

Date: 20 September 2012

Berner Zeitung

Times

Telegraph

Echo

Opposition: Berner SC Young Boys

Guardian

Mirror

Post

Competition: Europa League

Independent

Mail

BBC



20 September  
2012

# THE TIMES

Shelvey adds finishing flourish to mixed-up Liverpool triumph

Young Boys 3

Liverpool 5

Tony Barrett Berne

If making sense of Liverpool has been a test for Brendan Rodgers ever since he took over as manager, comprehending the contradictory factors which underpinned the biggest victory of his tenure so far is a challenge in itself. Rodgers had hoped, albeit not expected, that his youthful team would flourish against the Young Boys, of Berne, and his optimism was rewarded with the biggest victory of his tenure to date, but it was one that will inevitably raise as many questions about the quality of the opposition as it does provide answers about the strength of his own squad.

"Talk about the goals we scored," Rodgers said after being pressed on whether he was concerned about the three they had conceded. In that, he had a point. A Liverpool squad with an average age of 21 had come through a stern examination and emerged with both honour and the reputations of some, if not others, enhanced.

Andre Wisdom started the season as Liverpool's fourth-choice right back but was their best performer in Berne. Suso would have joined Burnley on loan on transfer deadline day only for the move to fall through and, like his fellow Academy graduate Wisdom, the 19-year-old flourished on the big stage, even outshining Nuri Sahin as the increasingly compelling tie wore on.

While in Jonjo Shelvey, who came off the bench to score twice, Rodgers believes he may have unearthed a midfield player capable of adding the goals that the senior side have lacked.

Liverpool had been handed the perfect start when Juhani Ojala scored an own goal after just three minutes. The Young Boys defender's unfortunate headed intervention set the tone for what was to follow in a game that was characterised by blunders rather than brilliance.

Jose Enrique was the transgressor, the defender committing the kind of basic error that would cause a player of more tender years to blush. Initially, Enrique placed himself in the ideal position to retrieve a difficult situation as he eased Bobadilla out as the forward looked to latch on to Farnerud's header but what followed was inexplicable as the full back danced around his own goalkeeper before inadvertently setting Nuzzolo up for an easy finish into an empty net.

It was to Enrique's immense relief that Liverpool regained the advantage within a minute of Berne drawing level. Sahin's corner was inviting and Wisdom met the floated delivery with a well directed header to mark his full debut with a first senior goal. As arguably Liverpool's most assured performer on the night, it was a fitting way for the 19-year-old to highlight his clear potential.

Liverpool went in at the interval ahead only to find themselves trailing by the 63rd minute after Ojala and Zarate took advantage of poor defending. With defeat a distinct possibility, Rodgers decided to introduce Shelvey as a substitute for Assaidi and the 20-year-old produced an inspirational cameo that made victory inevitable.

After Sebastian Coates had put Liverpool back on level terms with a header from Downing's corner, Shelvey struck twice more to put the result beyond doubt. The first, a well taken closerange finish to make the most of good work from Borini and Henderson, was impressive enough but it was overshadowed by Shelvey's second as he evaded a half-hearted challenge before beating Wolfli with an unerring left footed strike.

"To play like we did and get the goals that we did is fantastic," Rodgers said. "I also learnt that the players are getting better with each game and the fight is there within this team."

In the other group A match, Udinese provided some late drama as talismanic striker Antonio Di Natale scored an injury time equaliser to give the home side a 1-1 draw against Anzhi Makhachkala, the big-spending Russian club.

Next matches

October 4: Liverpool v Udinese; Anzhi

Makhachkala v Young Boys. October 25:

Young Boys v Udinese; Liverpool v Anzhi

Makhachkala.

Last night's football results, page 7

Young Boys (4-2-3-1): M Wolfli - S Sutter, J Ojala, D Veskovic, M Raimondi - C Spycher, E Zverotic (sub: M Frey, 81min) - G Zarate (sub: A Gonzalez, 65), A Farnerud, R Nuzzolo (sub: C Schneuwly, 69) - R Bobadilla. Substitutes not used: I Benito, M Vitkiviez, M Costanzo, J Lecjaks. Booked: Raimondi, Veskovic, Bobadilla.

Liverpool (4-3-3): B Jones - A Wisdom, J Carragher, S Coates, J Enrique - J Henderson, N Sahin, Suso - O Assaidi (sub: J Shelvey, 66), D Pacheco (sub: F Borini, 62), S Downing (sub: R Sterling, 77). Substitutes not used: P Gulacsi, D Wilson, S Yesil, J Robinson. Booked: Borini. Referee: M Koukoulakis (Greece).

# the guardian

Rodgers' young boys grow up in night of farce and triumph

Young Boys 3

Nuzzolo 23, Ojala 53, Zarate 63

Liverpool 5

Ojala 4og, Wisdom 40, Coates 67, Shelvey 76 88

The approach of Brendan Rodgers to the Europa League - namely, senior players have the night off - may have encouraged the belief that it is nothing but a sideshow to Liverpool this season. His response to victory over Young Boys of Berne provided the riposte.

Rodgers punched the air as Jonjo Shelvey's late goals brought order and Liverpool superiority to a chaotic night in Switzerland. With no Premier League wins to his name as Liverpool manager, he had taken a degree of risk in leaving so many established players behind to prepare for Sunday's emotive home game with Manchester United. It paid off handsomely, five away goals for the first time in this competition since the 2001 final victory over Alaves resulted in Rodgers embracing his players and looking ahead to United with renewed vigour.

Comedy own-goals and dreadful defending always increase the entertainment value and Liverpool's group campaign opened in slapstick fashion. There was also, thankfully for Rodgers, rich encouragement in individual displays, valuable experience for the debutants Andre Wisdom and Suso and flashes of quality from Nuri Sahin, albeit against mediocre opposition.

Wisdom, a 19-year-old defender from Leeds, marked his debut with a fine headed goal and Suso gave a polished display in central midfield. "It was a wonderful header from Andre and a great moment for him in his first game for Liverpool and especially with it being in Europe," Rodgers said. "Andre has played a lot at centre-half in his career so far but I think he's got all the qualities to be a top Premier League right-back. I loved Suso's arrogance on the ball too."

