

Date: 6 December 2012
 Opposition: Udinese
 Competition: Europa League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
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6 December
2012

THE TIMES

Henderson's rare winner secures top outcome for slick Liverpool
 Udinese 0 Liverpool 1 Jordan Henderson, one of the most maligned of Kenny Dalglish's signings, repaid a small but significant chunk of his [pounds sterling]16 million transfer fee last night when he scored the goal that took Liverpool through to the knockout stages of the Europa League.

The England Under-21 captain's decisive strike enabled Brendan Rodgers's team to win their fourth of five away games in this competition and so finish top of group A, after Anzhi Makhachkala lost 3-1 to Young Boys in Berne.

With Steven Gerrard left at home to recover from a bug, Henderson was offered another opportunity to take centre stage in the Europa League and he took it, not only with his first European goal but with a diligent performance in which he worked hard. He and Joe Allen kept the ball well in the main, the one exception coming with the last action of the match when Henderson's slip allowed Antonio Di Natale his one sight of goal.

Henderson had been on the point of joining Fulham in the summer, 12 months after signing from Sunderland, but forced his way back into Rodgers's plans through sheer bloody-minded dedication as much as anything. "He's a great lad," the Liverpool manager said. "Jordan works very hard and he's come into team over the last month or so and made a good contribution. He's got that quality to arrive in the box and score and he was unlucky not to get a second. His hard work's paying off."

With the quality of Luis Suarez in attack, they always threatened to score again. Daniele Padelli, briefly a Liverpool player in 2007, made several superb saves for Udinese, who played with ten men for the final ten minutes after Giovanni Pasquale was dismissed for two cautions.

"We had two objectives coming into this," Rodgers said. "Tonight was our tenth game in this campaign. Qualification was important and whether we could give experience to some of our younger players. I said to the boys I thought we could finish top and I'm absolutely delighted for them."

Suarez played his first away game in Europe for the club as he is suspended for Sunday's Barclays Premier League game away to West Ham United, for which Gerrard, Daniel Agger and Lucas Leiva were left on Merseyside to prepare. Liverpool quickly settled after the loss of Nuri Sahin to a bloody nose and scored the crucial goal at the midway point of the first half. Suarez won a corner after his initial free kick rebounded from the wall. From Downing's delivery, the Uruguay forward managed to drop back from his marker with ease to head goalwards. The ball fell to Suso beyond the far post and from his lay-back, Henderson was well positioned to drive in his first goal for the club since scoring in the 4-1 defeat of Chelsea in May.

Udinese offered minimal threat for the remainder of the half. Order restored in midfield, where Rodgers had inverted his triangle so that Allen remained at the base and Jonjo Shelvey and Henderson were freed to go on and join in behind Suarez, Liverpool seldom looked like losing a grip.

Glen Johnson nudged down Shelvey's corner and Suarez jostled his way to dispatch an overhead kick that Padelli tipped over. Padelli seemed to accuse Suarez of using an elbow and they were separated as the teams walked off for the break.

A draw would not have been enough to take Liverpool through, but they continued to threaten a second goal. Henderson came rushing in to meet Jose Enrique's cross with a superbly controlled volley that Padelli tipped over. Pasquale was sent off, for fouls on Suso and Raheem Sterling, but Liverpool's biggest scare came with the last kick of the game when Di Natale, coming on to equal Udinese's record of 33 European appearances, slashed his shot just over the crossbar after Henderson conceded possession. Liverpool deserved to breathe their sigh of relief. Udinese (4-4-1-1): D Padelli - M Faraoni, Danilo, G Pasquale, T Heurtaux - R Pereyra, E Badu, G Pinzi (sub: M Benatia, 46min; sub: M Reinthaller, 65), P Arnedo - D Fabbri - M Ranegie (sub: A Di Natale, 86). Substitutes not used: Z Brkic, D Marsura, F Berra, M Frison. Booked: Fabbri, Pasquale. Sent off: Pasquale. Liverpool (4-1-4-1): J M Reina - G Johnson, J Carragher, M Skrtel, J Enrique - J Allen - Suso (sub: R Sterling, 71), J Henderson, N Sahin (sub: J Shelvey, 12), S Downing - L Suarez. Substitutes not used: B Jones, J Cole, O Assaidi, S Coates, A Wisdom. Booked: Allen, Carragher, Suso. Referee: D Gomes (Portugal).

