

Six Nations: the race for second place

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The upcoming race for 2nd place in the Six Nations begins in Rome where Scotland will be fighting for pride and country, and ends in Cardiff where Wales and France will do the same. With Ireland winning the Six Nations early, every other team apart from Italy, who have not won a game in this year's tournament, will compete for the runner's up spot. Of course Ireland will be going for the 'Grand Slam' in Twickenham.



Scotland will play Italy in the first game of 'Super Saturday', and a victory would see them in 2nd place before England face Ireland. Italy is not a team to be underestimated as they will look to avoid a winless tournament. Interestingly, Italy is the only team in this year's competition to have scored 2 or more tries a game. A recurring weakness for Italy is shown in their defence – they have conceded 23 tries so far. O'Shea's Italy will have confidence on Saturday going up against a shaky Scotland team who conceded the tournament to Ireland last weekend.

Ireland are in the form of their lives after beating Scotland comfortably and winning the 2018 Six Nations, while their opponents England are on a downward spiral after losing 2 successive matches. Ireland are pushing to get their third 'Grand Slam' and have a good chance because this seems to be one of the best times to play England. Excluding matches against Italy, only one team has won away from home this year – Ireland against France through a memorable drop goal by Johnny Sexton. Ireland are going to need something just as special to defeat England on Saint Patrick's day.

Finally, Wales play France in the last match of the tournament. Last year, this fixture in Paris ended in the 100th minute of the match, with France coming away with a controversial win. Wales will hope for revenge this Saturday, but France have proved how hard they are to beat. Had Sexton not pulled off his extraordinary drop goal, France would have been in the race for the title. Instead, they are in a place where a win sees them come at least 3rd, and a defeat potentially leaves them in 5th place which does not reflect their performance this year. Wales are in virtually the same position, which makes this match an intriguing one...