates independently from the French Rugby Federation, overseeing the elite level of the sport. Serge Blanco became its first president after its creation, following discussions and negotiations within the rugby community to establish an entity focused on the professional aspects of the game.

### 6.7.2 History of the professional rugby union club competition

The French Rugby Union Championship, known as Top 14 since 2005, is an annual competition that brings together the best professional rugby union clubs in France. It was established in 1892 under the auspices of the multi-sport federation USFSA and was initially organized by a rugby committee. From the 1921 edition onward, it came under the supervision of the newly-formed French Rugby Federation. Since 1998, the organization has been handled by the National Rugby League. The champion of France receives the Brennus Shield as a trophy. Throughout its long history, the French Championship has witnessed several periods of domination by certain clubs for ten to fifteen years. Chronologically, the championship saw the dominance of the two Parisian clubs, Racing Club de France and Stade français Paris (1892-1903), followed by Stade Bordelais (early 1900s), FC Lourdes (1950s), AS Béziers Hérault (1971-1984), and Stade Toulousain (1920s, then 1985-2001). From 1994 to 2008, a period that marked the beginning of professionalism in French rugby, Stade Toulousain, Stade français Paris, and Biarritz Olympique shared fifteen titles. This three-way dominance ended in 2009 with USA Perpignan's victory, followed by a succession of different champions, including Castres Olympique, RC Toulon, ASM Clermont Auvergne, Racing 92, and for the first time, Montpellier Hérault Rugby. The championship format has been modified several times over its history. With the introduction of professionalism in 1995, the number of elite division clubs significantly reduced from 24 to 16, and later to 14 clubs in 2005. The championship names changed successively to Top 16, Top 14, Rugby Top 14 Orange due to a partnership with a telecommunications operator in 2008-2009, and back to Top 14. The championship is divided into two phases: a qualification phase involving all teams and a final phase that includes the top six clubs (top four until 2008-2009) from the qualification phase, competing in direct elimination matches. Since the 2017-2018 season, the last team in the qualification phase is relegated to Pro D2 and replaced by the Pro D2 finalist, while the second-to-last team plays a relegation playoff match against the other Pro D2 finalist. Attracting top players from around the world, securing lucrative TV broadcasting rights, and drawing large crowds to stadiums, the Top 14 is regarded as the wealthiest national rugby championship globally.

- The Golden Era (1890-1914): The first official French rugby championship was awarded in 1892, and early titles were dominated by Parisian clubs. The game spread to the South of France due to commercial exchanges with England. The rugby stronghold extended to Aquitaine, where clubs like Aviron Bayonnais and Stade Bordelais thrived. The Rugby Union was momentarily boycotted by British teams in the 1950s due to concerns about professionalism. The sport's development was also hindered by the Second World War, but it resumed in the post-war years.
- The Golden Era (1890-1914): The first official French rugby championship was awarded

in 1892, and early titles were dominated by Parisian clubs. The game spread to the South of France due to commercial exchanges with England. The rugby stronghold extended to Aquitaine, where clubs like Aviron Bayonnais and Stade Bordelais thrived. The Rugby Union was momentarily boycotted by British teams in the 1950s due to concerns about professionalism. The sport's development was also hindered by the Second World War, but it resumed in the post-war years.

- Professional Era and Internationalization (1995-Present): The advent of professionalism in 1995 transformed the landscape of French rugby. The Top 14 evolved into a competitive league, with clubs like Stade Toulousain, Stade français Paris, and Biarritz Olympique dominating initially. The 2009 victory by USA Perpignan broke the trio's dominance. The introduction of international competitions, such as the Rugby World Cup, influenced the structure of the championship. Since then, clubs like Castres Olympique, RC Toulon, ASM Clermont Auvergne, and Racing 92 have claimed titles, with Montpellier Hérault Rugby securing.

#### 6.7.3 Geography of Rugby for the season 2023 - 2024

- Top 14:



We can observe that a significant majority (12 out of 14) of the clubs in the top division of French rugby are located below the geographical line between La Rochelle and Oyonnax. The remaining two clubs are situated in Paris. Unsurprisingly, rugby in France has a much stronger presence in the southern regions than in the northern ones. More precisely, the concentration of elite clubs is particularly high in the southwestern quarter compared to other regions. Historically, rugby's journey in France began on the west coast and in Paris, stretching from Le Havre to Nantes, La Rochelle, and Bordeaux. Especially in Bordeaux, rugby rapidly gained popularity across the entire southwest of France due to the milder climate that allowed year-round play, even during winter. Moreover, the rivalry between secular patronages, prevalent in the South West, and their Catholic counterparts played a significant role in promoting rugby. The Catholic Church held reservations about rugby, primarily due to its physical nature and frequent player contact, leading to a preference for football or basketball. Additionally, from a cultural standpoint, the south-west of France appeared naturally inclined towards embracing rugby, as the significance of strength and physical prowess aligned with certain local traditions like Basque strength tests. Between the late 19th and early 20th centuries, enthusiasts of activities like tug-of-war, lumberjacking, stone-lifting, and cart-lifting found a similar celebration of physical strength in rugby that resonated with them.

- Pro D2:





We can observe that, for similar reasons as the first division, the professional clubs in the second division are predominantly located in the south of France or along the west coast, such as Vannes or Rouen, due to the previously mentioned factors. An exception is Nevers, situated right in the middle of France.



This summary map clearly illustrates the varying development of rugby in France. Historically, rugby found its roots on the west coast and in Paris, leading to the establishment of clubs and the integration of rugby culture into the population for decades. Additionally,

the more favorable climate in the south of France made rugby a more enjoyable sport to play, which contributed to its rapid adoption in the southwestern region. As a result, the southwest of France now holds a dominant position in the French rugby landscape.

#### 6.7.4 Honors list

- The *bouclier de Brennus* (Top 14 title):



	<b>Club</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Runners-up</b>	<b>Finals</b>	<b>Winning Seasons</b>
0	Toulouse	22	7	29	1912,1922,1923,1924, 1926,1927,1947,1985, 1986,1989,1994,1995, 1996,1997,1999,2001, 2008,2011,2012,2019, 2021,2023
1	SF Paris	14	9	23	1893,1894,1895,1897, 1898,1901,1903,1908, 1998,2000,2003,2004, 2007,2015
2	Béziers	11	4	15	1961,1971,1972,1974, 1975,1977,1978,1980, 1981,1983,1984
3	Agen	8	6	14	1930,1945,1962,1965, 1966,1976,1982,1988
4	Lourdes	8	3	11	1948,1952,1953,1956, 1957,1958,1960,1968
5	Perpignan	7	9	16	1914,1921,1925,1938, 1944,1955,2009
6	Bordeaux	7	5	12	1899,1904,1905,1906, 1907,1909,1911
7	RC Paris	6	7	13	1892,1900,1902,1959, 1990,2016

8	Biarritz	5	3	8	1935,1939,2002,2005, 2006
9	Castres	5	3	8	1949,1950,1993,2013, 2018
10	Toulon	4	9	13	1931,1987,1992,2014
11	Bayonne	3	4	7	1913,1934,1943
12	Pau	3	0	4	1928,1946,1964
13	Clermont	2	12	14	2010,2017
14	Tarbes	2	3	5	1920,1973
15	Narbonne	2	3	5	1936,1979
16	Lyon OU	2	1	3	1932,1933
17	Bègles	2	1	3	1969,1991
18	Mont-de-Marsan	1	3	4	1963
19	Ol. Paris	1	2	3	1896
20	Quillan	1	2	3	1929
21	Montpellier	1	2	3	2022
22	Grenoble	1	1	2	1954
23	FC Lyon	1	0	1	1910
24	Vienne	1	0	1	1937
25	Carmaux	1	0	1	1951
26	Montauban	1	0	1	1967
27	La Voulte	1	0	1	1970

We can see that the most decorated club in history is Toulouse, boasting an impressive 22 championship titles and securing second place 7 times. Following closely is the Stade Français with 14 championships to its name, and then Béziers with 11 victories. It's no surprise to see Toulouse and Paris, two historic cities of French rugby, on the highest steps of the podium. What's intriguing to note is that out of the myriad of clubs existing in France, only 27 have ever clinched the top-tier championship title. Presently, a substantial number of these clubs maintain their elite status in either the Top 14 or Pro D2 leagues. It's wonderful to see these century-old clubs enduring and performing again and again. However, it's worth mentioning that some of the past titleholders no longer participate in the realm of professional rugby. Clubs such as Carmaux, La Voulte, Lourdes, Quillan, Tarbes, and Vienne have transitioned out of professional competition.

- The *Champions cup* (Major European title):



	Club	Won	Runner-up	Years won	Years runner-up
0	Toulouse	5	2	1995–96, 2002–03, 2004–05, 2009–10, 2020–21	2003–04, 2007–08
1	Leinster	4	3	2008–09, 2010–11, 2011–12, 2017–18	2018–19, 2021–22, 2022–23
2	Saracens	3	1	2015–16, 2016–17, 2018–19	2013–14
3	Toulon	3	0	2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15	
4	Leicester Tigers	2	3	2000–01, 2001–02	1996–97, 2006–07, 2008–09
5	Munster	2	2	2005–06, 2007–08	1999–00, 2001–02
6	La Rochelle	2	1	2021–22, 2022–23	2020–21
7	Wasps	2	0	2003–04, 2006–07	
8	Brive	1	1	1996–97	1997–98
9	Ulster	1	1	1998–99	2011–12
10	Northampton Saints	1	1	1999–00	2010–11
11	Bath	1	0	1997–98	
12	Exeter Chiefs	1	0	2019–20	

13	Clermont	0	3		2012–13, 2014–15, 2016–17
14	Racing 92	0	3		2015–16, 2017–18, 2019–20
15	Stade Français	0	2		2000–01, 2004–05
16	Biarritz	0	2		2005–06, 2009–10
17	Cardiff	0	1		1995–96
18	Colomiers	0	1		1998–99
19	Perpignan	0	1		2002–03

	Nation	Winners	Runners-up
0	France	11	16
1	England	10	5
2	Ireland	7	6
3	Wales	0	1

Established in 1995, this annual rugby inter-club tournament serves as the premier competition for clubs participating in predominantly European leagues. Upon closer examination, Toulouse emerges as the dominant force in this competition with 5 triumphs and 2 runner-up positions, closely pursued by the Irish club Leinster. Remarkably, among the 20 clubs featured in this ranking, 10 hail from France. This statistic underscores the commanding presence of French clubs on the European stage, reinforcing the reputation of the Top 14 as a profoundly elite championship and arguably the finest worldwide. Notably, French clubs have secured a total of 11 wins and 16 runner-up positions in the tournament.

- The *Challenge cup* (Minor European title):



	<b>Club</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>	<b>Years won</b>	<b>Years runner-up</b>
0	Clermont	3	1	1998–99, 2006–07, 2018–19	2003–04
1	Harlequins	3	1	2000–01, 2003–04, 2010–11	2015–16
2	Gloucester	2	2	2005–06, 2014–15	2016–17, 2017–18
3	Sale	2	0	2001–02, 2004–05	
4	Northampton	2	0	2008–09, 2013–14	
5	Cardiff	2	0	2009–10, 2017–18	
6	Montpellier	2	0	2015–16, 2020–21	
7	Toulon	1	4	2022–23	2009–10, 2011–12, 2019–20, 2021–22
8	Bath	1	3	2007–08	2002–03, 2006–07, 2013–14
9	Bourgoin	1	2	1996–97	1998–99, 2008–09
10	Stade Français	1	2	2016–17	2010–11, 2012–13
11	Pau	1	1	1999–00	2004–05
12	Colomiers	1	0	1997–98	
13	Wasps	1	0	2002–03	
14	Biarritz	1	0	2011–12	
15	Leinster	1	0	2012–13	
16	Bristol	1	0	2019–20	
17	Lyon	1	0	2021–22	
18	Castres	0	2		1996–97, 1999–00
19	Agen	0	1		1997–98
20	Narbonne	0	1		2000–01
21	Pontypridd	0	1		2001–02
22	London Irish	0	1		2005–06
23	Worcester	0	1		2007–08
24	Edinburgh	0	1		2014–15
25	La Rochelle	0	1		2018–19
26	Leicester	0	1		2020–21

27	Glasgow	0	1		2022–23
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	Nation	Winners	Runners-up
0	France	12	15
1	England	12	9
2	Wales	2	1
3	Ireland	1	0
4	Scotland	0	2

Established in 1996, this annual rugby interclub tournament stands as the second-tier competition for clubs based in European leagues, positioned just behind the European Rugby Champions Cup. Upon closer examination, Clermont emerges as the dominant force in this competition with 3 triumphs and 1 runner-up position, closely pursued by the London-based clubs of Harlequins. Remarkably, among the 28 clubs featured in this ranking, 13 hail from France. This statistic once again underscores the commanding presence of French clubs on the European stage. Notably, French clubs have secured a total of 12 wins and 15 runner-up positions in the tournament.

## 6.8 Conclusion

- The National team: In conclusion, the journey of the French national rugby team is a tale of rich history, evolution, and resilience. The geographic concentration of national matches around Paris, along with the historical significance of stadiums like 'Stade de France' and 'Parc des Princes,' underscores the sport's deep-rooted presence in France's capital. Cities like Bordeaux and Toulouse, driven by their passionate rugby traditions and iconic clubs, have solidified their positions as key rugby hubs. The sport's popularity in these regions has played a significant role in shaping the French rugby landscape. Analyzing the team's performance against various opponents, it's evident that French rugby has encountered both triumphs and challenges. The emphasis on recent successes under new leadership, notably Fabien Galthié, highlights the team's current competitive strength and positive trajectory. Throughout its history, the French national team has experienced periods of dominance, particularly in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and the late 1990s to early 2000s. These eras were marked by remarkable victories, Grand Slams, and consistent success in international tournaments. France's participation in the Five / Six Nations tournaments showcases its enduring competitiveness, with a notable number of titles and Grand Slams. Despite the challenges posed by opponents, the French team has consistently held its ground, showcasing its resilience and determination. In the realm of the Rugby World Cup, France has consistently performed at a high level, reaching the final on three occasions. Although the Webb Ellis Trophy has eluded them so far, their consistency and impressive record demonstrate their status as one of the sport's top nations. As French rugby continues to evolve, embracing new talents and strategies, the future holds the promise of further achievements and accolades. With a rich legacy and a passionate fan base, the French national rugby team remains a symbol of determination, excellence, and a deep-seated love for the sport.

- The French clubs: In conclusion, the birth and evolution of rugby clubs in France has been a dynamic journey that reflects the nation's passion for the sport and its commitment to excellence. The establishment of the Ligue Nationale de Rugby (LNR) in 1998 marked a pivotal moment in the management of professional rugby, providing an independent entity to oversee the elite level of the game and facilitate its growth. The French Rugby Union Championship, known as the Top 14, has a storied history that has seen periods of dominance by various clubs, shaping the landscape of French rugby. From its origins in the late 19th century, the championship witnessed the rise of Parisian and provincial clubs, each leaving their mark on the sport's legacy. Dominance shifted between different teams, reflecting the evolution of rugby culture and competition strategies. The professional era that began in 1995 further elevated the standard of play, attracting international talent and ensuring the Top 14's reputation as one of the world's most affluent rugby championships. The championship's format has undergone transformations over the years, adapting to the changing demands of the sport and enhancing competitiveness. The prevalence of French clubs in European competitions underscores their prowess on the international stage, with successes in both top-tier and second-tier tournaments. As the sport of rugby continues to evolve and capture the hearts of fans across France, the future holds the promise of continued growth and success. The legacy of historic clubs, the impact of strategic leadership, and the determination of athletes combine to shape the trajectory of French rugby. From its earliest days to its current prominence, the journey of rugby clubs in France is a testament to the enduring spirit of the sport and the enduring dedication of those who contribute to its legacy.

## 7 Historical Analysis of *the Shamrocks*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the [Irish national rugby union team](#).