the guardian

Henderson sends Liverpool through
 Udinese 0
 Liverpool 1
 Henderson 23

It was not a comfortable journey and it took longer than Brendan Rodgers thought necessary, but a place in the last 32 of the Europa League belongs to Liverpool. Qualification came courtesy of Jordan Henderson's first-half goal plus Antonio Di Natale's last-gasp miss on a night when victory and nerve were essential against Udinese for a place in the knockout phase.

Liverpool finished top of Group A with Anzhi Makhachkala falling to defeat Young Boys in Berne but would have gone out had Di Natale denied them a deserved win in Italy. Instead, the Italy international blazed over following a slick one-two on the edge of the area and could only offer a wry smile, and receive an embrace from a hugely grateful Jose Reina, as Liverpool advanced on the finest of margins. "My heart was in my mouth at the end," said Rodgers. "With 20 seconds left we give the ball away and you know Di Natale has the quality to hurt you. Hopefully it is a sign we have that little bit of luck now, because in that one moment we could have been out of the competition, even though we had dominated so much. Over the course of the group we have deserved it, and the fact we are through is great credit to the players."

And to Rodgers, who had to play his hand carefully throughout the group stage due to the lack of depth in the Liverpool squad but successfully navigated the first European test of his managerial career.

There should have been no need for the stoppage-time palpitations, however. By half-time, as Luis Suarez left the pitch in an argument with the Udinese goalkeeper Daniele Padelli, Liverpool were in complete control and the only irritation for Rodgers was the margin of their lead. The ascendancy had been hard-earned, with already-eliminated Udinese far from obliging hosts.

The Udinese coach, Francesco Guidolin, rested several regulars for his dead-rubber, including Di Natale and the first-choice goalkeeper Zeljko Brkic, and the sparsely-filled Stadio Friuli showed the locals were not tempted to brave a freezing night to offer support. Yet Udinese started brightly and were intent on making their presence felt as the striker Mathias Ranegie collided with Martin Skrtel in the opening minute and caught Nuri Sahin in the face with a flailing arm. Skrtel was able to continue after lengthy treatment but not so Sahin, whose rare start lasted only 12 minutes before he exited with a bloody nose.

Jonjo Shelvey was introduced from the bench, where he started in readiness to lead a Suarez-less attack at West Ham on Sunday, and was soon in a heap following a dangerous challenge from Diego Fabbri. The Udinese forward was only booked for what appeared a two-footed tackle.

Once Liverpool edged in front midway through the first half the fight faded from Udinese. Suarez was integral to the breakthrough on his first European away appearance for Liverpool. His free-kick struck the wall and was eventually deflected behind for a corner taken by Stewart Downing. Suarez peeled away from his marker to win the header, the ball fell for Suso at the back post and the Spaniard had the presence of mind to set up Henderson for a simple finish into the far corner.

Rodgers said: "That goal will do Jordan the world of good. He's a great lad and he's worked very, very hard. He's come into the side in the last few months and made a great contribution to the team. It was a great finish and it will give him confidence."

Suso and Suarez squandered good chances to extend the lead and, but for an often poor choice of final ball, Liverpool would have been comfortable long before the introduction of Di Natale injected some quality into an Udinese team reduced to 10 men when Giovanni Pasquale received a second booking 10 minutes from time. They were also frustrated by Padelli, who made one appearance for Liverpool in 2007. The Italian twice thwarted Suarez with fine saves and denied Henderson a second from close range.

"There was no margin for error," the Liverpool manager said. "We knew we had to win because we were in a difficult group with a Champions League team and one of the richest teams in the world. The desire of the team to win the game was very strong and that is good for the future."

