

Facts & Figures

HEADLINES

- Georgia flyhalf MERAB KVIRIKASHVILI needs just 18 more points to become his country's highest points-scorer. KVIRIKASHVILI (303 points) needs to overtake Malkhaz Urjukashvili (318) and Pavle Jimsheladze (320).
- Romania go into the game against Georgia buoyed by their 25-0 win over Russia in Sochi a fortnight ago. Georgia did their confidence no harm either ahead of this weekend's match with a 32-7 victory at home to Portugal.
- With just three points separating the two sides at the top of Pool Division 1A, both Georgia and Romania still have everything to play for with just three games remaining.

STARTING LINE UPS

- There are two changes to the Romania line up from the team that beat Russia. PAULICA ION of London Irish comes into the front row for ANDREI URSACHE who drops to the bench. There is also a positional change which sees MIHAITA LAZAR switch from tighthead to loosehead prop. Meanwhile VALENTIN CALAFETEANU comes in to win his 46th cap at scrumhalf, with FLORIN SURUGIU taking his spot amongst the replacements.
- Georgia makes three changes to the side that beat Portugal 32-7. YURI NATRIASHVILI replaces REVAZ BELKANIA at hooker while GIORGI NEMSADZE comes in at lock for LEVAN DATUNASHVILI. There's another change at scrumhalf, where IRAKLI ABUSERIDZE comes in for GIORGI BEGADZE.
- PAULICA ION wins his 50th cap for Romania. The 29 year-old made his debut in a 50-3 defeat against Argentina in 2003.
- Georgia scrumhalf IRAKLI ABUSERIDZE makes his 50th appearance for his country in the European Nations Cup, having made his debut in the competition against Portugal in 2000. In total, ABUSERIDZE has won 77 caps for Georgia.
- DAVIT KACHARAVA makes his 50th appearance for Georgia in all competitions. The 27 year-old won his first cap as a replacement in a 32-12 win over Ukraine in 2006. Saturday's match against Romania will be his 29th European Nations Cup appearance.

HEAD TO HEAD

- Georgia have dominated the fixtures between these two sides in recent times, winning four out of the last five, although the score lines have tended to reflect the hard fought and close nature of the games.
- Georgia has averaged 19 points against Romania in those last five games while Romania has scored an average of 14.
- These two sides most recently went head to head for a Rugby World Cup 2011 Pool B match in New Zealand, with Georgia coming out 25-9 winners.
- The most recent European Nations Cup clash between the sides saw Georgia run out 18-11 victors at Vake Stadium in Tbilisi in March 2011.
- Romania's most recent win against Georgia came back in 2009, when they beat the visitors 22-10 at the Stadionul National Arcul de Triumf in Bucharest.
- These two sides first met at Lansdowne Road in 1998 for a Rugby World Cup qualifying match. Romania finished 27-23 winners.

TRYTIME

- Georgia have scored 31 tries in seven games giving them a try scoring ratio of 4.4 per game. Romania have scored four tries less, giving them an average of 3.9 per game.

ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

- CHRISTIAN PETRE makes his 89th appearance for Romania this weekend. He won his first cap against England in 2001 and Saturday's encounter with Georgia will be his 44th 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 12 appearances when he lines out for his country this weekend.
- GIORGI CHKHAIDZE wins his 55th cap for Georgia this weekend against Romania. The 31 year-old, who plays in France with AS Saint-Junien, made his first appearance a decade ago this month, against the Netherlands.
- The halfback partnership of IRAKLI ABUSERIDZE and MERAB KVIRIKASHVILI will become Georgia's second most capped starting pair when they take the field against Romania. The pair will start their 18th Test together against Romania but are still nine appearances short of the record held by ABUSERIDZE and Pavle Jimsheladze.
- Georgia have a slight edge on Romania with respect to international experience. The visitors have 520 caps in their starting line-up, compared to the home side's 503.

