

# The Servals

The Clermont Football Servals are a French American football team based in Clermont-Ferrand.

## The Club

The club has 2 different American football teams and a flag football team:

- The elite team in the third French division, the Silver Helmet
- Juniors
- A flag football team

## Ranking

### **Seniors**

- France's Second Division League (*Golden Helmet*)

Champion: 1998, 2002 and 2006

Vice Champion: 1999 and 2003

- France's Championship Elite (Diamond Helmet)*

The Servals were the first club who won the *Golden Helmet* and reached the semifinals of the *Diamond Helmet* the following year.

## History

### *The Golden Helmet (1995-2005)*

During the 1995 season, the Servals started their 2<sup>nd</sup> division championship in France. Their first season finished with a total of 2 victories and 2 defeats. From its second season, the club was one of the best of its division and reached the quarterfinals of the championship. The 1997 season looked like the last one; the Servals reached play-offs once more but failed during the round of 16.

In the 1998 season, the team continued improving and achieved its best season since its creation, they won 8 games in a row. During play-offs, they beat Marseille's Blue Stars with 54-0, in the semifinals, they beat the St. Etienne's Giants and finally they won their first divisional title against the Evry's Voyageurs in final (7-3). Despite its trophy, the club didn't join the elite because of the federation's requirements. The 1999 season was strange for the Servals, playing just one match during the regular season,

for a total of 3 forfeits. This victory qualified the club for the play-offs, where the club reached the final again which they lost to the Cougars of Saint-Ouen l'Aumône (14-42).

The club is now used to the championship and has reached the quarterfinals again, then the semifinals during the 2000 and 2001 seasons in order to finally win its second divisional title in 2002, but the club was forced to stay in the second division again. Used to reaching the finals, their 4<sup>th</sup> in 9 years, the Servals met the Templier of Elancourt in 2003 but lost the match. In 2004, the team was stopped by the Corsaires from Evry in the semifinals (13-32). For the first time since 1996, the club did not play the plays-off in 2005.

### *Reaching the elite (since 2006)*

After their 3<sup>rd</sup> title in the second division in 2006, the Servals, who finally fulfilled the federation's requirements, reached the first division (called the Diamond Helmet) during the 2007 season. After an exciting finish in order to reach the play-offs against the Argonautes of Aix-en-Provence, for their first participation in the first division, the Servals won their ticket for the semifinals during the last game of the regular season. In the semifinals, the Servals were defeated by the La Courneuve Flash.