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The Mail

RED LETTER DAY; Henderson seals spot in last 32

IT WAS not a night they will ever describe as famous, nor will it be included in their list of greatest wins.

As someone who has immersed himself in Liverpool's history, Brendan Rodgers will know progressing through a Europa League group is not an achievement that should be shouted from the rooftops. Five European Cup triumphs mean standards at Anfield are exacting.

But after seeing off Udinese thanks to a solitary first-half strike from Jordan Henderson, that fact did not prevent Rodgers feeling proud about a job well done. Liverpool squeezed into the last 32 as winners of Group A, showing the character and spirit that were the hallmarks of great teams from the past.

'I thought it was fantastic to perform like that and get through,' Rodgers enthused. 'I told the players I felt we could finish top of the group and we did that with a fine performance under the circumstances.'

It will be really good for our momentum to have got through a tricky group.'

The Liverpool boss had said in the build-up he felt victory was needed to preserve his club's diminishing reputation in Europe, as much as it was required to progress. So the fact that both objectives were achieved left the Irishman understandably satisfied.

'There was no margin for error,' he continued. 'We knew we had to win because we were in a difficult group with one of the richest teams in the world in Anzhi Makhachkala. It's great because it shows our desire to win the game was very strong. It's good for our future.' Some rough tactics from Udinese unsettled Liverpool during the opening exchanges and they needed a smart stop from Pepe Reina to keep the score level on 19 minutes, the Spanish keeper neatly tipping over Roberto Pereyra's deft chip. The balance of the game, though, was to switch dramatically in Liverpool's favour. Stewart Downing's corner from the left ended up at Henderson's feet via a Suarez header and a Suso lay-off and the England Under 21 captain flashed a drive past former Anfield keeper Daniele Padelli.

To say Henderson has not always found things easy at Anfield would be an understatement but here was a moment he could savour, a crucial contribution to a game that mattered. Imbued with confidence, the midfielder and Liverpool as a collective significantly improved from then on.

'That goal will do Jordan the world of good,' said Rodgers. 'He's a great lad and has worked very, very hard. He's come into the side in the last few months and made a great contribution to the team. It was a great finish. He's got that quality to arrive in the box. It will give him confidence.' Liverpool could have doubled their lead after 28 minutes but Glen Johnson had his effort disallowed for offside. Udinese found it difficult to keep pace and the perpetually lively Suarez threatened twice before the break, once with a drive that screamed past a post then with an overhead kick.

That was the last action before the interval but Suarez left the field needing to be restrained by Johnson after he was involved in an angry confrontation with Padelli. The Italian gestured that Suarez had elbowed him at a corner and was still remonstrating as he went down the tunnel.

If Padelli hoped the exchange would disrupt Suarez's rhythm, he was mistaken. The Uruguayan star emerged for the second period bristling with intensity and was involved in the two chances that should have given Liverpool breathing space. First his charge through the middle created a shooting opportunity for Suso but the young Spaniard showed frustrating inexperience and sliced his shot wide. Suarez then blasted a shot of his own over the bar from 18 yards after seizing on a loose ball.

Profligacy and fine goalkeeping inevitably created tension. This European campaign has been blighted by costly errors -- notably at home against Udinese and Young Boys -- and the slender advantage meant Liverpool's hopes of progress were in the balance. They were given a huge let-off on the hour when a corner from Giovanni Pasquale was met flush by Mathias Ranegie but, much to Liverpool's relief, his header skimmed the bar. Udinese might have had only pride to play for but they were certainly not going out with a whimper.

Failing to kill off opponents has, of course, been a recurring theme in Liverpool's season and Rodgers's anxiety became all the more tangible after Henderson and Suarez were denied in quick succession by two more superb stops from Padelli, who seemed intent on proving a point.

When Pasquale was sent off for a second bookable offence with 10 minutes remaining, all hope appeared gone for Udinese yet they almost snatched a draw in the dying seconds when substitute Antonio Di Natale fizzed a volley over the bar. This, though, was Liverpool's night.

