

A Special Win

"It doesn't get any bigger than that. To play in front of that crowd in this stadium is very special. This team is one I would go to war with, they have character and togetherness and this is a very special win for the All Blacks," Henry said at the post match press conference.

"We have to pay tribute to our fitness coach Nick Gill as we were in great shape in those last 10 minutes. Our fitness levels were superb and that and our heart was what got us through this game."

All Black captain McCaw described it as one of his team's finer wins, but pointed to the Boks fitness levels as the turning point in the game.

"Early on in the game it feels as if you're running around with rocks in your boots. But when we saw at half-time the hands go on knees, we knew we certainly had to keep on believing. We never felt like we were struggling and we held onto the ball well in the end. The guys believed in what we are doing and didn't crawl into their shells in the last period," McCaw said.

"We don't come from behind too often and even though we played well in the last four weeks, we were still under the pump here tonight. We were in a pressure situation and that shows a fair bit of character to come back like that."

McCaw and his side have already made a clean sweep of this year's Tri-Nations, but more satisfying perhaps was the 3-0 clean sweep of the Springboks this year, which will be a massive psychological boost for the World Cup next year.