

Date: 29 October 2011

Opposition: West Bromwich Albion

Competition: League

Sunday Mirror	Times	Guardian	Telegraph
Echo	Independent	Mirror	Birmingham Mail
Mail on Sunday	Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times



29 October
2011

THE TIMES

Carroll and Suarez aim to establish own myth

WestBrom 0
Liverpool 2

Adam 9 (pen), Carroll 45+1

Referee: L Mason Attendance: 25,522

Even as he went to shut the door, Kenny Dalglish left it open. Suarez and Carroll: the next Keegan and Toshack, Dalglish and Rush? "Steady, deary me," the man best placed to comment said, recognising an exit cue from his night's media duties. "You never know, though."

There is little danger of hyperbole when the manager on the end of the question has not only lived in, but starred through, the era of the legendary partnerships that helped Liverpool to conquer Europe.

Andy Carroll will have to establish himself as a regular and the team start winning league titles before any just comparisons can be made. But the style in which the [pounds sterling]35 million Carroll stretches the front line and Luis Suarez drops off to weave his magic does evoke memories of their illustrious Anfield ancestors. Suarez fits the Liverpool No 7 shirt that Kevin Keegan and Dalglish made mythical in the 1970s and early 1980s and Carroll, the young England striker learning his trade, believes that not even David Silva or Robin van Persie can match his strike partner right now. Carroll, in turn, gave his most convincing Liverpool performance against West Bromwich Albion on Saturday to earn the more considered plaudits of his manager and a perspective that this embryonic partnership can keep improving as this team continue to climb. "I think the two of them have a fantastic partnership," Dalglish said. "How often they'll play together, I cannot predict that.

"There's always been signs that it will be a good partnership. I think that's big Andy's best game for us since he came: strong, powerful and technically good as well. I think he's getting his reward now for working really hard. They are just starting to play well together. The more time they spend playing with each other, the more they'll get accustomed to each other and the better it will be for everybody."

Suarez won the contentious penalty from which Charlie Adam gave Liverpool an early lead at The Hawthorns, before sending Carroll away for the second goal immediately before half-time as Dalglish's side moved to within a point of Chelsea on the edge of the Barclays Premier League's top four. It was Gary Beswick, the assistant referee, who adjudged that Jerome Thomas had tripped Suarez as the ball ran away from the striker in the sixth minute, and conceding such an early opening goal took the sting out of the home side.

There was definitely contact, but whether Suarez fell into the West Brom winger or Thomas impeded the Uruguay forward was open to debate. Adam, who converted the spot-kick, had sympathy. "You think, 'There's an opportunity for the penalty'," he said. "West Brom can feel a bit aggrieved but that's the way it goes."

Paul Scharner, predictably, went farther. "It was a nice dive for the penalty," the West Brom midfielder said. "It put us under pressure and we weren't good enough to respond. He's very good at winning penalties. If that's a penalty, then you will find 1,500 in every match."

West Brom felt the lack of the injured Shane Long, their leading striker, but at the other end they were guilty of the cardinal sin of leaving one fewer defender back than the opposition had strikers up.

Jonas Olsson hurried his pass, Lucas Leiva gained possession and released Suarez wide on the right. His prompt pass for Carroll was sublime and the striker's heavy first touch inadvertently tempted Ben Foster out to make a space for the left-foot finish.

"Obviously Luis is a great player," Carroll said. "He works hard for the team so it is nice to have him up top with me -- it makes it a lot easier. He makes chances and can score goals. He can drop off and get the ball to his feet to dribble with it and slip people in. Obviously it is part of our plan of making the pitch as big as possible."

Carroll cannily refused to judge who was the better No 7, his present partner or his manager. "Everyone knows what he can do. I couldn't name anyone else [playing better than him in the Premier League]," he said. "Everyone also knows what the gaffer did back in the day. Luis is a great player and it is even better to have him in the team alongside me." His manager would have approved.

Ratings WEST BROM 4-4-2 B Foster 6 S Reid 6 GMcAuley 5 J Olsson 0 5 W Jones 6 C Brunt 5 P Scharner 5 Y Mulumbu 6 J Thomas 7 P Odimwingie 5 S Tchoyi 4 Substitutes: J Morrison 6 (for Scharner, 58min), G Dorrans 6 (for Mulumbu, 63), S Cox (for Tchoyi, 71). Not used: M Fulop, N Shorey, Z Gera, C Dawson. Next: Arsenal (a). LIVERPOOL 4-4-2 J M Reina 6 G Johnson 6 M Skrtel 7 D Agger 7 J Enrique 7 J Henderson 6 Lucas Leiva 7 C Adam 7 S Downing 6 L Suarez 8 A Carroll 7 Substitutes: C Bellamy (for Suarez, 81). Not used: A Donizetti, MRodriguez, S Coates, D Kuyt, J Spearing, J Flanagan, Next: Swansea City (h).

the guardian

Dalglish in no hurry to rank Suarez and Carroll among greats

West Bromwich 0 Liverpool 2 Adam 9pen, Carroll 45

Kenny Dalglish was just finishing his press duties, satisfied that he had praised the way that Andy Carroll and Luis Suarez had linked up while at the same time avoiding the slip of the tongue that would make for a nice headline, when he was asked if the pair could develop into one of the best partnerships. "Steady, deary me," the Liverpool manager said, as he headed down the corridor with a look of disbelief on his face. Then Dalglish stopped, turned on his heel and added: "You never know."

These are still early days for Carroll and Suarez and it does not bear thinking about how the Liverpool manager would have reacted had he heard the names Dalglish and Rush, or Toshack and Keegan, mentioned in the same breath as two strikers who have started only 10 Premier League games together in as many months and are still developing an understanding of how the other likes to play. Although Carroll's injury problems have contributed to that statistic, the 22-year-old's indifferent form since arriving at Anfield and Dalglish's tactics have also played a part in restricting the opportunities Liverpool supporters have had to see their pounds 55m forward line in action. This was one of their rare joint outings and Dalglish was entitled to be pleased with the way "the wee man" and "Big Andy" combined to help Liverpool to a comfortable victory against a disappointing West Bromwich Albion side at the Hawthorns.