'My heart was in my mouth,' Rodgers acknowledged. 'We could have been out but, hopefully, that is a sign that our luck has changed. We deserved it.'

The Daily Telegraph

Henderson shines at last as Liverpool finish top of group

Udinese 0

Liverpool 1

Henderson 23 Att: 12,000

There are many Liverpool supporters who insist there is a class player hidden within Jordan Henderson. He has been concealed as notoriously as Lord Lucan for most of his Anfield career, but he made a well-timed appearance against Udinese last night.

Henderson's winner in Italy saw Liverpool top their group and progress to the last 32 of the Europa League. As is the norm for this team, it proved more of grind than it should have been, but it represented the club's most satisfying evening since Brendan Rodgers took charge.

No script writing course is required to structure this familiar plot. Liverpool monopolised the ball, created numerous chances and came upon a goalkeeper in Daniele Padelli who, when he played for Liverpool, was hopeless, but against them was temporarily inspired.

A 1-0 win was a meagre return given the opportunities created, but Liverpool still departed Italy with relief. Such were the fine margins in their group, only the last kick of the game - when substitute Antonio Di Natale volleyed over -- confirmed the difference between winning the group and going out. The job was done, and although cursory glances are aimed at Europe's ugly sibling of a competition, there was no mistaking what it meant to the Liverpool manager.

"You saw how tight it was. I'm delighted for the players we've finished top of the group. And it's good for our momentum to qualify," said Rodgers. "We knew coming here, we had to win. We were in a difficult group with a team with Champions League experience and one of the richest clubs in the world. The mentality of the team was strong and we won and that's good for our future. "We could have been more comfortable but the fact it wasn't was mostly down to great goalkeeping."

This felt like a pivotal game for the Northern Irishman, who was correctly dismissive of any suggestion an exit would have been a blessing in disguise. The notion any current Liverpool manager can pick and choose which competitions are worth winning is long gone. Those clubs harbouring title ambitions can afford to see the Europa League as an unwanted distraction, but Liverpool cannot presume they are back in such an elite category yet.

For a side 11th in the league, all that would have remained, had they bowed out, was the chance to focus on qualifying for next year's Europa League. It may reach a stage in the new year where the Premier League interferes with ambitions to win this competition.

Rodgers has always taken this tournament seriously, but there was an extra intent in his line-up. Basically, Luis Suarez was playing. That is all anyone needed to know about the elevated ambition.

Plenty went in their favour, especially when Giovanni Pasquale was sent off in the 80th minute for a second yellow card. The locals' lack of enthusiasm also assisted. It was a sparse, passive audience. Udinese lacked incentive. Already out, their coach Francesco Guidolin kept the scourge of Liverpool in the first meeting between the clubs, Di Natale, on the bench until the 87th minute. He offered an opportunity to some of his reserves. They included a former Liverpool goalkeeper, Padelli, whose sole, unimpressive appearance on the last day of 2007 season was memorable because many worried he had won a 'play in goal at Anfield' competition.

Typically, he made some outstanding saves last night, but was not so impressive when Liverpool made the decisive breakthrough on 23 minutes. Stewart Downing's corner was flicked on by Suarez, Suso nudged towards Henderson, and his strike went through Padelli's legs.

"Jordan's industry was great," said Rodgers. "He is a great lad and he worked hard, he has come in over the last months and made a good contribution. He has that quality in him to get into the box."

Although Udinese lacked conviction, they still had enough moments of danger to remind Liverpool how tentative the lead was. Mathias Ranegie headed wide early on, and Pepe Reina had to be alert after a clever chip from Roberto Pereyra. But Liverpool should have been strolling before anxiety set-in. Padelli denied Suarez twice, and prevented Henderson claiming his second.

