

= History of rugby union matches between France and New Zealand =

The national rugby union teams of France and New Zealand ( the All Blacks ) have been playing each other for over a century ; as of 19 October 2015 , they have played 56 Test matches against each other . The first encounter , which was also France 's first Test , took place in Paris in January 1906 and was won by New Zealand 38 ? 8 . It was not until 1954 that France secured their first win over New Zealand ( 3 ? 0 ) .

France first toured New Zealand in 1961 ? before any of the Home Nations ? and the All Blacks won all three Tests . The All Blacks ' first full tour of France was in 1977 , when they won one of the two Tests . France first defeated the All Blacks in New Zealand on Bastille Day 1979 . France achieved a first series win in New Zealand in 1994 , when they won both Tests . Since 2000 , the two teams have contested the Dave Gallaher Trophy .

The teams ' World Cup history includes seven matches - the most for any pair of teams . They have played two tournament finals , in 1987 and 2011 ( both at Eden Park and both won by New Zealand ) .

Overall , the All Blacks have won 42 Tests against France 's 12 , with one match drawn . The largest winning margin in a Test between the countries was a 61 ? 10 victory to the All Blacks at Westpac Stadium in Wellington in 2007 . The most career points scored by members of either team is 92 by Andrew Mehrtens ; he also holds the record for points in one match with 29 .

Despite the vastly superior win record of New Zealand in this encounter , France has the greatest number of wins against the All Blacks of any Northern Hemisphere opponent to date . France are sometimes called the " bogey " team of New Zealand , known for having inconsistent results in regular test matches , but have proven to be fierce opponents in the knockout stage of the Rugby World Cup . All Black campaigns in The Rugby World Cup were halted by defeats to France in 1999 and 2007 , and were nearly upset again in 2011 with a very narrow 8 @-@ 7 victory in the final .

= = History = =

= = = Early meetings ( 1905 ? 25 ) = = =

The first @-@ ever New Zealand tour to the Northern Hemisphere was in 1905 ? 06 . It was also the first time they wore a black strip and the first time they performed the haka . The team ? known today as " The Original All Blacks " ? played various club and national sides throughout the British Isles before taking on France on 1 January 1906 . This was France 's first Test and was held at Parc des Princes , Paris . The All Blacks scored ten tries , including six in the second half , to France 's two , and won 38 ? 8 . Despite the scoreline , France 's two tries were more than any previous team had scored against the All Blacks on tour . Commenting on the state of French rugby in their book The Complete Rugby Footballer , Original All Blacks Dave Gallaher and Billy Stead wrote : " We are strongly of the opinion that the game will spread in their country and that in the course of time they will put a team in the field which will command the utmost respect of any other . "

The 1924 ? 25 All Blacks ' Invincibles tour included a Test against France . The teams met at the Stade des Ponts Jumeaux in Toulouse on 18 January 1925 . Although French rugby had improved since 1906 , the All Blacks still won 30 ? 6 , with France scoring two tries . All Blacks ' captain Cliff Porter said of France " Your forwards gave us a lot of bother . Your three @-@ quarters were not so good . "

In 1926 , France lost to the New Zealand Maori . Perhaps the " most celebrated Maori side in history " , they undertook a seven @-@ month 1926 ? 27 tour of Australia , Ceylon , France , Wales and Canada , playing 38 matches , winning 29 and losing seven , with two draws . In total , the Maori scored 712 points while conceding 215 . This was the last match between a New Zealand representative team and France for nearly three decades . In 1932 the International Rugby Football Board ( IRB ) expelled France from the Five Nations Championship for breaching the professionalism rules in its domestic club competition . Consequently , the All Blacks did not face

France during their 1935 British Isles ' tour . Although France was readmitted in 1939 , the Second World War intervened , suspending international competition .

In 1946 , France played two matches against a team selected from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force , nicknamed the " Khaki All Blacks " . Despite the team not being a representative New Zealand side , they included many future All Blacks . The games took place on 10 March at Stade Colombes , Paris , and on 24 March at Wallon Stadium , Toulouse . The Khaki All Blacks won both ( 14 ? 9 and 13 ? 10 ) .

= = = Post war ( 1954 ? 68 ) = = =

The 1954 match at Stade Colombes , Paris , was dominated by the All Blacks who had the majority of possession and territory . Despite this , France scored in the 35th minute after the ball was lost by All Blacks ' half @-@ back Keith Davis 40 metres ( 130 ft ) from France 's line . The ball was picked up by French number eight Robert Baulon who passed to Paul Labadie . Labadie then passed to French captain Jean Prat who scored a try , giving France a 3 ? 0 lead that the All Blacks failed to close . Although New Zealand relentlessly attacked the French line ? and made several drop goal and penalty attempts ? the French defence held , earning France their first win ( 3 ? 0 ) over the All Blacks .

