

Facts & Figures

HEADLINES

- Spain prepared for this weekend's clash against Romania with a 23-17 loss to Portugal in Lisbon. Romania found themselves on the losing side too last weekend, suffering a 19-13 defeat at home to Georgia.
- With three teams – Portugal, Russia and Spain – all on 20 points, a win for the latter would push them up to third in the Division 1A table, with a game in hand on Iberian rivals Portugal. Thanks to last weekend's top of the table clash, Romania are now six points adrift of Georgia in second place.
- CRISTIAN PETRE will win his 90th cap for Romania when he takes the field against Spain on Saturday. PETRE, who takes over the captaincy from MARIUS TINCU against Spain, made his debut against England in 2001 and Saturday's encounter with Spain will be his 45th European Nations Cup match. He remains Romania's most capped international of all time, and will extend his lead over second-placed Adrian Lungu to 13 appearances when he lines out this weekend.

STARTING LINE UPS

- Spain have made nine changes from the team that was beaten 23-17 by Portugal in Lisbon. There are two changes in the front row, where FRANCK LABBES and FABIEN ROFES replace Anthony Pradalie and Benat Auzqui. The other change in the forwards is at Number 8, where GLENN ROLLS comes in for Gauthier Gibouin.
- There are other changes in Spain's three-quarters, with SEBASTIEN ROUET and MATHIEU PELUCHON replacing Adrien Ayestaran and César Sempere at halfback while JAMIE NAVA OLANO and BRICE LABADIE come in at centre and fullback respectively.
- Romania make five changes to the teams that went down at home 19-13- to Georgia.
- They have also made two changes in the front row, where ANDREI URSACHE AND ANDREI RADOI replace MIHAITA LAZAR and MARIUS TINCU, who drop to the bench. MIHAI MACOVEI moves to Number 8 to accommodate ANDREI GORCIOAIA, who comes in at blindside flanker while new cap ADRIAN ION joins him on the other flank.
- IULIAN DUMITRAS moves from fullback to flyhalf, replacing Florin Vlaicu, who drops to the bench. His place at fullback is taken by IONUT NIACSU.

TRY TIME

- Romania have scored 28 tries in European Nations Cup action over the last couple of seasons while Spain have managed 19 of their own. Under coach Regis Sonnes, Spain have averaged just over two tries a game, similar to the average enjoyed by Romania under coach Haralambie Dumitras.

HEAD TO HEAD

- Spain and Romania have met each other 28 times in total, with Romania dominating the series with 27 wins.
- The most recent European Nations Cup tie between the teams saw Romania beat Spain 64-8 in Bucharest. Their biggest win against Spain however, came in 1978, when they beat Spain 74-3 at Stadionul Giulesti.
- Spain's only win in the series came in 1992, when they beat Romania 6-0 in Madrid.
- Romania have amassed 862 points against Spain in that time, whilst only conceding 260.
- The last two games in Madrid have however, been much closer between the two sides. Romania beat Spain 17-11 in Madrid in 2008 and followed that up with another hard-fought 19-10 win at the same venue in 2009.

ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

- Spain have once again named a hugely inexperienced side for the visit of Romania to Madrid. The visitors have close to four times as many players capped (392) as the Spanish (114), who will field even less caps than against Portugal last weekend.
- 14 of the Spain match day XXII have five caps or less. 12 of the starting XV have eight caps or less.
- Despite the gulf in experience between the teams, the average ages of the two sides are exactly the same at 26.
- JAMIE NAVA OLANO is the most experienced Spanish player in the starting line-up. He will win his 34th cap for his country on Saturday against Romania. He made his debut ten years ago in a 63-3 win over the Netherlands.
- VALENTIN URSACHE will move within a cap of a half century when he lines out for Romania this weekend. The 26 year-old Aix-en-Provence lock forward made his debut as an 18 year-old in a 38-14 win over the Czech Republic in 2004.

