Performance Analysis

After the semi-finals



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Finalists

New Zealand

- Still have several tournament-leading stats, including red-zone efficiency, (3.89 points per entry) combined with the third-most entries per game (12.7). Impressive.
- Attacking output: third-most carries (137.7), second-most metres made (681.5) and defenders beaten (38.2), most line-breaks (13.5 per game), only Scotland and France were more than 10 per game otherwise.
- Also made 84.5 carries over the gain-line per game, the most of any team, and the best as a percentage of their carries (61%).
- Have made the fewest turnovers of any team (11.2 per game) but their positive outcomes of possessions, 78%, the best of anyone, even better than England who just kick the ball away more than anyone else.
- Fifth for average ruck speed (3.53s) and rucks under two seconds (31%) but the best ruck retention rate of 96% so teaming fast rucks with accurate ones.
- Set-piece platform: the second-best scrum success (94%) and best lineout success (98%), losing only 2 of each all tournament; won the most lineout steals (2 per game) for good measure.

- Second-most kicks in play (30.2) behind England but similarly the highest possession split (57%) and, tellingly, the second-highest possession time (18:26), shows that kicking isn't necessarily negative.
- Third-fewest missed tackles per game (17.8) and fourth-best tackle success (88%).
- Third-most passes per game (185.5) with the most leading to a line-break (7.3) and a try (6.3).
- Just 10th for breakdown turnovers won (3.0) and turnovers won overall (6.2).
- Sixth-fewest penalties conceded (9.8) very good overall more than South Africa.
- Fourth-highest possession 2-10m away from the ruck (41%) but sixth-most play wider than 30m (11%).
- Will Jordan leading the tournament now with 8 tries. Made the most metres for New Zealand (582) and most line-breaks (12).
- Ardie Savea and Beauden Barrett joint-second-most carries of any player in the tournament (60) but still 21 behind Bundee Aki who has played one game fewer.
- Mark Tele'a has overtaken Aki for most defenders beaten in the tournament (31) having played 169 minutes fewer.
- Richie Mo'unga and Anton Lienert-Brown lead the tournament for passes leading to line-breaks (6).
- Cam Roigard still top of the charts for try assists, joint with Garry Ringrose (6) despite only playing in 3 games for 149 minutes in total.
- Beauden Barrett made the second-most kicks in play (52) behind Alex Mitchell of England but for the most metres in the tournament (1703).
- Ardie Savea and Sam Cane joint-most tackles made (47), both missed just 3 and then Cane leading the way for his team with dominant tackles (5), Savea just 1 behind.
- Savea tied with Whitelock for breakdown steals (3).
- New Zealand reached a 99.7% chance of winning at 42:45.

South Africa

- First in the tournament for just two stats, dominant tackles (14.3) and penalties conceded in attack (2.0).
- Seventh for carries (97.0), 12th for metres made (464.7), 11th for line-breaks (5.7), fifth for defenders beaten (20.0) and offloads (6.8). Ruck speed just 10th (4.06s) and eighth for rucks under two seconds (28%).
- Seventh for gainline success (52%) and 13th for collision dominance (37%).
- Making an enormous number of errors even from having so few carries. Second-most turnovers conceded (16.5); only Chile averaged more per game. Eighth for positive outcomes (60%) meaning that 40% of all their possessions end in an error. Only Chile and Uruguay lower.
- Red-zone efficiency better than the rest of their attacking stats but still nowhere near tournament-leading. Ninth for entries into the opposition 22 (9.3), sixth for efficiency (2.79), 11th for time spent (03:55) and fourth for phases played (21.5).
- Won 3 huge penalties on their own scrum in the semi-final late on but not overly dominant for the tournament, 11th-best scrum success (88%). Lineout fourth best with 89% and stolen the second-most lineouts behind New Zealand (1.8).
- Not kicking as much as they did last World Cup: ninth (22.8) for kicks in play and 11th for possession kicked (54%). Just 12th for possession time (14:47).
- Play in matches with the second-lowest ball-in-play time average (29:29), only Namibia's games were lower.
- Most dominant tackles but just 11th for tackle success (85%).
- Fourth-most breakdown turnovers won (3.8 per game).