Liverpool's inexperienced and youthful side could not have imagined a finer start than that provided by Young Boys with three minutes and 24 seconds on the clock. Stewart Downing struggled to find a red shirt all evening and his early right-wing cross was no exception. With no Liverpool striker nearby, however, the midfielder Christoph Spycher headed a clearance straight into the face of his team-mate Juhani Ojala and looked on aghast as the ball rebounded back over his own line.

Young Boys almost responded immediately but the stand-in Liverpool goalkeeper Brad Jones saved well from Raul Bobadilla's angled drive. They had a half-hearted penalty appeal waved away when Alexander Farnerud fell too easily under pressure from Jamie Carragher and went close through Gonzalo Zarate's curler from the edge of the area. But their best hope of a recovery was Jose Enrique, Liverpool's hapless defender.

Sahin and Jordan Henderson, supported by the industrious Suso, controlled midfield in the first half and Young Boys were unsettled by the manner of the opening goal but Liverpool's performance was undermined by their left-back all night. Enrique endured a poor second half to last season under Kenny Dalglish and this was an opportunity to aid his recovery from a recent knee injury. It was a damaging process at times.

Enrique had already been beaten too easily by Zarate on the left, conceding a free-kick that Farnerud squandered, when he intercepted Bobadilla's burst into the penalty area. The left-back succeeded in beating the Young Boys striker to the ball but ran into his goalkeeper and then sent a woeful clearance across his own area to Raphael Nuzzolo. Despite Jones's best efforts, Young Boys were level.

In contrast Wisdom enjoyed a strong, disciplined debut on the right of the Liverpool defence. Less than two minutes after Nuzzolo's equaliser he soared to head Sahin's corner low beyond Marco Wolfli.

It would be remiss to claim the quality improved after the interval but, with the defending from both sides deteriorating from an already low starting point, the spectacle certainly did. Ojala brought Young Boys level for a second time when he headed into the correct goal after Bobadilla's cross fell between Sebastian Coates and Wisdom. They then took the lead when Bobadilla provided once again, this time holding off Carragher and Suso and putting the perfect pass through to Zarate to finish with an exquisite chip over the advancing Liverpoolkeeper.

Coates brought the visitors level quickly with a header from Downing's corner although Fabio Borini, on as a substitute, attempted to claim the goal for a faint touch. There was no disputing the impact of another substitute, Jonjo Shelvey, who restored Liverpool's advantage after Borini and Henderson combined to set him up from close range. With two minutes remaining Shelvey evaded one challenge and beat Wolfli convincingly. It was a moment of quality at odds with a chaotic night. Not that it concerned Rodgers.

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# The Mail

## High five for Rodgers after Shelvey's rescue act

There have been difficult nights for Brendan Rodgers to endure since he became Liverpool manager but, spectacularly and dramatically, here was one to savour. As he strode across the pitch of the Stade de Suisse, applauding Liverpool's travelling supporters and back-slapping his players, the last gesture he made as he marched down the tunnel was wholly appropriate: a high five.

Showing tenacity and determination to turn around a cause that at one point seemed lost, Liverpool's 5-3 victory not only ensured their Europa League group campaign got off to a perfect start, it reacquainted the club with the feeling of winning. Almost a month had elapsed since Liverpool's last win — a scruffy one in Edinburgh against Hearts — but the wait is over, thanks to an own goal from Juhani Ojala, headers from Andre Wisdom and Sebastian Coates and a late double salvo from Jonjo Shelvey. Rodgers said: 'We have come away with a young team and have scored five goals which is absolutely magnificent. There is no question we gave away some disappointing goals but there are only positives from this game. 'I thought the players were so courageous and brave. It was very pleasing. This is a night of great pride for the football club and certainly for me as manager. To take a group like this away from home, get a win and get those goals ... it was just fantastic.' Rodgers had intimated before the game the most important thing he wanted to see was a performance that suggested Liverpool were making progress, but his reaction to seeing his side take an early lead told another story. When Ojala haplessly diverted Stewart Downing's cross past Young Boys keeper Marco Wolfli in the fourth minute, Rodgers punched the air twice and looked at captain Jamie Carragher (right) to express his delight. With so many young players in the starting line-up, this was the perfect start.

Any thoughts it would pave the way for a comfortable evening, however, were soon dispelled. Brad Jones, one of 11 changes from the team which had drawn 1-1 at Sunderland, needed to react smartly to push aside an effort from Raul Bobadilla, as Young Boys summoned an instant response.

They soon started to increase the tempo and Jose Enrique, in particular, endured an uncomfortable first 45 minutes. He was fortunate not to give a penalty away in the 34th minute when he tangled with Gonzalo Zarate and moments later his luck ran out. For some inexplicable reason, Enrique took the ball away from Jones when the keeper had the situation under control and, to compound matters, his determination to use his left foot provided an opening for Raphael Nuzzolo, who gleefully accepted.

If Rodgers' reaction to Liverpool's opener was telling, so too was his response to the equaliser. He span on his heels, pursed his lips and shook his head at the bench. Enrique's star has dramatically fallen since Christmas and performances like this will do him no favours. Fortunately for Liverpool, they soon poked their noses back in front and the goal came from an unlikely source.

Debutant Wisdom rose highest to power in Nuri Sahin's 40th-minute corner. It was a fitting reward for an outstanding display. 'Andre has got all the qualities to be a top Premier League right back,' enthused Rodgers of the 19-year-old England youth inter-national. 'It was a great start for him. I was delighted with him, as I was with Suso. He is someone I enjoy working with. He has got a wonderful arrogance on the ball.' That goal should have provided Liverpool with a foundation to dominate after the break but, instead, the opposite was true as they found themselves chasing the game. When he studies a replay of the game, Jones will not need to be told he should have done better with Young Boys' two second-half goals. First he reacted slowly when Ojala sneaked in behind Coates to glance a header in and he fatally hesitated coming off his line when Bobadilla had sent Zarate through.

As deflating as that passage of play was, there was never a sense it would prove fatal and Liverpool's response was impressive. Coates swiftly restored parity with a header that UEFA credited to him despite an intervention from substitute Fabio Borini.