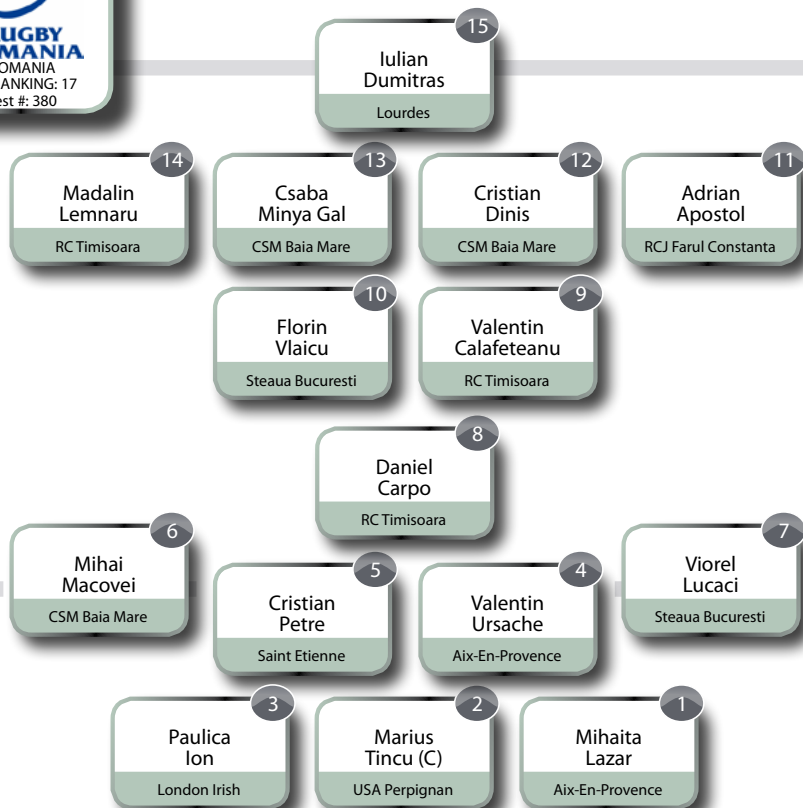
SIZE MATTERS

- Tighthead prop PAULICA ION is Romania's heaviest player, weighing in at 120kg while replacement lock forward ALIN COSTE is his nation's tallest player, at 1.98m.
- DAVIT KUBRIASHVILI is Georgia's heaviest player, weighing in at 122kg while GIORGI NEMSADZE and MAMUKA GORGODZE share the title of Georgia's tallest player, at 1.96m.
- Romania has the edge on Georgia in terms of the average weight in the forwards. The home side comes in at 110kg while the visitors are on average 4kg lighter in the forwards, at 106kg.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

- JP Doyle will officiate his fourth Test match when Romania meet Georgia this weekend having taken charge of his first international Test in 2009, for the meeting of Germany versus Russia.

Team Sheets



Replacements

16 Andrei Radoi (CSM Baia Mare)
17 Andrei Ursache (CSM Baia Mare)
18 Alin Coste (Bourg-en-Bresse)
19 Andrei Gorcioaia (CA Castelsarrasin)
20 Florin Surugiu (CSM Bucharest)
21 Constantin Gheara (RCJ Farul Constanta)
22 Dorin Manole (US Orthez)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 529
Avg Age Starting Lineup: 27
Oldest Player: Marius Tincu (33)
Youngest Player: Adrian Apostol (21)
Avg Weight Forwards: 110 kg

Officials

Referee:

JP Doyle (England) - 3 Tests

Tests at Venue: 1 Tests
Romania: 1 Tests
Georgia: 0 Tests
Test Debut: 02/05/2009 - Germany v Russia

Assistant Referee 1:

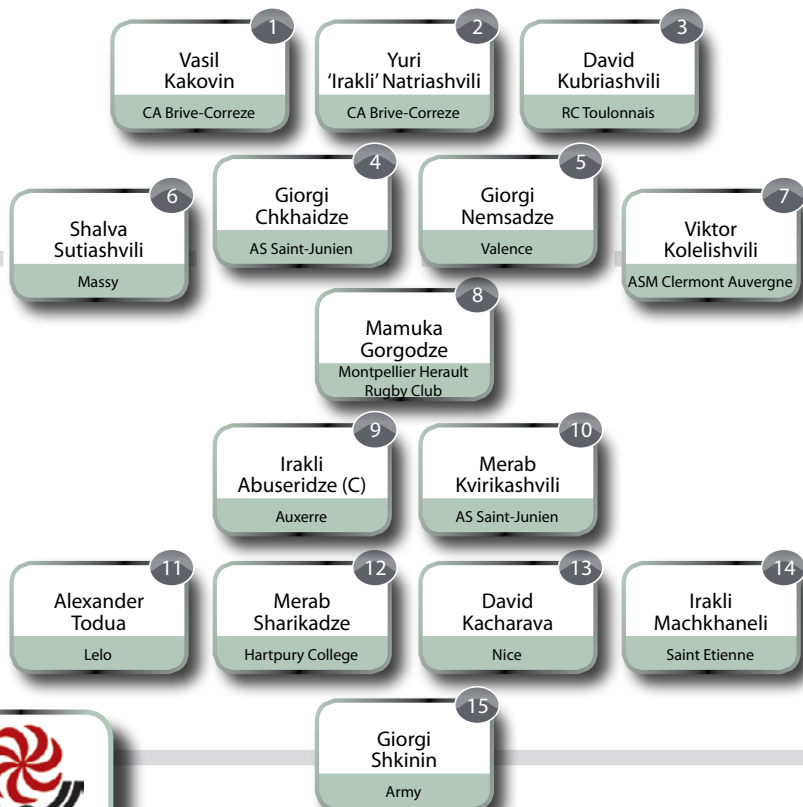
Andrew Small (England)

Assistant Referee 2:

Paul Dix (England)

Match Commissioner:

Grzegorz Borkowski (Poland)



Replacements

16 Revaz Belkania (US Seynoise)
17 Mikheil Nariashvili (Montpellier Herault Rugby Club)
18 Dimitri Basilaia (Valence)
19 Givi Berishvili (Locomotivi)
20 Giorgi Begadze (Batumi)
21 Tedo Zibzivadze (Perigueux)
22 Lasha Malaguradze (Valence)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 520
Avg Age Starting Lineup: 27
Oldest Player: Irakli Abuseridze (34)
Youngest Player: Merab Sharikadze (18)
Avg Weight Forwards: 106 kg



Head to Head

Recent Results

Date	Team A	Result	Team B	Venue
28/09/2011	Georgia	25 - 9	Romania	Palmerston North
12/03/2011	Georgia	18 - 11	Romania	Tbilisi
13/03/2010	Romania	22 - 10	Georgia	Bucharest
14/03/2009	Georgia	28 - 23	Romania	Tbilisi
09/02/2008	Georgia	22 - 7	Romania	Tbilisi

Summary

Romania		15 Matches (0 Draw)	Georgia	
8	Won			7
302	Points			282
28	Tries			25
18	Conversions			20
37	Penalties			38
5	Drop Goals			1

Player Records

For Romania against Georgia		For Georgia against Romania	
2 Players - 10	Appearances		13 - Irakli Abuseridze
2 Players - 45	Points		44 - Pavle Jimsheladze
2 Players - 3	Tries		4 - Mamuka Gorgodze
Petre Mitu - 7	Conversions		7 - Pavle Jimsheladze
Florin Vlaicu - 11	Penalties		10 - 2 Players
Ionut Tofan - 4	Drop Goals		1 - Lasha Malaguradze

Player Records in a Match

For Romania against Georgia		For Georgia against Romania	
Petre Mitu on 25/02/2006 - 18	Points		18 - Malkhaz Urjukashvili on 06/04/2002
On 2 Occasions - 2	Tries		1 - On 25 Occasions
Petre Mitu on 18/11/1998 - 3	Conversions		2 - On 6 Occasions
Florin Vlaicu on 07/10/2006 - 5	Penalties		5 - Merab Kvirikashvili on 28/09/2011
Ionut Tofan on 06/04/2002 - 2	Drop Goals		1 - Lasha Malaguradze on 09/02/2008