- Discipline good, conceding the third-fewest penalties overall (8.5 per match).
- Just 9% within two metres of the ruck (sixth) suggesting their big forwards don't carry it up tight much.
- Kwagga Smith third-most breakdown steals in the tournament (6) just 1 behind the joint leaders but has only played 199 minutes, 102 fewer than Fritz Lee.
- Damian Willemse made the most carries for South Africa (38) for the most metres (341).
- Cheslin Kolbe made the most line-breaks (7).
- Damian De Allende beaten the most defenders (17).
- Franco Mostert made the most tackles (57).
- Eben Etzebeth and Damian De Allende tied for dominant tackles (8).
- Capgemini Data: South Africa were predicted to score 31 points before the game started, England 17

Bronze final (losing semi-finalists)

Argentina

- Still averaging the second-fastest ruck speed (3.31s) behind Italy in the pool stages, managed even faster in their defeat to New Zealand. Have the most rucks under two seconds as a percentage of their total rucks (37%).
- Beat the third-most defenders per game of any team (29.0) and have made the seventh-most line-breaks (6.3). An area they are struggling is avoiding errors: sixth for turnovers lost (14.7), their positive outcomes are 64%, also sixth.
- Efficiency seems to be an issue. High number of line-breaks, possession and carries, but 11th for gainline success (51%), 12th for collision dominance (37%).
- Their red-zone efficiency got them through to the semi-finals, averaging 2.93 points per entry, the fourth best of anyone, but only 0.67 v New Zealand from a similar number of entries (9) compared tournament average (8.5).
- Lineout success strong for them, third with 90%.
- Having dominated the territory chart for some time, dropped to fourth best overall (55%) after semi-final.
- Just ninth for kicks in play (22.8); kicking more than your opposition strongly linked to winning games at the moment but only with a low error-count, which Argentina couldn't manage.
- Tackle success 83%, the fifth best, not good enough for the opposition.
- Averaged the fewest turnovers of any team (4.2 per game).
- Relative to the tournament, far more penalties conceded in attack (4.3, seventh) than in defence (10.2, seventh), again suggesting too many errors.
- Played the most down the 'middle' relative to the ruck area. They were ninth for both playing width further than 30m away (6%) and closer than 2m away (8%) – suggesting one-out or two-out passes.
- Mateo Carreras scored the most tries for Argentina (3) but all in one game. Made the most line-breaks for them (6) and beat the most defenders (27).
- Santiago Carreras made the most carries, not necessarily ideal for your fly-half, limiting availability to distribute wider out. Taking a huge portion of the kicking duties as well, 42 kicks in play for 1479 metres (23 for 652 the next most).
- Juan Cruz Mallia made the most metres from full-back (496) and most offloads (6).

- Marcos Kremer still leading their tackle stats (74) and with the most dominant tackles as well (7), joint with Juan Martin Gonzalez.
- Pablo Matera and Augustin Creevy made the most breakdown steals with 3 despite both playing very few minutes, 184 and 103 respectively.