"There's always been signs that it will be a good partnership. The more time they spend playing with each other, the more they'll get accustomed to each other and the better it will be for everybody," Dalglish said before singling out Carroll's contribution in particular.

"I think that's big Andy's best game for us. [He was] strong, powerful and technically good. We said when Andy came in, it's a five-year investment. I don't see any reason to change it. I think he's getting his reward now for working really hard."

Carroll, whose goal was his fifth in 20 Liverpool appearances, hinted at being a little frustrated of late. "I have been disappointed to be on the bench," he said. "I have been working hard to get my place and I think I have earned it. I played well last week and today, getting a goal as well, was even better. It was great to get back in the routine of scoring."

The partnership impressed Billy Jones. "They were a threat," the West Brom defender said. "There were balls which got knocked in which Carroll wasn't favourite to win. But he turns those half-balls into good balls by getting it down and releasing other players like Suarez, who is already on his bike making good runs."

It was no surprise that Carroll's goal was set up by Suarez, who was a constant menace with his footwork and fluid movement. "He is a great player," Carroll said. "He works hard for the team, so it is nice to have him up top with me - it makes it a lot easier. He makes chances and can score goals, he can drop off and get the ball to his feet to dribble with it and slip people in."

The Uruguayan also has an uncanny knack of being at the centre of controversy and that trait resurfaced again when he went down in the area, in the eighth minute, after Jerome Thomas stepped across him. There was contact, although Charlie Adam, who converted from the spot, admitted Albion were entitled to "feel a bit aggrieved" with the penalty that Lee Mason, the referee, was reluctant to award until his assistant, Gary Beswick, raised his flag.

Paul Scharner was furious and, echoing Sir Alex Ferguson's complaints a couple of weeks ago, accused Suarez of simulation. "It was a nice dive for the penalty," said the Albion midfielder, perhaps a little harshly. "He's very good at winning penalties. He's one of the best on the planet. I had a good view of it. If that's a penalty, then you will find 1,500 penalties are given in every match."

Roy Hodgson was also upset with the decision, although the Albion manager admitted he could have no complaints with the result. Albion did not impose themselves on a Liverpool team who were without the injured Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher. The home side were toothless up front and looked vulnerable whenever Suarez and Carroll attacked.

"We are delighted with the pair of them and I think they'll get better," said Dalglish, without referring to any legends from the past.

Man of the match:

Luis Suarez

Albion found the Uruguayan impossible to mark. He was at the centre of Liverpool's best attacking moves and in the absence of Steven Gerrard has become the player that makes Dalglish's team tick

Best moment There were nutmegs and through-balls to admire but the pass that set Andy Carroll free to score was perfect

Date: 29 October 2011 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion Competition: League	Sunday Mirror	Times	Guardian	Telegraph		29 October 2011
	Echo	Independent	Mirror	Birmingham Mail		
	Mail on Sunday	Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times		

The Mail

The Daily Telegraph

Suarez's alliance with Carroll glows in duo's absence
West Bromwich 0
Liverpool 2
Adam 9 pen, Carroll 45 Att: 25,522

The omens were ominous for Liverpool. Shorn of the totemic Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher and confronted by a former manager eager to prove a point, the travelling throng from Merseyside would have been forgiven a few anxious glances as they entered the Hawthorns on Saturday evening.

In Luis Suarez, however, Anfield has a player who is not easily spooked. The Uruguayan might be embroiled in a spat with Manchester United's Patrice Evra over alleged racist remarks, but he does not appear affected: another performance of consummate class here earned three points for his club and yet another glowing endorsement from his manager, Kenny Dalglish.

The Scot admitted that he had run out of superlatives to describe Suarez's talent and potential but was delighted his front-running alliance with Andy Carroll was beginning to reap its rewards.

"I think the two of them have a fantastic partnership," said Dalglish, who saw a Charlie Adam penalty and a Carroll finish, both created by Suarez, hoist his side to fifth in the table. "The longer they play together, the better for them."

If it was shades of the 'Smash and Grab' duo of big John Toshack and the diminutive Kevin Keegan that inspired Merseyside success in the 1970s, Dalglish avoided any comparisons.

"It was big Andy's best game for us, technically and otherwise. Andy was always a five-year investment and I don't see any reason to change my mind on that.

"The goal he scored was on the floor so his height didn't matter. The more they [Suarez and Carroll] see of each other in training the more accustomed they will become and be better for us."

Roy Hodgson, the Albion manager, was livid when Lee Mason awarded the pivotal penalty for a clumsy tackle by Jerome Thomas on Suarez that Adam converted to secure a lead Liverpool seldom looked likely to yield. At close proximity to the incident, Mason had ignored the challenge only to change his mind on spotting the raised flag of his linesman, a decision that provoked Hodgson to touchline incandescence and a symbolic discarding of his top coat, thrown angrily to the ground.

Last April, the 64-year-old Hodgson had expounded on the pressures of the job after Gerard Houllier's heart scare at Aston Villa, a year after Sam Allardyce's similar health concerns. But while the LMA [League Managers' Association] insist on regular checks for its members, Hodgson is more concerned about the implications of the kind of refereeing aberrations he endured here.

"It's not a question of the standard of officiating but making sure that the really, really big decisions are not treated as lightly as they seem to be on occasions," said Hodgson, while admitting his side were second best to the club that sacked him last January.

"There are situations, like the one we had tonight and others where I have seen penalties given when people are blocking shots and accidentally the ball strikes their hands, that is the type of thing that needs to be debated.

"The actual refereeing isn't poor. It's quite incredible how linesmen get it right with offside decisions when I would be hard pushed to tell you if a player was onside or not without the help of video evidence.

"But it is coming around to who does actually decide these games. Sometimes, especially when you are playing away from home, the ball is blocked by a player in your penalty area and 20,000 people shout 'penalty' and you are frightened to death that it is going to be given."

