

Thirty-five thousand staunch ~~Saxii~~ supporters of Scottish Rugby saw France kick-off at Murrayfield - in the season's first home international. And home hopes ran high as Scotland's new-look pack (there were five new caps) held its own in the opening minutes of the game. *.c4e*

~~Over the past few years, Scotland's record has been one of~~
~~glorious success.~~ *Yes.* that heavyweight pack was launching all-out attacks that had their loyal fans roaring in support.

And when Scotland had the chance to go in front, from a penalty, the kick only just failed.

Yes, the Scots were holding their own in the set scrums and were more dangerous in the loose; but it was their close-passing movements that frequently broke down. And like a flash - the quicksilver Frenchmen turned

defence into lightning attack. ~~defence~~

One Scottish success was ~~Weathers~~ *stone* - a courageous winger who all but crowned this glorious run with a Scottish try.

So to the second half - with the home side mounting a furious offensive - with, on occasions, Kininmonth and ~~Weathers~~ *stone* gaining valuable ground by sheer determination.

On men like these - Scotland must surely rebuild ~~their~~ *her* fallen fortunes.

And, ~~ironically~~ enough, it was ~~French~~ close-passing that brought ~~French~~ France their winning try. Brejassou rounded off a joint effort to touch down...

So France won by three points to nil - but Scottish fans are looking hopefully to a brighter future.