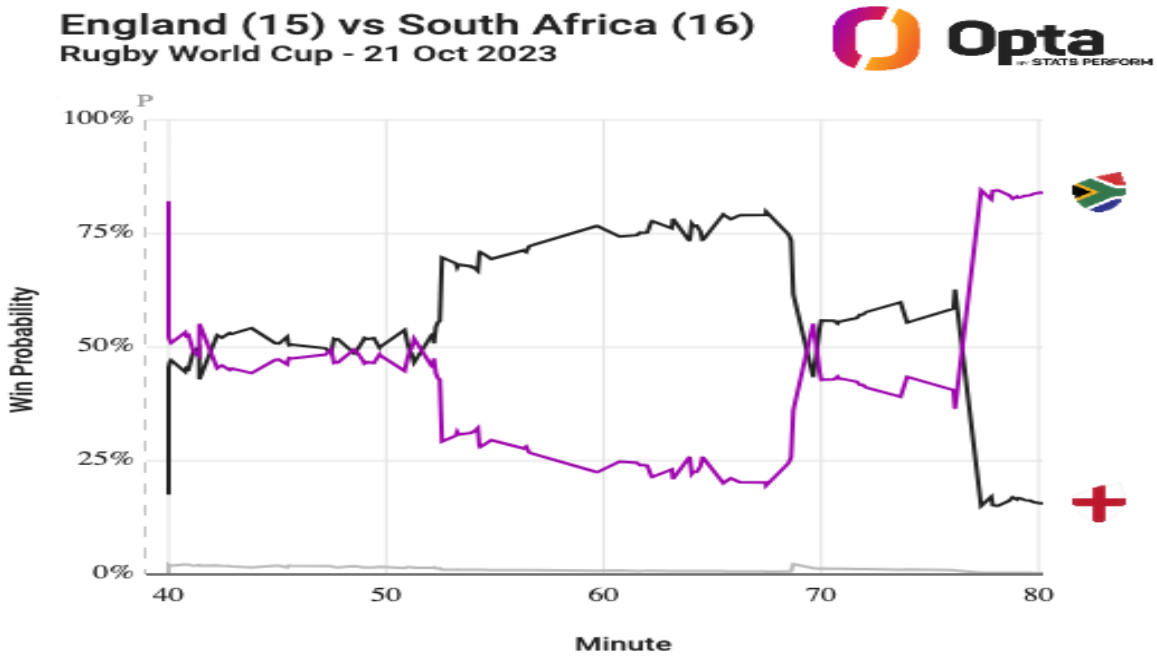
England

- Had the highest percentage of possession kicked away in their semi-final (93%), joint with themselves in round 1 match v Argentina). Remain first for percentage kicked (72%) and most kicks in play (34.3).
- Despite kicking the ball away so much they still average the second-highest possession split (56%) which suggests teams kick the ball back. This, of course, is the point, England forcing teams to play from areas they don't want to and rather they kick the ball back, giving a better opportunity for England to attack.
- That opportunity didn't come in the semi-final, when they never looked like scoring a try. Only made 4 red-zone entries, compared to their average of 11.2 (sixth) taking only 6 points compared to their tournament average 27.0 (eighth).
- Averaged the slowest ruck speed of any team in the tournament (5.1two seconds), including the second-slowest ruck speed in a single game in their semi-final (6.7five seconds). Only Wales have fewer rucks under two seconds as a percentage of their total (21%) and then no team had more rucks over five seconds (36%). Partly down to setting up box kicks and getting the right players on their feet to chase them – stats suggest they can't flick the switch to speed up rucks when trying to break stronger teams down.
- Just fifth for carries (102.2), 13th for metres made (430.3), 10th for line-breaks (5.8), seventh for offloads (5.2), 13th for gainline success (51%) and eighth for collision dominance (35%).
- What England have done well is avoid errors from all their kicks, averaging the sixth-fewest turnovers conceded per game (12.8) despite having so much possession time and meaning they have the second-best positive outcomes of their possession (73%) behind New Zealand.
- Their semi-final was the first game they conceded a scrum penalty since the first round v Argentina, ended up conceding 4 in total, 1 on their own ball and 3 on South Africa's.
- Tackle success in 10th (86%), they also are just sixth for dominant tackles per game (7.8), not quite the physicality overall.
- Similar at the breakdown, 11th for breakdown turnovers won (2.8) not enough to get the ball back and ultimately stop their opposition as well.
- Penalties conceded seventh (10.2), joint with Argentina and, importantly, worse than South Africa and New Zealand.
- Tendency to play in tight, fourth most within 2m of the ruck (13%) and eighth most within 2-10m (38%), again down to setting up box kicks.
- Tom Curry has made the most dominant tackles in the tournament (9). Elliot Daly second for England overall for dominant tackles (8).
- Ben Earl has made the third-most tackles overall (66).
- Earl also leading the way for England in carries (54). Next-highest ball carrier, 17 behind, tackler 15 behind. Also most metres made (416), most defenders beaten (20) second-most line-breaks (5) just behind Arundell for his 6 in one game.
- Alex Mitchell the most kicks of the tournament (64) for the second-most metres overall (1523).

- Courtney Lawes making the most breakdown steals (4), 1 ahead of Itoje and then no other England player has made more than 1.

Capgemini Data

- England started the game with a 21% chance of winning but had an 80% chance at 67 mins 28 seconds, was still at 63% at 76:09.



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