

One Team, One Nation



Level: A2
Communicative Objectives: Talking about sport and community spirit, talking about sport and personal development.
Vocabulary: Sport terminology.
Documents used: News article and showing the movie *Invictus* is optional.

With 'Rugby World Cup fever' in the air, it might be interesting to look back at a very important match for South Africa, and indeed, the world: the 1995 final.

Below is a BBC article which details the momentous occasion. Read the article aloud to the class.

1995: Party time for SA

World Cup final, 24 June 1995

Ellis Park, Johannesburg

The 1995 tournament was seen as the dawning of a new era.

I

Post-apartheid South Africa had been welcomed back into the international sporting frame and the World Cup was their first chance to unite a nation and prove things had changed.

Springbok captain Francois Pienaar and manager Morne du Plessis tried to foster feelings of the "rainbow nation" and their policy had the desired effect of not just uniting spectators off the field, but also the players on it.

Few moments in sporting history have been more poignant than when Pienaar received the William Webb Ellis Trophy from new South African President Nelson Mandela, bedecked in his own Springbok jersey.

There were certain sceptics who criticised the fact that only one black player had a part to play in the tournament. But Chester Williams managed to obliterate opposition defences, clearly winning his place in his own right rather than as a publicity stunt by South African rugby authorities.

South Africa had done everything right but this was billed as New Zealand's time to win once more. The All Blacks had demolished everyone in their path except when it came to the final.

The All Blacks went into the second half just 9-6 down and levelled courtesy of an Andrew Mehrtens penalty. Mehrtens nearly became a national saviour in the dying moments of regulation time, but his drop goal attempt veered wide.

The match went into extra-time, with each side notching up an early penalty each.

The game finally headed South Africa's way in the second half of extra-time when Joel Stransky received the ball and slotted over the winning drop goal with his right boot.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/rugby_union/rugby_world_cup/history/2960348.stm

The Rugby World Cup created an incredible atmosphere in South Africa, there was a spirit of joy and forgiveness as the whole country supported the national team. This event is a great example of how sport can unite a population and it has often been said that this match could have been a Hollywood script. Recently the movie *Invictus*, directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon, was released and was praised for its depiction of this amazing match.

Can you think of any examples of the positive effects of sport?
Which teams do you support?



Let's explore each other's ideas about sport:

- Do you play any sports?
- Do you like to exercise?
- Do you like to watch sports on TV?
- Do you like watching car races?
- Do you think athletes earn enough money, not enough money or too much money?
- Do you think everybody should practice sports?
- Do you think playing sports helps people work better as a team at work?
- Have you ever been to watch a professional sporting event?
- How often do you exercise?
- What do you think is the most popular sport in the world?
- What is the most dangerous sport?
- What is the most expensive sport?
- What is the most popular sport in your country?
- What is your favourite team sport?
- What is your favourite summer sport?
- What is your favourite winter sport?
- What new sports would you like to try?

- What's a sport that you don't like?
 - Why don't you like it?
- How do you feel about extreme sports?
 - Would you like to try any of these?