It was then left to Shelvey to step forward as the unlikely hero, the England Under 21 international conjuring up two smart finishes after quick breakaways in the 77th and 88th minutes to give Liverpool their highest scoring away win in the competition.

'We needed Jonjo at that stage and it worked well for us,' said Rodgers, with a telling smile. 'To go behind at this level can be difficult but it shows you the togetherness of this group. Quality isn't enough. You need quality and determination and you saw that in abundance.'

### Match facts

Young Boys: Wolfli, Sutter, Veskovic, Ojala, Raimondi, Zverotic (Frey 81), Spycher, Zarate (Gonzalez 65), Farnerud, Nuzzolo (Schneuwly 69), Bobadilla.

Subs not used: Benito, Vitkieviev, Costanzo, Lecjaks.

Booked: Raimondi, Veskovic, Bobadilla.

Goals: Nuzzolo 38, Ojala 52, Zarate 63.

Liverpool: Jones, Wisdom, Carragher, Coates, Jose Enrique, Henderson, Sahin, Fernandez Saez, Assaidi (Shelvey 66), Downing (Sterling 77), Pacheco (Borini 61).

Subs not used: Gulacsi, Wilson, Yesil, Robinson.

Booked: Borini.

Goals: Ojala 4 og, Wisdom 40, Coates 67, Shelvey 76, 88.

Att: 31,120.

Ref: Michail Koukoulakis (Greece).

# The Daily Telegraph

## Shelvey's cameo gives Liverpool a regal flourish

Young Boys 3

Nuzzolo 38, Ojala 52, Zarate 63 Att: 31,120

Liverpool 5

Ojala og 4, Wisdom 40, Coates 67, Shelvey 76, 88

Liverpool's Jonjo Shelvey last night enjoyed the most entertaining cameo since the Queen took a phone call from Danny Boyle.

Shelvey came off the bench with the novices of Anfield trailing 3-2 to Young Boys of Switzerland. Within 30 seconds Liverpool had equalised, and Shelvey then struck twice to ensure Brendan Rodgers opened his Europa League group campaign with an encouraging, but chaotic, victory.

At the ripe old age of 20, Shelvey practically enjoyed veteran status in what amounted to a trainee Liverpool squad. Having enjoyed a rapid promotion into the first team this season, the Essex boy looked a class apart as he took control of the game, volleying Liverpool ahead on 76 minutes, before sealing the points with a mid-field burst, drop of the shoulder and brutal left footer two minutes from time.

"He is still only 20 and is developing all the time," purred Rodgers. "You can tell his confidence is growing and he is going to be a big player for us."

Due to a flight curfew in Berne, Rodgers's side had to depart within 20 minutes of the final whistle. Rumours that the time limit was a result of the tender average age of the squad remained unconfirmed.

The players' heads must still have been spinning by the time they landed on Merseyside after such a haphazard encounter.

Liverpool twice squandered a lead, looked destined to endure a damaging defeat with 23 minutes remaining, but left buoyed by the performance of a line-up which included three debutants.

Prior to Shelvey's contribution, a Sebastian Coates header, possibly assisted by Fabio Borini's slightest deflection, made it 3-3.

Earlier, teenage newcomer Andre Wisdom's header and an own goal by Juhani Ojala represented a misleading period of serenity prior to the second-half bedlam. Rodgers spoke about his pride at leading such an inexperienced team to a victory which had quality, courage and the odd slice of good fortune.

There was also some disjointed defending in the three goals which Liverpool conceded, but Rodgers will see only the positives.

For all the pre-match attention on Anfield's emerging talent such as Wisdom, and the excellent Spanish teenager Suso, it was those less accustomed to being on the fringes who had most to prove.

Jordan Henderson, Stewart Downing and Jose Enrique began last season as high-profile recruits and part of the latest Anfield master plan. They have started this one as emblems of the wasted funds of the former regime and need to start proving they have the quality to survive beyond the next transfer window.

Henderson played well, but Enrique did himself no favours, enduring a torrid evening on the left. He gifted an equaliser on 38 minutes, inexplicably dribbling away from his goalkeeper, Brad Jones, and then tamely clearing to Raphael Nuzzolo, who could not miss an empty net.

The Spanish full-back was also partially culpable in the Young Boys' second goal, a header by Ojala (redeeming his earlier own goal) and their third -- a tidy finish by Gonzalo Zarate. Liverpool will need a new left-back as well as a striker when the transfer window reopens, unless Enrique's dip in form is reversed.

Martin Kelly may have the safest position in the side. There was no such difficulty on the right of Liverpool's defence. There has been a shortage of wisdom at Anfield for too many years, so the club made a timely rediscovery of their qualities in the form of their 19-year-old right-back. The England youth international is certainly one to watch at Anfield.

The Europa League clearly remains low on the priority list, but as the hawks circle Rodgers in the early part of his reign, no win and no game can be underplayed. Liverpool clearly have a long way to go before they rank among the majesty of the Champions League again, but they proved no matter what the competition they are still European royalty.

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# THE INDEPENDENT

## Shelvey shines as young Liverpool find their range

Manager Brendan Rodgers hailed a performance full of character and - surprisingly - goals as Liverpool got their Europa League campaign off to a winning start with victory over Young Boys in Bern last night.

For only the fourth time in their history the Reds scored five in a European away tie, the last occasion having been against Finnish side Haka in a 2001 Champions League qualifier. Jonjo Shelvey, a 67th-minute substitute, stood out with two strikes while 19-year-old Andre Wisdom marked his senior debut with a header and Sebastian Coates and a Juhani Ojala own goal rounded off the scoring.

However, Liverpool looked fragile as they slipped from 2-1 up to 3-2 down after Ojala and Gonzalo Zarate had added to Nuzzolo's first-half equaliser.

With the first team having scored just nine goals in eight matches Rodgers' second string, which included three debutants, found scoring much easier. "We have come away with a young team into a European game and I want to talk about the five goals we scored which were absolutely magnificent," Rodgers said. "Of course, we could have defended better and there is no question the three goals we gave away were disappointing.

"But, to draw positives from tonight, the young players were so courageous and brave to play and show that confidence, and my senior players were very much together and kept the young guys going.