### 7.1 Triumphs insights

#### 7.1.1 Ireland's win rate against each team

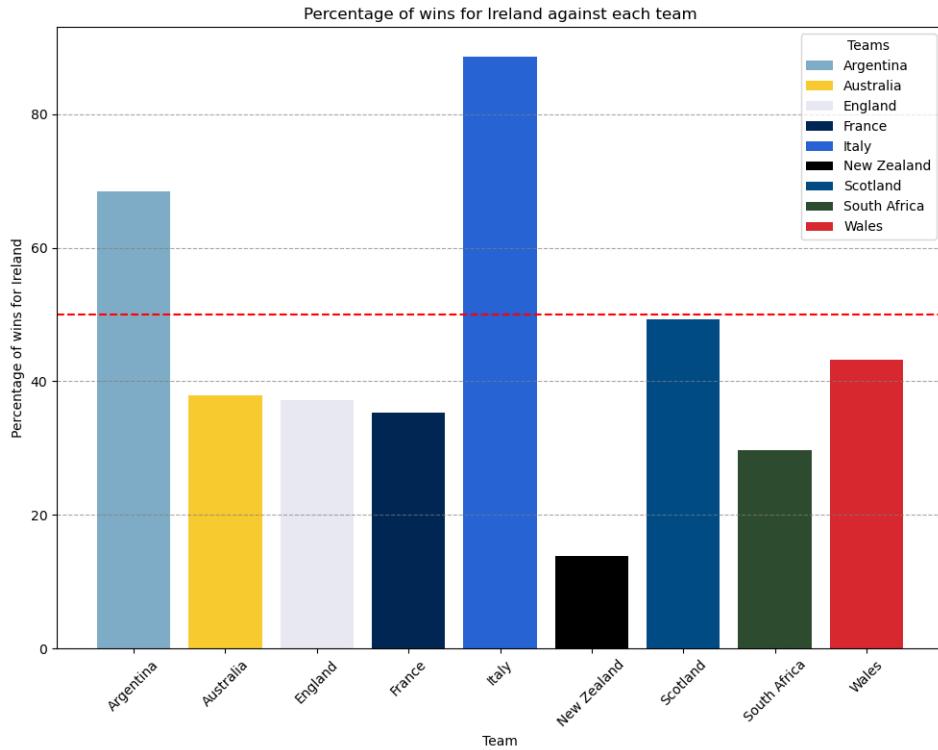
Number of official matches against Ireland for each team:

- Argentina: 19 matches
- Australia: 37 matches

- England: 140 matches
- France: 102 matches
- Italy: 35 matches
- New Zealand: 36 matches
- Scotland: 140 matches
- South Africa: 27 matches
- Wales: 134 matches

**Number of wins for Ireland against each team:**

- Argentina: 13 wins
- Australia: 14 wins
- England: 52 wins
- France: 36 wins
- Italy: 31 wins
- New Zealand: 5 wins
- Scotland: 69 wins
- South Africa: 8 wins
- Wales: 58 wins



We can observe that the number of matches against British teams and France logically surpasses those against other teams, with approximately 140 matches compared to around 50. This can be attributed to their geographical proximity as neighboring nations, which made it more practical to arrange matches, especially in the earlier years when travel distances were greater. Additionally, considering that the roots of rugby originated in the British Isles, it's natural that a significant portion of matches took place there. The historic tournaments like the 4 and 5 Nations have further contributed to the higher number of matches between these nations. Furthermore, a distinct trend is evident in the win rates against various teams. Notably, the win rate against all teams falls below the 50% mark, except for matches against Argentina and Italy. It's noteworthy that Ireland has historically struggled against teams like Australia, England, France, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, and Wales. It's important to acknowledge that these win rates are calculated based on data spanning from 1871 to the present day. To provide a more accurate reflection of current team dynamics, focusing on win rates over recent years would be advisable.

### 7.1.2 Ireland's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)

Number of official matches against Ireland since 2019 for each team:

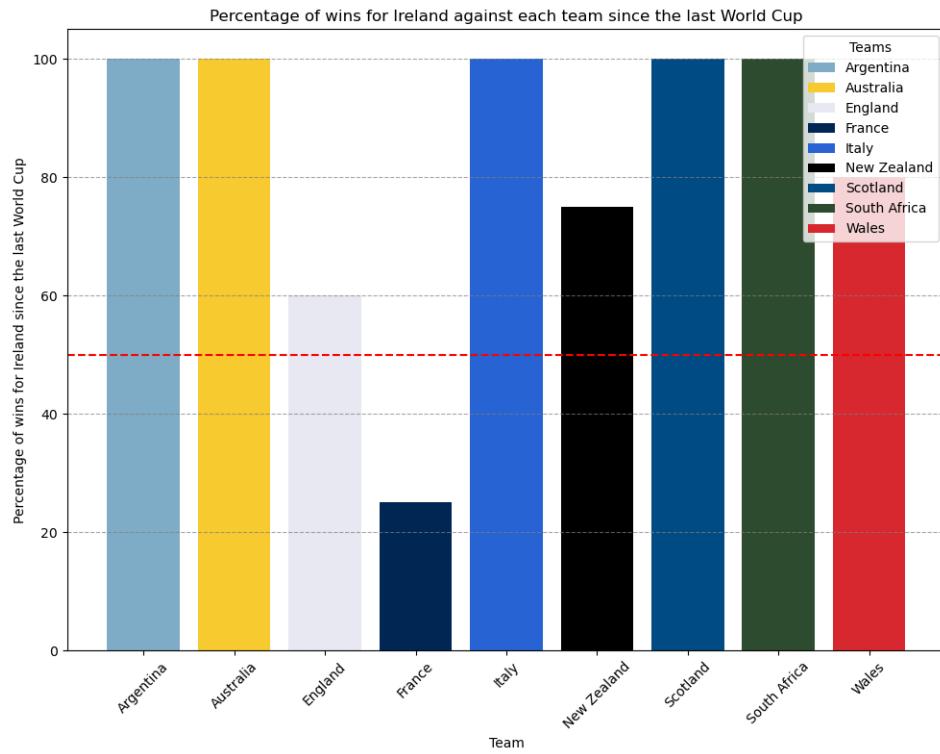
- Argentina: 1 match
- Australia: 1 match
- England: 5 matches

- France: 4 matches
- Italy: 4 matches
- New Zealand: 4 matches
- Scotland: 5 matches
- South Africa: 1 match
- Wales: 5 matches

**Number of wins for Ireland against each team:**

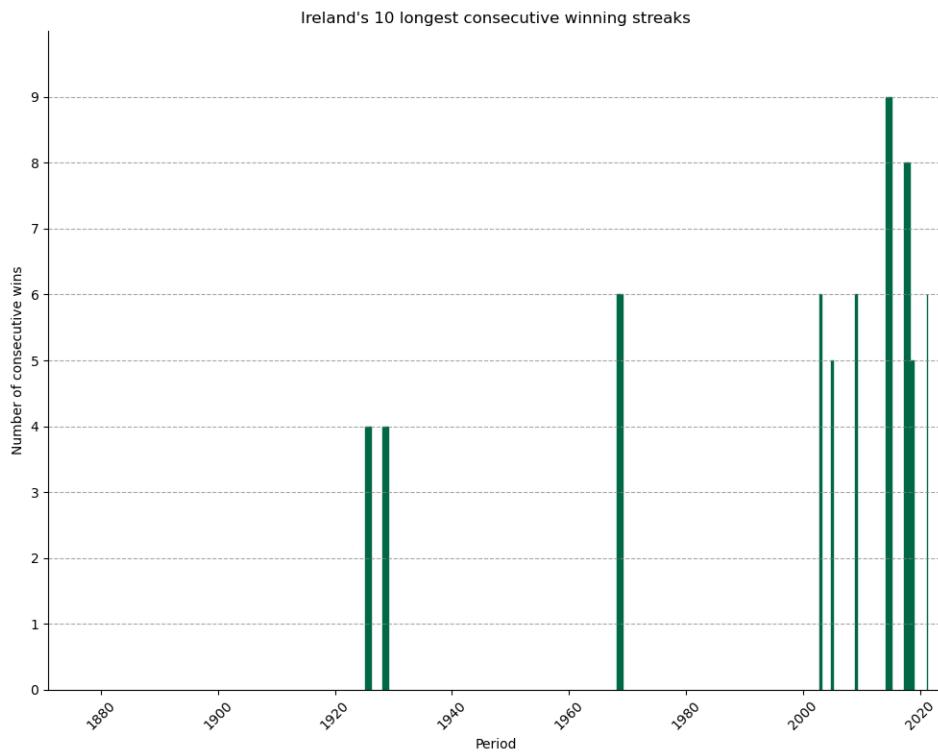
- Argentina: 1 win
- Australia: 1 win
- England: 3 wins
- France: 1 win
- Italy: 4 wins
- New Zealand: 3 wins
- Scotland: 5 wins
- South Africa: 1 win
- Wales: 4 wins

**Global win rate for Ireland since the last WC: 76.67%**



We can observe that the win rate against all other teams is consistently at least 50%, except when playing against France. The overall win rate since the last World Cup stands at an impressive 76.67%, a significant improvement compared to historical results. The evolution of the team since 2016 has been nothing short of remarkable, akin to a complete transformation.

### 7.1.3 Ireland's longest winning streaks



We can observe the longest winning streaks of Ireland. While there were two periods of consecutive wins in the 1920s - 1930s, with victories in the 1926 and 1927 Five Nations tournaments, it's noteworthy that the majority of the remarkable winning streaks occurred after the 2000s. This era coincided with the renaissance of Ireland, which boasted several illustrious players including John Hayes, Paul O'Connell, Brian O'Driscoll, and Ronan O'Gara. It shows once again the great improval of the Irish national team through the years.

### 7.1.4 Ireland's largest wins against each team

- Argentina
    - Score Difference: 46
    - Home Score: 53
    - Away Score: 7
    - Stadium: Aviva Stadium
    - Date: 2021-11-21
- 

- Australia
  - Score Difference: 15

Home Score: 12  
Away Score: 27  
Stadium: Ballymore Stadium  
Date: 1979-06-03

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- [England](#)  
Score Difference: 30  
Home Score: 43  
Away Score: 13  
Stadium: Croke Park  
Date: 2007-02-24
- 

- [France](#)  
Score Difference: 24  
Home Score: 24  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Mardyke  
Date: 1913-03-24
- 

- [Italy](#)  
Score Difference: 55  
Home Score: 61  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Thomond Park  
Date: 2003-08-30
- 

- [New Zealand](#)  
Score Difference: 11  
Home Score: 40  
Away Score: 29  
Stadium: Soldier Field  
Date: 2016-11-05
-

- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 30  
Home Score: 6  
Away Score: 36  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2003-02-16

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- **South Africa**

Score Difference: 35  
Home Score: 38  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Aviva Stadium  
Date: 2017-11-11

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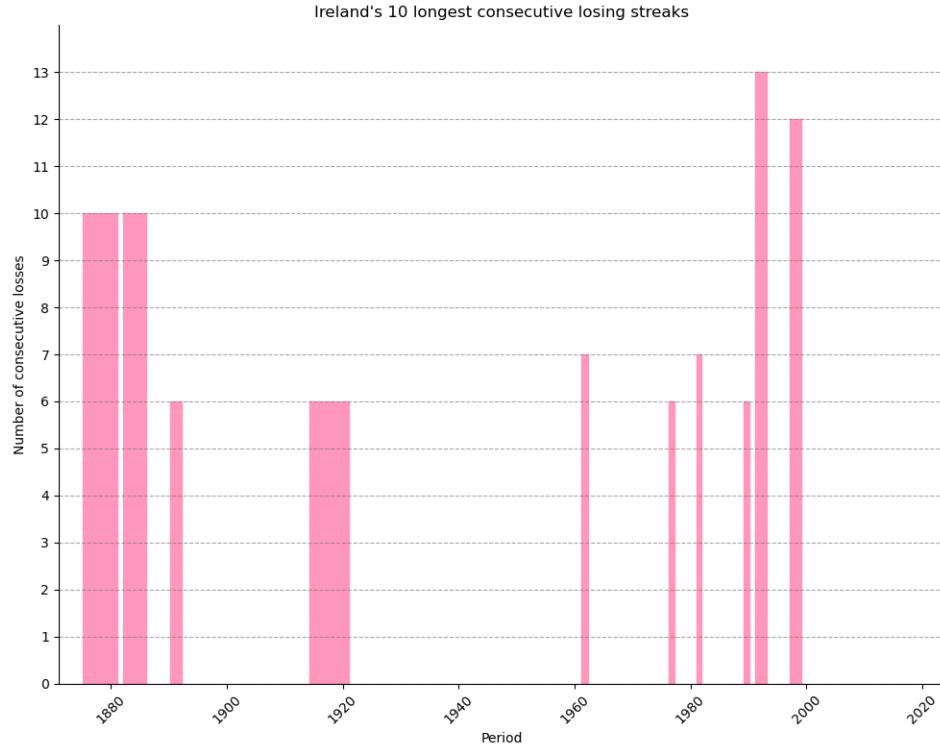
- **Wales**

Score Difference: 44  
Home Score: 54  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Lansdowne Road  
Date: 2002-02-03

We can observe the most significant victories of Ireland (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It's interesting to note that several of these victories occurred after the year 2000, as previously discussed.

## 7.2 Debacles insights

### 7.2.1 Ireland's longest losing streaks



We can observe the longest losing streaks of Ireland. The most significant ones occurred during two distinct periods: the period from 1871 to 1920 and the period from 1960 to 1999. As mentioned previously, the Irish national team faced challenges early on, experiencing a series of defeats against its neighboring teams between 1870 and 1920. Additionally, from 1986 to 1999, Ireland went through a challenging phase. In 1986, the team faced losses in all its matches during the 5 Nations Tournament and struggled to progress beyond the quarter-finals in the early World Cup tournaments. This period marked a challenging era for the team.

### 7.2.2 Ireland's largest losses against each team

- Argentina
  - Score Difference: 23
  - Home Score: 20
  - Away Score: 43
  - Stadium: Millennium Stadium
  - Date: 2015-10-18

- **Australia**  
Score Difference: 36  
Home Score: 46  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Ballymore Stadium  
Date: 1999-06-12
- 

- **England**  
Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 57  
Away Score: 15  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2019-08-24
- 

- **France**  
Score Difference: 39  
Home Score: 44  
Away Score: 5  
Stadium: Stade de France  
Date: 2002-04-06
- 

- **Italy**  
Score Difference: 15  
Home Score: 37  
Away Score: 22  
Stadium: Stadio Renato Dall'Ara  
Date: 1997-12-20
- 

- **New Zealand**  
Score Difference: 60  
Home Score: 60  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Waikato Stadium  
Date: 2012-06-23

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- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 28  
Home Score: 38  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 1997-03-01

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- **South Africa**

Score Difference: 38  
Home Score: 0  
Away Score: 38  
Stadium: Lansdowne Road  
Date: 1912-11-30

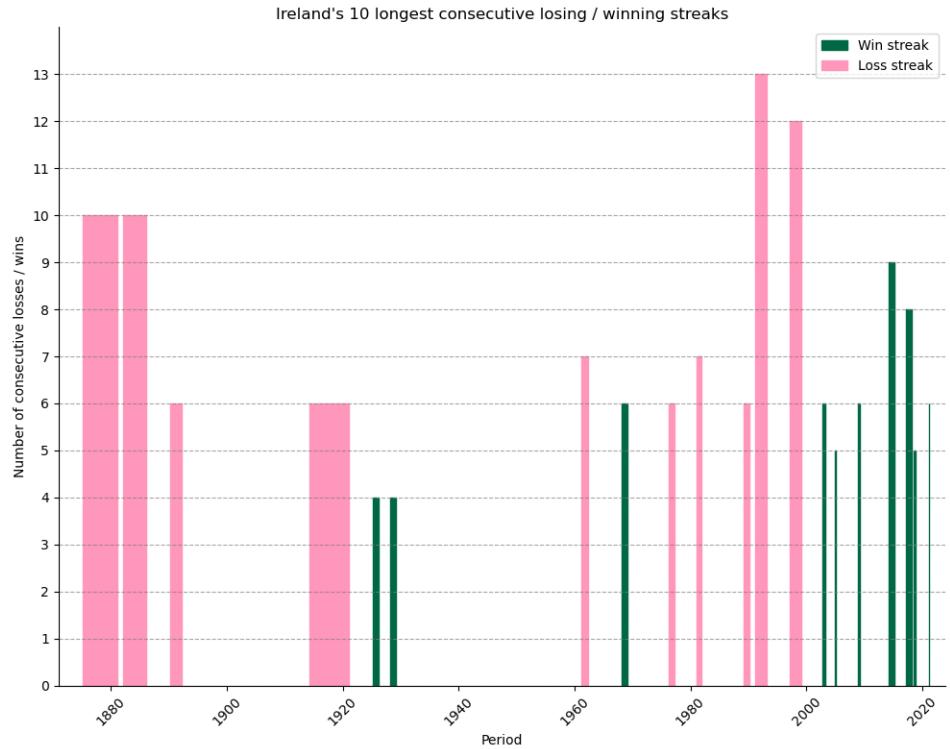
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- **Wales**

Score Difference: 29  
Home Score: 29  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: National Stadium  
Date: 1907-03-09

We can observe the most significant losses of Ireland (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to notice that some of those losses occurred in the difficult periods for Ireland.

### 7.3 Ireland's winning and losing periods



We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the Irish national rugby team. The diagram highlights a significant transformation over the years. Initially, the Irish team faced numerous challenges, reflected in their limited list of honours, which includes only 6 Grand Slam victories. However, despite the modest sporting achievements in recent years, Irish rugby has made remarkable progress since the onset of professionalism. This progress has been so substantial that the team achieved the top ranking in the World Rugby rankings as of 24 July 2022.