West Brom defender Billy Jones said: "It was a bit of a harsh penalty, and going 1-0 down against Liverpool, it is always going to be hard. I don't think it was a penalty. Jerome was in a good position. I think he has taken a touch and Suarez has got himself in front of him. We spoke beforehand of being careful of Suarez in the penalty area because he has won penalties before for Liverpool."

Equally concerning was Albion's listless display after two successive derby victories over Wolves and Aston Villa, Jonas Olsson's wayward distribution inviting Suarez to release Carroll for a cumbersome second in first-half stoppage time.

Dalglish's strange admission that he was unaware of how many points his team had collected following this victory did not temper a sense of satisfaction in beating Hodgson, who the Scot blamed for Liverpool's struggles in the first half of last season in a thinly veiled reference at Villa Park in May. A dish of revenge doubtless served cold by the Liverpool legend.

Date: 29 October 2011 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion Competition: League	Sunday Mirror	Times	Guardian	Telegraph		29 October 2011
	Echo	Independent	Mirror	Birmingham Mail		
	Mail on Sunday	Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times		



Suarez in the spotlight again after diving claim

Any hope Kenny Dalglish harboured about quelling the diving debate surrounding Luis Suarez seemed doomed after **Albion's** Paul Scharner offered his thoughts on the Uruguayan's knack of winning penalties.

Television replays suggested Suarez had been the beneficiary of nothing more sinister than some generous refereeing in gaining the ninth-minute spot kick, from which Charlie Adam put **Liverpool** ahead, but Scharner took a less magnanimous view. The Austrian midfielder said that, when it comes to securing decisions in his favour in opposition penalty areas, Suarez is "one of the best on the planet."

"It was a nice dive for the penalty," Scharner said, after referee Lee Mason, advised by his assistant, decided Jerome Thomas had brought Suarez down in what **Albion** manager Roy Hodgson claimed was a fair attempt to screen the ball. Scharner also agreed with Sir Alex Ferguson's comment, made after Manchester United's draw at **Liverpool** two weeks ago, that Suarez "dives all over the place." "Yes, he's very good at winning penalties. He's one of the best on the planet, in fact," Scharner said.

"I had a good view of it. If that's a penalty, then you will find 1500 penalties are given in every match. I know it was the assistant - maybe he had a better view than the referee. But everyone in our dressing room felt that [it was a soft decision]."

Scharner's remarks came a week after Suarez was denied a penalty against Norwich by a referee who thought he dived and days after Dalglish, mindful of Ferguson's criticism, tried to defend the striker by highlighting an incident during **Liverpool's** Carling Cup win at Stoke in midweek, when Suarez suffered an injury, Dalglish said, because he tried to stay on his feet.

Dalglish might be better advised to impress on Suarez - still playing in the shadow of accusations of racial vilification, levelled by United's Patrice Evra - that what might be seen by some audiences as admirably cunning tends to be regarded otherwise by English fans. The penny may drop eventually, as it did, he might recall, for Didier Drogba.

In the meantime, the debate remains a distraction, which is a pity because **Liverpool**, even with Gerrard still struggling for fitness, are beginning to resemble a force. The England midfielder, who has made only two starts since his six-month lay-off following a groin operation, has an ankle infection due to be assessed today.

In his absence, Adam has grown in authority. He and Lucas Leiva dominated central midfield and **Liverpool** created enough chances for many more goals had Suarez and Andy Carroll been more efficient. As it was, after Leiva took advantage of Jonas Olsson's poorly taken free-kick, Carroll scored his third goal of the season just before half-time and **Liverpool** were comfortable.



LUIS CARROLL

PREMIER LEAGUE: WEST BROM 0 LIVERPOOL 2

WEST BROM: Foster 6, Reid 7, McAuley 7, Olsson 7, Jones 7, Thomas 6, Scharner 6 (Morrison 58, 6), Mulumbu 6 (Dorrans 63, 6), Brunt 7, Tchoyi 6 (Cox 71, 6), Odemwingie 6 LIVERPOOL: Reina 6, Johnson 7, Agger 6, Skrtel 6, Enrique 7, Henderson 6, Adam 7, Lucas 7, Downing 7, Suarez 9 (Bellamy 82, 6), Carroll 6

Goals: Adam (pen) 9, Carroll 45 REFEREE: Lee Mason ATTENDANCE: 25,522 Andy's in wonderland now he's earned his starting place alongside Suarez ANDY CARROLL insists he now deserves to keep his Liverpool place as his strike partnership with Luis Suarez is really starting to take off.

Carroll, 22, has endured a tough time at Anfield since his pounds 35million record move from Newcastle in January.

He has struggled for form and fitness and lost his England place after managing just two goals for the Reds last term.

But Carroll has now started in back-to-back victories for Kenny Dalglish's team. The Geordie and his team-mate Suarez, 24, were far too hot for West Brom to handle at The Hawthorns.

Carroll bagged his second goal in four appearances to enhance his starting claims after being teed up by man-of-the-match Suarez.

He said: "Luis is a great player, he works hard for the team so it is nice to have him up top with me - it makes it a lot easier.

"He makes chances and can score goals himself so he is a great player himself. He can drop off and get the ball to his feet to dribble with it and slip people in.

"We are playing well together at the minute and hope it will carry on. I must admit I have been disappointed to be on the bench. "I have been working hard to get my place and I think I have earned it. I played well last week and getting a goal as well this weekend was even better."

Carroll's improved form is a huge boost for boss Dalglish, whose side have now not lost in seven matches.

Liverpool coped well without influential duo Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher to keep only their third clean sheet of the season.

And Suarez underlined his growing reputation with another supershow which really merited a goal.

But he won the visitors' disputed penalty when the assistant referee flagged for clumsy foul on him by Jerome Thomas.

That enabled Charlie Adam to fire Liverpool ahead as early as the ninth minute - even if he had to grab the ball away from Carroll who also fancied the spot-kick. Carroll got on the scoresheet eventually, though, when he notched a second in the 45th minute from Suarez's pass to take his tally for the campaign to four.

And Carroll continued to purr about his fellow forward postmatch.

Asked if Suarez was the best player in the league, Carroll replied: "I couldn't name anyone else.

