



STUDENTS: ENGLAND 52 - 14 SOUTH AFRICA

12th July 2013, 8:27

11th July 2013, 10:33

By Pete Jackson

England retained their 100% Student World Cup winning record with a confident 52-14 over South Africa at Castleford's Wish Communications stadium.

England went into the game as firm favourites after successive victories over Ireland and Wales, but fell behind after just two minutes as Scrum-half Hans Du Plessis got the Rhino's off to the perfect start.

Garath Pratt's side were aware that qualification was safe, barring a massive point swing, but were keen to emphasise their desire as Richard Hughes powered over just three minutes later to level.

Big hits and physical power dominated the first 20 minutes, but the visitors were upsetting the odds once more when Rupert Wells restored the South African lead 18 minutes from the break.

Once again, England hit back immediately, capitalising on ill discipline by the South African's as Aaron Small showed his pace to cut through a defensive gap and score.

Before the half was out, England took the lead for the first time after a superb long pass out wide by Chris Atkin fell gratefully into the arms of winger Billy Griffiths, who had the simple job of crossing the line to give the English a 14-8 lead.

Griffiths was over again just three minutes later to give England a somewhat flattering 18-8 advantage going into half time.

England began to assert their dominance in the second half, with Sam Williamson somehow managing to charge over despite the desperate attempts of four South African players.

Quick fire tries from Small and then Tom Carroll made victory almost a certainty, with a 26 point gap on the board with 25 minutes still to play.

Professionalism was in show throughout the second half from the English, who knew victory and qualification had been achieved, yet still played with the strength and desire which saw captain Mark Wilson cross for his first of the evening.

Tries then started to come thick and fast from a rampant England side, as Small completed a clinical hat-trick, with the South Africans powerless to stop their dominant opponents.

The Rhino's got themselves their third try of the night through Ian Van Deventer with 13 minutes to go, but it was to little avail as Anthony Squire scrambled over in the corner to bring up the England half century.

At full time, Gareth Pratt said of his sides display: "This games given us the wakeup call that we needed. They really came at us in the first half and we had to be on our guard,"

"We knew they (South Africa) would be physical and we knew they would take the game to us so we wanted to get the ball wide as much as we could, and we did that well in the second half."



South Africa will take great pride from their display in this competition, after victory over the Irish and an unfortunate defeat at the hands of Wales, they will have high hopes for future competitions.

For Pratt and his England side, New Zealand lie in wait for a big Semi-final tie on Friday night (Tetley's stadium, Dewsbury.)

England: 1 Gaz Hynes, 17 Anthony Squire, 4 Jamie Love, 8 Aaron Small, 18 Billy Griffiths, 7 Nathan Fozzard, 21 Chris Atkin, 12 Carl Loft, 11 Richard Hughes, 5 Sam Williamson, 10 Liam Thompsom, 14 Luke Bradley, 13 Sam Blaney Interchange: 24 Mark Wilson, 15 Tom Carroll, 19 James Wallace, 16 Nathan Britten

Head Coach: Garath Pratt

South Africa: 1 Allan Kasselmann, 2 Chester Mbkela, 4 Jean Coetzer, 17 Carel Van Lill, 20 Rupert Wells, 6 Hein Olivier, 7 Hans Du Plessis, 12 Gerhard De Wet, 9 Andre Loader, 23 Paul Van Jaarsveld, 15 Jean Pierre Nel, 11 Ian Van Deventer, 18 Christo Joubert Interchange: 8 Shaunne Bouwer, 24 Manie Loots, 16 Rudolf Prinsloo, 19 Johan Harmse

Man of the match: Aaron Small

Attendance: 262

Scorers:

England: Anthony Squire, Aaron Small (3), Billy Griffiths (2), Richard Hughes, Sam Williamson, Mark Wilson, Tom Carroll

South Africa: Rupert Wells, Hans Du Plessis, Ian Van Deventer