"All round it was very pleasing. It was a chance for the young players to seize that opportunity to play and I think they did that for sure. I think it is a night of great pride.

"One of the most pleasing things was we were in front and then to go behind at this level can be difficult. But it shows you the togetherness of the group because you don't win games by that margin on quality alone, you need to have the personality and the determination and I think you have seen that in bucketloads tonight."

Rodgers also had praise for Shelvey, making his 45th appearance for the senior side, and predicted a bright future for the England Under-21 international. "He has been outstanding. He is still only 20 years of age and is developing and growing all the time, and you saw his confidence when he came on."

Young Boys Wolfli, Sutter, Veskovic, Ojala, Raimondi, Zverotic (Frey, 81), Spycher, Zarate (Gonzalez, 65), Farnrud, Nuzzolo (Schneuwly, 69), Bobadilla.

Substitutes not used Benito, Vitkiviez, Costanzo, Lecjaks. Liverpool Jones, Wisdom, Carragher, Coates, Jose Enrique, Henderson, Sahin, Fernandez Saez, Assaidi (Shelvey, 66), Downing (Sterling, 77), Pacheco (Borini, 61). Substitutes not used Gulacsi, Wilson, Yesil, Robinson.

Referee M Koukoulakis (Greece).



## Rodgers' young boys win great game for neutrals

How fitting that in a contest touted as the youth of Liverpool against Young Boys of Bern, we were treated to a script straight out of a kids' game.

Just like a typical Saturday morning schoolboy match, it seemed every time either side attacked, there was a goal to take us towards a rugby score, along with the attendant slapstick defending that always promised more.

In truth, the standard wasn't much higher than youth level either, but don't let that detract from a truly entertaining encounter, with one side and then the other taking a seemingly definitive advantage. In the end, Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers turned to his experienced 'old heads' Jonjo Shelvey and Fabio Borini to settle this Europa League tie, with the two substitutes, aged 20 and 21, dragging the Reds from 3-2 down with 20 minutes remaining, to a win of magnificent proportions. If the story of this game included a memorable goal on his debut from hugely impressive teenager Andre Wisdom, then the undoubted highlights of the night could have come straight from a movie by his namesake Norman.

There is always much to be said for the comedy goal's place in football, and when a contest contains two, then that elevates it to the level of the slapstick genius who is much revered in these parts.

With their first attack, Liverpool scored despite having not a single player in the box when Stewart Downing sent in a hopeful cross from the right.

Berne defender Christoph Spycher attempted the simple tasking of heading clear, but instead - with comic timing - smacked the ball straight into the face of his team-mate Juhani Ojala, and watched in horror as the ball rolled into the net. It could only have been funnier had he used a frying pan.

The comedy gold of that goal though, was almost matched by Liverpool defender Jose Enrique, who offered his best impression of that useless kids' team left back all evening. But on 38 minutes, he surpassed himself when he took the ball in his own box, dribbled past a fellow defender and his own goalkeeper, and then calmly lifted his head, assessed his situation and picked out the perfect pass... straight to home striker Raphael Nuzzolo standing six yards away, who overcame his disbelief to turn the ball into the empty net.

We knew then this was to be no ordinary game, and with three minutes we had confirmation when Ojala so very nearly repeated his impressive early own goal, and from the resulting corner Wisdom soared above everyone to plant the header emphatically into the net. Quite possibly, Reds boss Brendan Rodgers spoke to his young side at the interval of the need to shut down the game on European travels, to sit on leads. But like all young kids, they didn't listen and barely 15 minutes from the restart they were behind. First, Sebastian Coates mistimed his jump as Raul Bobadilla swung in a corner for the Swiss, and Ojala managed to steer a header into the right goal this time, to level.

Then, on 63 minutes it seemed that this young Liverpool side, led impressively by the talented Nuri Sahin in the middle of the park, were to be taught a harsh lesson about the need to remain composed in Europe, when Bobadilla capitalised on some poor defending to allow Gonzalo Zarate a brilliant dinked finish over the onrushing Brad Jones. The thing about kids though, is they don't know when they're beaten, and when Rodgers sent on Borini and Shelvey to add the experience they have gained in the Premier League this season, it tipped the balance again. Borini caused havoc when his presence diverted eyes from Coates header at Downing's corner, and the ball slid into the far corner with - quite possibly without - the faintest of touches from the Italian striker.

Then Shelvey took over. He has some quality driving forward from the middle of the park even if he has yet to provide it consistently for the Reds at the highest level, but on this stage he proved too good for the Swiss team.

After a fine, flowing move on 76 minutes, Borini found the hard working Jordan Henderson in the box, and his instant set back gave Shelvey the chance to convert that he was never going to pass up. Then with a couple of minutes remaining, as if to emphasise the obvious analogy of a kids' contest, Shelvey provided what every schoolboy game seems to possess, which was the talented boy dribbling rings round everyone else before dispatching the ball past the bemused keeper. Just like those games, there was an innocence to Liverpool's play that left a smile on the face of everyone watching, and while the quality of the opposition must temper any over-enthusiasm, this was still an exhilarating performance from a delighting uninhibited young side. Brendan Rodgers insisted his young side came of age with their truly remarkable victory in Bern. The Liverpool boys became men in the Europa League as they recorded the Reds' biggest-ever away scoreline in this competition. In a surreal contest, Rodgers' team twice led, but then had to come from behind to seal a famous win through two goals from Jonjo Shelvey. A proud Rodgers said: "We've come into a European game with a young team and the five goals we scored were absolutely magnificent.

"The three goals we gave away were disappointing. But it was a chance for the young players to seize that opportunity to play and I think they did that for sure."

"All round it was very pleasing. It was a chance for the young players to seize that opportunity to play and I think they did that for sure.

"We need to be better in certain areas but I think it is a night of great pride for the club and certainly me as a manager."

Reds teenagers Suso and Andre Wisdom both shone, but Shelvey stole the show.

"I learnt that the players get better with each game and the fight is there within this team - it shows you their spirit because you don't win games by that margin on quality alone," added Rodgers.

"You need to have the personality and the determination and I think you have seen that in bucketloads [tonight].

"Andre summed that up, he was terrific and to score a goal like that in Europe in your first game was great for the boy.