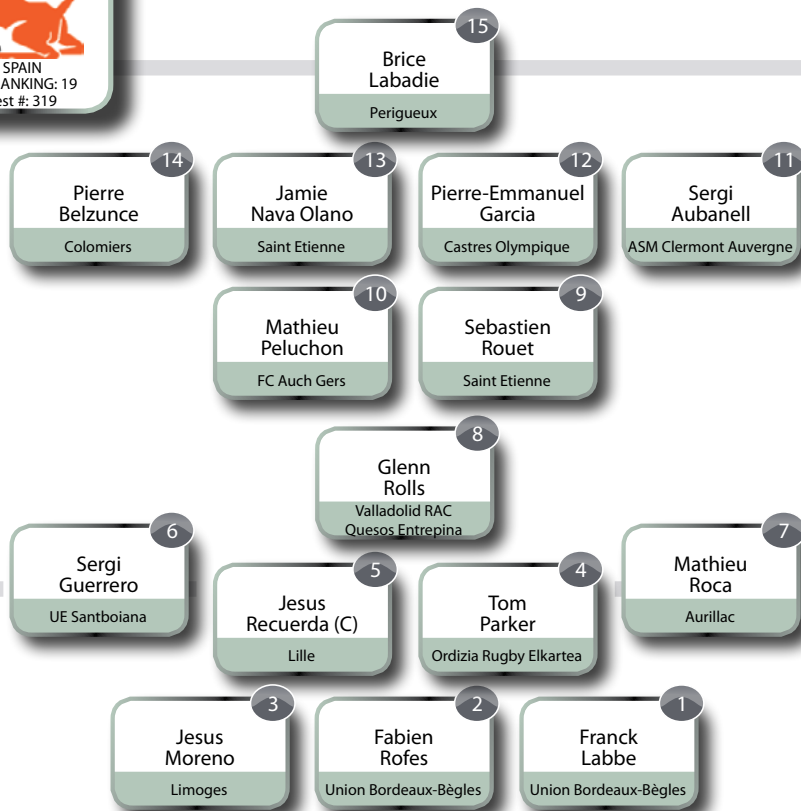
NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

- FRANCK LABBE of Bordeaux-Bègles wins his second cap at prop for the clash with Romania. The 32 year-old made his debut last month in the 41-6 win over Ukraine.
- NICHOLAS MARSHALL of the Bera Bera club in San Sebastian will make his debut for Spain if he comes off the bench against Romania.
- ADRIAN ION makes his Test debut on Saturday for Romania at openside flanker. The 25 year-old, from the Dinamo Bucuresti club, replaces Viorel Lucaci in the starting XV.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

- Cammy Rudkin of Scotland referees his second Test on Saturday when he officiates in the Spain versus Romania match. He made his Test debut in 2011, when he refereed Spain versus Ukraine.

Team Sheets



Replacements

- 16 Jonathan Phipps (CR La Vila)
- 17 David Gugernadze (Carcassonne)
- 18 Craig Lyons (UE Santboiana)
- 19 David Barrera (Stade Montois)
- 20 Mickael Lopez (Dax)
- 21 Bruno Angulo (Saint Etienne)
- 22 Nicholas Marshall (Bera Bera RT)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 114
Avg Age Starting Lineup: 26
Oldest Player: Craig Lyons (32)
Youngest Player: Brice Labadie (22)
Avg Weight Forwards: 99 kg

