

Club Français (Paris) — One-Page Dossier

Founded: 1890 (often cited as 1892 in some lists)

City: Paris

Nickname/Identity: Often referenced as the first major Paris club founded by French nationals (many early rivals were expat-run).

Colours: Pink & Black

Status: Defunct (1935)

Snapshot

- **National titles (pre-Ligue era):** USFSA Champions **1896** (won all 8 matches, 2 GA).
 - **Major cup: Coupe de France Winners 1931** (3–0 v. SO Montpellier, Colombes, 3 May 1931).
 - **Olympic note:** Selected by the USFSA to represent **France at the 1900 Paris Olympics** (silver medal tournament).
 - **Professional era:** Founding season of the all-pro French “**National**” (**Ligue 1**) **1932–33**; later withdrew from Division 2 (1934) and merged in Saint-Denis; folded **1935**.
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Mini-Timeline

- **1890–1892** — Formation during the first wave of Paris football; club adopts **pink & black**.
 - **1896** — **USFSA Champions** (undefeated; 2 goals conceded in 8 games).
 - **1900** — **Paris Olympics:** USFSA chooses Club Français to represent France; finish runners-up (silver-medal tournament).
 - **Late 1900s–1920s** — Multiple Paris cups/leagues (incl. Dewar & Manier Cups); sustained presence among the capital's elite.
 - **1929–1930** — Paris League titles recorded in various annals.
 - **3 May 1931** — **Coupe de France winners:** Club Français **3–0** SO Montpellier (goals: **Miklós Boros, Arthur C. Parkes, Robert Mercier**).
 - **1932–33** — Turn **professional**; compete in inaugural national **pro** championship (later Ligue 1).
 - **1934** — Financial strain; **withdraw** from Division 2.
 - **1935** — **Merger and dissolution:** identity disappears after Saint-Denis merger.
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Honours (selected)

- **USFSA Championship: Winners 1896;** leading Paris power of the mid-1890s.
 - **Coupe de France: Winners 1930–31.**
 - **Paris competitions:** Period wins in **Dewar Cup** and **Manier Cup**; Paris League titles noted **1929 & 1930**.
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Notable Players & Figures

- **Robert Mercier** — Scored in the 1931 Coupe de France final; later a prolific striker/coach in French football.
 - **Arthur C. Parkes** — English forward; 1931 final scorer.
 - **Miklós Boros** — Hungarian forward; 1931 final scorer.
 - **Pierre Allemane** — France international full-back; associated with the Club Français selection for the **1900 Olympics**.
 - **Lucien Huteau (GK), Louis Bach** — Among names linked to the **1900** Olympic representation.
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Kits, Grounds & Identity

- **Colours:** Distinctive **pink & black** (unusual and iconic for the era).
 - **Home venues:** Various Paris grounds over the decades; **Colombes** (Stade Olympique Yves-du-Manoir) hosted the 1931 final.
 - **Badge/Branding:** Pre-modern era; imagery varies in archives; identity later absorbed after Saint-Denis merger.
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Why They Matter

- **Pioneer status:** Among the very earliest organised clubs in Paris; emblematic of the transition from expat to French-founded teams.
 - **Cross-era success:** Rare club to have both an **early national title (1896)** and a **modern-era national cup (1931)**.
 - **Olympic link:** Their 1900 selection anchors them to the birth of international tournament play in France.
 - **Cultural quirk:** One of Europe's earliest notable **pink-kit** sides.
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Match References (quick)

- **Coupe de France Final — 3 May 1931, Colombes:** Club Français 3–0 SO Montpellier. Scorers: **Boros (14'), Parkes (18'), Mercier (32')**.
 - **Olympics 1900 — Paris:** USFSA picks Club Français selection; competition vs. **Upton Park (England)** and **Brussels selection (Belgium)**.
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Further Research Pointers

- Early Paris rivals: **White Rovers, Standard AC, Racing Club de France, Red Star** — useful for contextual timelines.
- Archive terms to search: *USFSA Championship 1896, Dewar Cup Paris, Manier Cup, Stade Olympique Yves-du-Manoir 1931, Club Français Saint-Denis merger 1934–35.*