It was not so much a march on Europe by Liverpool at full-time, more a gentle trot. But it still represents the most significant step of Rodgers' fledgling reign. Udinese (4-2-3-1): Padelli; Pasquale, Danilo, Heurtaux, Faraoni; Pinzi (Benatia h-t (Reinthaller 65)) Badu; Armero, Fabbri, Pereyra; Ranegie (Di Natale 87). Subs: Brkic, Marsura, Berra, Frison. Booked: Fabbri, Badu. Sent off: Pasquale.

Liverpool (4-3-3): Reina, Johnson, Carragher, Skrtel, Enrique; Henderson, Sahin, Allen; Suso (Sterling 71), Downing, Suarez. Subs: Jones, Cole, Assaidi, Coates, Shelvey, Wisdom. Booked: Allen, Carragher, Suso.

Referee: D Gomes (Portugal).

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Henderson makes mark as Liverpool survive scare

The Liverpool manager, Brendan Rodgers, praised match-winner Jordan Henderson for the goal against Udinese that put the club through to the last 32 of the Europa League last night but accepted the victory was by the finest of margins.

Henderson's first European goal, and only his third in any competition since his [pounds sterling]16m 2011 transfer from Sunderland, put Liverpool top of Group A but there was almost a sting in the tail. Udinese, who had Giovanni Pasquale sent off 10 minutes from the end, almost snatched the draw which would have sent Liverpool out with the last kick of the game when captain Antonio Di Natale blasted over.

Young Boys' victory over Anzhi meant Liverpool had to win to progress but Henderson's first-half goal ensured the visitors won the group.

Liverpool's trouble this season has been a reliance on Luis Suarez, playing his first European away match for the club this season, to provide the goals. Rodgers has called for others to contribute and in recent weeks Daniel Agger, Jonjo Shelvey, Jose Enrique and even Joe Cole have chipped in. Last night it was the turn of Henderson.

"He is a great lad and works hard and has come in over the last month and made a good contribution to the team," said Rodgers of the midfielder, who has been a fringe player for most of the season.

"It was a very good finish and he was unfortunate not to get a second goal as the keeper made a wonderful save. He has that quality to arrive in the box and he has a finish in him, so I am delighted for him and his hard work is paying off."

Had Di Natale scored the inquest would have begun on where it had gone wrong for Rodgers, but the miss kept Liverpool's European campaign on track. "It is that moment when there is literally 20 seconds left and we've given away the ball. It was very close," the Northern Irishman admitted. "Hopefully, it is a sign we have a little bit of luck going our way because maybe a couple of months back that would have gone in and we would be out of the competition. There was no margin for error tonight, I felt we had to win the game because we were in a difficult group against good teams."

The Udinese coach Francesco Guidolin, whose side had already been eliminated before kick-off, was pleased with the performance. "I want to thank my team because they have gone out of the competition with dignity and their heads held high," he said.

UDINESE

LIVERPOOL

Subs: Udinese Benatia (Pinzi, h-t), Di Natale (Ranegie, 85).

Liverpool Sterling (Suso, 71)

Bookings: Udinese Pasquale (x2), Agyemang, Fabbrini.

Sent off: Udinese Pasquale (80).

Liverpool Carragher, Allen, Suso.

Man of the match Skrtel.

Match rating 6/10. Possession: Udinese 42%. Liverpool 58%.

Attempts on target: Udinese 3.

Liverpool 5. Ref D Gomes (Por).

Att 12,000.



PHEW DINESE!

IF TWO words can sum up this game - job done - then it would take a whole book to explain the frustration that is Liverpool at present.

A Jordan Henderson goal was enough to give them victory in Udinese and passage through to the knockout stage of the Europa League. s no a But a familiar failing in front of goal meant that passage was nothing short of hair-raising. f s.--h In the end it was almost heartstopping, given Udinese could - should - have put them out with the last kick of the game when their iconic midfielder Antonio Di Natale volleyed over from close range, a chance a player of his quality would be expected to convert.

n i e s Somehow Liverpool escaped that denouement, but will have left frozen northern Italy knowing they had enough opportunities to bury opponents weakened by their indifference towards the competition, and make academic any fears of a late goal.