France first toured New Zealand in 1961 ? before any of the Home Nations . The first Test at Eden Park was won 13 ? 6 by the All Blacks after they scored two converted tries and a penalty . France 's first five @-@ eighth Pierre Albaladejo kicked all of France 's points with two drop goals , prompting the New Zealanders to nickname him " Monsieur Drop " . The second Test of the tour was played at Athletic Park in Wellington . The wind was very strong and neither team scored during the first half . In the second , playing into the wind , France scored a try to lead 3 ? 0 . The All Blacks ' Kel Tremain responded with a try . In one of the best conversions of his career , Don Clarke kicked almost parallel to the goal @-@ line , relying on the strong wind to gust the ball over the posts . The Blacks won 5 ? 3 . Although the All Blacks won the final Test in Christchurch 32 ? 3 to take the series , the tour had a positive influence in France where it was broadcast on national television via satellite , popularising the sport beyond its traditional heartland of the southwest .

The next two matches between the teams were both in Paris . The All Blacks won the first 12 ? 3 in 1964 after tries from Ralph Caulton and Ken Gray . In the next match , in 1967 , the All Blacks were coached by Fred Allen and captained by Brian Lochore ; they won 21 ? 15 .

In 1968 , following their first Five Nations Grand Slam , France toured Australia and New Zealand . They were defeated in their Test against Australia and in all three against the All Blacks . The All Blacks ' side was particularly strong and won all its Tests between 1965 and 1970 . France 's touring losses presaged a string of defeats that did not end until they drew against Wales in the 1969 Five Nations ( in which France finished last ) .

= = = Full amateur tours ( 1970 ? 1994 ) = = =

France achieved only their second Test victory over the All Blacks in 1973 at Parc des Princes , Paris . The All Blacks had defeated England , Scotland and Wales , and drawn with Ireland on their 1973 tour and France was their last Test . France won 13 ? 6 , and scored two tries to nil , with two penalties the only points from the All Blacks . In 1977 the All Blacks made their first @-@ ever full tour of France . France won the first Test in Toulouse and the All Blacks the second in Paris . France then reciprocated and toured New Zealand in 1979 . This time , neutral referees were appointed for the first time . The All Blacks won the first Test 23 ? 9 at Lancaster Park . However , in the second Test , France upset the All Blacks by winning 24 ? 19 on Bastille Day at Eden Park . The victory was France 's first win in New Zealand over the All Blacks .

The 1980s saw many France ? New Zealand Tests . The first two were in 1981 when the All Blacks toured France , visiting in Toulouse and Paris ; the All Blacks won both Tests , 13 ? 9 and 18 ? 6 respectively . In 1984 , France visited New Zealand for two Tests . They lost the first , at Lancaster Park , 10 ? 9 ( despite repeated French drop goal attempts ) and the second , at Eden Park , 31 ?

18 .

In 1986 , France played a one @-@ off Test in New Zealand , at Lancaster Park . Many top All Blacks were serving a two @-@ month suspension for participating in the rebel Cavaliers tour to South Africa . The team that faced France became known as the " Baby Blacks " as all bar two of them were either making their Test début or were very inexperienced . The Baby Blacks upset France 18 ? 9 in front of 24 @,@ 000 spectators ; the only try coming from number eight Mike Brewer .

Later in 1986 , the bans served , the full All Blacks toured France . They won the first Test , in Toulouse , 19 ? 7 . Their next match , at Nantes , became known as " the battle of Nantes " . France played aggressively and tried to intimidate the All Blacks . All Black Buck Shelford had his scrotum rucked in the twentieth minute that required stitches while he was still on the field . He was later knocked out , losing several teeth in the process , and did not finish the match . The aggressive display by France paid off and they won 16 ? 3 .

The following year France and the All Blacks met in the final of the inaugural Rugby World Cup . The tournament was co @-@ hosted by New Zealand and Australia and the final was held at Eden Park . The All Blacks were captained by David Kirk and went on to win their first World Cup 29 ? 9 . According to the All Blacks ' coach at the time , Brian Lochore , the previous year 's loss in Nantes was the catalyst for their World Cup victory . Shelford said of the match " We wanted to play them in the final because we wanted revenge " . The match also helped improve the diplomatic and political rift between France and New Zealand caused by the 1985 bombing of the Rainbow Warrior by French Secret Service agents .