"Jonjo has been outstanding. He is still only 20 years of age and is developing and growing all the time and you saw his confidence when he came.

"The (first) goal we worked it very well and he did what he can do very well and I think he will be a big player for Liverpool."

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Young Boys of Bren shine

THE Europa League maybe a long way down on Brendan Rodgers' list of priorities but it provided a welcome injection of positivity into Liverpool FC's season last night. The Kop kids did themselves proud against the Young Boys as the Reds got their Group A campaign off to a victorious start with a rollercoaster victory in Bern. Rodgers' gamble to leave virtually his entire first choice line up at home paid off handsomely, although the manager was put through the wringer at the Stade de Suisse before the points were finally wrapped up.

Liverpool marked their 100th appearance in the different guises of this competition by enjoying their most prolific night in Europe since Besiktas were thrashed 8-0 in the Champions League five years ago. Of course delight was tempered by some abject defending which enabled Young Boys to lead 3-2 midway through the second half. But an experimental line up dug deep to ensure LFC will go into Sunday's league clash with Manchester United on a high. Few of those involved last night will face United but Jonjo Shelvey certainly staked a claim for inclusion with a majestic double after coming off the bench.

Rodgers could also be hugely satisfied with the efforts of those who were making their senior bows. Andre Wisdom more than justified his inclusion with a composed display at right-back. The 19-year-old Academy graduate, who has climbed above Jon Flanagan in the pecking order in recent weeks, showed no sign of nerves on his big night. Wisdom capped his memorable debut with a goal and further chances in this competition for both him and Suso, who showcased his qualities in an advanced central midfield role, are bound to follow.

Similarly, there was plenty to admire about Oussama Assaidi's first outing for the club. The Morocco international, who was bought from Heerenveen for £3million this summer, was full of energy and invention down the flanks before understandably fading after the break.

In fact it was some of those senior players who Rodgers was looking to lead by example who failed to produce the goods and made this a more difficult evening than it needed to be. Martin Kelly and Glen Johnson can rest easy after Jose Enrique's erratic display at left-back, while Stewart Downing will surely be another asked to take a seat and watch Sunday's showdown unfold.

As well as giving debuts to Wisdom, Suso and Assaidi, Rodgers handed Dani Pacheco his first start for the club since the Europa League game against Utrecht in December 2010. Liverpool have bemoaned their luck in front of goal so far this season but there were no complaints last night as they were gifted the lead inside four minutes in farcical fashion. When Downing delivered from the right, there was no Reds player in sight. However, in his efforts to clear Christoph Spycher powered a header into the face of team-mate Juhani Ojala and keeper Marco Wolfli was left helpless as the ball cannoned into the net.

That comedy of errors provided the perfect start for Rodgers' side but they were soon indebted to Brad Jones for protecting their advantage. After Raul Bobadilla burst clear it took a fine finger tip save from the Australian to deny him.

With Nuri Sahin dictating the game in midfield, the Reds appeared in control and Assaidi went close when his 20-yarder was deflected just past the post.

Suso should have doubled Liverpool FC's lead. The talented Spaniard did everything right as he latched on to Assaidi's pass and cleverly weaved his way into space in the box. However, when Suso should have pulled the trigger he opted to take another touch and ended up looking for a pass which wasn't on and the opening disappeared. Having earlier benefited from some wretched defending, Liverpool returned the favour seven minutes before the break.

After a bright start following his arrival from Newcastle last summer, Enrique lost his way alarmingly and he has started this season the way he ended the previous one. After coming across to dispossess the on-rushing Bobadilla, Enrique had done the hard part but he dallied and under pressure from Alexander Farnerud inexplicably panicked and presented it to Raphael Nuzzolo.

The Swiss midfielder made him pay with a clinical finish which Jones could only push into the roof of the net. Skipper Jamie Carragher couldn't hide his fury with Enrique but within two minutes the Reds' embarrassment had turned to joy.

Wisdom showed great desire as he rose highest to meet Sahin's corner and powered a header into the bottom corner. Young Boys continued to pose a threat with Farnerud hitting the woodwork before they restored parity for a second time in the 53rd minute. Ojala was handed far too much space as he rose unchallenged to head home Bobadilla's cross. Ten minutes later Young Boys carved Liverpool open once again to send a packed crowd into raptures. Bobadilla shrugged off the attentions of Carragher and Suso close to halfway and released Gonzalo Zarate into the gaping hole where Enrique should have been. Jones raced out to meet him but Zarate expertly dinked it over him. Having brought on Fabio Borini for Pacheco, Rodgers then introduced Shelvey for Assaidi. The substitutes' impact was emphatic as the Reds only trailed for four minutes.

Borini had a shot forced behind by Wolfli and from the ensuing corner Sebastian Coates took advantage of some non-existent marking to nod in Downing's centre. As the Swiss tired, Liverpool stepped it up and were able to deliver the decisive blows with Shelvey wreaking havoc. A sweeping move ended with Jordan Henderson laying Borini's cross into the path of Shelvey who finished in style. His second late on was even better as he burst through and unleashed an

unstoppable drive past Wolfli. Bern is ranked among the world's top 10 cities for the best quality of life and Rodgers had no complaints about his stay as Liverpool headed for home. Now the boss must hope the sight of such a goal-fest gets his more illustrious names in the mood to claim United's scalp on Sunday.

Young Boys (4-2-3-1): Wolfli, Sutter, Veskovic, Ojala, Raimondi, Zverotic (Frey 81), Spycher, Zarate (Gonzalez 65), Farnerud, Nuzzolo (Schneuwly 69), Bobadilla. Not used: Benito, Vitkiewicz, Costanzo, Lecjaks.

Liverpool (4-3-3): Jones, Wisdom, Carragher, Coates, Enrique, Henderson, Sahin, Suso, Downing (Sterling 77), Pacheco (Borini 62), Assaidi (Shelvey 66). Not used: Gulacsi, Wilson, Yesil, Robinson.

Referee: Michael Koukoulakis (Greece) Attendance: 31, 120.

Goals: Ojala og 4, Nuzzolo 38, Wisdom 40, Ojala 53, Zarate 63, Coates 67, Shelvey 76.