Team Records in a Match

For Romania against Georgia		For Georgia against Romania	
On 25/02/2006 - 35	Points		31 - On 07/04/2001
On 25/02/2006 - 4	Tries		3 - On 2 Occasions
On 2 Occasions - 3	Conversions		2 - On 7 Occasions
On 2 Occasions - 5	Penalties		6 - On 28/09/2011
On 06/04/2002 - 2	Drop Goals		1 - On 09/02/2008

Head Coach: Haralambie Dumitras

Debut: 04/02/2012 v Portugal (W 15-7)
 Winning Ratio: 100.00%
 Average Tries per Match: 3.00

Romania Record Under Haralambie Dumitras

2 Wins	0 Drawn	0 Lost
40 For	Points	7 Against
6 For	Tries	1 Against
2 For	Conversions	1 Against
2 For	Penalties	0 Against
0 For	Drop Goals	0 Against

Recent Matches

Date	Opponent	Result	Venue
25/02/2012	Russia	W 25 0	Sochi
04/02/2012	Portugal	W 15 7	Bucharest
28/09/2011	Georgia	L 9 25	Palmerston North
24/09/2011	England	L 3 67	Dunedin
17/09/2011	Argentina	L 8 43	Invercargill
Points For		60	
Points Ag		142	
Tries For		7	
Tries Ag		18	

Player Info For Romania

Player	Pos	Age	Debut	Caps	Caps as Sub	Caps v Opponent	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs
Mihaita Lazar	1	25	22/03/2008	21	10	3	14	1	6	5	1	0	0	0
Marius Tincu (C)	2	33	03/02/2002	52	6	8	26	2	24	70	14	0	0	0
Paulica Ion	3	29	22/10/2003	49	21	7	22	1	26	5	1	0	0	0
Valentin Ursache	4	26	26/06/2004	47	19	5	27	2	18	15	3	0	0	0
Cristian Petre	5	32	17/11/2001	88	9	10	47	2	39	30	6	0	0	0
Mihai Macovei	6	25	03/06/2006	28	11	6	13	0	15	10	2	0	0	0
Viorel Lucaci	7	25	28/11/2009	7	2	0	5	0	2	5	1	0	0	0
Daniel Carpo	8	27	23/02/2008	36	13	4	22	2	12	35	7	0	0	0
Valentin Calafeteanu	9	27	20/11/2004	45	28	5	23	2	20	119	8	14	16	1
Florin Vlaicu	10	25	03/06/2006	52	17	7	28	2	22	259	4	55	41	2
Adrian Apostol	11	21	10/06/2011	3	0	0	2	0	1	5	1	0	0	0
Cristian Dinis	12	28	04/02/2012	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Csaba Minya Gal	13	27	26/11/2005	46	14	6	23	1	22	12	2	1	0	0
Madalin Lemnaru	14	22	07/02/2009	13	2	2	6	1	6	15	3	0	0	0
Iulian Dumitras	15	29	03/03/2002	40	6	5	20	2	18	73	10	4	5	0
Total				529	158	68	280	18	231	658	63	74	62	3
Andrei Radoi	16	25	22/03/2008	15	12	1	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Andrei Ursache	17	27	04/02/2012	2	1	0	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	0
Alin Coste	18	25	01/12/2007	15	3	2	9	0	6	5	1	0	0	0
Andrei Gorcioaia	19	24	14/02/2009	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florin Surugiu	20	27	11/06/2008	19	12	2	11	0	8	10	2	0	0	0
Constantin Gheara	21	30	14/02/2004	11	6	2	8	0	3	5	1	0	0	0
Dorin Manole	22	25	14/02/2009	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Records For Romania

Caps

88 - 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



Head Coach: Milton Haig

Debut: 11/02/2012 v Spain (L 18-25)
Winning Ratio: 50.00%
Average Tries per Match: 3.50

Recent Matches

Category	Value	Category	Value
1 Wins		0 Drawn	
50 For		Points	32 Against
7 For		Tries	4 Against
3 For		Conversions	3 Against
3 For		Penalties	2 Against
0 For		Drop Goals	0 Against