France toured New Zealand in 1989 and played a two Test series . They lost both Tests ; the first 25 ? 17 at Lancaster Park , and the second 34 ? 20 at Eden Park . In both Tests the All Blacks led at the half time break , with France responding by scoring most of their points during the first 15 minutes of the second half before the All Blacks counter @-@ attacked to win in the last quarter . The All Blacks ' reciprocal tour of France came in 1990 . Again two Tests were played and again they were won by the All Blacks ; 24 ? 3 at Nantes , and 30 ? 12 at the Parc de Princes . The All Blacks first @-@ five eighth Grant Fox , dominated both matches , scoring 16 points in the first Test , and 22 points in the second .

The next tour was of New Zealand by France in 1994 . In a major upset for New Zealand rugby , France took the first Test 22 ? 8 at Lancaster Park , coinciding with Frenchman Philippe Sella 's hundredth match for his country . Sella said of the game " But this historic victory for my 100th cap , with a score I never imagined ? that 's one of my really great , great memories " . The second and final Test on tour was at Eden Park on 3 July 1994 . The All Blacks were winning 20 ? 16 with three minutes remaining after Matthew Cooper had kicked a penalty . The French counter @-@ attacked and ran the ball the length of the field from their own in @-@ goal area to win . The ball was handled by nine French players before the try was scored by Jean @-@ Luc Sadourny . French captain Philippe Saint @-@ Andre called it " a counter @-@ attack from the end of the world " , and it was then labelled the try from the end of the world . The try gave France a 23 ? 20 win and a 2 ? 0 series win over the All Blacks . In 2003 , Daily Telegraph readers voted the try the fourth best of all time in either rugby union or rugby league .

= = = Professional era ( from 1995 ) = = =

On 11 November 1995 , France set a record when they defeated the All Blacks 22 ? 15 at Toulouse ? their third consecutive victory over the New Zealanders . A week later , on 18 November , at the Parc des Princes in Paris , the All Blacks took their revenge , inflicting a resounding 37 ? 12 defeat . It was not until 1999 that the two teams met again , in a one @-@ off Test at Athletic Park in Wellington . The All Blacks won 54 ? 7 ; at the time France 's largest ever loss . Tana Umaga scored three tries and Andrew Mehrtens kicked 19 points in the match .

After their Athletic Park victory , the All Blacks were heavy favourites to win when they met France in the semi @-@ finals of the 1999 Rugby World Cup . The game was played at the neutral venue of Twickenham Stadium on 31 October 1999 . The All Blacks led 24 ? 10 seven minutes into the

second half after two tries ( both from Jonah Lomu ) . France then scored two penalties and two drop goals to first five @-@ eighth Christophe Lamaison to reduce the All Blacks ' lead to 24 ? 22 with 25 minutes remaining . Scrum @-@ half Fabien Galthié chip kicked the ball to Christophe Dominici who then scored . Another Lamaison kick set up a try for centre Richard Dourthe , which Lamaison converted , to take France into the lead , 36 ? 24 . France scored another try in the remaining five minutes , and although the All Blacks scored a last @-@ minute try France won 43 ? 31 . Lamaison had scored 28 points , and a full house ? a try , conversion , penalty and drop goal all in one match . Many have called this match " the greatest game in World Cup history " .

The Dave Gallaher Trophy was introduced in 2000 to be contested between the two teams . It was named in memory of All Blacks captain Dave Gallaher who captained the All Blacks against France in 1906 and who died at the Battle of Passchendaele . The Cup was first contested on Armistice Day ( 11 November ) 2000 . The All Blacks won 39 ? 26 and scored two tries while Andrew Mehrtens scored nine penalties . The two met again the following week and this time France won 42 ? 33 , but as only the first Test counted towards the trophy the All Blacks retained it .

