

Iconic Rugby World Cup moments

In 1985, after a contentious vote by International Rugby Board members in Paris, the Rugby World Cup was born – almost 35 years later, the tournament has grown into one of the world's most thrilling sporting events



1987 Kirwan inspires Kiwis *New Zealand 70 Italy 6*

Inaugural tournament, **John Kirwan** scores stunning 70-metre solo try in opening match. New Zealand go on to beat France in final to claim trophy on home turf in Auckland

1991 Wales humbled *Western Samoa 16 Wales 13*

Possibly biggest upset in Rugby World Cup. Minnows Western Samoa (above) beat Wales, unable to cope with athleticism and physicality of Pacific Islanders

1995 Legend of Lomu *New Zealand 45 England 29*

World Cup debut for 20-year-old **Jonah Lomu** – stellar semi-final display against England includes four tries as Lomu evades countless tackles to terrorise defence, stunned by his unabated power and pace

1995 Rainbow Nation Unites *South Africa 15 New Zealand 12*

Iconic moment in world sport and post-apartheid South Africa, president **Nelson Mandela** (left) – wearing Springbok green – presents trophy to winning captain **Francois Pienaar**

1999 French spirit *France 43 New Zealand 31*

France enthral Twickenham crowd to stage remarkable comeback, reaching World Cup final after trailing 24-10 – inspired by kicking of **Christophe Lamaison**

2003 Wallabies' Masterclass *Australia 142 Namibia 0*

Record victory at World Cup as Australia emphasise gulf in class with dominating performance – scoring first of 22 tries after just two minutes

2003 Kicking for Glory *England 20 Australia 17*

England become first northern hemisphere team to win title – **Jonny Wilkinson** (left) sealing breathtaking drop goal victory with just 26 seconds of extra-time remaining

2007 Los Pumas Arrive *Argentina 17 France 12*

Argentina emerge as new rugby force, claiming third-place finish after topping "Pool of Death" – beating established rugby nations of France, Ireland and Scotland

2011 All Blacks Triumph *New Zealand 8 France 7*

Eden Park erupts as captain **Richie McCaw** (right) leads New Zealand to end 24-year wait for second World Cup

2015 Japanese Joy *Japan 34 South Africa 32*

Two-time champions South Africa are defeated by confident Japan team, led by captain **Michael Leitch** – Blossoms first World Cup win since 1991

2019 New Territory

Japan hosts Rugby World Cup for first time as tournament moves outside sport's traditional heartlands