Bookings: Raimondi, Nuzzolo, Veskovic, Borini, Bobadilla.



LFC second string show where net is

LIVERPOOL FC escaped with their 41-year unbeaten record against Swiss teams intact but a sloppy defensive performance almost cost them in their Europa League Group A encounter against Young Boys.

That Brendan Rodgers' second-string side – which included a trio of debutants, two of whom were teenagers – scored five times was something of a surprise considering the struggles of the first-team this season.

They were given an early helping hand thanks to a comical own goal from Juhani Ojala and 19-year-old Andre Wisdom scored on his debut after Raphael Nuzzolo had equalised following a Jose Enrique error.

But Ojala then headed in at the right end and Gonzalo Zarate made it 3-2 before the match turned around again when Sebastian Coates headed in and then Jonjo Shelvey scored twice.

It was the first time Liverpool had scored more than once in eight European away matches and their first in any group stage game away from home since beating PSV in December 2008.

Rodgers wanted to give his younger players a chance to prove they were good enough and while they may not have convinced him to make 11 changes for Sunday's visit of Manchester United – having left the likes of Steven Gerrard and Luis Suarez at home – they at least displayed the character the manager was looking for.

Despite concerns about the inexperience of the squad, with eight senior players having been left at home, the average age of the starting line-up was 24 – although that was pushed up slightly by 34-year-old Jamie Carragher.

Their veteran centre-back was the only player on the field who played in Liverpool's last away win in European competition – excluding qualifiers – when the Reds beat Romanians Unirea in February 2010.

The comedy started in the fourth minute when the Young Boys' defence got themselves in a tangle for no discernible reason.

Stewart Downing's right-wing cross did not look to be threatening but Dusan Veskovic headed the ball back across goal and his central defensive partner Ojala headed in.

That was only the beginning as Wisdom's inexperience at this level caught him out when he went to fetch the ball thinking he had a throw-in.

While he was off the pitch a ballboy tossed another to Young Boys, who quickly restarted, leaving Wisdom – more accustomed to the reserve team where you fetch your own ball – running back on still carrying the ball he had chased.

But if that error was down to inexperience, Jose Enrique's decision to dribble away from the hands of Brad Jones in the 38th minute was bad judgement as he passed straight to Nuzzolo – who drilled in a first-time shot before Jones had time to recover properly.

Wisdom, however, came to his defensive colleague's rescue two minutes later when he produced a huge leap to head home Nuri Sahin's corner.

The goal was Liverpool's 200th in this competition since they first took part in 1967-68. Wisdom was also the first Reds defender to score on his club debut since Gabriel Paletta in October 2006 – which is where the England Under-19 international will want the comparison to end.

Just before the break Alexander Farnerud, who had earlier failed in trying to claim a penalty for Carragher's challenge, hit a low shot against Jones' right-hand post. The second half was less than 10 minutes old when Raul Bobadilla was given far too much room on the right to pick out the run of Ojala to head in at the far post. When Bobadilla outmuscled both Carragher and Suso, another debutant, to send Zarate down right the Argentinian neatly dinked over Jones.

Liverpool needed a quick response and it came within four minutes as Coates' looping header crept in at the far post with substitute Fabio Borini claiming a touch which was barely – if at all – there.

Borini had a more decisive influence on the winner as he picked out Jordan Henderson's run and the midfielder cut the ball back for Shelvey to fire home – and the same player added a similar second late on.

Rodgers' maiden Europa League campaign is up and running in the most unlikely way – and the Northern Irishman will be pleased his selection gamble did not backfire on him.

Date: 20 September 2012

Berner Zeitung

Times

Telegraph

Echo

Opposition: Berner SC Young Boys

Guardian

Mirror

Post

Competition: Europa League

Independent

Mail

BBC



20 September  
2012

## BZ BERNER ZEITUNG

### Naiv im wilden Spektakel gegen Liverpools Boygroup

Der FC Liverpool light hatte im ausverkauften Stade de Suisse die besseren Young Boys – und siegte zum Start der Europa League in Bern nach grosser, toller Unterhaltung gegen YB mit 5:3.

Ziel erreicht. Einen historischen Abend wollte YB am Donnerstag gegen Liverpool erleben – und ausverkauft war gestern ja erstmals seit 1959 und dem 1:0 im Meisterscup-Halbfinal gegen Stade Reims wieder ein internationales YB-Heimspiel. Man wird in Bern bestimmt noch lange, vielleicht nicht gerade 53 Jahre lang, von der gestrigen Veranstaltung im Stade de Suisse sprechen. Aber letztlich haben die Young Boys – mal wieder – eine Chance liegen gelassen, in einer grossen Begegnung Eigenwerbung zu betreiben. Ziel nicht erreicht!

Die Young Boys schossen, immerhin, das allererste Tor in der Europa-League-Saison 2012/ 2013. Christoph Spycher und Juhani Ojala kombinierten sich in der 4. Minute herrlich zur 1:0-Führung. Unglücklicherweise aber für die Gäste. Spycher köpfelte, Ojala lenkte den Ball ins eigene Tor. Es sollte nicht die einzige ungenügende Defensivleistung der Berner bleiben. Der Slapstickbeitrag aber besitzt aussichtsreiche Chancen, in Jahresrückblicken berücksichtigt zu werden. Nach 37 Minuten im langweiligen Leerlauf deutete gestern sehr wenig darauf hin, dass man sich Ende Dezember auch an diese Partie noch erinnern wird. Dann jedoch nahm das Geschehen rasant Tempo auf und entwickelte sich zur wilden Achterbahnfahrt. Zuerst passten sich Raúl Bobadilla und Alexander Farnerud trickreich vors Tor, und es war Raphael Nuzzolo, der im Nachschuss das 1:1 erzielte. YB aber wäre ja nicht YB, wenn der Rückschlag in einer solchen Partie nicht noch vor der Pause folgen würde. Andre Wisdow, mit der ungewöhnlichen Startnummer 47 angetreten, traf nach einem Eckball wuchtig mit dem Kopf. Very British.

Die haarsträubenden Fehler in der YB-Defensive setzten sich nach der Pause fort. «Wir haben dem Gegner praktisch vier Tore geschenkt», meinte der Berner Trainer Martin Rueda. «Mit so vielen Fehlern kann man nicht gewinnen.»