### 7.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, the journey of the Irish national rugby team's victories and defeats, as observed through its history against the top 10 teams in the world, paints a vivid picture of evolution and growth. The analysis of match records offers valuable insights into Ireland's performance over the years. The prevalence of matches against British teams and France, totaling around 140 matches compared to approximately 50 against other teams, can be attributed to geographical proximity and historical factors. The rugby roots established in the British Isles, along with the enduring tournaments like the 4 and 5 Nations, have contributed to the higher frequency of matches between these neighboring nations. Examining win rates against various teams reveals a consistent trend, where the win rate falls below 50% against all teams except Argentina and Italy. Notably, Ireland has historically faced challenges when competing against teams such as Australia, England, France, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, and Wales. The win rate since 2019 against all other teams consistently maintains

at least a 50% rate, except when playing against France. The impressive overall win rate of 76.67% since the last World Cup showcases the team's substantial improvement compared to historical results. The transformation of the team since 2016 is nothing short of remarkable, resembling a complete turnaround. The analysis of Ireland's longest winning streaks reveals two notable periods. While there were instances of consecutive wins in the 1920s - 1930s, the majority of remarkable winning streaks occurred after the 2000s. This era coincided with Ireland's renaissance, characterized by the contributions of renowned players like John Hayes, Paul O'Connell, Brian O'Driscoll, and Ronan O'Gara. These achievements underscore the considerable progress of the Irish national team over the years. Examining the longest losing streaks highlights two distinct phases of challenges. The periods from 1871 to 1920 and 1960 to 1999 marked significant downturns in the team's performance. The early years were characterized by struggles against neighboring teams, while the later era featured difficulties and setbacks in major tournaments. The summary diagram provides a visual representation of the Irish team's journey, emphasizing a remarkable transformation. Despite initial challenges reflected in a limited list of honours, including only 6 Grand Slam victories, the advent of professionalism has propelled Irish rugby to great heights. This progress is evident in the team's achievement of the top rank in the World Rugby rankings as of July 24, 2022. This journey serves as a testament to the resilience, dedication, and continuous pursuit of excellence by the Irish national rugby team.

## 8 Historical Analysis of *gli Azzurri*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the [Italian national rugby union team](#).



### 8.1 Triumphs insights

#### 8.1.1 Italy's win rate against each team

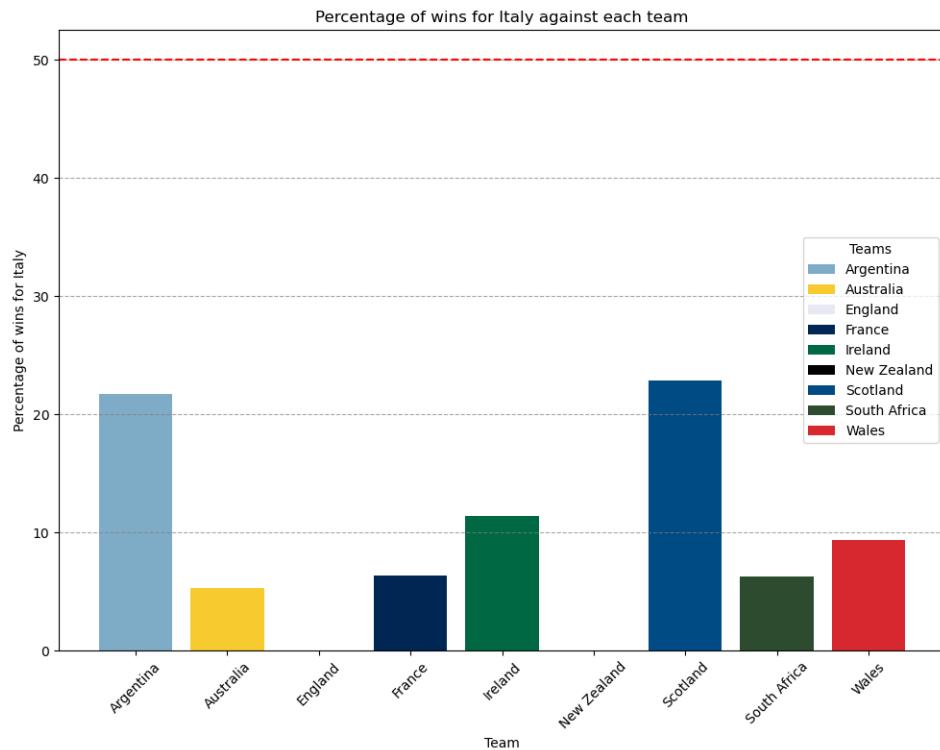
Number of official matches against Italy for each team:

- Argentina: 23 matches
- Australia: 19 matches
- England: 30 matches
- France: 47 matches
- Ireland: 35 matches

- New Zealand: 15 matches
- Scotland: 35 matches
- South Africa: 16 matches
- Wales: 32 matches

**Number of wins for Italy against each team:**

- Argentina: 5 wins
- Australia: 1 win
- England: 0 win
- France: 3 wins
- Ireland: 4 wins
- New Zealand: 0 win
- Scotland: 8 wins
- South Africa: 1 win
- Wales: 3 wins



In observation, the number of matches played by Italy against other teams remains relatively low, consistently below 50 matches. This can be attributed to Italy's status as a relatively young rugby nation, often regarded as a secondary rugby power before its inclusion in the 5 Nations Tournament, which later evolved into the 6 Nations in 2000. Consequently, Italy had fewer opportunities to face off against some of the top-tier teams in World Rugby. Furthermore, a distinct trend emerges in the win rates against various teams. Notably, the win rate against all teams is notably low, standing at only 9.92%. This win rate fails to exceed 25% per team, and notably, it falls below 10% against Australia, France, New Zealand, South Africa, and Wales. It's noteworthy to mention that the win rate against Scotland is by far the highest, which might come as a surprise given the quality of the Scottish team. Additionally, it's important to highlight that Italy has never secured a victory against England and has not even managed to achieve a draw, nor has Italy been successful against New Zealand. As stated, these win rates are calculated based on data from 1871 to the present day. To provide a more accurate reflection of current team dynamics, focusing on recent years' win rates would be more indicative of Italy's current performance level.

### 8.1.2 Italy's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)

**Number of official matches against Italy since 2019 for each team:**

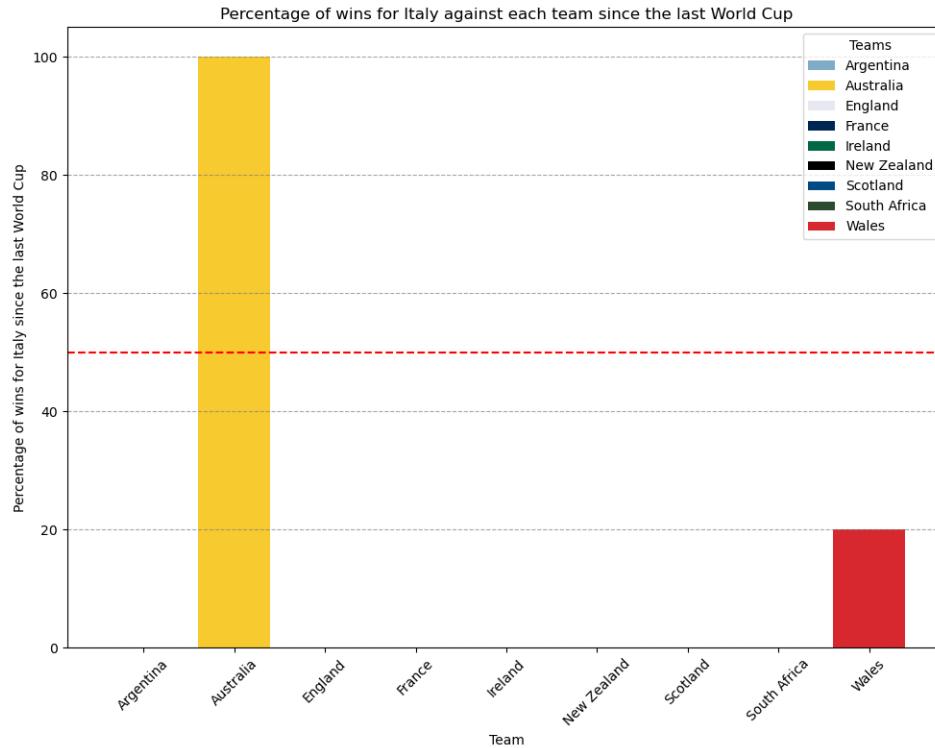
- Argentina: 1 match
- Australia: 1 match
- England: 4 matches
- France: 5 matches
- Ireland: 4 matches
- New Zealand: 1 match
- Scotland: 5 matches
- South Africa: 1 match
- Wales: 5 matches

**Number of wins for Italy against each team:**

- Argentina: 0 win
- Australia: 1 win
- England: 0 win
- France: 0 win
- Ireland: 0 win
- New Zealand: 0 win

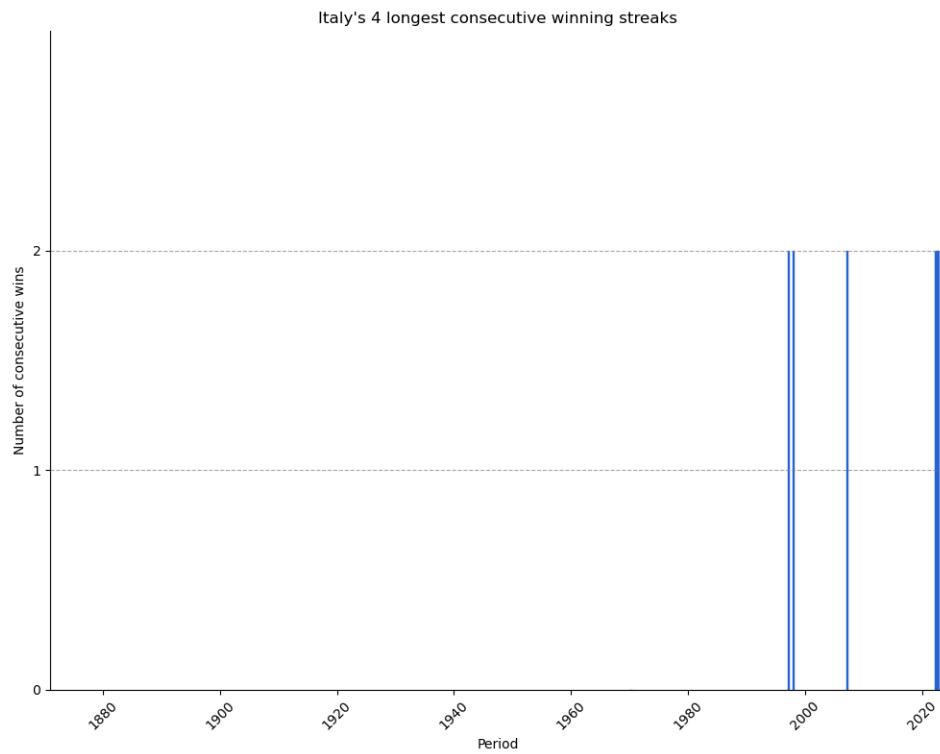
- Scotland: 0 win
- South Africa: 0 win
- Wales: 1 win

**Global win rate for Italy since the last WC: 7.41%**



We can observe only two peaks in Italy's performance, indicating that their win rate against the other teams is effectively 0%. Notably, these peaks correspond to historic victories against Australia and Wales. The overall win rate since 2019 is a mere 7.41%. However, this outcome isn't particularly surprising for Italy, as they have historically faced challenges when competing against first-tier rugby nations.

### 8.1.3 Italy's longest winning streaks



We can observe the longest winning streaks of Italy. There are only four instances of consecutive wins, with each streak comprising only two wins in a row. This pattern aligns with the challenges Italy faces against stronger teams, as discussed earlier. However, it's worth noting that these winning streaks have all occurred between 1997 and 2022, indicating relatively recent occurrences.

### 8.1.4 Italy's largest wins against each team

- **Argentina**

Score Difference: 13

Home Score: 19

Away Score: 6

Stadium: Stadio Comunale Mario Battaglini

Date: 1978-10-24

---

- **Australia**

Score Difference: 1

Home Score: 28

Away Score: 27

Stadium: Stadio Artemio Franchi  
Date: 2022-11-12

---

- [England](#)  
Italy NEVER WON AGAINST England
- 

- [France](#)  
Score Difference: 8  
Home Score: 32  
Away Score: 40  
Stadium: Stade Lesdiguières  
Date: 1997-03-22
- 

- [Ireland](#)  
Score Difference: 15  
Home Score: 37  
Away Score: 22  
Stadium: Stadio Renato Dall'Ara  
Date: 1997-12-20
- 

- New Zealand  
Italy NEVER WON AGAINST New Zealand
- 

- [Scotland](#)  
Score Difference: 20  
Home Score: 17  
Away Score: 37  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2007-02-24

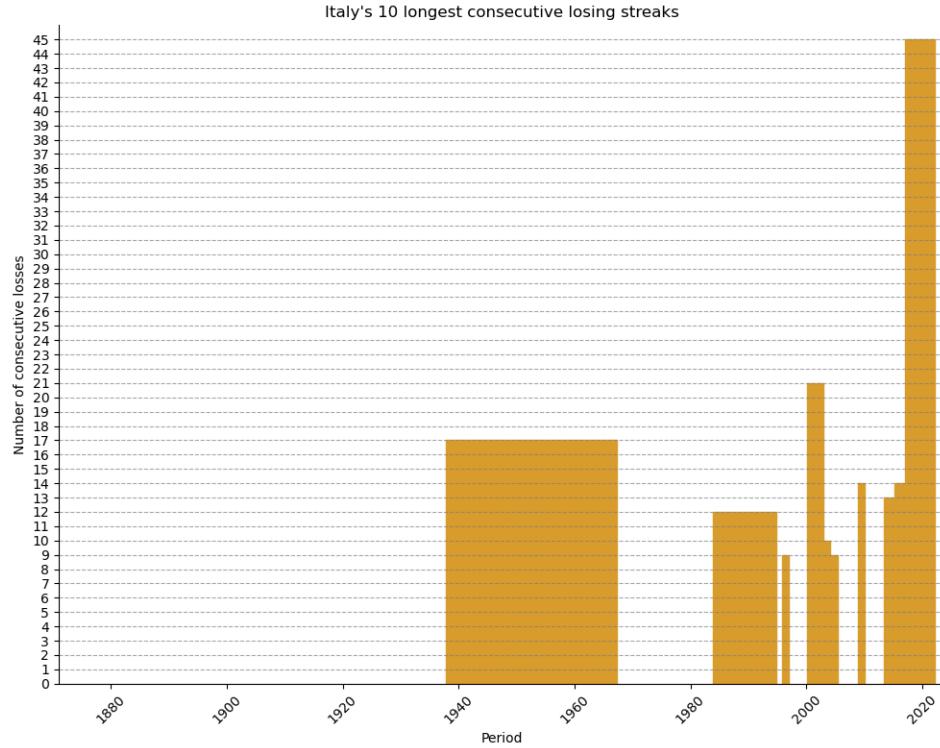
- 
- South Africa
    - Score Difference: 2
    - Home Score: 20
    - Away Score: 18
    - Stadium: Stadio Artemio Franchi
    - Date: 2016-11-19
- 

- Wales
  - Score Difference: 8
  - Home Score: 30
  - Away Score: 22
  - Stadium: Stadio Flaminio
  - Date: 2003-02-15

We can observe the most significant victories of Italy (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. As mentioned earlier, Italy has never secured a victory against England or New Zealand. Furthermore, it's notable that all these victories occurred within the period 1997 - 2022, except for the win against Argentina in 1978.

## 8.2 Debacles insights

### 8.2.1 Italy's longest losing streaks



We can observe the longest losing streaks of Italy. As predicted by the limited number of victories, there is a significant number of losses. The first notable losing streak occurred between 1937 and 1967. During this period, as rugby was being developed in the country after World War II with the presence of the Allies, Italy remained relatively inexperienced compared to the already established rugby nations. While this period spans a considerable amount of time, it's important to note that Italy didn't frequently compete against the top 10 nations. The limited number of matches reflects that Italy wasn't widely perceived as a serious opponent at the time. From 1980 onward, Italy began to secure victories against members of the European Cup of Nations such as Romania, Spain, Portugal, Germany, and the Soviet Union. Additionally, a notable victory against Canada (9-37) allowed Italy to face Australia for the first time in 1983. The period from 1980 to 2000 marked Italy's ascent to the highest echelons of the rugby world. The team even participated in the 5 Nations Tournament in 2000, which later evolved into the Six Nations Tournament we are familiar with today. While this meant more opportunities for Italy to play against the top 10 nations, unfortunately, it also brought about a series of losses. From 1980 to the present day, Italy experienced several periods of losing streaks against the top 10 rugby nations, as the team faced the challenges of competing at the highest level. This reflects the growth and development of Italian rugby on the international stage, accompanied by the hurdles and setbacks that come with establishing a competitive presence among the elite rugby nations.