"Luis is a great player and it is even better to have him in the team alongside me. Luis is great in training every day, day in day out. He is a fantastic player to have in the squad."

Carroll also insisted unproven allegations of racism by Patrice Evra against Suarez have not disrupted the Uruguayan's form.

Carroll added: "He knows what he did and didn't do and has to get on with it. Whatever happens happens.

"He is a great player and he has shown it on the pitch again."

Carroll's return to form could see him back in Fabio Capello's England squad for November's friendly double-header.

And the 6ft 3in star, muchcriticised for his off-the-field behaviour, insists he has been striving to improve his fitness with a new-found maturity.

He said: "I am working hard in training every day to get my fitness up. I can only say I am working my hardest to get back the way I was.

"I just need to keep getting my name on the starting sheet every week and see what happens from there.

"It is disappointing when you are sitting on the bench but it only makes you work harder the next day in training to get your place back."

Date: 29 October 2011

Opposition: West Bromwich Albion

Competition: League

Sunday Mirror	Times	Guardian	Telegraph
Echo	Independent	Mirror	Birmingham Mail
Mail on Sunday	Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times



29 October
2011



LIVERPOOL climbed to fifth place in the Premier League after a comfortable 2-0 victory over West Brom at The Hawthorns. First half goals from Charlie Adam and Andy Carroll ensured the Reds took maximum points after the frustration of recent draws with Manchester United and Norwich City. Kenny Dalglish's men dominated throughout and should have inflicted a much heavier defeat on former boss Roy Hodgson. It was sweet revenge for the 1-0 defeat Liverpool suffered on their previous visit to face the Baggies back in April and victory lifted them to within a point of third placed Chelsea. Aside from a stack of missed chances, Dalglish will have taken great satisfaction from the manner of the performance as the Reds kept only their third clean sheet in 13 games this season.

There were four changes to the Liverpool side which drew 1-1 with Norwich at Anfield a week earlier.

Skipper Steven Gerrard was ruled out after picking up a minor knock in training, while Jamie Carragher was sidelined with a calf injury suffered in the midweek Carling Cup win at Stoke.

Craig Bellamy and Dirk Kuyt dropped to the bench as Lucas Leiva, Daniel Agger, Carroll and Jordan Henderson returned to the line up. Suarez passed a fitness test on an ankle problem and the Reds' top scorer was soon in the thick of it.

Inside the opening minute Suarez was picked out by Jose Enrique's defence splitting pass but his control let him down and the opening went begging. The visitors continued to dominate with Adam firing over from the edge of the box after being teed up by Suarez.

Liverpool early dominance was rewarded with the opening goal in the ninth minute. Suarez pounced on a defensive error in the box and was clumsily upended by Jerome Thomas.

The striker didn't appeal for a penalty and swiftly picked himself up but the assistant rightly flagged and referee Lee Mason pointed to the spot.

After prolonged protests from the Baggies, Adam stepped up to send Ben Foster the wrong way. The Reds continued to boss proceedings and were unfortunate not to earn themselves another spot-kick.

First, Jonas Olsson got away with clattering into Carroll and then Steven Reid blocked the big frontman's goal-bound header from Suarez's cross with his hand. Carroll and Suarez linked up well as Liverpool threatened to add to their tally.

Ten minutes before the break Martin Skrtel met Adam's corner at the back post and knocked it back across goal but Suarez blazed over the bar.

The Baggies briefly came to life and the impressive Skrtel made a key block from Paul Scharner's strike. However, the Reds were soon back on top and they doubled their account in stoppage time at the end of the first half.

Lucas found Suarez in space down the right and he expertly picked out the unmarked Carroll charging through the centre.

Carroll made it difficult for himself with a poor touch but then with the outside of his boot brilliantly bent a shot past the onrushing Foster.

Somen Tchoyi dragged a shot narrowly wide early in the second half but a comeback from the hosts failed to materialise.

The Baggies simply couldn't handle Suarez whose breathtaking skills left them chasing shadows.

Suarez fired over after latching on to a pass from Enrique and was then denied by Olsson's brave block after being teed up by Carroll.

When his attempted chip over Foster after another mazy run cleared the bar, Suarez kicked the ground in frustration but he received a standing ovation in front of the away end.

In the 65th minute Enrique almost grabbed his first goal for the Reds but Foster thwarted him with a finger-tip save.

The Baggies keeper was called into action again soon after to parry away Carroll's fierce strike.

Suarez departed to a standing ovation nine minutes from time and was replaced by Bellamy.

Stewart Downing almost netted a third at the death but his shot cannoned back off the post.

West Brom: Foster, Reid, Olsson, McAuley, Jones, Brunt, Scharner (Morrison 58), Mulumbu (Dorrans 63), Thomas, Odemwingie, Tchoyi (Cox 70). Not used: Fulop, Shorey, Gera, Dawson.

Liverpool: Reina, Johnson, Skrtel, Agger, Enrique, Henderson, Adam, Lucas, Downing, Suarez (Bellamy 81), Carroll. Not used: Doni, Maxi, Coates, Kuyt, Spearing, Flanagan.

Referee: Lee Mason (Lancashire)



WELCOME to the long, hard winter.

And so the clocks went back. But not enough for some people's liking. Albion lost to Liverpool, which wasn't really a major surprise. Liverpool cried foul before 10 minutes had elapsed at The Hawthorns on Saturday. After the game it was Albion asking the questions and pointing fingers towards the officials' room.

Charlie Adam scored the penalty.

Yet when Kenny Dalglish fields individuals who cost more than the entire Baggies squad then you have to know your place in football's society.

You can squander the best part of £35million on Andy Carroll. But then you can also pay a little less and acquire yourself a Luis Suarez. The Uruguayan is an enigmatic force. A dazzling technician, a wonderful manipulator of the ball. But then there's the other side of him. When Jerome Thomas decided to screen the ball away from Suarez he probably wasn't expecting the Liverpool man to fall so easily.

We can debate the whys and what fors of penalties all day - it seemed a brave decision for the linesman Gary Beswick to make in real time.