The countries met in one @-@ off Tests in 2001 , 2002 and 2003 . The 2001 Test was won 37 ? 12 by the All Blacks , the 2002 Test was a 20 all draw and in 2003 the All Blacks won 31 ? 23 at Jade Stadium . They met again in 2003 at the Rugby World Cup in Sydney . The match was a third @-@ fourth play @-@ off game and was won 40 ? 13 by the All Blacks . In 2004 they met in a one @-@ off Test in Paris . The 2004 Test was the first between the two teams with Graham Henry as All Blacks coach . France were 2004 Six Nations Champions , but were defeated by five tries to nil . The final score was a 45 ? 6 win to the All Blacks ; a record at the time . They met in France in 2006 ? this time for a two @-@ Test series . The first Test was played in Lyon on Armistice Day . The All Blacks defeated France 46 ? 3 which was a record defeat for them at home . This was despite the All Blacks ' team not being their strongest available . Following the defeat France 's manager Jo Maso said that the All Blacks played the match , " for all the New Zealanders who died during the two World Wars in Europe " . The following week the two teams met in Paris , this time to commemorate the centennial of the first ever All Blacks versus France Test . Despite fielding what coach Graham Henry described as his best team , the All Blacks achieved a less notable 23 ? 11 victory .

The next year France visited New Zealand for a two @-@ Test series . The final rounds of the 2006 ? 07 Top 14 season conflicted with the tour , so France sent a Test team short of 30 of their top players . With their weakened squad , the team was labelled " France C " by the New Zealand media . Featuring six new caps , France were defeated 42 ? 11 in the first Test at Eden Park . The second Test was played the following week in Wellington , and the All Blacks achieved their largest ever victory over France with a 61 ? 10 win . The defeat was France 's heaviest in their history .

France hosted the 2007 World Cup , and the two teams met in the tournament quarter @-@ finals . Despite France 's hosting of the tournament , the match was held at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff , Wales . The match was won by France 20 ? 18 , and involved several controversial decisions by referee Wayne Barnes , who subsequently received death threats from some fans . France scored one try after the sin binning of All Blacks second five @-@ eighth Luke McAlister , and another from a forward pass unseen by the referee . The All Blacks were strongly criticised for not attempting a drop goal in the game 's final minutes . Their performance was analysed by Palmerston North based company Verusco who had analysed 1 @,@ 500 games since 2000 . They discovered that the All Blacks made 57 tackles to France 's 269 , and they had 66 percent possession and 60 percent territory . The playing time , that is time the ball is in play , was the longest of any game Verusco had ever recorded . An ' Independent Review of the 2007 Rugby World Cup Campaign ' , conducted by Russel McVeagh lawyers and SPARC ( Sport and Recreation New Zealand ) , found that Barnes and the touch judges had a significant impact on the result of the match . The report states that " The penalty count was 10 @-@ 2 against the All Blacks , with none awarded in the second half , despite dominance in territory and possession ( which statistically should result in penalties awarded to the dominant side ) . On anyone 's account the referees and touch judges made mistakes which worked against the All Blacks . " Outside New Zealand and France , the focus was on the fact that , as in 1999 , France had pulled off what The Guardian

described as another " incredible triumph against the odds . "

In 2011 , New Zealand hosted the Rugby World Cup . Unusually , France and New Zealand played twice at the tournament - both times at Eden Park . Both teams were in Pool A , and on September 24 New Zealand won their first encounter 37 @-@ 17 . New Zealand were pool winners , with France second . On either side of the draw for the knockout stage , both teams made the Final on October 23 . New Zealand won 8 @-@ 7 and for the second time won a home World Cup with France runners up .

= = Summary = =

As of the end of the 2015 Rugby World Cup , New Zealand and France have played 56 Tests . The All Blacks have won 43 , France 12 , and one has been drawn . Only four matches have been played at neutral venues ; the 1999 World Cup semi @-@ final at Twickenham , London , the 2003 World Cup third / fourth play @-@ off match at Stadium Australia in Sydney , and the 2007 and 2015 World Cup quarter @-@ finals at Millennium Stadium in Cardiff . New Zealand have scored considerably more points than France both in France and New Zealand , and at neutral venues - although at neutral venues France have won two of the four matches . A summary of the Test match statistics can be found below .

= = = Overview = = =

= = = Rugby World Cup matches = = =

New Zealand and France have played seven Rugby World Cup games , more than any other pair of teams , including six play @-@ off matches . Five have been won by New Zealand and two by France . France 's wins knocked New Zealand out of the 1999 and 2007 tournaments at the semi @-@ final and quarter @-@ final stage respectively . New Zealand 's first two successful campaigns ( 1987 and 2011 ) ended with wins over France , both at Eden Park . New Zealand 's other victories have come in a quarter @-@ final ( 2015 ) , a pool match ( 2011 , again at Eden Park ) and the 2003 third @-@ place playoff .

= = = Records = = =

Note : Date shown in brackets indicates when the record was or last set .

= = Results = =