### 8.2.2 Italy's largest losses against each team

- **Argentina**

Score Difference: 32

Home Score: 6

Away Score: 38

Stadium: Stadio Flaminio

Date: 2002-11-16

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- **Australia**

Score Difference: 49

Home Score: 6

Away Score: 55

Stadium: Stadio Flaminio

Date: 1988-12-03

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- **England**

Score Difference: 60

Home Score: 67

Away Score: 7

Stadium: Twickenham Stadium

Date: 1999-10-02

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- **France**

Score Difference: 47

Home Score: 60

Away Score: 13

Stadium: Stade Mayol

Date: 1967-03-26

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- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 55

Home Score: 61

Away Score: 6

Stadium: Thomond Park

Date: 2003-08-30

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- New Zealand  
Score Difference: 98  
Home Score: 101  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: McAlpine Stadium  
Date: 1999-10-14
- 

- Scotland  
Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 52  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2021-03-20
- 

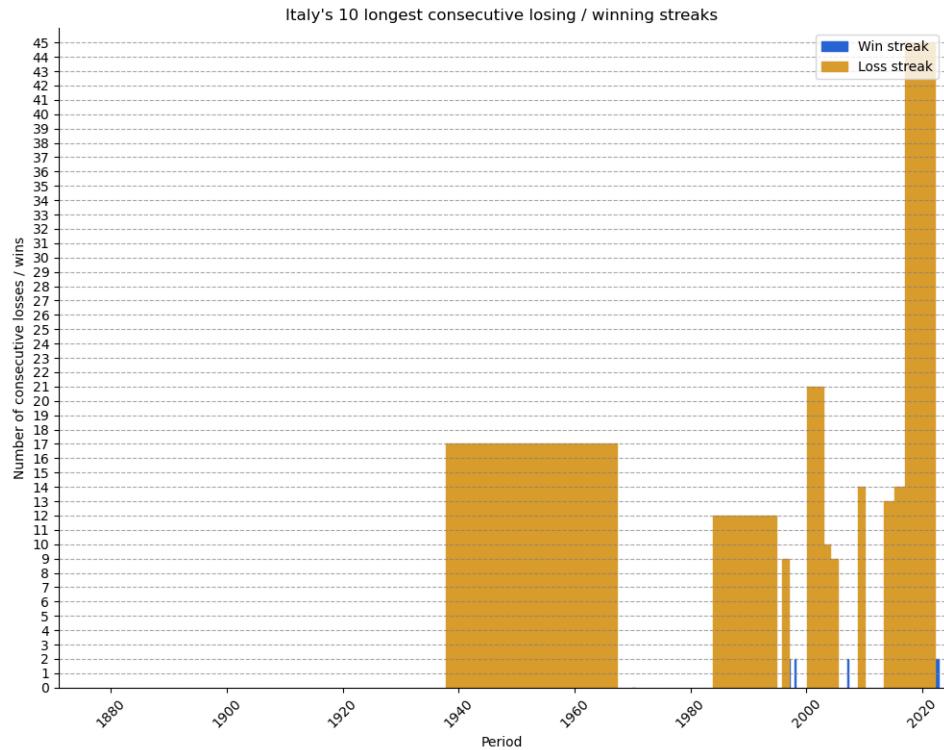
- South Africa  
Score Difference: 101  
Home Score: 101  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Kings Park Stadium  
Date: 1999-06-19
- 

- Wales  
Score Difference: 53  
Home Score: 67  
Away Score: 14  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2016-03-19

We can observe the most significant losses of Italy (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. Notably, some of the score differences are remarkably substantial. For instance, matches against New Zealand resulted in a staggering score of 101 - 3, while encounters with South Africa ended with a notable score of 101 - 0. These outcomes highlight

the challenges that Italy has faced against some of the strongest rugby nations and serve as a testament to the level of competition at the highest level of the sport.

### 8.3 Italy's winning and losing periods



We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the Italian national rugby team. The diagram underscores the prevalence of losing streaks compared to the relatively few winning streaks. Despite this challenging landscape, it's evident that the Italian team possesses a remarkable level of courage and determination, continuously taking on other nations in the face of defeats and even humiliations. The Italians' resilience and wholehearted approach to the sport are truly commendable, showcasing their unwavering passion and commitment to the game.

### 8.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, the evolution of the Italian national rugby team's performance in terms of victories and defeats against the top 10 teams worldwide reveals a challenging journey marked by limited opportunities and significant hurdles. Italy's relatively young status as a rugby nation has contributed to the lower number of matches played against other teams, consistently falling below 50 matches. This can be attributed to Italy's historical position as a secondary rugby power before joining the higher-tier tournaments like the 5 Nations, later transformed into the 6 Nations. A distinctive trend emerges in the win rates against various teams, with Italy's overall win rate standing at a modest 9.92%. This rate fails to surpass

25% against any team, and notably remains below 10% when facing Australia, France, New Zealand, South Africa, and Wales. While Italy's win rate against Scotland is the highest among its competitors, their struggles against other major rugby nations are evident. It's also crucial to note Italy's lack of victories against England and New Zealand, highlighting the challenges they face against these formidable opponents. On recent years' win rates, Italy has had a win rate of 0% against other teams. Despite this, Italy's victories against Australia and Wales serve as historic milestones within their recent performances. However, the overall win rate since 2019 remains low at 7.41%, a reflection of Italy's historical struggles against first-tier rugby nations. The longest winning streaks of Italy are characterized by only four instances of consecutive victories, each consisting of just two wins in succession. These peaks have primarily occurred between 1997 and 2022, emphasizing recent progress in the team's performance. Conversely, Italy's longest losing streaks showcase two distinct periods. The first, from 1937 to 1967, saw Italy's development as a rugby nation after World War II. Despite facing challenges, their limited presence in matches against the top 10 nations contributed to a relatively lower number of losses. The second period, starting from 1980 and extending to the present day, is marked by Italy's inclusion in higher-level tournaments like the Six Nations. This led to an increase in matches against top teams and, unfortunately, a series of losses as Italy navigated its entry into the world's rugby elite. The summary diagram illustrates the Italian national rugby team's journey through both winning and losing streaks. While losses significantly outnumber wins, the diagram reflects the determination and resilience of the Italian team. Their unwavering spirit and commitment shine through, exemplifying the heart and passion they bring to the sport despite the challenges and setbacks they've faced, like their historic captain Sergio Parisse, who despite the defeats was always there to fight for the team. Italy's problem is that it is too strong for second-rate nations (Canada, Portugal, Romania) but too weak for first-rate nations.

## 9 Historical Analysis of *the All Blacks*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the New Zealander national rugby union team.



### 9.1 Triumphs insights

#### 9.1.1 New Zealand's win rate against each team

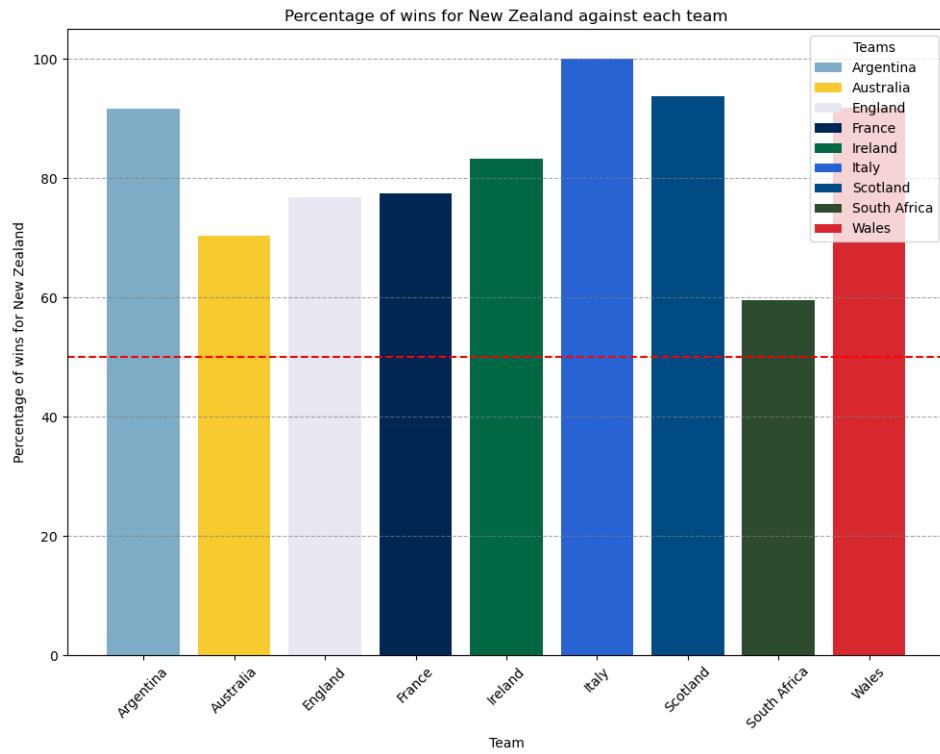
Number of official matches against New Zealand for each team:

- Argentina: 36 matches

- Australia: 175 matches
- England: 43 matches
- France: 62 matches
- Ireland: 36 matches
- Italy: 15 matches
- Scotland: 32 matches
- South Africa: 104 matches
- Wales: 37 matches

**Number of wins for New Zealand against each team:**

- Argentina: 33 wins
- Australia: 123 wins
- England: 33 wins
- France: 48 wins
- Ireland: 30 wins
- Italy: 15 wins
- Scotland: 30 wins
- South Africa: 62 wins
- Wales: 34 wins



We observe that the number of matches against Australia logically surpasses those against other teams. This can be attributed to their geographical proximity as neighboring nations, which made arranging matches more practical, especially during the early years when travel distances were greater than they are today. Additionally, the nearly one hundred matches against South Africa are also notable, particularly when compared to matches against other teams. This can be partly attributed to the fact that Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and more recently Argentina participate in the annual tournament known as The Rugby Championship . Furthermore, New Zealand's win rate is nothing short of impressive, standing at more than 75% since 1871 against the best teams in the world. This statistic truly underscores the sheer dominance of New Zealand rugby. It's no mere coincidence that a country with a population of less than 5 million has secured the Rugby World Cup title three times. Remarkably, the win rate against all teams consistently exceeds 50%, with figures even approaching 80% against the majority of opponents. This level of performance is undeniably awe-inspiring and serves as a testament to New Zealand's rugby prowess.

#### 9.1.2 New Zealand's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)

Number of official matches against New Zealand since 2019 for each team:

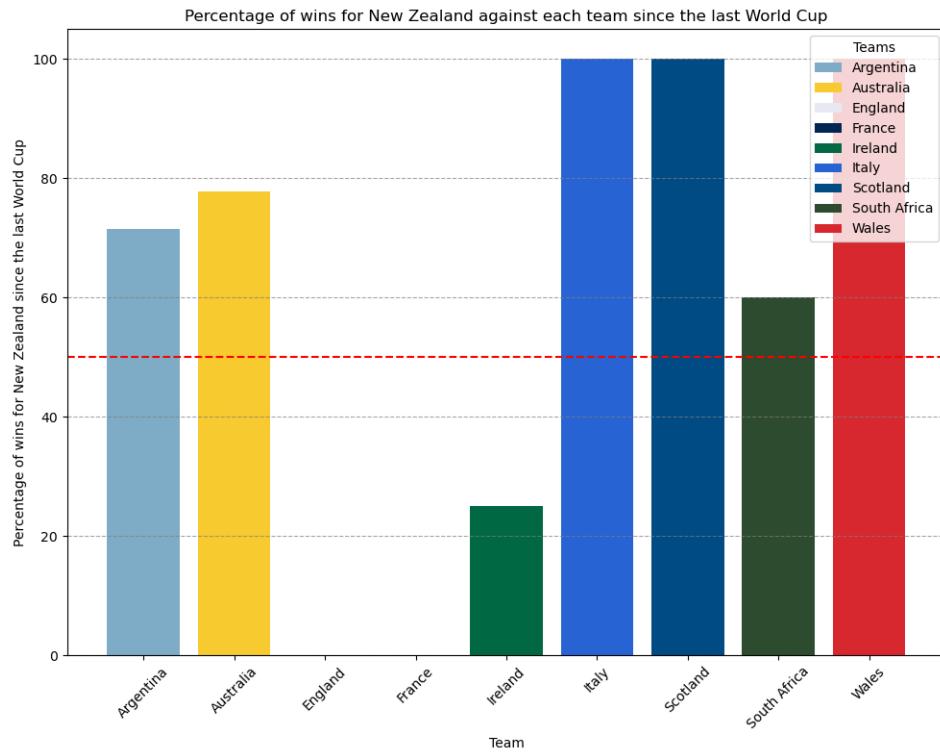
- Argentina: 7 matches
- Australia: 9 matches
- England: 1 match

- France: 1 match
- Ireland: 4 matches
- Italy: 1 match
- Scotland: 1 match
- South Africa: 5 matches
- Wales: 2 matches

**Number of wins for New Zealand against each team:**

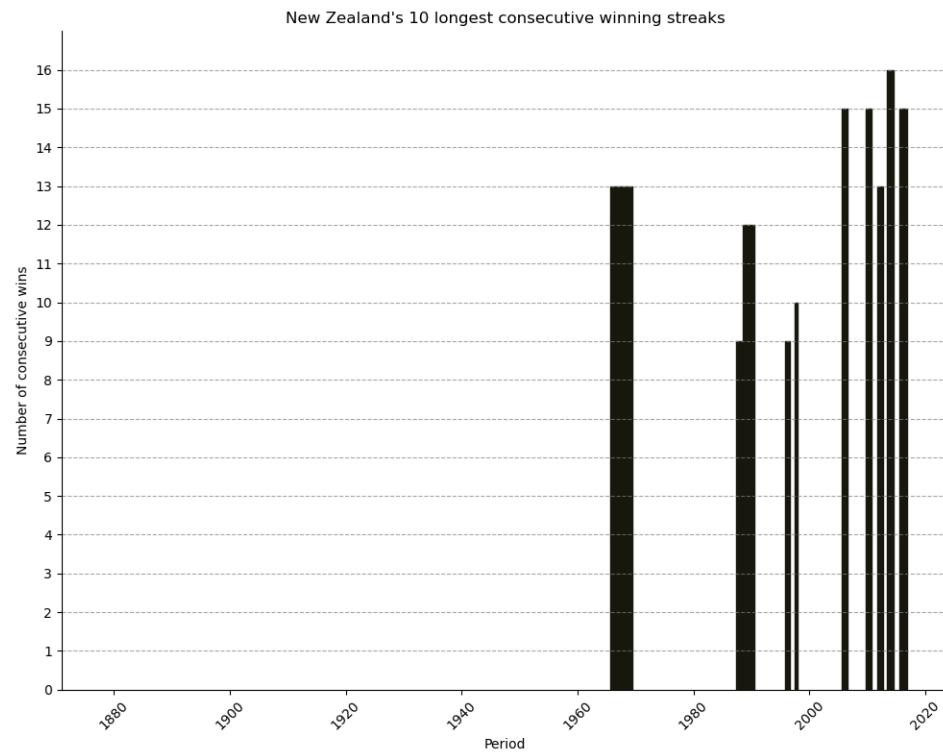
- Argentina: 5 wins
- Australia: 7 wins
- England: 0 win
- France: 0 win
- Ireland: 1 win
- Italy: 1 win
- Scotland: 1 win
- South Africa: 3 wins
- Wales: 2 wins

**Global win rate for New Zealand since the last WC: 64.25%**



We can observe that the win rate against Argentina, Australia, and South Africa is within the standards expected for the New Zealand team, as is the case against Italy, Scotland, and Wales, where the win rate stands at 100%. However, the win rate against Ireland is notably low due to Ireland's impressive performance since the last World Cup. The win rates should be interpreted cautiously for matches against England and France, as the very low number of matches played against these two teams does not accurately reflect the true level of New Zealand's performance. In fact, the win rate against both England and France is 0%, but this is based on a single match played against each team, which makes it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions about New Zealand's performance against them.

### 9.1.3 New Zealand's longest winning streaks



We can observe the longest winning streaks of New Zealand. One notable aspect to highlight is that, despite the impressive number of victories achieved by the All Blacks, periods of sustained win streaks only began to emerge after 1965. However, from this point onwards, New Zealand embarked on a remarkable journey of dominating the world of rugby to an extraordinary extent. Notably, in June 2004, New Zealand reclaimed the top spot in the World Rugby rankings, a position they held until the 2007 World Cup. After that, the ranking was briefly taken by South Africa until November 30, 2009. Subsequently, from November 30, 2009, to August 19, 2019, New Zealand firmly and indisputably established their monopoly over the highest ranking in world rugby.

