# Thierry Henry visits French rugby camp ahead of Six Nations clash with Ireland



In a unique approach to team preparation, France's rugby coach Fabien Galthie welcomed football icon Thierry Henry into his training camp this week as the squad gears up for their highly-anticipated Six Nations clash with Ireland. The meeting brought together the world of rugby and football, drawing on Henry’s experience as a renowned athlete and victor of both a World Cup and a European Championship during his illustrious football career, which includes 123 appearances for the French national team.

The visit is particularly notable given Henry's controversial past with the Irish national team. In a qualifying match for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Henry was involved in an unpunished handball that led to William Gallas scoring the goal that secured France's passage to the finals, leaving Ireland to rue their missed opportunity. This contentious act has not only remained a significant talking point in sports discussions but has also added an intriguing layer to Henry’s association with the upcoming match between France and Ireland.

The French squad posted on social media platform X to announce Henry's visit, stating: "Last night, a French football legend, 1998 World Champion and 2024 Olympic Vice-Champion, honoured us with his presence. Thank you Mr. Thierry Henry for these inspiring moments of sharing spent with our #XVdeFrance!"

Thierry Henry has discussed the incident, expressing regret over his role in the controversial moment. Speaking about the handball, he stated, “I shouldn’t have done that, but quite honestly it was just out of my control. It’s true I regret it and that is why shortly afterwards I went to each Irish player to speak to them. After that we did not celebrate, not even in the dressing rooms.” His presence in the French camp is seen as an effort to inspire the team and perhaps provide insight into the psychological battle they may face against a formidable Irish side.

As France prepares to take on Ireland in Dublin this weekend, the stakes are high, particularly as they aim to thwart Ireland's ambitions for a Grand Slam in the tournament. The outcome of this match could have significant implications for both teams in the Six Nations. The intrigue surrounding Henry’s visit may serve to bolster the French team’s morale as they seek to deliver a strong performance on the field.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/rugby/arid-41586478.html> - This article supports the claim that Thierry Henry visited the French rugby team's camp ahead of their Six Nations match against Ireland, bringing together the worlds of rugby and football.
* <https://www.the42.ie/thierry-henry-france-rugby-team-6639636-Mar2025/> - This piece corroborates Henry's visit to the French rugby team at their Marcoussis training base, highlighting his role as a motivational figure.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thierry_Henry> - This Wikipedia page provides background on Thierry Henry's illustrious football career, including his achievements and his involvement with the French national team.
* <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/514654> - This BBC article discusses the infamous handball incident involving Thierry Henry during the 2010 World Cup qualifying match against Ireland.
* <https://www.rte.ie/sport/rugby/2025/0304/1445403-six-nations-france-ireland/> - This article from RTÉ Sport covers the upcoming Six Nations match between France and Ireland, highlighting the stakes and implications for both teams.