Liverpool light, ohne seine acht grössten Stars angetreten, profitierte eiskalt, nachdem sich die Gäste nach den ersten 20 Minuten der zweiten Halbzeit wie nach einer Session in der Waschmaschine gefühlt haben mussten: zerzaust, durchgeschüttelt, orientierungslos. Ojala, der an beinahe jedem Tor an diesem verrückten Abend irgendwie beteiligt war, vorne wie hinten, schoss in der 53. Minute das 2:2. Natürlich mit dem Kopf. Und die zwei YB-Argentinier Bobadilla und Gonzalo Zarate orchestrierten 10 Minuten später ein wunderbares Tor, welches in Jahresrückblicken unbedingt prominent gesendet werden muss – und in Vorbereitung und Entstehung absolute Sonderklasse offenbarte. Zarate chippte den Ball schliesslich fantastisch über Liverpool-Keeper Brad Jones, selbst sein berühmter Landsmann Lionel Messi hätte das nicht schöner hinbekommen. Doch der YB-Sturm (mit Youtube-Einlagen wie einem waghalsigen Dribbling Mario Raimondis) und die pure Glückseligkeit unter den meisten der 31120 Zuschauern dauerte bloss kurz an.

Denn Liverpools Jugendcombo schlug erbarmungslos zurück. Im vom spendablen Griechen Michael Koukoulakis grosszügig geleiteten Spiel markierte Sebastian Coates Mitte der zweiten Hälfte das 3:3. Mit dem Kopf. Nach einem Eckball. Very British. Coates betätigte sich gleichzeitig als YB-Stromabsteller. Und so waren die Gäste die besseren Young Boys. Der eingewechselte Jonjo Shelvey, 20 Jahre jung, beendete die Berner Party mit zwei Toren (76. und 88. Minute). Das 3:4 war herrlich herausgespielt, das 3:5 ein beeindruckender Energieanfall. Bei beiden Ereignissen standen die überforderten YB-Akteure Spalier und Pate – als Slalomstangen oder Fehlpasgeber. Wisdow, Coates, Shelvey – auf den ersten Blick namenlose Mitglieder dieser neuen Liverpools Boygroup – sorgten für die Entscheidung. Zu Hause dürften Steven Gerrard, Luis Suarez und die anderen geschonten Ausnahmekönner der Gäste das unterhaltsame Treiben genüsslich vor dem TV verfolgt haben. Vielleicht im Pub um die Ecke. Und vielleicht bei einer Portion Fish and Chips.

Ihre in Bern engagierten Kollegen hatten die Arena derweil 10 Minuten nach Spielende verlassen, die Konzentration gilt dem Klassiker am Sonntag gegen Manchester United. Selbstverständlich hatte YB im kunterbunten Programm noch Ausgleichschancen zum 4:4 vergeben. Aber letztlich stellten die Gastgeber einen zu naiven, zu fehlerhaften, zu leichtgewichtigen Gegner dar. An die Leistungsgrenzen hatte der zweite Anzug Liverpools nie gehen müssen.

Date: 20 September 2012

Opposition: Berner SC Young Boys

Competition: Europa League

Berner Zeitung

Times

Telegraph

Echo

Guardian

Mirror

Post

Independent

Mail

BBC



20 September  
2012



90:00+3:11 Full time The final whistle is blown by the referee.

90:00+1:03 The official flags Raheem Sterling offside. Marco Wolfli takes the free kick.

89:27 Mario Raimondi fouled by Jesus Fernandez Saez, the ref awards a free kick. Mario Raimondi takes the direct free kick.

87:01 Assist on the goal came from Jordan Henderson.

87:01 Goal scored Goal - Jonjo Shelvey - Young Boys 3 - 5 Liverpool Jonjo Shelvey scores a goal from just inside the area to the bottom left corner of the goal. Young Boys 3-5 Liverpool.

85:37 Jonjo Shelvey gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Christoph Spycher. Christian Schneuwly crosses the ball in from the free kick.

85:37 Christoph Spycher fouled by Jonjo Shelvey, the ref awards a free kick. Free kick taken by Christoph Spycher.

84:40 Brad Jones takes the direct free kick.

84:07 Booking for Raul Marcelo Bobadilla for unsporting behaviour.

81:28 Scott Sutter takes the direct free kick.

81:28 Booking Fabio Borini goes into the referee's book.

81:14 Unfair challenge on Juhani Ojala by Fabio Borini results in a free kick.

80:50 Alexander Farnerud takes a shot. Save made by Brad Jones.

80:04 Substitution Substitution Elsad Zverotic leaves the field to be replaced by Michael Frey.

79:24 Nuri Sahin takes the free kick.

79:24 Booking The referee shows Dusan Veskovic a yellow card.

79:07 Fabio Borini fouled by Dusan Veskovic, the ref awards a free kick.

75:34 Substitution Liverpool makes a substitution, with Raheem Sterling coming on for Stewart Downing.

75:34 Assist by Jordan Henderson.

75:34 Goal scored Goal - Jonjo Shelvey - Young Boys 3 - 4 Liverpool Jonjo Shelvey grabs a goal from inside the box low into the middle of the goal. Young Boys 3-4 Liverpool.

71:13 Effort on goal by Jesus Fernandez Saez from outside the area goes harmlessly over the bar.

66:20 The assist for the goal came from Nuri Sahin.

65:35 Inswinging corner taken by Nuri Sahin,

65:35 Substitution Substitution Jonjo Shelvey comes on in place of Oussama Assaidi.

65:35 Fabio Borini takes a shot. Marco Wolfli makes a save.

68:08 Substitution Substitution Christian Schneuwly comes on in place of Raphael Nuzzolo.

66:20 Assist by Stewart Downing.

66:20 Goal scored Goal - Sebastian Coates - Young Boys 3 - 3 Liverpool Sebastian Coates grabs a headed goal from deep inside the penalty box. Young Boys 3-3 Liverpool.

65:35 Corner from the right by-line taken by Stewart Downing.

65:35 Substitution Substitution Jonjo Shelvey is brought on as a substitute for Oussama Assaidi.