### 9.1.4 New Zealand's largest wins against each team

- Argentina
    - Score Difference: 85
    - Home Score: 93
    - Away Score: 8
    - Stadium: Athletic Park
    - Date: 1997-06-21
-

- **Australia**  
Score Difference: 38  
Home Score: 5  
Away Score: 43  
Stadium: Stadium Australia  
Date: 2020-10-31
- 

- **England**  
Italy NEVER WON AGAINST England
- 

- **France**  
Score Difference: 51  
Home Score: 61  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Westpac Stadium  
Date: 2007-06-09
- 

- **Ireland**  
Score Difference: 60  
Home Score: 60  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Waikato Stadium  
Date: 2012-06-23
- 

- **Italy**  
Score Difference: 98  
Home Score: 101  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: McAlpine Stadium  
Date: 1999-10-14
-

- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 49

Home Score: 69

Away Score: 20

Stadium: Carisbrook

Date: 2000-06-24

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- **South Africa**

Score Difference: 57

Home Score: 57

Away Score: 0

Stadium: North Harbour Stadium

Date: 2017-09-16

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- **Wales**

Score Difference: 52

Home Score: 55

Away Score: 3

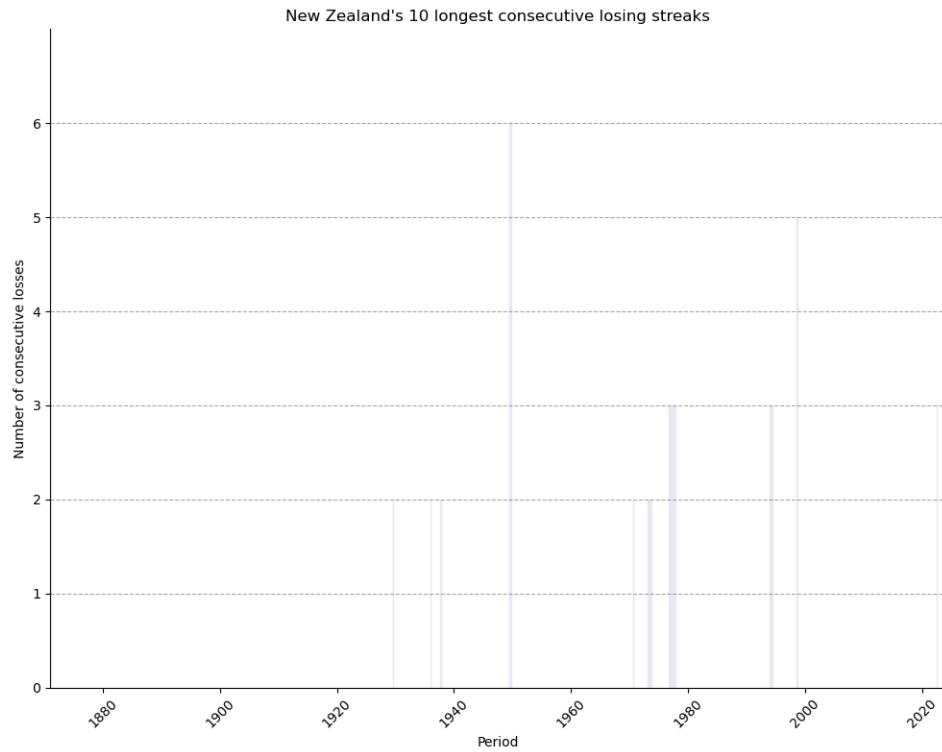
Stadium: Waikato Stadium

Date: 2003-06-21

We can observe the most significant victories of New Zealand (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. Notably, all of these victories took place after 1997, a period when the New Zealand team was imposing an almost dictatorial dominance over the World Rugby rankings. During this era, the All Blacks were held in awe by other nations, and the prospect of facing this legendary team was a daunting challenge for any opponent. This unparalleled reign of the All Blacks instilled fear and respect across the rugby world for decades.

## 9.2 Debacles insights

### 9.2.1 New Zealand's longest losing streaks



We can observe the longest losing streaks of New Zealand. Despite the All Blacks' incredibly high win rate, there have also been moments of crisis in their history. Notably, these challenging periods occurred during the 1930s-1940s and again in the 1970s. While the duration of these losing streaks remains relatively limited, with a maximum of 6 losses in a row, they stand as rare instances when New Zealand faced difficulties and setbacks on the rugby field.

### 9.2.2 New Zealand's largest losses against each team

- Argentina

Score Difference: 10

Home Score: 15

Away Score: 25

Stadium: Bankwest Stadium

Date: 2020-11-14

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- Australia

Score Difference: 21

Home Score: 28  
Away Score: 7  
Stadium: Stadium Australia  
Date: 1999-08-28

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- [England](#)

Score Difference: 17  
Home Score: 38  
Away Score: 21  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2012-12-01

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- [France](#)

Score Difference: 15  
Home Score: 40  
Away Score: 25  
Stadium: Stade de France  
Date: 2021-11-20

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- [Ireland](#)

Score Difference: 11  
Home Score: 40  
Away Score: 29  
Stadium: Soldier Field  
Date: 2016-11-05

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- [Italy](#)

Italy NEVER DEFEATED New Zealand

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- [Scotland](#)

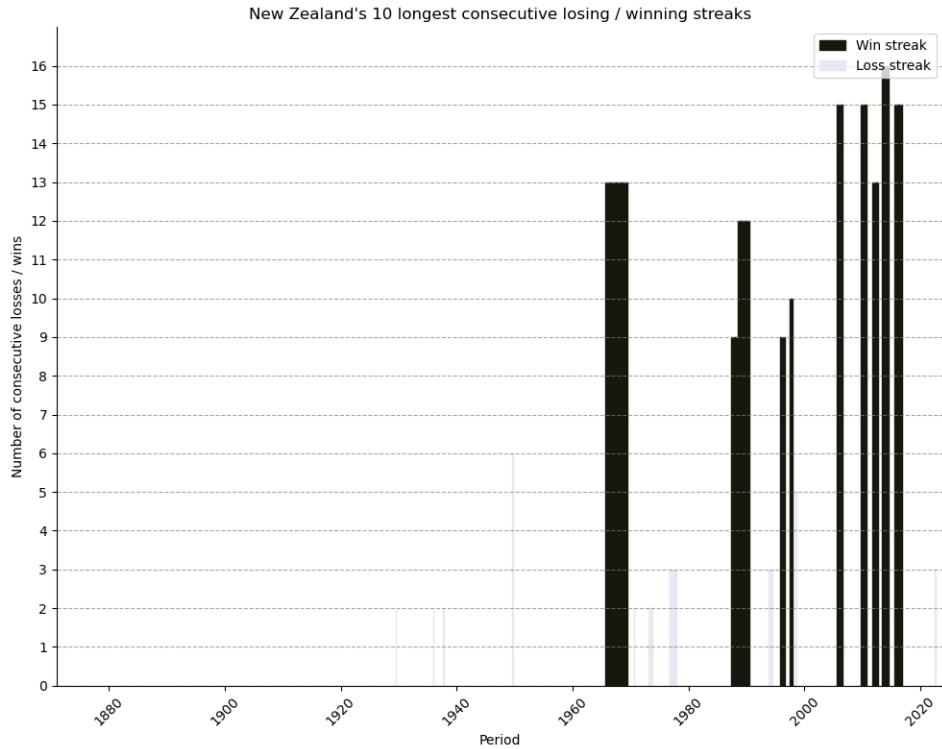
Scotland NEVER DEFEATED New Zealand

- 
- South Africa
    - Score Difference: 17
    - Home Score: 17
    - Away Score: 0
    - Stadium: Kingsmead
    - Date: 1928-06-30
- 

- Wales
  - Score Difference: 5
  - Home Score: 13
  - Away Score: 8
  - Stadium: National Stadium
  - Date: 1953-12-19

We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the New Zealand national rugby team. The diagram accentuates the overwhelming prevalence of winning streaks throughout New Zealand's history. However, it's important to note that there have been some periods of consecutive losses as well. This underscores the fact that despite New Zealand's legendary and formidable status, it's not immune to experiencing challenges and setbacks.

### 9.3 New Zealand's winning and losing periods



We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the Italian national rugby team. The diagram underscores the prevalence of losing streaks compared to the relatively few winning streaks. Despite this challenging landscape, it's evident that the Italian team possesses a remarkable level of courage and determination, continuously taking on other nations in the face of defeats and even humiliations. The Italians' resilience and wholehearted approach to the sport are truly commendable, showcasing their unwavering passion and commitment to the game.

### 9.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, the evolution of the New Zealand national rugby team's performance against the top 10 teams in the world is nothing short of remarkable. The observation of match statistics reveals intriguing trends and insights into the team's journey. The prevalence of matches against Australia, South Africa, and other neighboring nations is understandable due to geographical proximity, fostering practical arrangements for matches. The notable number of encounters with South Africa is further amplified by the participation of these nations in The Rugby Championship, contributing to a robust fixture list. New Zealand's extraordinary win rate of over 75% against the best teams since 1871 speaks volumes about their rugby prowess. This consistent dominance highlights the sheer magnitude of New Zealand rugby and their ability to consistently perform at the highest level. The remarkable win rate against all teams, often exceeding 50% and even nearing 80%, is a testament

to the team's enduring excellence. While win rates against certain teams adhere to expectations, interpreting figures against Ireland, England, and France requires caution due to limited match data. However, one cannot overlook New Zealand's unparalleled ability to maintain supremacy over the World Rugby rankings during different eras, establishing themselves as the pinnacle of the sport. Even amidst moments of crisis, as seen in the longest losing streaks, the All Blacks have demonstrated resilience and an ability to overcome challenges. The iconic team's history showcases periods of sustained dominance intertwined with occasional setbacks, highlighting their human side and the essence of competition. In summary, the New Zealand national rugby team's journey against the world's top teams reflects an enduring legacy of excellence and determination. Through periods of triumph and adversity, they have demonstrated the true spirit of rugby, captivating fans worldwide with their unparalleled skill, commitment, and sportsmanship.

## 10 Historical Analysis of *the Thistle*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the Scottish national rugby union team.



### 10.1 Triumphs insights

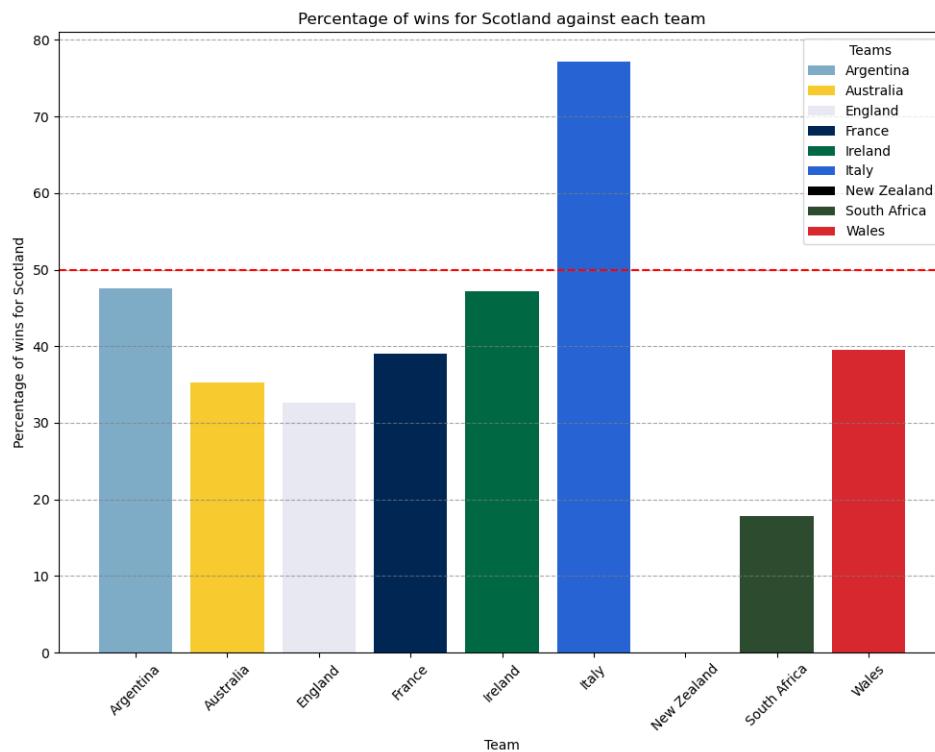
#### 10.1.1 Scotland's win rate against each team

Number of official matches against Scotland for each team:

- Argentina: 21 matches
- Australia: 34 matches
- England: 141 matches
- France: 100 matches
- Ireland: 140 matches
- Italy: 35 matches
- New Zealand: 32 matches
- South Africa: 28 matches
- Wales: 129 matches

### Number of wins for Scotland against each team:

- Argentina: 10 wins
- Australia: 12 wins
- England: 46 wins
- France: 39 wins
- Ireland: 66 wins
- Italy: 27 wins
- New Zealand: 0 win
- South Africa: 5 wins
- Wales: 51 wins



We can observe that the number of matches against British teams and France logically surpasses those against other teams, with approximately 100 matches compared to around 30. This can be attributed to their geographical proximity as neighboring nations, which made it more practical to arrange matches, especially in the earlier years when travel distances were greater. Additionally, considering that the roots of rugby originated in the British Isles, it's natural that a significant portion of matches took place there. The historic tournaments like the 4 and 5 Nations have further contributed to the higher number of matches.

between these nations. Furthermore, a distinct trend is evident in the win rates against various teams. Notably, the win rate against all teams falls below the 50% mark, except for matches against Italy. It's noteworthy that Scotland has historically struggled against all the others, even against Argentina, which is generally considered slightly weaker. It's also important to mention that the win rate against South Africa is very low, below 20%, and the win rate against New Zealand drops even to 0%. Scotland has never won against the All Blacks; their best result is a draw. It's important to acknowledge that these win rates are calculated based on data spanning from 1871 to the present day. To provide a more accurate reflection of current team dynamics, focusing on win rates over recent years would be advisable.

#### **10.1.2 Scotland's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)**

**Number of official matches against Scotland since 2019 for each team:**

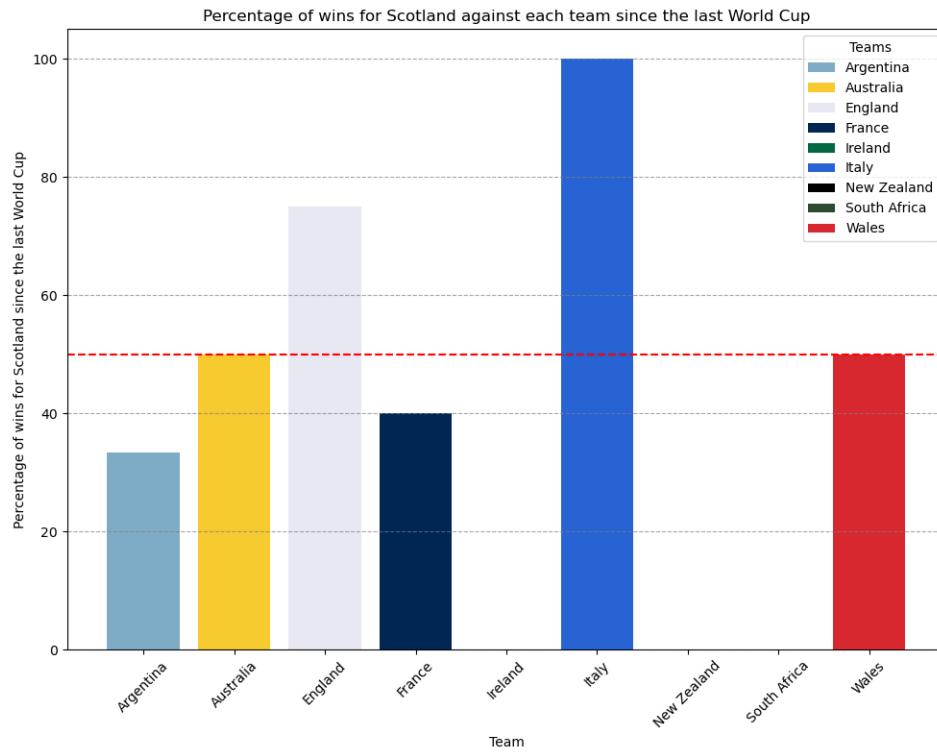
- Argentina: 3 matches
- Australia: 2 matches
- England: 4 match
- France: 4 match
- Ireland: 5 matches
- Italy: 5 matches
- New Zealand: 1 match
- South Africa: 1 match
- Wales: 4 matches

**Number of wins for Scotland against each team:**

- Argentina: 1 win
- Australia: 1 win
- England: 3 wins
- France: 2 wins
- Ireland: 0 win
- Italy: 5 wins
- New Zealand: 0 win
- South Africa: 0 win

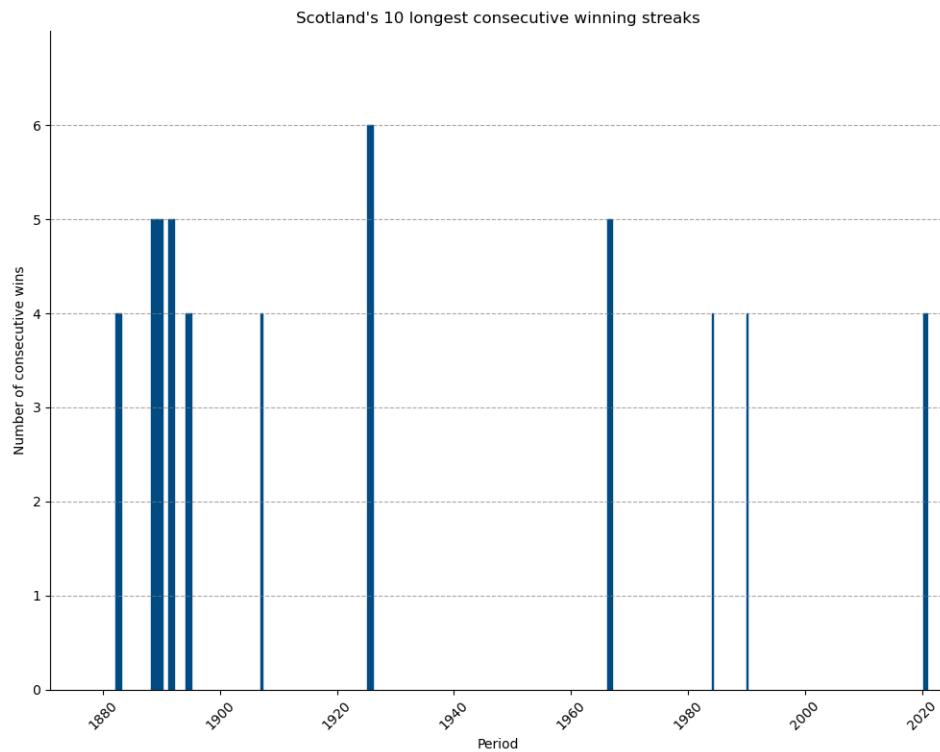
- Wales: 2 wins

**Global win rate for Scotland since the last WC: 46.67%**



We can observe that the win rate against all other teams is within the Scottish standard, even though the Scots encountered 5 defeats against Ireland in this period. This can be attributed more to the fact that Ireland elevated their performance during this time. It is also notable for the high win rate against the historical English rival and the losses against the Springboks.

