

Blunt edge: How statistical dominance was turned into record home defeat

Any side enjoying the superiority outlined here would expect to win. The figures show the enormous amount of defending South Africa had to do and the time spent in their own half without the ball, but England attacked down narrow fronts, their handling was inaccurate and most of their movement was sideways. Jean de Villiers led South Africa's tackle count with 15, but Tendai Mtawarira, a prop, had 12, which demonstrates the Springboks' commitment throughout the team and England's inability to find chinks in the armour



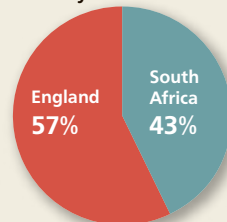
England



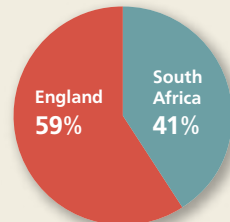
South Africa



Territory



Possession



Record losing margins at Twickenham

2008
36 points (6-42) v South Africa

2006
21 points (20-41) v New Zealand

1997
18 points (11-29) v South Africa

1971
17 points (11-28) v Centenary
President's XV

1984
16 points (3-19) v Australia

Words:
David Hands

Statistics: Opta