Replays proved that the player fell very easily. Was Suarez imeded? Yes. Did Suarez fall easily? Probably, but if it's a foul then it's irrelevant.

The bigger question should be why Albion put themselves in such a position so early in the game. Liverpool took charge of the game from the first whistle and pretty much monopolised the dynamics of the remainder of Saturday's game.

They were to clinch the victory deep into the first-half. A poor pass from Jonas Olsson was easily collected by Lucas Leiva. Suarez took on the ball, passed to Carroll, who was granted way too much room by an Albion defence who had committed way too far up the field.

Of course we'll never know whether a 0-0 scoreline would have prompted Gareth McAuley and co to venture so far up the field at such a key point in the game. But it backfired. Carroll didn't carry the ball particularly cleanly, but he did enough to beat the advancing Foster. Albion couldn't respond to that blow.

It was a thorough and efficient task. One which Liverpool did without any fuss. In recent games, Wolves and Villa had granted Albion licence to press and create from midfield. Paul Scharner and Youssouf Mulumbu had previously impacted from the centre - on Saturday they weren't allowed to.

Scharner suffered the wounding blow of potential knee ligament damage when he landed awkwardly, while Mulumbu lacked intensity.

In truth, Liverpool put paid to this from the start. When asked about Scharner's injury after the game, Hodgson admitted that Scharner was due for the hook regardless of his injury. And if we're to assume he misses the next game and beyond then James Morrison did his credentials no harm.

The Scotland midfielder quickly shored up the territory between the centre and the final third. Where the front two had previously been so isolated, suddenly there was more synergy between midfield and attack. Graham Dorrans had a similar impact. Both should be serious considerations for Saturday's game at Arsenal. Up front, Albion were lacking in any significant imagination or impact. Somen Tchoyi had to feed off too many high balls. His contribution was sporadic to say the least. Peter Odemwingie was even less convincing. You have to assume that Hodgson's decision to bring on Simon Cox for Tchoyi late-on was to see how the Ireland international would combine with Odemwingie. The Nigerian had certainly done little to warrant an extended run for any other reason.

That said, they needed help much sooner. And credit must go to Liverpool. While Suarez was dominant in his particular field, so too was a Liverpool backline who easily won their territorial battle. Lucas was key to cutting off Albion's main supply in front of his backline. Albion were impotent where they need to threaten, and panicky in areas where they needed to dominate possession. As a result passes were sloppy and there was little cohesion.

At times Albion could have done with an extra man in midfield but it's questionable whether that would have made any difference to the overall outcome. If anything it was the introduction of two 'playmakers' in Morrison and Dorrans at the expense of two more traditional 'ballwinners' which made the difference to Albion's play late on. Ultimately, much of Albion's deficiencies on Saturday came down to a contrast in the abilities between the two sides.

Liverpool are by no means a dominant force in football - they are still some way behind the Manchester clubs for instance - but they are still some way ahead of Albion. The Baggies enjoyed great success at Arsenal, this week's opponents, and at home to Liverpool last season.

They were famously the only club to take points at Old Trafford.

All of this becomes irrelevant this season, yet it will be remembered and will raise expectancy. Those results were not the norm. And nothing we've seen this season suggests otherwise. Hodgson's side must pick out the usual suspects we'll see in the bottom half of the table. This is where the exchange of points will be crucial. It's imperative that Albion find a way to adjust how they play when things aren't quite working. They mustn't think that one system and one system only will be enough. Opposition sides will find that too easy. The Baggies need to maintain an element of surprise and the unexpected.

They are certainly better than Saturday's display suggested.

Date: 29 October 2011

Opposition: West Bromwich Albion

Competition: League

Sunday Mirror	Times	Guardian	Telegraph
Echo	Independent	Mirror	Birmingham Mail
Mail on Sunday	Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times



29 October
2011

Inspired Suarez falls to keep Liverpool rising

Liverpool had to manage again without Steven Gerrard but turned in a performance to confirm the view that they have found another inspirational force after the energy of Luis Suarez drove them to a third victory in an unbeaten run of five, to go fifth in the Premier League.

Despite numerous chances, the Uruguayan failed to add to the two fine goals he scored against Stoke in the Carling Cup in midweek - which earned his side a quarter-final against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge - yet his perpetual willingness to be at the heart of the action set an example his team-mates were almost obliged to match. Goals from Charlie Adam, from a penalty won by Suarez, and Andy Carroll, from Suarez's pass, saw Liverpool home.

Liverpool insisted that Gerrard's absence had nothing to do with the groin problem that caused him a six-month lay-off but was due to an ankle infection. Yet manager Kenny Dalglish could offer no guidance on when the England midfielder would return. "It's nothing to do with any injury he has had before and he was in our minds to play today before it flared up," Dalglish said.

Jamie Carragher was missing with a calf strain, but the ankle injury that Suarez suffered at Stoke had cleared up and he found himself at the centre of controversy when Liverpool were awarded the penalty from which Adam gave them the lead after nine minutes.

Referee Lee Mason appeared unmoved when Jerome Thomas blocked Suarez's path after the striker attempted to push the ball past him, but he gave the penalty on the advice of his assistant, whose view that Thomas barged into the Liverpool player while making no attempt to play the ball was supported by television replays.

Albion's manager Roy Hodgson took a different view. "I think my player was entitled to screen the ball to clear the ball and it worries me that penalties are given for things like that," he said. "I think that penalties should be a bit harder to achieve." Dalglish had no opinion on the matter. "I'm not trying to be evasive," he said. "I couldn't tell from my view and I haven't seen the replays."

Hodgson became more and more frustrated with Mason's decision-making. One free-kick given Liverpool's way prompted him to throw his coat on to the floor in exasperation, although he put it back on quickly on a chilly night after Suarez took aim but fired well over the bar.

He had feared he might be on the wrong end of a Suarez-inspired nightmare after being thwarted in his attempts to sign the former Ajax forward while he was Liverpool's manager. Yet his erstwhile quarry, for all his dazzling footwork and penchant for spectacular goals, could not produce finishing to match. He lofted the ball over the bar when Martin Skrtel set him up inside the six-yard box in the first half and a sequence of intricate manoeuvres in the second half each ended with shots that missed the target.