### 10.1.3 Scotland's longest winning streaks



We can observe the longest winning streaks of Scotland. The majority of these occurred during the period from the 1880s to the 1930s, marking the awakening of rugby at a time when England, Scotland, and Wales were dominating world rugby. During this golden era, the team achieved victories in the Tournament in 1887, 1891, 1895, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1907, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1929, 1933, and 1938, which is quite remarkable. After this illustrious period, Scotland had to wait until the 1960s to momentarily recapture its finest moments in history. Then, there was another wait until the 1980s when Scotland claimed victory in the 5 Nations Championship in 1984, 1986, 1990, and 1999. Since then, even though there was a winning streak in 2020, Scotland's performances have been somewhat reserved. For instance, in the World Cup (as mentioned earlier), Scotland's results have been disappointing, with the team never progressing beyond the quarter-finals.

### 10.1.4 Scotland's largest wins against each team

- Argentina

Score Difference: 46

Home Score: 49

Away Score: 3

Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium

Date: 1990-11-10

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- **Australia**

Score Difference: 29  
Home Score: 53  
Away Score: 24  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2017-11-25

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- **England**

Score Difference: 27  
Home Score: 33  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 1986-02-15

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- **France**

Score Difference: 28  
Home Score: 31  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Inverleith  
Date: 1912-01-20

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- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 28  
Home Score: 38  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 1997-03-01

---

- **Italy**

Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 52  
Away Score: 10

Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2021-03-20

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- New Zealand  
Scotland NEVER DEFEATED New Zealand
- 

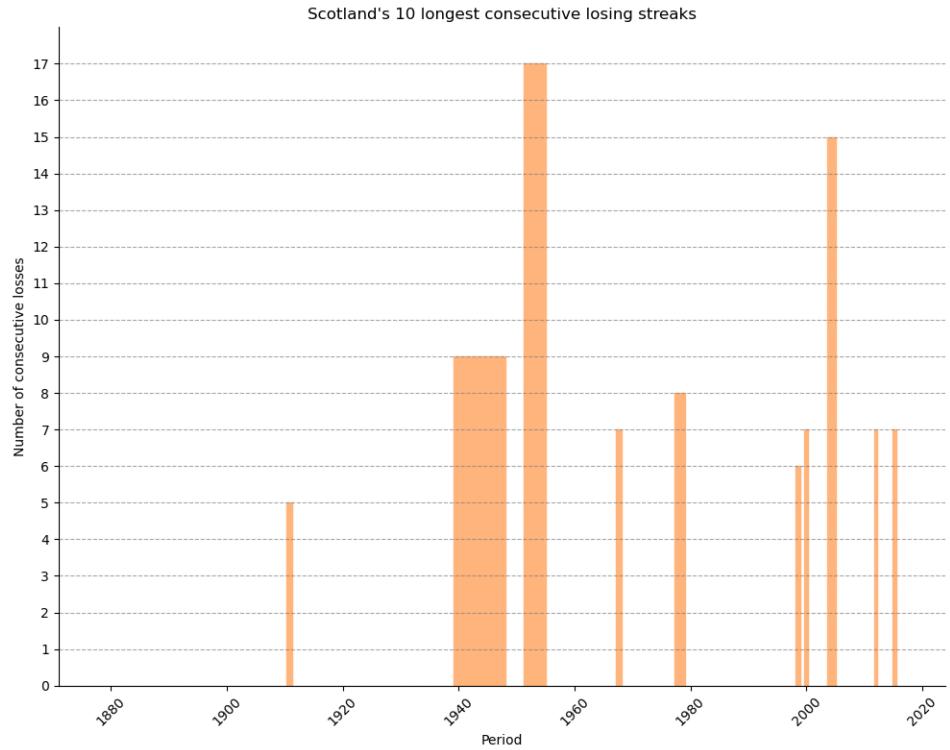
- South Africa  
Score Difference: 15  
Home Score: 21  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2002-11-16
- 

- Wales  
Score Difference: 28  
Home Score: 35  
Away Score: 7  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2023-02-11

We can observe the most significant victories of Scotland (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. Interestingly, none of these occurred during Scotland's golden era in rugby (1880 - 1930). However, this is not surprising given that we are aware the number of points has steadily increased over the years.

## 10.2 Debacles insights

### 10.2.1 Scotland's longest losing streaks



We can observe the longest losing streaks of Scotland. A significant period of losing streaks for Scotland occurred between 1939 and 1955. The 1950s proved to be a challenging decade for the Thistle Boys. In the 1951 Tournament, Scotland managed to secure only one victory, against Wales. During the autumn, Scotland suffered a crushing defeat from the Springboks at Murrayfield, with a score of 44-0. In subsequent Tournaments, Scotland earned three consecutive wooden spoons in 1952, 1953, and 1954, indicating their last-place finishes. The 1970s also brought difficulties for Scotland. Despite the presence of the iconic Andy Irvine in the team, Scotland experienced a tough phase between March 1977 and February 1980, enduring 11 defeats and 2 draws. This period was highlighted by another wooden spoon defeat in the 1978 tournament. The 2000s posed challenges as well, with Scotland struggling in tournaments from 2000 to 2005. During this period, they achieved a best finish of fourth place, recording 8 wins, 21 defeats, and 1 draw. The 2007 tournament followed suit with a poor performance, resulting in a last-place finish and just one victory against Wales. The same trend continued in 2008 and 2009, with four defeats and only one win. However, a shift occurred since 2014. Following a period of defeats, Scotland has exhibited a new and improved performance.

### 10.2.2 Scotland's largest losses against each team

- Argentina

Score Difference: 9

Home Score: 22  
Away Score: 31  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 1999-08-21

---

- **Australia**

Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 45  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Sydney Football Stadium  
Date: 1998-06-13

---

- **England**

Score Difference: 40  
Home Score: 43  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2001-03-03

---

- **France**

Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 51  
Away Score: 9  
Stadium: Stadium Australia  
Date: 2003-10-25

---

- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 30  
Home Score: 6  
Away Score: 36  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2003-02-16

---

- **Italy**

Score Difference: 20  
Home Score: 17  
Away Score: 37  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2007-02-24

---

- New Zealand

Score Difference: 49  
Home Score: 69  
Away Score: 20  
Stadium: Carisbrook  
Date: 2000-06-24

---

- South Africa

Score Difference: 58  
Home Score: 10  
Away Score: 68  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 1997-12-06

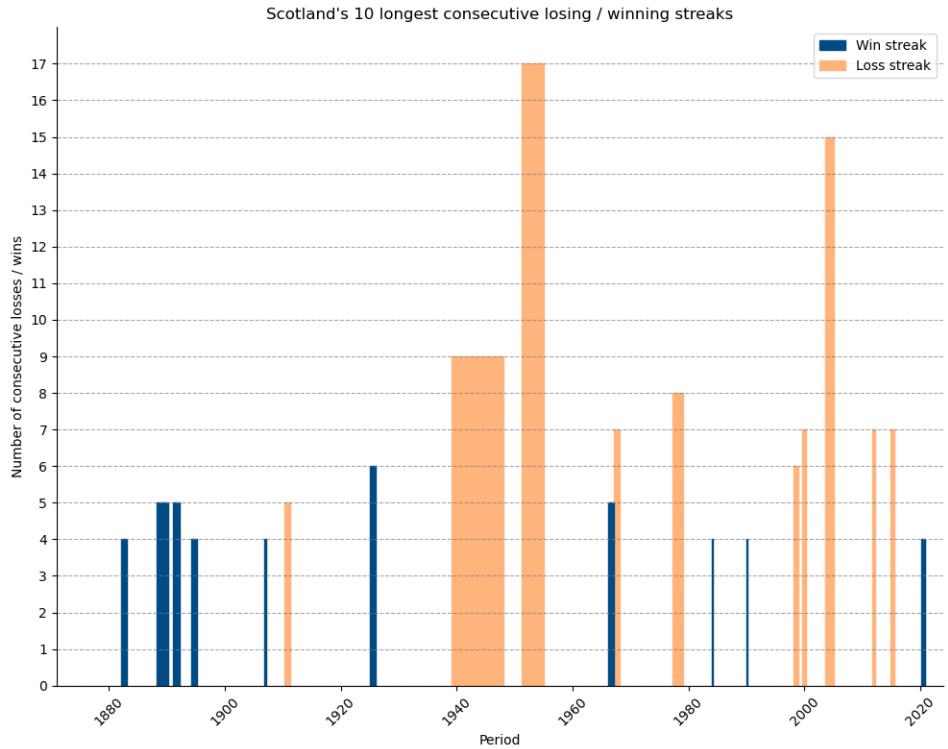
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- **Wales**

Score Difference: 48  
Home Score: 51  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2014-03-15

We can observe the most significant losses of Scotland (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It's interesting to note that all of these losses took place during the 2000s, a period often referred to as the dark days of Scottish rugby.

### 10.3 Scotland's winning and losing periods



We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the Scottish national rugby team. The diagram highlights the fact that Scotland experienced a golden era in the early age of rugby before encountering impressive periods of losses, notably in the 1950s and the 2000s. However, it also illustrates that after these challenging times, there has been a new lease of life for Scotland, as evidenced by a fine run of victories in 2020.

### 10.4 Conclusion

In tracing the evolution of the Scottish national rugby team's performance against the top 10 teams in the world, certain notable patterns and trends come to light. The historical context, including the higher number of matches against British teams and France, is shaped by geographical proximity and the foundational roots of rugby in the British Isles. The influence of historic tournaments like the 4 and 5 Nations further accentuates the prevalence of matches among these nations. A distinctive trend emerges when examining win rates against various teams. Remarkably, the win rate remains consistently below 50% against most opponents, excluding matches against Italy. Despite facing challenges, Scotland has historically struggled against various opponents, including Argentina, even though they are often considered slightly weaker. Particularly noteworthy is the low win rate against South Africa, falling below 20%, and the absence of a victory against New Zealand – the All Blacks – with the closest achievement being a draw. Furthermore, analyzing the longest winning streaks reveals Scotland's rugby dominance during the late 19th and early 20th

centuries, often coinciding with periods of British rugby dominance on the global stage. The team's achievements in various tournaments, spanning 1887 to 1938, underscore their historical significance. Conversely, examining the most significant losses against other teams highlights the challenges Scotland faced in the 2000s, commonly referred to as the dark days of Scottish rugby. This period saw substantial losses against top-tier teams, reflecting a period of struggle for the Scottish national team. In conclusion, the Scottish national rugby team's journey against the world's top teams is a testament to the ebb and flow of the sport's history. From triumphant eras to challenging periods, Scotland's performance against global rugby giants demonstrates the complexities of the game's evolution, marked by historical context and shifting dynamics. The team's ability to rise from challenging phases, as demonstrated by their recent successes, reflects the resilience and determination that characterize the spirit of Scottish rugby.

## 11 Historical Analysis of *the Springboks*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the South African national rugby union team.



### 11.1 Triumphs insights

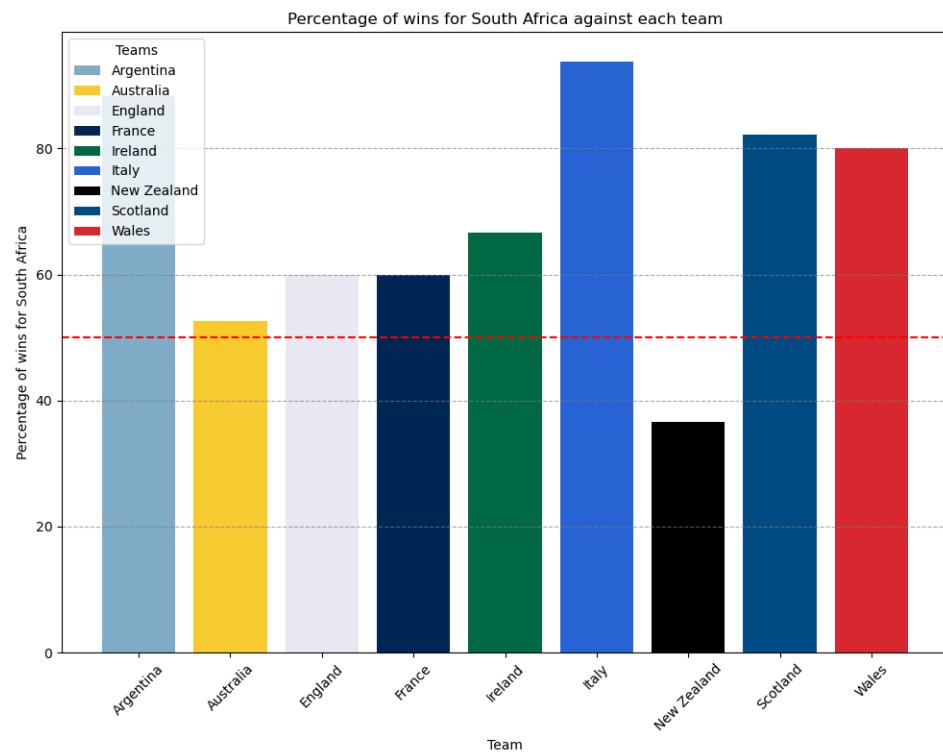
#### 11.1.1 South Africa's win rate against each team

Number of official matches against South Africa for each team:

- Argentina: 34 matches
- Australia: 93 matches
- England: 45 matches
- France: 45 matches
- Ireland: 27 matches
- Italy: 16 matches
- New Zealand: 104 matches
- Scotland: 28 matches
- Wales: 40 matches

Number of wins for South Africa against each team:

- Argentina: 30 wins
- Australia: 49 wins
- England: 27 wins
- France: 27 wins
- Ireland: 18 wins
- Italy: 15 wins
- New Zealand: 38 wins
- Scotland: 23 wins
- Wales: 32 wins



We can observe that the number of matches against Australia and New Zealand logically surpasses those against other teams. This can be attributed to their geographical proximity and the fact that Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and more recently Argentina participate in the annual tournament known as "The Rugby Championship." Furthermore, South Africa's global win rate since 1871 is an impressive 59.95% against the best teams in the world. This statistic truly underscores the sheer dominance of South African rugby. It's no mere coincidence that the rainbow nation has secured the Rugby World Cup title three times. Remarkably, the win rate against all teams consistently exceeds 50%, except against

the All Blacks. However, the figures even approach 80% or more against Argentina, Italy, Scotland, and Wales. This level of performance is undeniably awe-inspiring and serves as a testament to the Springboks' rugby prowess.