Officials

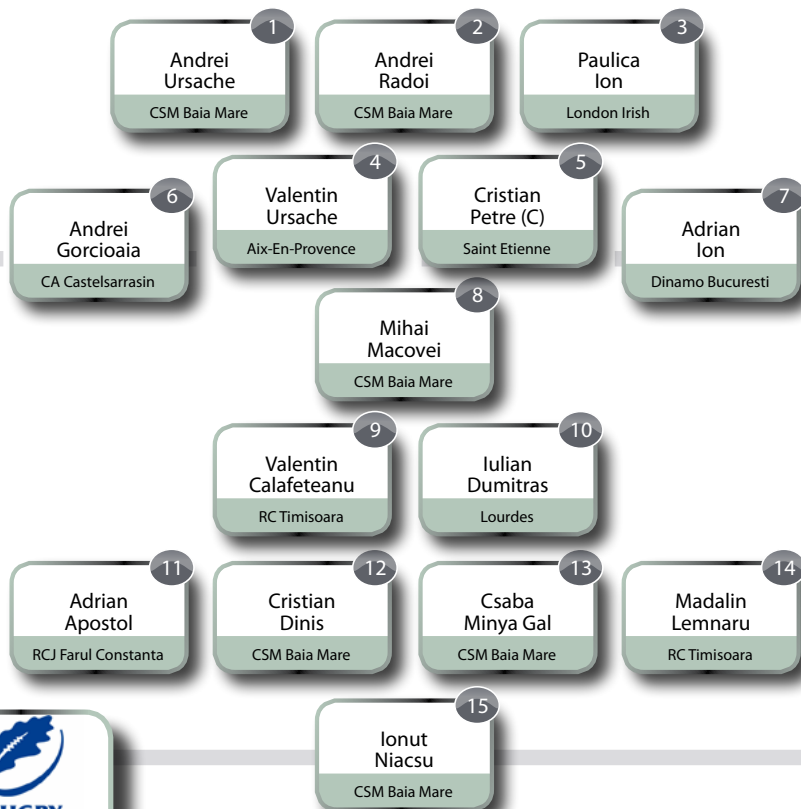
Referee:
Cammy Rudkin (Scotland) - 1 Tests

Tests at Venue: 1 Tests
Spain: 1 Tests
Romania: 0 Tests
Test Debut: 26/02/2011 - Spain v Ukraine

Assistant Referee 1:
Andy MacPherson (Scotland)

Assistant Referee 2:
Adrian Graves (Scotland)

Match Commissioner:
Klaus Blank (Germany)



Replacements

- 16 Marius Tincu (USA Perpignan)
- 17 Mihaita Lazar (Aix-En-Provence)
- 18 Alin Coste (Bourg-en-Bresse)
- 19 Valentin Poparlan (CSM Bucharest)
- 20 Florin Surugiu (CSM Baia Mare)
- 21 Constantin Gheara (RCJ Farul Constanta)
- 22 Dorin Manole (US Orthez)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 392
Avg Age Starting Lineup: 26
Oldest Player: Marius Tincu (33)
Youngest Player: Ionut Niacsu (21)
Avg Weight Forwards: 110 kg



Head to Head

Recent Results

Date	Team A	Result	Team B	Venue
19/03/2011	Romania	64 - 8	Spain	Bucharest
27/03/2010	Romania	48 - 3	Spain	Bucharest
07/02/2009	Spain	10 - 19	Romania	Madrid
23/02/2008	Spain	11 - 17	Romania	Madrid
10/03/2007	Romania	50 - 14	Spain	Bucharest

Summary

Spain		28 Matches (0 Draw)	Romania	
1	Won		27	
260	Points		862	
21	Tries		122	
9	Conversions		78	
31	Penalties		42	
3	Drop Goals		8	

Player Records

For Spain against Romania		For Romania against Spain	
Javier Salazar Lizarraga - 9	Appearances	8 - 2 Players	
Manuel Moriche Mostajo - 24	Points	75 - Ionut Tofan	
3 Players - 2	Tries	7 - Petre Motrescu	
9 Players - 1	Conversions	17 - 2 Players	
Manuel Moriche Mostajo - 6	Penalties	7 - Petre Mitu	
3 Players - 1	Drop Goals	3 - Alexandru Dumitru	

Player Records in a Match

For Spain against Romania		For Romania against Spain	
Javier Diaz Paternain on 21/05/1989 - 12	Points	30 - Ionut Tofan on 05/10/2002	
Luis Fernando Martin Fernandez on 16/12/1984 - 2	Tries	4 - On 2 Occasions	
On 9 Occasions - 1	Conversions	7 - On 2 Occasions	
Javier Diaz Paternain on 21/05/1989 - 4	Penalties	3 - On 4 Occasions	
On 3 Occasions - 1	Drop Goals	2 - Neculai Nichitean on 03/10/1990	