Liverpool were still two goals to the good at half-time after Lucas Leiva intercepted a free-kick by Jonas Olsson with Albion set up to attack. Lucas sent Suarez clear with Carroll breaking into space down the middle. Suarez's pass was true and though his team-mate's first touch was dreadful, his second just managed to push it past Ben Foster.

Albion at least managed a meaningful attack at the start of the second half, with Somen Tchoyi going close, and they were more effective after Graham Dorrans and James Morrison replaced Youssef Mulumbu and Paul Scharner in central midfield - changes Hodgson was planning to make irrespective of the knee injury that forced the latter to withdraw.

Yet the threat of more goals came from Liverpool. In addition to the chances Suarez did not take, he was denied by Olsson's block with one that was heading for goal. Foster saved from Carroll and Jose Enrique and Stewart Downing hit a post in the 90th minute.

West Bromwich (4-4-2): Foster; Reid, McAuley, Olsson, Jones; Brunt, Sharnier (Morrison, 58), Mulumbu (Dorrans, 62), Thomas; Odemwingie, Tchoyi (Cox, 71).
Liverpool (4-4-2): Reina; Johnson, Agger, Skrtel, Jose Enrique; Henderson, Lucas, Adam, Downing; Carroll, Suarez (Bellamy, 81).

Referee: Lee Mason

Man of the match: Suarez (Liverpool)

Match rating: 7/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Suarez takes Gerrard's mantle

West Bromwich 0

Liverpool 2

Adam 8pen, Carroll 45 Att: 25,522

Who needs Steven Gerrard when you have Luis Suarez? Liverpool are learning to live without their captain and talisman, who was missing again yesterday with an ankle injury that may force him to miss England's friendly with Spain in a fortnight's time. Gerrard has not played for his country in almost a year, and has played only eight full games for Liverpool since the new year, when Kenny Dalglish signed Suarez from Ajax for [pounds sterling]23million.

Roy Hodgson, the defeated manager, claimed he did the groundwork for the Uruguayan's transfer before being sacked by Liverpool. He might regret that work now, after Suarez orchestrated a Liverpool victory that took them back to fifth place in the table, albeit in controversial style.

Suarez won the penalty with which Charlie Adam opened the scoring in the eighth minute, and then set up Andy Carroll to make it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time.

Liverpool had already wasted a couple of early chances by the time they took an eighth-minute lead. Suarez failed to control a long pass from Jose Enrique that would have put him clean through on goal, and then Adam blasted a shot high over the bar.

But the Scottish midfielder made no mistake from the penalty spot after the controversial decision against Thomas. The midfielder stepped in between Suarez and the ball, barging the Uruguayan to the ground, but referee Lee Mason saw no offence until his assistant, Gary Beswick, waved his flag. Television replays showed contact between the players, though whether it was enough to warrant a penalty was open to question. Albion's players and supporters protested vehemently and it took almost a minute before Adam was able to send Ben Foster the wrong way from the penalty spot.

Liverpool could have had another penalty in the 23rd minute when Carroll's header thumped against Steven Reid's arm from point-blank range, but this time Mason declined the appeal.

The striker was not to be denied for too long, however, as he extended Liverpool's lead on the stroke of half-time. A mistake in the centre of the pitch allowed Lucas Leiva to play the ball out to Suarez on the right, and his diagonal pass towards Carroll gave the striker the advantage over the advancing Foster. Carroll duly got to the ball first to poke it past the goalkeeper for his second goal of the season. Liverpool looked comfortable even without Gerrard, who missed out with an ankle infection after a kick in training on Friday.

Dalglish was quick to stress that it was unrelated to Gerrard's other injuries that had kept him out of action for most of the past year, and said the England midfielder could be back in action by next weekend.

It could be argued that Gerrard is no longer Liverpool's most important player, given the influence of Suarez. The Uruguayan has scored seven goals this season and been involved in many more, and went close to increasing his tally twice early in the second half.

He did get the ball in the net in the 58th minute, but from an offside position.

Enrique went close after overlapping on the left wing, with Foster doing well to tip over the full-back's shot. It was not all one-way traffic, but despite West Brom's neat build-up play, they could not find a cutting edge.

Liverpool, by contrast, were raining shots on goal, and Foster did well to save a thunderous volley from Carroll in the 70th minute, shortly before the striker hit another shot horribly wide.

But it did not matter as Liverpool, by then, were effectively home and dry. WBA (4-4-2): Foster; Reid, McAuley, Olsson, Jones; Brunt, Mulumbu (Dorrans 62), Scharner (Morrison 58), Thomas; Odemwingie, Tchoyi (Cox 71). Subs: Fulop (g), Shorey, Gera, Dawson. Booked: Olsson.

Liverpool (4-4-2): Reina; Johnson, Agger, Skrtel, Jose Enrique; Downing, Lucas, Henderson, Adam; Carroll, Suarez (Bellamy 81). Subs: Doni (g), Maxi, Coates, Kuyt, Spearing, Flanagan.

Referee: L Mason (Lancs).

Date: 29 October 2011	Sunday Mirror	Times	Guardian	Telegraph		29 October 2011
Opposition: West Bromwich Albion	Echo	Independent	Mirror	Birmingham Mail		
Competition: League	Mail on Sunday	Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times		



Suarez leads way

WEST BROM 0

LIVERPOOL 2

Adam 9 pen, Carroll 45+1

ROY HODGSON'S failure at Liverpool, many Reds supporters believe, was one of style as well as results. This was a match that represented an opportunity to demonstrate why their support for Kenny Dalglish is based on more than memories, and the manner in which the Scot's Liverpool totally outplayed Hodgson's West Bromwich Albion will no doubt be seen very much as point made. It was also, however, another game that emphasised the vital importance to Liverpool of the outstanding Luis Suarez. The Uruguayan may not have scored but he created both goals and, with his wonderful touch and awareness, was a constant threat to Hodgson's much-improved Albion defence - so much so that the absence of Jamie Carragher and, yet again, Steven Gerrard, this time with what Dalglish described as an infected ankle, was not noticed.