It was almost inconceivable they should stumble and scrape through much of a fraught second half when in truth, they were always too good for Udinese. To have just one goal to show for their efforts was a criminal return on an otherwise promising performance.

To have seen the job through though, no matter how sketchily, could be a significant step for this young Liverpool team, as reinforcements loom on the transfer window horizon.

It was thanks to Henderson they did. He has struggled to fit into the new Brendan Rodgers regime, but slowly has come to terms with the higher technical demands this season, and last night was perhaps the most impressive performer.

His energy saw him frequently get into the box and his desire saw him carve out several chances, the most notable of which resulted in the firsthalf goal that proved vital. It was a good finish too, for a player often criticised in front of goal. When Luis Suarez got his head to Jonjo Shelvey's corner, Suso was able to divert the ball back and the onrushing Henderson calmly swept in the ball from close range.

It was a game that meant little to Udinese, given they were already out of the competition, and clearly even less to their fans, as a frankly embarrassing attendance of 12,000 testified. The Italians rested almost half their regular side and started with Di Natale on the bench, yet Liverpool still failed to impose themselves as they hoped.

It was a familiar, almost weary, failing. Their control of the pace of the game was good enough, as was the passing in the build-up, but when it came to the final third, again there was so little end product.

It is an issue that has been aired in most of their matches this season and it is becoming almost tiresome to repeat the anguished debate. So suffice to say the visitors had enough opportunities to have made the tie - and the group - routinely comfortable . . and blew them all.

Liverpool should have been sure of their passage into the knockout stage before the interval, but instead that single goal from Henderson meant that with Young Boys winning in Berne, they were made to sweat far too long into the contest.

They were denied by a mixture of the usual uncertainty in front of goal and fine saves from Daniele Padelli, Udinese's back-up keeper who made one appearance for Liverpool as a Rafa Benitez signing in 2007.

That he made such a stunning contribution was a surprise, given his one game in red was a disaster from which his Anfield career never recovered. Yet he produced acrobatics to twice deny Suarez - one from a spectacular overhead kick - and then the impressive Henderson to keep the match so tautly balanced.

Mind you, Liverpool cannot hide behind their former keeper's fine display. Suso missed three chances Clouseau (of the inspector variety) would have converted, while Suarez was also missing his shooting boots.

It of course meant what every Red fan feared and anticipated - a fraught final 10 minutes where one mistake would mean European exit, even if that tension was eased slightly when Giovanni Pasquale acted more like his namesake Joe, his second yellow reducing Udinese to 10 men.

In the end, it was just like most of the European campaign, unnecessarily uncomfortable, and necessarily pragmatic, but at least they are through. Unless there are significant forward-line reinforcements in January though, they will not be going much further.

UDINESE: Padelli 4, Faraoni 5, Heurtaux 6, Danilo 6, Psaquale 5, Pereyra 6, Badu 6, Pinzi 6 (Benatia 46, 6), Armero 7, Fabbrini 6, Ranegie 6 LIVERPOOL: Reina 6, Johnson 6, Skrtel 7, Carragher 7, Enrique 6, Henderson 8, Allen 7 Sahin 5 (Shelvey 12, 6), Suso 6, Suarez 7, Downing 6 REF: Duarte Gomes ATT: 12,000

Liverpool's control of the pace of the game was good enough but when it came to the final third, again there was so little end product

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Hearts in mouths as Reds go through in Europa League
 HEARTS were in mouths as Liverpool FC's European future flashed before their eyes at the Stadio Friuli. The faces may have changed over the years but the Reds' habit of putting their fans through the wringer on continental missions remains. Deep into stoppage time Antonio Di Natale had a golden chance to dump Brendan Rodgers' side out of the Europa League, but Udinese's talisman lashed his effort over the bar. The Reds and their 1,100-strong travelling army breathed a collective sigh of relief. Justice was done as the Italian job was completed. Rodgers' men not only advanced to the last 32 but went through as Group A winners. Young Boys' 3-1 victory over Anzhi meant only maximum points would suffice and they were secured thanks to an unlikely hero.