Team Records in a Match

For Spain against Romania		For Romania against Spain	
On 14/10/2006 - 20	Points	74 - On 16/04/1978	
On 2 Occasions - 3	Tries	14 - On 16/04/1978	
On 10/03/2007 - 2	Conversions	8 - On 2 Occasions	
On 21/05/1989 - 4	Penalties	3 - On 4 Occasions	
On 3 Occasions - 1	Drop Goals	3 - On 03/10/1990	



Head Coach: Regis Sonnes

Debut: 13/11/2010 v Canada (L 22-60)
Winning Ratio: 54.55%
Average Tries per Match: 2.27

Recent Matches

Date	Opponent	Result	Venue
10/03/2012	Portugal	L 17 23	Coimbra
25/02/2012	Ukraine	W 41 6	Alushta
11/02/2012	Georgia	W 25 18	Madrid
19/11/2011	Uruguay	W 16 13	Madrid
19/03/2011	Romania	L 8 64	Bucharest
Points For		107	
Points Ag		124	
Tries For		11	
Tries Ag		15	

Spain Record Under Regis Sonnes

6 Wins	0 Drawn	5 Lost
246 For	Points	315 Against
25 For	Tries	41 Against
20 For	Conversions	28 Against
27 For	Penalties	18 Against
0 For	Drop Goals	0 Against

Player Info For Spain

Player	Pos	Age	Debut	Caps	Caps as Sub	Caps v Opponent	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs
Franck Labbe	1	32	25/02/2012	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fabien Rofes	2	30	26/02/2011	3	0	1	2	0	1	5	1	0	0	0
Jesus Moreno	3	26	26/04/2008	15	6	2	7	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Tom Parker	4	28	19/11/2011	4	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jesus Recuerda (C)	5	25	26/04/2008	17	3	2	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Sergi Guerrero	6	29	15/11/2008	4	3	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Mathieu Roca	7	24	12/02/2011	8	4	1	5	0	3	5	1	0	0	0
Glenn Rolls	8	25	19/11/2011	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sebastien Rouet	9	27	13/11/2010	6	3	1	3	0	3	6	0	3	0	0
Mathieu Peluchon	10	24	27/11/2010	4	0	0	3	0	1	61	1	10	12	0
Sergi Aubanell	11	22	27/11/2010	6	1	0	3	0	3	10	0	5	0	0
Pierre-Emmanuel Garcia	12	28	11/02/2012	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jamie Nava Olano	13	28	06/04/2002	33	5	4	10	1	22	48	3	3	9	0
Pierre Belzunce	14	24	13/11/2010	6	2	0	3	0	3	5	1	0	0	0
Brice Labadie	15	22	12/03/2011	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total				114	27	12	53	1	60	140	7	21	21	0
Jonathan Phipps	16	29	11/02/2012	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
David Gugernadze	17	32	13/02/2010	7	2	1	2	0	5	5	1	0	0	0
Craig Lyons	18	32	11/02/2012	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
David Barrera	19	22	13/11/2010	3	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mickael Lopez	20	25	15/03/2009	4	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bruno Angulo	21	23	13/11/2010	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Nicholas Marshall	22	27		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Records For Spain

Caps

92 - Francisco Puertas Soto
74 - Alberto Malo Navio
74 - Jon Azkargorta Aretxabala

Tries

26 - César Sempere
14 - Pablo Feijóo Ugalde
12 - Gabriel Rivero Macia

Points

257 - Esteban Roqué Segovia
192 - Luis Nunez Doval
144 - César Sempere

Player Records (In a Match)

Points: 23 - 3 players
Tries: 3 - 7 players
Conversions: 10 - JF Lorenzo Berberana v Tunisia on 22/09/1979
Penalties: 6 - 3 players
Drop Goals: 2 - 3 players

Team Records (In a Match)

Points: 90 v Czech Republic on 02/04/1995
Tries: 11 v Slovenia on 26/03/2005
Conversions: 10 v Tunisia on 22/09/1979
Penalties: 8 v Russia on 04/02/2001
Drop Goals: 2 on 5 Occasions