#### **11.1.2 South Africa's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)**

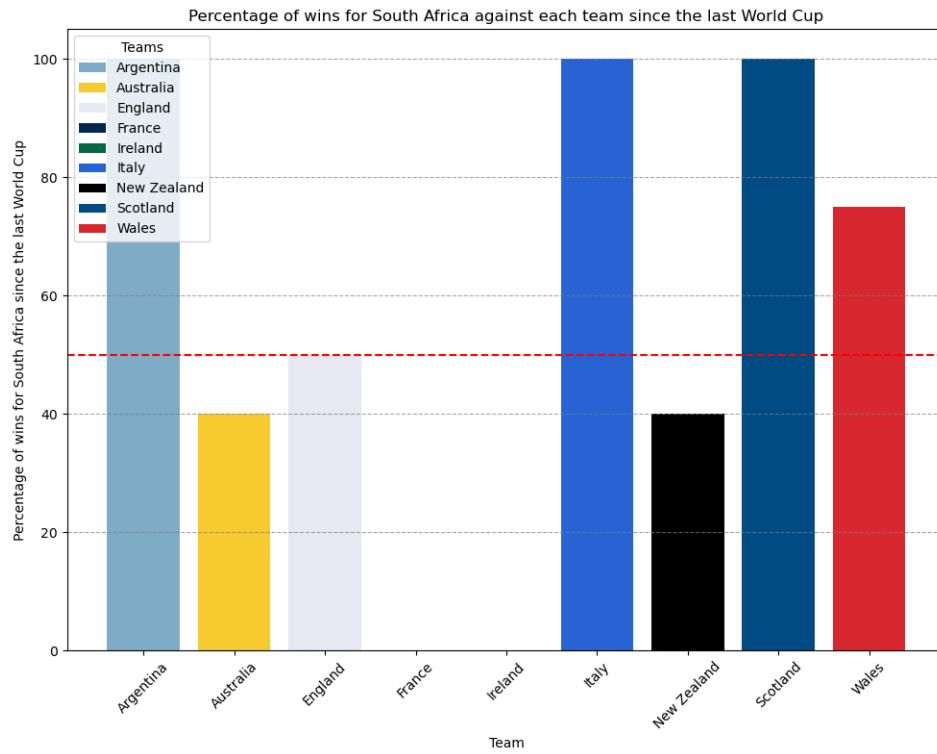
**Number of official matches against South Africa since 2019 for each team:**

- Argentina: 4 matches
- Australia: 5 matches
- England: 2 matches
- France: 1 match
- Ireland: 1 match
- Italy: 1 match
- New Zealand: 5 matches
- Scotland: 1 match
- Wales: 4 matches

**Number of wins for South Africa against each team:**

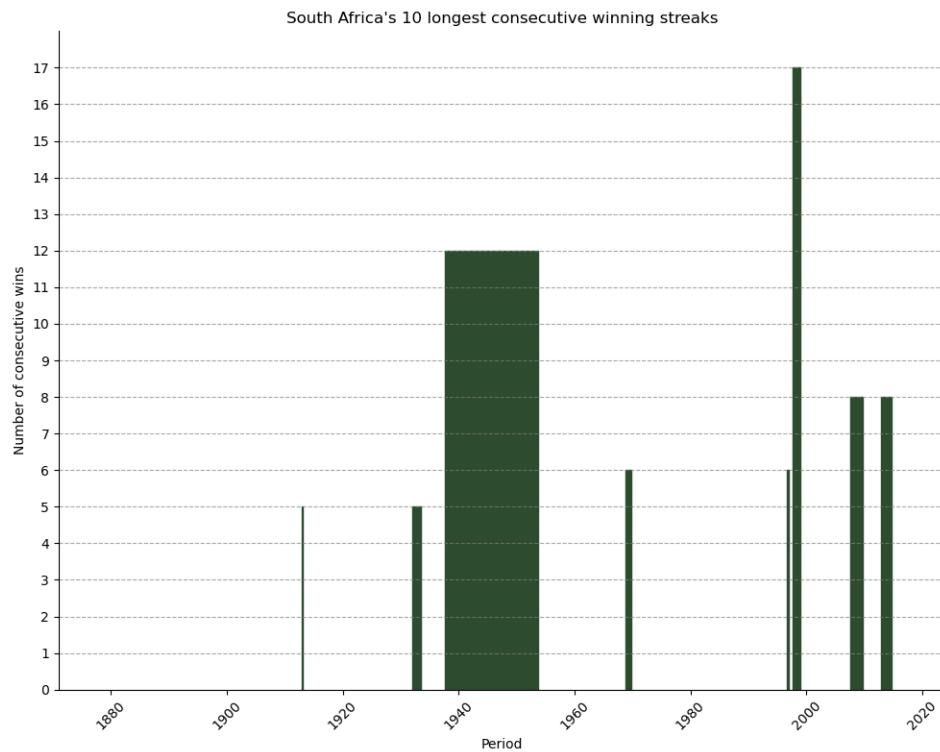
- Argentina: 4 wins
- Australia: 2 wins
- England: 1 win
- France: 0 win
- Ireland: 0 win
- Italy: 1 win
- New Zealand: 2 wins
- Scotland: 1 win
- Wales: 3 wins

**Global win rate for South Africa since the last WC: 58.33%**



We can observe that the win rate against all other teams is in the South African standards, with a global ratio since 2019 of 58.33%. Even if the losses against France and Ireland look a bit out of place in the histogram, but is it possible to judge a team's form on the basis of a single match? The 2019 world champions remain formidable and feared opponents.

### 11.1.3 South Africa's longest winning streaks



We can observe the longest winning streaks of South Africa. A significant peak is evident between 1937 and 1953, a period during which they stood at the pinnacle of world rugby. After an eleven-year hiatus due to the Second World War, South Africa made a triumphant return, winning a series of four matches against New Zealand in 1949. During a tour of Great Britain, Ireland, and France in 1951-1952, they emerged victorious against all these nations, solidifying their place in history. Another notable period is between the 1990s and the 2010s, particularly highlighted between 1997 and 1998 with an impressive streak of 17 consecutive wins. This era showcased remarkable form, encompassing both the 1995 and 2007 World Cup victories, further cementing their reputation as a dominant force in rugby.

### 11.1.4 South Africa's largest wins against each team

- Argentina
    - Score Difference: 60
    - Home Score: 73
    - Away Score: 13
    - Stadium: FNB Stadium
    - Date: 2013-08-17
-

- **Australia**

Score Difference: 45  
Home Score: 53  
Away Score: 8  
Stadium: Ellis Park Stadium  
Date: 2008-08-30

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- **England**

Score Difference: 48  
Home Score: 58  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Free State Stadium  
Date: 2007-05-26

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- **France**

Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 10  
Away Score: 52  
Stadium: Parc des Princes  
Date: 1997-11-22

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- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 38  
Home Score: 0  
Away Score: 38  
Stadium: Lansdowne Road  
Date: 1912-11-30

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- **Italy**

Score Difference: 101  
Home Score: 101  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Kings Park Stadium  
Date: 1999-06-19

- 
- New Zealand  
Score Difference: 17  
Home Score: 17  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: Kingsmead  
Date: 1928-06-30
- 

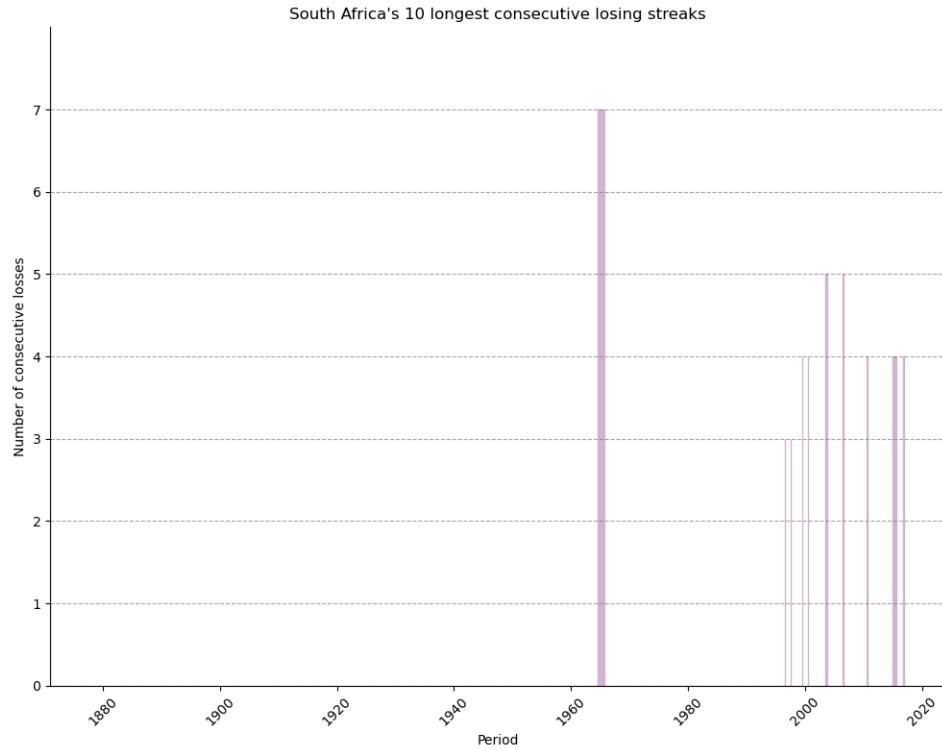
- Scotland  
Score Difference: 58  
Home Score: 10  
Away Score: 68  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 1997-12-06
- 

- Wales  
Score Difference: 83  
Home Score: 96  
Away Score: 13  
Stadium: Loftus Versfeld  
Date: 1998-06-27

We can observe the most significant victories of South Africa (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to note that some of these victories align with periods of peak glory for South African rugby, as previously discussed.

## 11.2 Debacles insights

### 11.2.1 South Africa's longest losing streaks



We can observe the longest losing streaks of South Africa. There are clearly two distinct periods: the first spanning from 1964 to 1965, and the second from 1996 to 2016.

### 11.2.2 South Africa's largest losses against each team

- Argentina

Score Difference: 13

Home Score: 32

Away Score: 19

Stadium: Malvinas Argentinas

Date: 2018-08-25

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- Australia

Score Difference: 49

Home Score: 49

Away Score: 0

Stadium: Lang Park

Date: 2006-07-15

---

- **England**

Score Difference: 50  
Home Score: 53  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2002-11-23

---

- **France**

Score Difference: 20  
Home Score: 30  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Stade Vélodrome  
Date: 2002-11-09

---

- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 35  
Home Score: 38  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Aviva Stadium  
Date: 2017-11-11

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- **Italy**

Score Difference: 2  
Home Score: 20  
Away Score: 18  
Stadium: Stadio Artemio Franchi  
Date: 2016-11-19

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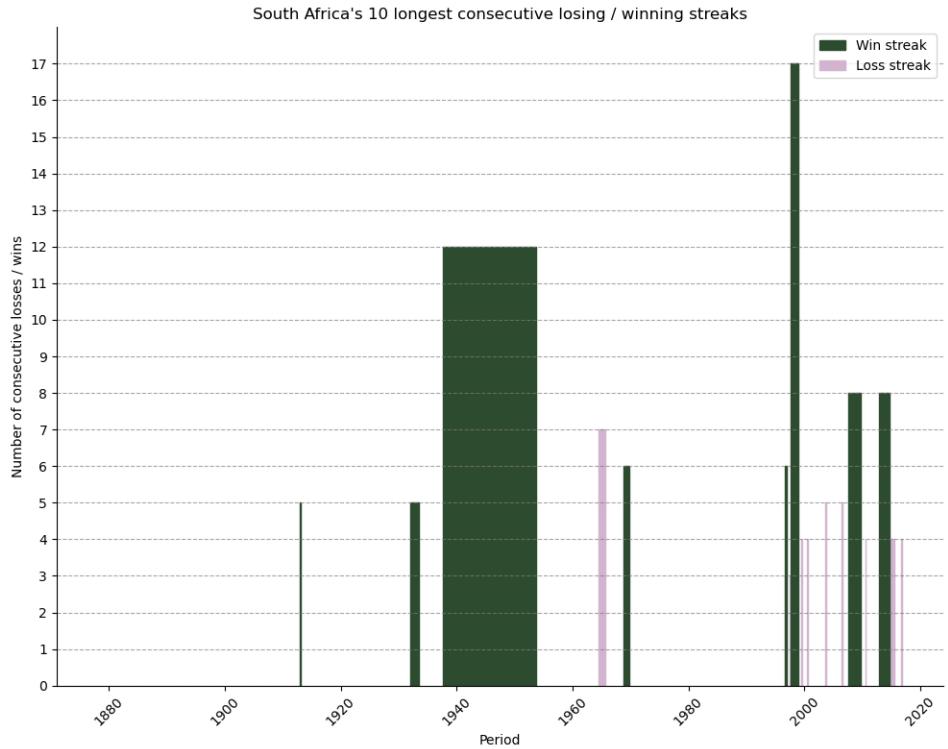
- New Zealand  
Scotland NEVER DEFEATED New Zealand
- 

- **Scotland**  
Score Difference: 15  
Home Score: 21  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium  
Date: 2002-11-16
- 

- **Wales**  
Score Difference: 14  
Home Score: 27  
Away Score: 13  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2016-11-26

We can observe the most significant losses of South Africa (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to note that some of these losses occurred during the years 2016, 2017, and 2018. These years marked South Africa's challenging period under the leadership of Allister Coetzee. The Springboks faced difficulties during the Rugby Championship, losing 4 out of their 6 matches. Additionally, their European tour in November resulted in three defeats to England, Wales, and, notably, Italy for the first time.

### 11.3 South Africa's winning and losing periods



We can observe in this summary diagram the periods of both winning and losing streaks for the South African national rugby team. The diagram highlights a clear period of dominance from the 1930s to the 1950s. It is also notable that during the period from 1970 to 1991, significant changes occurred due to international calls to sever ties with the Republic of South Africa because of its apartheid policy. This led to boycotts and cancellations of tours involving the Springboks, which became increasingly prevalent throughout the 1970s. Subsequently, between 1990 and 2018, alternating periods of winning and losing streaks are evident, even though the periods of consecutive wins are predominant.

### 11.4 Conclusion

In reflecting upon the evolution of the South African national rugby team's performance against the top 10 teams in the world, a captivating narrative emerges. The emphasis on matches against Australia and New Zealand, attributed to their geographical proximity and participation in The Rugby Championship, underscores the significance of regional rivalries in shaping the team's schedule. A striking statistic lies in South Africa's remarkable global win rate of 59.95% against the world's top teams since 1871. This figure resonates deeply, showcasing the enduring dominance of South African rugby. The nation's triumphant capture of the Rugby World Cup title on three occasions is no mere coincidence but a testament to their prowess on the global stage. Remarkably, the consistent win rate surpassing 50% against most teams, along with figures approaching 80% or higher against select opponents

like Argentina, Italy, Scotland, and Wales, speaks volumes of the Springboks' skill and capability. This level of performance serves as an awe-inspiring testament to their rugby mastery. Delving into historical streaks reveals South Africa's pinnacle periods. The 1937-1953 era stands out as a golden age, crowned by victories against formidable opponents. The triumphant return after World War II, marked by a series of wins against New Zealand and a victorious tour of the British Isles, further solidified their legacy. The most significant victories aligning with periods of glory reaffirm South Africa's prowess. Yet, acknowledging the challenges faced is equally vital. Notably, the two distinct periods of losing streaks, in the 1960s-1965 and 1996-2016, provide a glimpse into the team's journey through challenging phases. In summary, the trajectory of the South African national rugby team's performance is a tapestry woven with triumphs and trials, reflecting a rich history in the global rugby landscape. The periods of dominance, the test of adversity, and the rhythmic alternating of winning and losing streaks all contribute to the dynamic narrative that is South African rugby.

## 12 Historical Analysis of *the Dragons*

Here is a more precise analysis of the data focused on the Welsh national rugby union team.



### 12.1 Triumphs insights

#### 12.1.1 Wales's win rate against each team

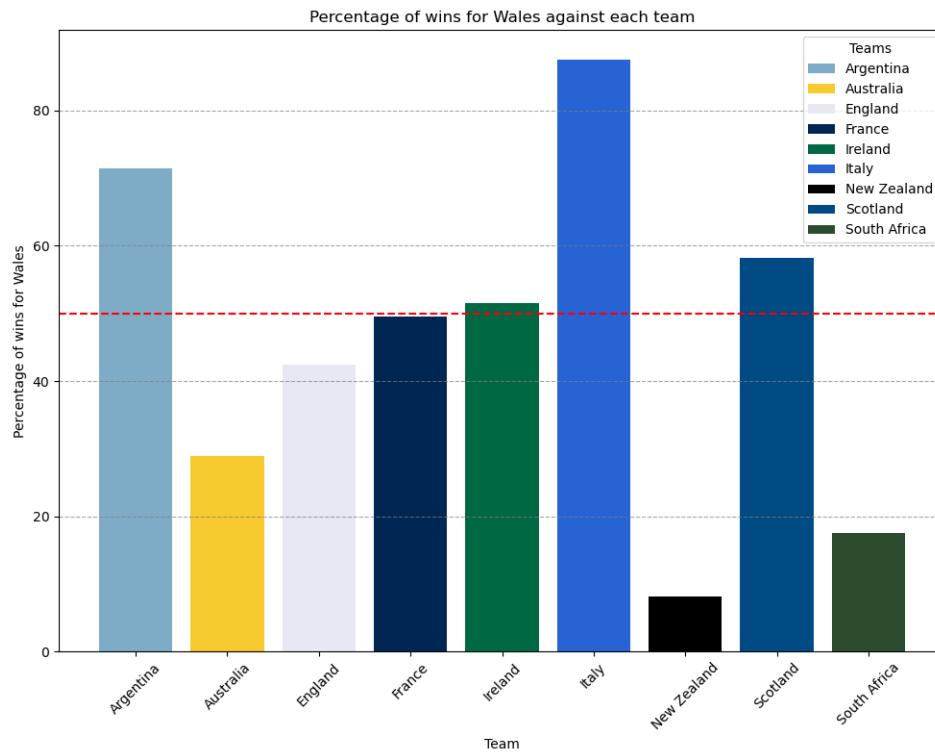
Number of official matches against Wales for each team:

- Argentina: 21 matches
- Australia: 45 matches
- England: 139 matches
- France: 103 matches
- Ireland: 134 matches
- Italy: 32 matches
- New Zealand: 37 matches
- Scotland: 129 matches

- South Africa: 40 matches

#### Number of wins for Wales against each team:

- Argentina: 15 wins
- Australia: 13 wins
- England: 59 wins
- France: 51 wins
- Ireland: 69 wins
- Italy: 28 wins
- New Zealand: 3 wins
- Scotland: 75 wins
- South Africa: 7 wins



We can observe that the number of matches against British teams and France logically surpasses those against other teams, with approximately 100 matches compared to around 30. This can be attributed to their geographical proximity as neighboring nations, which made

it more practical to arrange matches, especially in the earlier years when travel distances were greater. Additionally, considering that the roots of rugby originated in the British Isles, it's natural that a significant portion of matches took place there. The historic tournaments like the 4 and 5 Nations have further contributed to the higher number of matches between these nations. Furthermore, a distinct trend is evident in the win rates against various teams. Notably, the win rate against Argentina, Italy and Scotland is quite high. The win rate against France and Ireland is around 50%, which is acceptable. Whereas the win rate against New Zealand and South Africa is really low, below 10%. It's important to acknowledge that these win rates are calculated based on data spanning from 1871 to the present day. To provide a more accurate reflection of current team dynamics, focusing on win rates over recent years would be advisable.

