

with his hands in the air. Suddenly he went down on one knee and put his face in his fist, and the other players got down on their knees around him. For a moment they prayed, then they got up and they jumped in the air and they hugged, which was what everyone else in the stadium was doing, including Nelson Mandela, who was not usually the hugging type. "He was on top of the world," said Moonsamy. "I was with Nelson Mandela for five years, the whole of his presidency, and I never saw him happier. He was so thrilled, so ecstatic. When the final whistle blew the whole suite erupted. If people think we bodyguards are robots, well, they should have seen us when the final whistle went. We too were hugging, and some of us were crying."

Mandela laughed so hard as he recaptured the moment that he could barely get his words out. "When the whistle blew, Luyt," he said, "Louis Luyt and I . . . we just suddenly find ourselves . . . embracing! Yes, embracing!" Luyt confirmed it. "When the final whistle went and the players dropped to their knees, we hugged. And he said, 'We got it, man! We got it!' We hugged so hard - he probably didn't mention this part - that I lifted him off his feet!"

Up in the stands, 62,000 jubilant fans once again took up the cry: "Nel-son! Nel-son!" The thrill of victory made their chant louder, more visceral than before. Down on the field, engulfed in the crowd's ecstasy and his teammates' and his own, Kobus Wiese was gulping down the mighty significance of the moment. "I was so aware of the fact that only a chosen few will ever have this feeling and be part of this. And I cried tears of joy. I think we all cried. You just suck up the emotion of those moments after victory and you don't talk. You just hug each other and nobody has to say anything. We realized there on that field, emotional as we all were, that we were part of history now."

"It was impossible to say anything that could express what we felt. We all just jumped and jumped, and smiled and smiled," said Joel Stransky, smiling. "I smiled for a whole week. I've never stopped smiling."