Head Coach: Haralambie Dumitras

Debut: 04/02/2012 v Portugal (W 15-7)
 Winning Ratio: 66.67%
 Average Tries per Match: 2.33

Romania Record Under Haralambie Dumitras

2 Wins	0 Drawn	1 Lost
53 For	Points	26 Against
7 For	Tries	2 Against
3 For	Conversions	2 Against
4 For	Penalties	4 Against
0 For	Drop Goals	0 Against

Recent Matches

Date	Opponent	Result	Venue
10/03/2012	Georgia	L 13 19	Bucharest
25/02/2012	Russia	W 25 0	Sochi
04/02/2012	Portugal	W 15 7	Bucharest
28/09/2011	Georgia	L 9 25	P'ston North
24/09/2011	England	L 3 67	Dunedin
Points For		65	
Points Ag		118	
Tries For		7	
Tries Ag		13	

Player Info For Romania

Player	Pos	Age	Debut	Caps	Caps as Sub	Caps v Opponent	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs
Andrei Ursache	1	27	04/02/2012	3	2	0	2	0	1	5	1	0	0	0
Andrei Radoi	2	25	22/03/2008	15	12	2	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Paulica Ion	3	29	22/10/2003	50	21	3	22	1	27	5	1	0	0	0
Valentin Ursache	4	26	26/06/2004	48	19	3	27	2	19	15	3	0	0	0
Cristian Petre (C)	5	32	17/11/2001	89	9	8	47	2	40	30	6	0	0	0
Andrei Gorcioaia	6	24	14/02/2009	3	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adrian Ion	7	25		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mihai Macovei	8	25	03/06/2006	29	11	1	13	0	16	10	2	0	0	0
Valentin Calafeteanu	9	27	20/11/2004	46	28	4	23	2	21	125	8	14	18	1
Iulian Dumitras	10	29	03/03/2002	41	6	3	20	2	19	73	10	4	5	0
Adrian Apostol	11	22	10/06/2011	4	0	0	2	0	2	5	1	0	0	0
Cristian Dinis	12	28	04/02/2012	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Csaba Minya Gal	13	27	26/11/2005	47	14	3	23	1	23	12	2	1	0	0
Madalin Lemnaru	14	22	07/02/2009	14	2	2	6	1	7	15	3	0	0	0
Ionut Niacsu	15	21		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total				392	127	29	199	11	182	295	37	19	23	1
Marius Tincu	16	33	03/02/2002	53	6	5	26	2	25	70	14	0	0	0
Mihaita Lazar	17	25	22/03/2008	22	10	2	14	1	7	5	1	0	0	0
Alin Coste	18	25	01/12/2007	16	4	2	9	0	7	5	1	0	0	0
Valentin Poparlan	19	24	16/06/2007	22	12	3	11	0	11	25	5	0	0	0
Florin Surugiu	20	27	11/06/2008	20	13	1	11	0	9	10	2	0	0	0
Constantin Gheara	21	30	14/02/2004	12	7	1	8	0	4	5	1	0	0	0
Dorin Manole	22	25	14/02/2009	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Records For Romania

Caps

89 - Cristian Petre
 77 - Adrian Lungu
 77 - Romeo Stefan Gontineac

Tries

33 - Petre Motrescu
 28 - Gabriel Brezoianu
 27 - Florica Murariu

Points

369 - Danut Dumbrava
 335 - Petre Mitu
 322 - Ionut Tofan

Player Records (In a Match)

Points: 30 - Ionut Tofan v Spain on 05/10/2002
 Tries: 5 - 3 players
 Conversions: 12 - Virgil Popisteanu v Portugal on 13/04/1996
 Penalties: 6 - 2 players
 Drop Goals: 3 - 2 players

Team Records (In a Match)

Points: 100 v Bulgaria on 21/09/1976
 Tries: 17 v Morocco on 17/11/1976
 Conversions: 12 v Portugal on 13/04/1996
 Penalties: 7 v Argentina Jaguars on 15/06/2010
 Drop Goals: 4 v West Germany on 29/10/1967