#### **12.1.2 Wales's win rate against each team since the last World Cup (2019)**

**Number of official matches against Wales since 2019 for each team:**

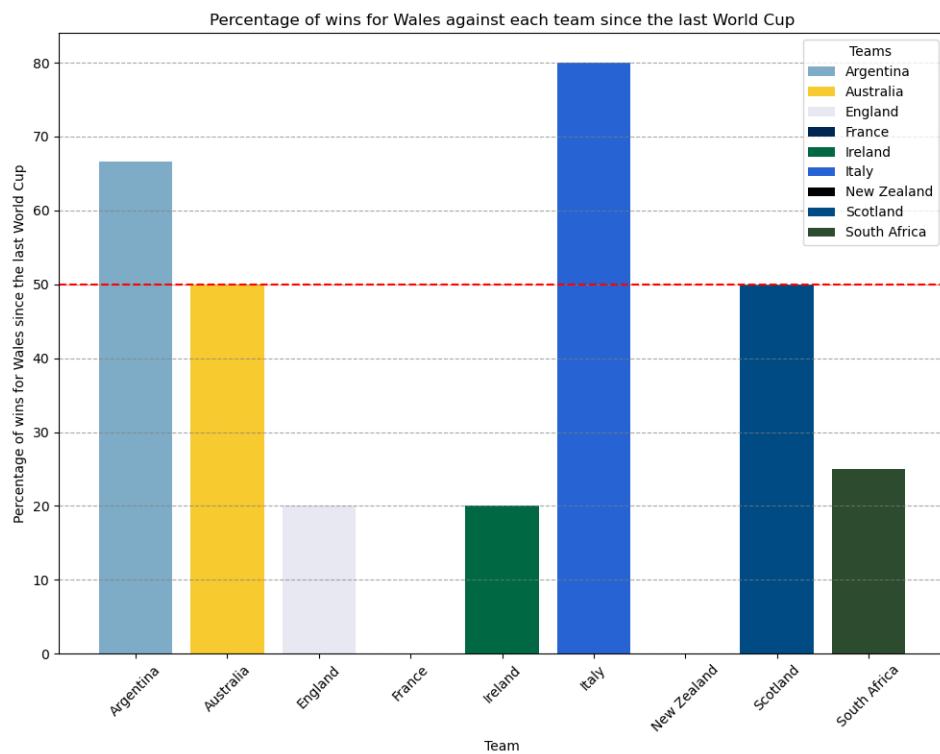
- Argentina: 3 matches
- Australia: 2 matches
- England: 5 matches
- France: 5 matches
- Ireland: 5 matches
- Italy: 5 matches
- New Zealand: 2 matches
- Scotland: 4 matches
- South Africa: 4 matches

**Number of wins for Wales against each team:**

- Argentina: 2 wins
- Australia: 1 win
- England: 1 win
- France: 0 win
- Ireland: 1 win
- Italy: 4 wins
- New Zealand: 0 win
- Scotland: 2 wins

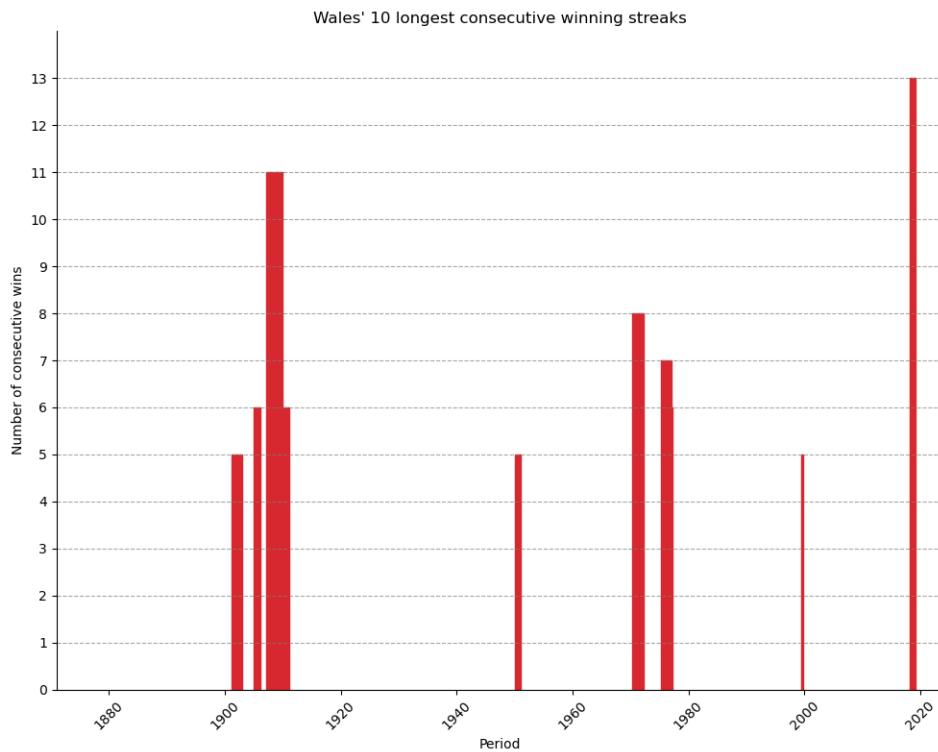
- South Africa: 1 win

**Global win rate for Wales since the last WC: 34.29%**



We can observe that the win rate against all other teams is in the Welsh standards, with a global ratio since 2019 of 34.29%.

### 12.1.3 Wales's longest winning streaks



We can observe the longest winning streaks of Wales. A glorious period in Welsh rugby history spanned from 1900 to 1911. During this era, affectionately known as the first "Golden Age," Wales maintained an unbeaten record on home soil. Remarkably, in this period, they suffered just seven defeats. From 1900 to 1909, their record stood at nine losses, one draw, and no wins against Wales. Moving to the 1970s, a distinct era of dominant red rugby emerged. Wales asserted their supremacy in European rugby, securing victory in eight tournaments: 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978, and 1979. This era included the impressive achievement of three Grand Slams in 1971, 1976, and 1978. Furthermore, the most remarkable stretch of consecutive wins occurred between 2018 and 2019. During this period, Wales showcased remarkable consistency by remaining undefeated for an entire year against the other nine teams. This achievement solidified their reputation as a force to be reckoned with. In the context of the 2019 World Cup, Wales demonstrated their prowess by topping their group for the first time since the 1987 World Cup. They finished the competition in 4th place after being eliminated in the semi-finals by future champions South Africa. This performance added another chapter to Wales' storied rugby history.

### 12.1.4 Wales's largest wins against each team

- Argentina
  - Score Difference: 34
  - Home Score: 40
  - Away Score: 6

Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2013-11-16

---

- **Australia**

Score Difference: 25  
Home Score: 28  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: National Stadium  
Date: 1975-12-20

---

- **England**

Score Difference: 27  
Home Score: 30  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2013-03-16

---

- **France**

Score Difference: 42  
Home Score: 5  
Away Score: 47  
Stadium: Stade Colombes  
Date: 1909-02-23

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- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 29  
Home Score: 29  
Away Score: 0  
Stadium: National Stadium  
Date: 1907-03-09

---

- **Italy**

Score Difference: 53  
Home Score: 67  
Away Score: 14  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2016-03-19

---

- New Zealand

Score Difference: 5  
Home Score: 13  
Away Score: 8  
Stadium: National Stadium  
Date: 1953-12-19

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- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 48  
Home Score: 51  
Away Score: 3  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2014-03-15

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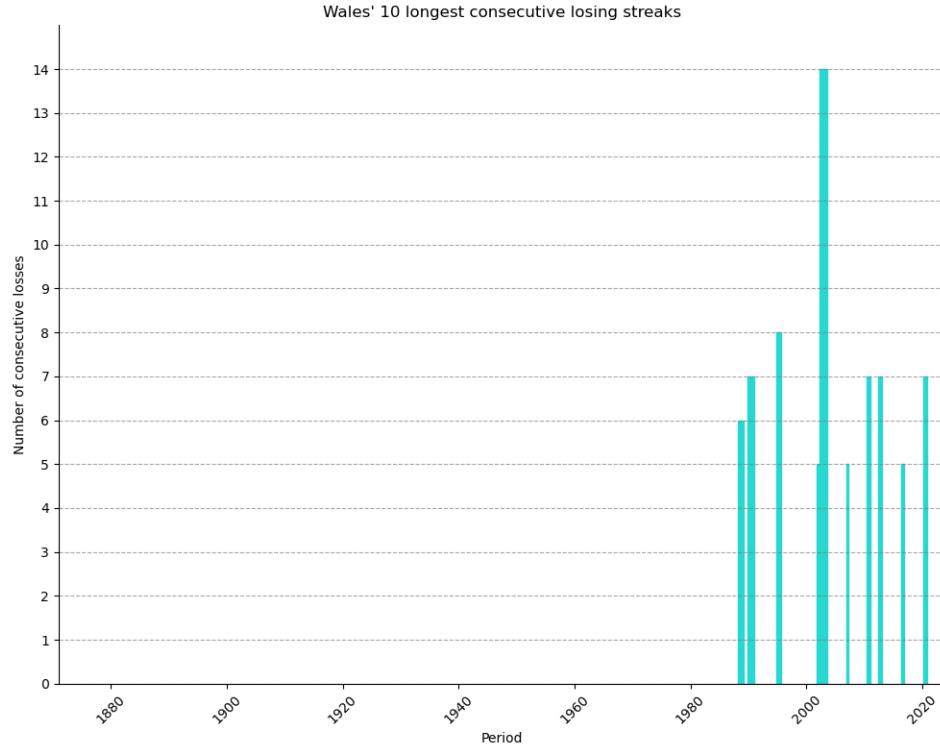
- South Africa

Score Difference: 14  
Home Score: 27  
Away Score: 13  
Stadium: Millennium Stadium  
Date: 2016-11-26

We can observe the most significant victories of Wales (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to notice that some of those victories occurred during the 1900s but also during the 1970s and the 2010s.

## 12.2 Debacles insights

### 12.2.1 Wales's longest losing streaks



We can observe the longest losing streaks of Wales, all of which occurred after 1988. The 1990s are often regarded as the dark years for Welsh rugby, marked by challenging times. The 1990 Tournament proved catastrophic for the Welsh team, as they suffered four defeats in as many games. Their solitary victories that year came against Namibia. Similarly, the 1991 scenario mirrored the previous year, with no victories in the Tournament except for a 21-21 draw against Ireland, preventing a complete downfall. Wales participated in the 1991 World Cup but faced early elimination in the pools, much like the outcome of the 1994 World Cup, even though they emerged as champions that year. The 1995 tournament brought further disappointment to the defending Welsh champions, as they endured four consecutive defeats. With the professionalization of rugby in 1995 and the resurgence of players transitioning from XV-a-side to XIII-a-side, Wales managed to improve their situation in 1998, largely attributed to the appointment of Graham Henry as coach. However, the 2000s brought about successive periods of defeat for the Welsh team, continuing the challenges they faced in their rugby journey.

### 12.2.2 Wales's largest losses against each team

- Argentina
  - Score Difference: 18
  - Home Score: 45

Away Score: 27  
Stadium: José Amalfitani Stadium  
Date: 2006-06-17

---

- **Australia**

Score Difference: 57  
Home Score: 63  
Away Score: 6  
Stadium: Ballymore Stadium  
Date: 1991-07-22

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- **England**

Score Difference: 57  
Home Score: 62  
Away Score: 5  
Stadium: Twickenham Stadium  
Date: 2007-08-04

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- **France**

Score Difference: 51  
Home Score: 0  
Away Score: 51  
Stadium: Wembley Stadium  
Date: 1998-04-05

---

- **Ireland**

Score Difference: 44  
Home Score: 54  
Away Score: 10  
Stadium: Lansdowne Road  
Date: 2002-02-03

---

- **Italy**

Score Difference: 8

Home Score: 30

Away Score: 22

Stadium: Stadio Flaminio

Date: 2003-02-15

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- New Zealand

Score Difference: 52

Home Score: 55

Away Score: 3

Stadium: Waikato Stadium

Date: 2003-06-21

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- **Scotland**

Score Difference: 28

Home Score: 35

Away Score: 7

Stadium: Murrayfield Stadium

Date: 2023-02-11

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- South Africa

Score Difference: 83

Home Score: 96

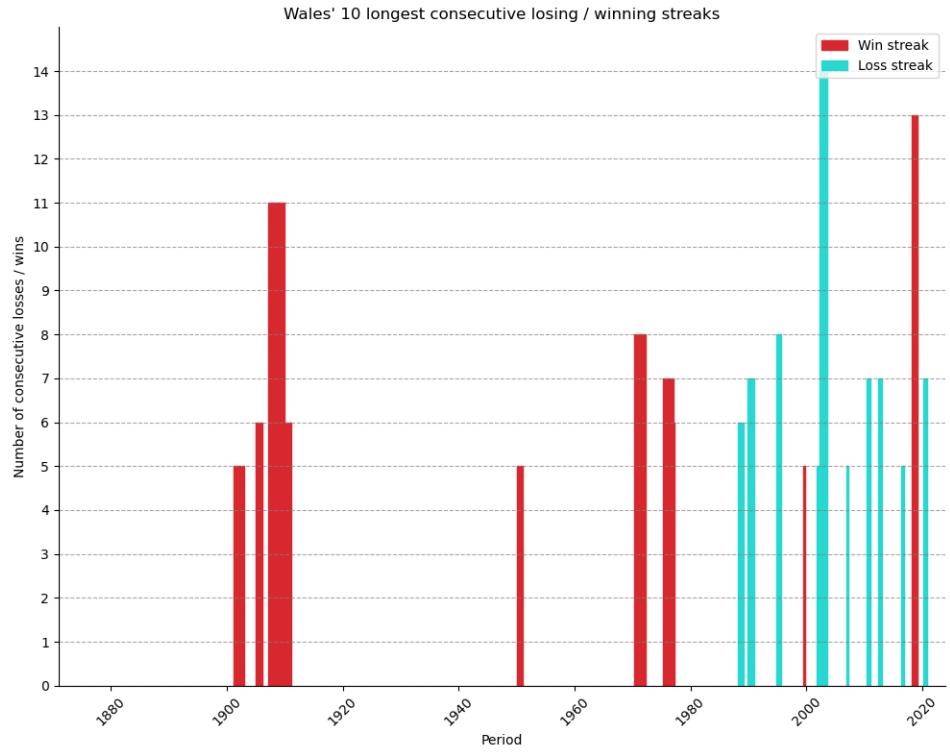
Away Score: 13

Stadium: Loftus Versfeld

Date: 1998-06-27

We can observe the most significant losses of Wales (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to notice that except from the loss against Australia in 1991, all of the other losses occurred after 1998, during the dark ages of Wales.

### 12.3 Wales's winning and losing periods



We can observe the most significant losses of Wales (in terms of score difference) against each of the other teams. It is interesting to notice that except from the loss against Australia in 1991, all of the other losses occurred after 1998, during the dark ages of Wales.

### 12.4 Conclusion

In tracing the evolution of the Welsh national rugby team's performance against the top 10 teams in the world, a compelling story unfolds. The emphasis on matches against British teams and France, owing to geographical proximity and historical ties, has contributed to the development of fierce rivalries and a higher frequency of encounters. Examining win rates against various teams reveals intriguing trends. Notably, a strong win rate against Argentina, Italy, and Scotland reflects Wales' prowess against these opponents. The relatively balanced win rates against France and Ireland, hovering around 50%, reflect competitive matches. However, the starkly low win rates against New Zealand and South Africa, both below 10%, underscore the challenges faced against these formidable foes. The historical narrative is enriched by Wales' distinguished winning streaks. The first "Golden Age" between 1900 and 1911 stands out, marked by unbeaten records on home soil and limited defeats. The 1970s emerged as an era of red dominance, with Welsh triumphs in European rugby, including the remarkable feat of three Grand Slams. Another exceptional period is the consecutive wins from 2018 to 2019, showcasing Wales' resilience and consistency. Their undefeated year against nine other teams further solidified their reputation as a formidable contender. The World Cup performances have also shaped Welsh rugby history. The 2019

World Cup, where they topped their group and reached the semi-finals, showcased their mettle on the global stage. Conversely, Wales' struggles are evident in their periods of consecutive losses. The 1990s are often considered a challenging era for Welsh rugby, marked by setbacks and disappointing tournaments. The transition to professionalism in the mid-1990s and subsequent coaching changes brought about both periods of triumph and adversity. In conclusion, the evolution of the Welsh national rugby team reflects a multifaceted journey characterized by triumphs, challenges, and resilience. The periods of glory, the confronting phases of losses, and the consistent pursuit of excellence have contributed to shaping Wales' storied rugby legacy on the global stage.