Date	Opponent	Result	Venue
25/02/2012	Portugal	W 32 - 7	Tbilisi
11/02/2012	Spain	L 18 - 25	Madrid
02/10/2011	Argentina	L 7 - 25	Pal'ston North
28/09/2011	Romania	W 25 - 9	Pal'ston North
18/09/2011	England	L 10 - 41	Dunedin
Points For		92	
Points Ag		107	
Tries For		10	
Tries Ag		13	

Player Info For Georgia

Player	Pos	Age	Debut	Caps	Caps as Sub	Caps v Opponent	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs
Vasil Kakovin	1	22	14/11/2008	16	12	1	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Yuri 'Irakli' Natriashvili	2	28	29/04/2006	32	13	4	21	1	10	20	4	0	0	0
David Kubriashvili	3	25	02/02/2008	20	9	2	15	1	4	5	1	0	0	0
Giorgi Chkhaidze	4	30	03/02/2002	54	8	8	35	1	18	20	4	0	0	0
Giorgi Nemsadze	5	27	12/11/2005	22	9	2	14	0	8	25	5	0	0	0
Shalva Sutiashvili	6	28	12/11/2005	23	5	2	17	0	6	5	1	0	0	0
Viktor Kolelishvili	7	22	20/06/2008	11	6	0	7	0	4	5	1	0	0	0
Mamuka Gorgodze	8	27	22/02/2003	42	5	7	27	3	12	95	19	0	0	0
Irakli Abuseridze (C)	9	34	26/01/2000	77	9	13	48	3	26	35	7	0	0	0
Merab Kvirikashvili	10	28	16/02/2003	58	17	6	33	1	24	303	5	70	44	2
Alexander Todua	11	24	29/03/2008	28	4	3	15	0	13	5	1	0	0	0
Merab Sharikadze	12	18	11/02/2012	2	0	0	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	0
David Kacharava	13	27	29/04/2006	49	10	7	33	1	15	55	11	0	0	0
Irakli Machkhaneli	14	30	03/02/2002	52	5	8	28	2	22	85	17	0	0	0
Giorgi Shkinin	15	29	20/03/2004	34	9	5	20	2	12	30	6	0	0	0
Total				520	121	68	322	15	183	693	83	70	44	2
Revaz Belkania	16	29	22/02/2004	5	2	0	3	1	1	5	1	0	0	0
Mikheil Nariashvili	17	21	11/02/2012	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dimitri Basilaia	18	26	02/02/2008	19	5	3	12	0	7	15	3	0	0	0
Givi Berishvili	19	24	19/06/2011	5	3	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Giorgi Begadze	20	26	25/02/2012	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tedo Zibzibadze	21	31	26/01/2000	60	4	9	37	3	20	75	15	0	0	0
Lasha Malaguradze	22	25	02/02/2008	32	7	3	23	1	8	98	3	16	14	3

Records For Georgia

Caps
77 - Irakli Abuseridze
69 - Malkhaz Urjukashvili
65 - Gia Labadze

Tries
19 - Mamuka Gorgodze
18 - Malkhaz Urjukashvili
17 - Irakli Machkhaneli

Points
320 - Pavle Jimsheladze
318 - Malkhaz Urjukashvili
303 - Merab Kvirikashvili

Player Records (In a Match)
Points: 32 - Merab Kvirikashvili v Germany on 06/02/2010
Tries: 3 - 6 players
Conversions: 11 - Merab Kvirikashvili v Germany on 06/02/2010
Penalties: 6 - Pavle Jimsheladze v Russia on 08/03/2003
Drop Goals: 2 - Davit Chavleishvili v Ukraine on 15/07/1992

Team Records (In a Match)
Points: 98 v Czech Republic on 07/04/2007
Tries: 16 v Czech Republic on 07/04/2007
Conversions: 11 v Germany on 06/02/2010
Penalties: 6 on 2 Occasions
Drop Goals: 2 on 4 Occasions