Jordan Henderson has endured a turbulent first 18 months at Anfield but this was his finest hour. The £16million midfielder paid back a chunk of that hefty fee with the sweetly-struck winner midway through the first-half. It was only his third goal in 66 appearances for the club and his first since the league win over Chelsea at Anfield back in May. Henderson rejected a move to Fulham in the summer as he vowed to stay and fight for a shirt. That battle remains ongoing but this was a hugely significant contribution. Liverpool should have been out of sight long before Di Natale's late miss, but a combination of poor finishing and a string of fine saves from ex-Reds keeper Daniele Padelli kept the game in the balance. Ultimately, a professional, disciplined and composed display got its rewards and Rodgers' first European campaign in management will stretch at least into February. Udinese were out to restore some pride having seen their European hopes dashed by three successive defeats in Group A and they nearly achieved it. The Bianconeri, who are ninth in Serie A, had ended a miserable eight-game winless streak in all competitions with a 4-1 victory over Cagliari last weekend. Their triumph at Anfield back in early October had been a rare highlight in a season which had seen them leak 21 goals in their previous 10 matches. Coach Francesco Guidolin handed a rare start to Padelli, whose brief Anfield career during a loan spell from Sampdoria consisted of one outing against Charlton back in May, 2007. His error-strewn display meant he was soon packed off back to his homeland. Their 11-goal top scorer Di Natale started on the bench with one eye on Monday's league game at Sampdoria. Rodgers made five changes following last Saturday's win over Southampton as Jamie Carragher, Henderson, Stewart Downing, Nuri Sahin and Suso were all handed starts. Steven Gerrard, Daniel Agger and Lucas Leiva had been left on Merseyside, while Raheem Sterling and Jonjo Shelvey were named among the substitutes. It was hardly a cauldron the Reds walked into with the 30,000-capacity stadium three-quarters empty. History was against Liverpool. Aside from finals, the Reds had won just two of their nine previous European games on Italian soil. They had also failed to score in seven of those contests. Having not featured in the previous four Premier League matches, Sahin had the opportunity to stake a claim for more regular action. However, within 10 minutes the Turk's night was over.

Left with a bloody nose after being caught by Mathias Ranegie's arm, Sahin indicated to the bench that he was unable to continue and Shelvey replaced him. Udinese's competitive streak dismissed any suggestions they would simply roll over and Shelvey was soon the victim of a dangerous lunge from Diego Fabbrini which earned a booking. The Italians started the brighter with Ranegie nodding narrowly wide. Roberto Pereyra then forced Pepe Reina into a decent save as he tipped his curling effort over the bar. The Reds had barely threatened but they broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute. Luis Suarez's header from Downing's corner found Suso at the back post. The teenager played an intelligent lay-off to Henderson who drilled home from 12 yards. That settled the nerves and just seconds later they had the ball in the net again, but Downing had teed up Glen Johnson from an offside position. Fabbrini skipped away from Joe Allen, who had dropped deeper following Sahin's early exit, and tested Reina from long range but the hosts' early swagger disappeared. The Reds increasingly dominated possession and secured control of the contest. With Suarez wreaking havoc and Johnson rampaging down the right, they should have had breathing space before the interval. Suso headed over from close range and then Suarez failed to hit the target from a tight angle after being played in by the young Spaniard. In stoppage time, Suarez's acrobatic overhead kick was brilliantly turned over the bar by Padelli after Udinese had failed to deal with Shelvey's corner. Liverpool carried on where they had left off in the second-half but chances were spurned. Suarez's energy and movement was too good for Udinese who resorted to foul means in a bid to stop him. After a surging run, the Uruguayan found Suso but with just Padelli to beat he lashed his right-footer high and wide. Suarez then failed to hit the target after the ball dropped kindly to him on the edge of the box. When Udinese did venture forward, they couldn't find a way past the rock-solid defensive duo of Carragher and Martin Skrtel.