Which, as Dalglish pointed out, from a Liverpool point of view is reassuring: "We're better with Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher in the squad, they've done magnificently for the football club and will continue to do so, but I suppose it's a reflection on the squad that we are still commenting on such a good performance."

Even when, as he said, none of his players had cause for disappointment in their performance last night, he could hardly avoid singling out Suarez. "I said after a week of working with him that I'd run out of superlatives, and that still applies. In a group of players there's usually some who excel a little bit more than others, and for us it seems to be Luis quite often - but that's not to say the others are too far behind."

Dalglish declined to speculate on whether Gerrard is expected to be fit to be part of the England squad for the forthcoming matches against Spain and Sweden. His decision to partner Suarez with Andy Carroll up front meant that both sides played a more or less orthodox 4-4-2, and given the room Suarez found to set up Charlie Adam for a shot in only the second minute, it looked as though the tactical match-up might suit Liverpool more. Adam put the ball well over the bar but the former Blackpool midfielder was soon to be less wasteful.

That he was given the opportunity, however, was controversial. Judging by his lack of reaction, referee Lee Mason saw nothing wrong with the challenge by Jerome Thomas that left Suarez on the floor just inside the Albion penalty area, but assistant Gary Beswick did and signalled as much. After a considerable delay as the Albion players made their feelings plain, Adam sent Ben Foster the wrong way from the spot. Replays did at least confirm contact. If the decision was generous to the visitors, Albion could not blame the referee for the way in which Liverpool controlled the game from then on. Throughout the first half the pairing of Adam and Lucas in central midfield constantly brought their wingers and strikers into the game, and Liverpool should have extended their lead when Martin Skrtel, up for a corner, sidefooted the loose ball back across the sixyard box only for Suarez, on the turn, to shoot over the bar.

Suarez is far from being just a finisher and in first-half stoppage time he made Liverpool's second with a superb first-time volleyed pass from the right that sent Carroll clear down the centre. The former Newcastle United forward almost bungled it with a typically heavy first touch but was still able to get to the ball just in time to squeeze it under the advancing Foster.

Albion, in contrast, failed to make Pepe Reina produce a save, though they had their moments. The most promising came five minutes before the break when Peter Odemwingie's lay-off enabled Tchoyi to send in a low cross that neither Odemwingie nor Thomas could quite reach.

Albion improved after the break but after Tchoyi drove wide in the 47th minute, Liverpool should have picked them off any number of times on the break. Foster beat out a Carroll volley and in time added on, Stewart Downing drove the ball against the goalkeeper's lefthand post.

Hodgson rang the changes but the one he would surely have wanted to make most of all, the removal of Suarez, was not his to make, and Albion were a beaten side long before Dalglish sent on Craig Bellamy in his place.

Hodgson had his grumble about the penalty decision - "They should be harder to earn than that," he suggested - but went on to acknowledge Albion had been very much second best.

West Brom: Foster 6, Reid 5, Olsson 6, McAuley 5, Jones 6, Brunt 5, Scharner 6 (Morrison 58min, 6), Mulumbu 6 (Dorrans 62min), Thomas 5, Odemwingie 4, Tchoyi 5 (Cox 71min)

Liverpool: Reina 7, Johnson 7, Skrtel 7, Agger 8, Jose Enrique 7, Henderson 7, Adam 8, Lucas 8, Downing 7, Suarez 9 (Bellamy 81min), Carroll 7

Foster 4-4-2 Reid Olsson McAuley Jones Thomas Brunt Scharner Mulumbu Odemwingie Tchoyi Reina 4-4-2 Agger Jose Enrique Johnson Skrtel Lucas Suarez Carroll Downing Henderson Adam Star man: Luis Suarez (Liverpool) Yellow card:

West Brom: Olsson Referee: L Mason Attendance: 25,522



Date: 29 October 2011 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion Competition: League	Sunday Mirror	Times	Guardian	Telegraph		29 October 2011
	Echo	Independent	Mirror	Birmingham Mail		
	Mail on Sunday	Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times		