65:35 Fabio Borini takes a shot. Save by Marco Wolfli.

64:36 Foul by Elsad Zverotic on Nuri Sahin, free kick awarded. Nuri Sahin crosses the ball in from the free kick, Marco Wolfli makes a save.

64:02 Substitution Substitution Alexander Gonzalez on for Gonzalo Zarate.

62:26 Raul Marcelo Bobadilla provided the assist for the goal.

62:26 Goal scored Goal - Gonzalo Zarate - Young Boys 3 - 2 Liverpool Gonzalo Zarate gets on the score sheet with a goal from inside the box low into the middle of the goal. Young Boys 3-2 Liverpool.

61:42 Corner taken by Stewart Downing played to the near post, clearance by Juhani Ojala.

60:57 Substitution Substitution Fabio Borini is brought on as a substitute for Daniel Pacheco.

59:39 Effort on goal by Scott Sutter from just inside the area clears the bar.

58:53 Corner taken left-footed by Alexander Farnerud from the left by-line, clearance by Sebastian Coates.

55:27 Sanchez Jose Enrique has an effort at goal. Save made by Marco Wolfli.

54:40 Inswinging corner taken left-footed by Alexander Farnerud, save by Brad Jones.

53:51 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Elsad Zverotic by Jesus Fernandez Saez. Free kick taken by Elsad Zverotic.

52:00 Assist by Raul Marcelo Bobadilla.

52:00 Goal scored Goal - Juhani Ojala - Young Boys 2 - 2 Liverpool Juhani Ojala finds the back of the net with a headed goal from inside the penalty area. Young Boys 2-2 Liverpool.

51:34 Outswinging corner taken by Alexander Farnerud.

50:38 Daniel Pacheco produces a left-footed shot from deep inside the six-yard box which goes wide of the left-hand post.

48:40 Gonzalo Zarate has shot on goal from just outside the penalty box which goes wide of the right-hand upright.

47:37 Effort on goal by Oussama Assaidi from just inside the area clears the crossbar.

47:21 Scott Sutter concedes a free kick for a foul on Daniel Pacheco. Free kick taken by Sanchez Jose Enrique.

45:01 The match restarts for the second half.

45:00+0:27 Half time The referee blows for half time.

42:46 Alexander Farnerud takes a shot from outside the penalty area that bounces off the post.

39:53 The assist for the goal came from Nuri Sahin.

39:53 Goal scored Goal - Andre Wisdom - Young Boys 1 - 2 Liverpool Andre Wisdom grabs a headed goal from inside the six-yard box. Young Boys 1-2 Liverpool.

39:28 Corner taken by Nuri Sahin from the left by-line,

38:01 Booking Caution for Raphael Nuzzolo.

37:39 Goal scored Goal - Raphael Nuzzolo - Young Boys 1 - 1 Liverpool Raphael Nuzzolo grabs a goal from inside the area high into the middle of the goal. Young Boys 1-1 Liverpool.

36:44 Oussama Assaidi gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Scott Sutter. Direct free kick taken by Scott Sutter.

36:31 A cross is delivered by Jesus Fernandez Saez, Juhani Ojala manages to make a clearance.

32:49 Foul by Sanchez Jose Enrique on Gonzalo Zarate, free kick awarded. The free kick is delivered left-footed by Alexander Farnerud from right by-line.

32:10 Foul by Andre Wisdom on Raphael Nuzzolo, free kick awarded. Elsad Zverotic takes the free kick.

31:45 Free kick awarded for a foul by Oussama Assaidi on Scott Sutter. Direct free kick taken by Scott Sutter.

31:23 Scott Sutter concedes a free kick for a foul on Sanchez Jose Enrique. Sanchez Jose Enrique takes the direct free kick.

30:52 Foul by Raphael Nuzzolo on Andre Wisdom, free kick awarded. Andre Wisdom restarts play with the free kick.

28:35 Gonzalo Zarate concedes a free kick for a foul on Sanchez Jose Enrique. Oussama Assaidi restarts play with the free kick.

27:22 Foul by Juhani Ojala on Daniel Pacheco, free kick awarded. Direct free kick taken by Nuri Sahin.

26:15 The ball is delivered by Gonzalo Zarate, comfortable save by Brad Jones.

25:10 Effort from the edge of the penalty area by Gonzalo Zarate goes wide of the left-hand post.

23:54 Outswinging corner taken from the left by-line by Stewart Downing.

23:31 Oussama Assaidi takes a shot. Dusan Veskovic gets a block in.

22:52 The offside flag is raised against Daniel Pacheco. Marco Wolfli restarts play with the free kick.

18:17 Jordan Henderson challenges Gonzalo Zarate unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick taken by Alexander Farnerud, The ball is delivered by Juhani Ojala, Juhani Ojala manages to make a clearance.

16:46 Jesus Fernandez Saez challenges Elsad Zverotic unfairly and gives away a free kick. Christoph Spycher takes the free kick.

15:57 Direct free kick taken by Andre Wisdom.

15:57 Booking The referee shows Mario Raimondi a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.

15:46 Mario Raimondi gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Stewart Downing.

14:47 Raul Marcelo Bobadilla takes a shot from 25 yards. Blocked by Jamie Carragher.

14:10 Stewart Downing is flagged offside by the assistant referee. Juhani Ojala takes the indirect free kick.

13:51 The ball is sent over by Mario Raimondi, clearance made by Sebastian Coates.

11:45 Corner taken by Stewart Downing, clearance made by Juhani Ojala.

10:11 Jamie Carragher concedes a free kick for a foul on Raul Marcelo Bobadilla. Direct free kick taken by Elsad Zverotic.

6:10 Corner taken by Stewart Downing, clearance made by Juhani Ojala.

4:58 Corner taken by Alexander Farnerud, clearance by Sebastian Coates.

4:33 Raul Marcelo Bobadilla has an effort at goal. Save by Brad Jones.

3:19 Goal scored Goal - Juhani Ojala - Young Boys 0 - 1 Liverpool Headed own goal by Juhani Ojala. Young Boys 0-1 Liverpool.

0:45 Gonzalo Zarate is caught offside. Free kick taken by Sanchez Jose Enrique.

0:00 The referee starts the match.