Josef

Josef ' Joe ' Schmidt is a New Zealand - born Irish rugby union coach , who is currently the head coach of Ireland . Ireland have won two 6 Nations Championships in two years under his leadership . Schmidt 's first head coaching role in Europe was with Leinster Rugby , beginning in 2010 . He brought unprecedented success to the province , reaching six finals and winning four trophies in three years . He was previously an assistant coach with the Blues and Clermont Auvergne . Schmidt was born and grew up in New Zealand , and became an Irish citizen in 2015 . After training as a school teacher , Schmidt played rugby in New Zealand before playing amateur rugby in the Irish lower leagues during the 1990s . He then returned to New Zealand to take up the position of a head teacher . Schmidt took up the option to coach New Zealand Schools , before leaving teaching to coach Bay of Plenty from 2003 -- 2004 . While at the Steamers he won the Ranfurly Shield defeating Auckland on 15 August 2004 . The Steamers had one successful defence of the title before losing to Canterbury . Schmidt joined the Blues as assistant coach from 2004 -- 2007 where , in his final year , they were knocked out in the semi-final . Schmidt is known for analysing his opposition closely , for short , sharp training sessions , and for simple game strategies based on pressure , territory , intelligent defence with aggressive line speed , and rehearsed attacking plays . He also sometimes limits offloading if he feels his side will not win the collisions . Schmidt moved to Europe and joined Clermont Auvergne in 2007 as backs coach under Vern Cotter who he had previously worked with in Auckland . The side finished Top 14 runners - up twice in 2008 & 2009 . In 2010 the side finally won the competition , after 11 appearances in the final . In Europe , Clermont made a less impact in the competition than in the Top 14 . Between 2007 and 2009 , Clermont failed to progress past the group stages , but during the 2009 -- 10 Heineken Cup , Schmidt 's last season with Clermont , Clermont advanced to the Quarter - finals . They lost to Leinster 29 -- 28 , with Leinster ironically Schmidt next coaching role . Schmidt took over as Leinster Rugby head coach for the 2010 -- 11 season , taking over from Michael Cheika . Under his leadership Leinster won the 2011 Heineken Cup , after beating Northampton Saints 33 -- 22 , and lost to Munster in the Magners League Grand Final in May 2011 . In the 2011 -- 2012 season , he coached Leinster to a second Pro 12 final , losing to the Ospreys 31 -- 30 , and led the team to the 2012 Heineken Cup Final , where Leinster retained their title beating Ulster 42 -- 14 . In his final year in charge , he coached Leinster to winning the Amlin Challenge Cup and Pro 12 titles , haven beaten Stade Français 34 -- 13 and Ulster 24 -- 18 respectively . He ended his Leinster tenure with an overall record of 77 wins from 99 matches , which included a 75 % win rate in the Pro 12 and a 85 % win rate in Europe . On 29 April 2013 , it was announced by the IRFU that Schmidt would leave his position as Leinster coach to take over the Ireland coaching position left vacant by Declan Kidney . Schmidt 's three - year deal runs until the end of the 2015 -- 16 season . His first game in charge of Ireland was during the 2013 end of year tests , where he opened his tenure against Samoa on 9 November 2013 - Ireland won the match 40 -- 9 The following week , Ireland were convincingly beat by Australia , losing 32 -- 15 . However , on 24 November , Ireland had a 19 -- 0 lead against New Zealand but went on to lose by 24 -- 22 after Aaron Cruden scored an overtime conversion for New Zealand . On 15 March 2014 , Schmidt 's Ireland side defeated France in Paris 22 -- 20 to lift the 2014 Six Nations Championship title , his first silverware with the nation . His only loss was to England at Twickenham 13 -- 10 . In June 2014 , Ireland claimed their first ever test series win over Argentina during their 2014 Argentine test series . The first test , marked Ireland 's first ever win over Argentina on Argentine soil , winning 29 -- 17 . In November 2014 during the end - of - year rugby union internationals , Ireland defeated South Africa , Georgia and Australia to move to third in the World Rugby Rankings . In December 2014 , Schmidt was named as the Philips Sports Manager of the Year and named as the manager of the Year at the 2014 RTE Sports awards . On 1 March 2015 , Ireland won their tenth test match in a row after a 19 -- 9 win against England in the 2015 Six Nations Championship , equalling an Irish record set in 2003 . That run came to an end in the next match on 15 March when Ireland lost 23 -- 16 against Wales at the Millennium Stadium , a defeat that ended Ireland 's hopes of winning the Grand Slam . During the final week of the 2015 Six Nations , Ireland , England , France and Wales were all in the chance to claim the title . With Wales ' 61 -- 20 win over Italy in the first fixture of the week , not only could France not claim the title , Ireland needed to beat Scotland by more than 21 points to knock Wales out of the equation and keep their chance of retaining the title alive - Ireland later recorded a 40 -- 10 victory . The final match saw England and France play at Twickenham , and England needed to beat France by 27 points or more to claim the title . However , England only won by 20 points , 55 -- 35 , which saw Ireland claim their title for a second consecutive year . On 22 July 2015 , Schmidt extended his contract with Ireland until 2017 . He became an Irish citizen on 2 September , 2015 . Ireland opened their 2015 Rugby World Cup campaign on 19 September with a 50 -- 7 win against Canada , and followed that up a week later with a 44 -- 10 win against Romania at Wembley Stadium . In their third match of the World Cup they faced Italy , and won the game 16 -- 9 to book their place in the quarter - finals . In their final match of the World Cup pool stage they faced France , and won the game 24 -- 9 to top pool D. On 18 October 2015 , Ireland lost by 43 -- 20 to Argentina in the Quarter - finals . Note : World Rankings Column shows the World Ranking Ireland was placed at on the following Monday after each of their matches Six Nations Championship Winner : 2014 , 2015 Millennium Trophy Winner : 2015 Centenary Quaich Winner : 2014 , 2015 Lansdowne Cup Winner : 2014 Admiral Brown Cup Winner : 2014 Philips Sports Manager of the Year Winner : 2014 Manager of the Year - RTE Sports awards Winner : 2014 Bay of Plenty ( as assistant coach ) Ranfurly Shield Winner : 2004 ( 1 successful defence ) Leinster Heineken Cup Winner : 2011 , 2012 Pro 12 Winner : 2013 Runners - up : 2011 , 2012 European Challenge Cup Winners : 2013 Clermont Auvergne ( as assistant coach ) Top 14 Winner : 2010 Runners - up : 2008 , 2009 On 2 September 2015 , Schmidt was granted Irish citizenship . His son Luke was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of four and Schmidt has become involved with Epilepsy Ireland .