Suarez the livewire is Liverpool's trump card; He wins an early penalty then lays on Carroll goal
WEST BROM 0
LIVERPOOL 2
Adam (9 pen), Carroll (45)
LUIS SUAREZ put on another Midlands masterclass last night to steer Liverpool comfortably past their former manager Roy Hodgson.
On Wednesday evening at Stoke, the brilliant striker scored a winning double. Last night he created two more and they were probably of greater importance, since they enabled Kenny Dalglish's men to return to winning ways in the Premier League.
Goalscorers Charlie Adam and Andy Carroll were the chief beneficiaries of the Suarez magic. But there is no doubt that Liverpool could have paid twice the [pounds sterling]22.8 million they gave Ajax for their brightest star, and he would still have been good value.
West Bromwich never caught fire as Suarez and his unselfish game stole the show. Somen Tchoyi's 47th-minute effort was probably the best Albion managed, and even that drifted wide.
Carroll, who cost [pounds sterling]35m, does not possess a fraction of his fellow Liverpool striker Suarez's technique and knowhow.
Albion fans booed the Uruguayan off eight minutes from time -- upset at the early penalty he earned -- but they knew he had outwitted and mesmerised their favourites all game with his vision and dribbling.
It took just eight minutes for a storm of controversy to descend on The Hawthorns.
Jerome Thomas jostled Suarez without getting the ball, and the wily Uruguayan went to ground. Referee Lee Mason relied on his assistant, Gary Beswick, to award the penalty, a decision which could be described as both soft and technically correct, depending on your allegiance.
Hodgson looked horrified at the prospect of falling behind so early to the club that sacked him in January after just 31 games in charge.
The home side used every piece of gamesmanship available to them in a bid to unnerve Adam as he waited to take the spot-kick. Jonas Olsson tussled with Carroll on the edge of the area, Mason stepping in to keep them apart, then Albion keeper Ben Foster manufactured a further delay before the referee ordered him back to his line.
But Adam kept a cool head, his nerve untroubled by a whole minute of amateur dramatics. The Scotland midfielder strolled nonchalantly up to send Foster the wrong way.
Very little came from the Baggies during the opening quarter, even though they had won the corresponding fixture 2-1 last season. It was as though Dalglish had impressed upon his players the importance of staying in touch with the other clubs vying for the all-important Champions League places.
Adam almost caught out the Albion defence with an exquisite 60-yard pass, but Stewart Downing's anticipation did not quite match the quality of delivery.
Liverpool might have gone further ahead when a perceptive Suarez cross found the head of Carroll. Almost as soon as the England striker had directed his effort goalwards, it struck the arm of Steven Reid but another penalty would have been harsh on Albion and Mason decided against it.
That did not make the official any more popular with the home supporters, especially when he penalised Peter Odemwingie for illegally turning Daniel Agger. Odemwingie would have been clear had he not been pulled up, and the decision looked generous to the Liverpool defender.
Olsson resumed his personal battle with Carroll by clattering into the back of the former Newcastle star, earning himself a yellow card in the process.
When Martin Skrtel crossed for Suarez, the South American sent his finish over the bar, having struggled in vain to maintain his balance on the turn.
Albion, fresh from derby victories over Wolves and Aston Villa, had the chance of a 40th-minute equaliser but Odemwingie was unable to meet Tchoyi's low cross. They soon paid for it when one misdirected Albion pass gave Liverpool a two-goal cushion just before the break.
Lucas Leiva seized possession and sent a sudden pass to Suarez, whose first-time lay-off for Carroll was a piece of defencesplitting brilliance.
The England centre forward failed to show a similarly world class first touch and was fortunate that Foster was not quite out quickly enough to deny him a second bite at the cherry.
As it was, Carroll was able to prod the ball low past his adversary to leave Dalglish jumping for joy on the touchline.
WEST BROM (4-4-2): Foster; Reid, McAuley, Olsson, Jones; Brunt, Scharner (Morrison 58min), Mulumbu (Dorrans 62), Thomas; Odemwingie, Tchoyi (Cox 71). Subs (not used): Fulop, Shorey, Gera, Dawson. Booked: Olsson.
LIVERPOOL (4-2-2-2): Reina; Johnson, Skrtel, Agger, Enrique; Lucas, Adam; Henderson, Downing; Carroll, Suarez (Bellamy 81). Subs (not used): Doni, Rodriguez, Coates, Kuyt, Spearing, Flanagan.
Referee: L Mason.



ADAM 'N' EVE IT! Liverpool's Charlie makes

Baggies pay the penalty

WEST BROM 0

LIVERPOOL 2

Adam (pen) 9, Carroll 45+1

SUDDENLY it doesn't matter quite so much if Steven Gerrard is missing.

The skipper who was the Reds inspiration has now played only eight full games this calendar year - but Luis Suarez is turning into the Kop's new talisman.

And the striker underlined it with a brilliant display last night.

He won an early penalty for Charlie Adam then set up Andy Carroll for a second goal as Kenny Dalglish's side extended their unbeaten run to seven games.

The penalty was a major bonus for Dalglish after losing both his skipper Gerrard and inspirational defender Jamie Carragher through injury.

Gerrard's comeback from seven months out with a groin strain was disrupted because he got a kick on his ankle in training, while Carragher has a calf strain.

The two have been the heartbeat of Liverpool's side for so long - this was only the ninth time in more than five seasons that the Reds had started a Premier League game without both of their two local heroes in the lineup.

There is the temptation to think that Suarez is rapidly becoming Liverpool's most crucial player, and he did beat a fitness test on an ankle injury.

The Uruguayan who cost pounds 22million from Ajax last January is fast becoming the playmaker, and he should have scored after just a minute but

didn't get a good touch on Jose Enrique's through ball.

Then he wriggled clear to set up Adam for a shot that flew high over the bar, before his determination to be involved in everything brought him into position to win what was a very soft penalty.

Albion boss Roy Hodgson wouldn't admit it, but there was a certain rough justice about it.

Referee Lee Mason was a couple of yards from Suarez as he tumbled over a challenge by Jerome Thomas - and saw nothing wrong.

But his linesman Gary Beswick immediately signalled for a foul and a penalty, much to the horror of the home defenders who surrounded Mason in protest.

A week ago Albion had been given a lifeline at Villa when another assistant ref - World Cup official Darren Cann - gave a penalty and red card in their favour for an offence that was subsequently ruled on appeal not to have happened.

It was more than a minute before the fuss died down, but Charlie Adam was the coolest around as he stepped up to drill the ball into the bottom left-hand corner while Ben Foster dived the other way.

Liverpool claimed they could have had another spot-kick soon after, as Carroll met a Suarez cross with a header that cannoned off the arm of defender Steven Reid, but Mason ruled it was accidental and gave a corner.

Albion were struggling to get in the game, and defender Jonas Olsson tried to liven up the crowd by clattering into Carroll, a foul that rightly got him awarded a yellow card. But you couldn't fault the determination of the giant Swedish centre half, and he made a brilliant block to stop Carroll turning home a Stewart Downing cross just before the break.

But a few minutes later he spoilt all that by giving a second goal away, knocking the ball straight to Lucas who released Suarez.

The South American picked out the perfect pass for Carroll to knock it past the despairing Foster and into an empty net.

Somen Tchoyi raised some hope for the home side with a shot on the turn soon after the restart, but the Red tide kept rolling.

The travelling Kop fans were singing "I just can't get enough of Suarez," and it wasn't hard to see why. He set up Adam for a shot that was blocked, and then beat two defenders on a break before Foster saved at his feet.

He was irresistible, forcing Olsson to make a block and then trying a brilliant chip that went just over - and West Brom had no answer.

ELLIS' VERDICT

LIVERPOOL probably didn't need the help of an early soft penalty.

But once they'd got it there was only ever going to be one result.

Killer stat Charlie Adam has scored eight of his nine Premier League penalties 8