There was a scare on the hour when Ranegie rose to meet Giovanni Pasquale's corner but his header sailed over. The Reds were soon back on the offensive and only more heroics from Padelli kept the hosts in touch. Henderson connected sweetly with Jose Enrique's cross but his volley was expertly clawed away. The keeper surpassed that moments later, somehow

thwarting Suarez from point-blank range after the striker had skipped past two defenders. Rodgers turned to Sterling as Suso made way and with 11 minutes to go the Reds were gifted a numerical advantage.

Having been booked earlier for hacking down Suso, Pasquale picked up a second booking for upending Sterling. With Young Boys beating Anzhi, the Reds had no room to manoeuvre – one goal and they were out.

Udinese threw on Di Natale in search of an equaliser and he was inches away from providing it with the last kick of the game. The ball bounced up invitingly 10 yards out, but the veteran striker blazed over. Those passports can be tucked away until February.

UDINESE (4-2-3-1): Padelli, Faraoni, Heurtaux, Danilo, Pasquale, Badu, Pinzi (Benatia 46, Reinthaller 65), Pereyra, Fabbrini, Armero, Ranegie (Di Natale 86).
 Not used: Brkic, Marsura, Berra, Frison.

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Reina, Johnson, Skrtel, Carragher, Enrique, Allen, Sahin (Shelvey 12), Henderson, Suso (Sterling 71), Suarez, Downing.
 Not used: Jones, Cole, Assaidi, Coates, Wisdom.

REFEREE: Duarte Gomes (Portugal)

ATTENDANCE: 12,000 GOAL: Henderson (23)

BOOKINGS: Fabbrini, Suso, Pasquale, Allen, Carragher.

REDS CARDS: Pasquale (second booking)

NEXT GAME: West Ham United, away, Sunday, Premier League (kick-off 4pm).



LFC progress in Europe

JORDAN HENDERSON'S maiden Europa League goal saw Liverpool FC progress to the last 32 as Group A winners with a 1-0 victory over 10-man Udinese in Italy.

It was only his third strike for the club he joined for £16million in the summer of 2011 - and his first since May 8 - but he would have had another had it not been for a brilliant reaction save from former Liverpool goalkeeper Daniele Padelli. But with Young Boys beating Anzhi the goal was the difference between the Reds reaching the knockout stages for the ninth time in 11 attempts and crashing out. In finding the net Henderson joined a small but illustrious club of Michael Owen, Fernando Torres and Phil Neal to score for Liverpool in Italy.

Liverpool's trouble this season has been a reliance on Luis Suarez, playing his first European away match for the Reds, to provide the goals.

Manager Brendan Rodgers has called for others to contribute and in recent weeks Daniel Agger, Jonjo Shelvey, Jose Enrique and even Joe Cole have chipped in. By hitting the target in the Stadio Friuli, Henderson became the 15th different player to score this season, three short of the club record.

The 22-year-old had endured a difficult start to his Liverpool career and could have been sold in the summer but he has expressed his desire to fight for a place and a future at Anfield. To call it a watershed moment for him would be premature but ensuring the club's participation in Europe in the new year was an important hurdle to get over. It was not all plain sailing, however, as Liverpool's game plan had to be altered in just the 12th minute when Nuri Sahin was forced off with a bloody nose after getting caught in the face, meaning an early introduction for the Reds' leading European scorer this season Shelvey.

The hosts, despite having nothing to play for, created the early chances with Mathias Ranegie heading wide and Roberto Pereyra forcing goalkeeper Jose Reina to tip over his effort. Suarez's first shooting chance came from a free-kick 20 yards out but he drilled it into the wall but Henderson took full advantage of his first sight of goal. A month ago against Anzhi in Moscow the England Under-21 midfielder had been hesitant in front of goal but he had no time to be in the 24th minute. Stewart Downing's corner dropped to Suarez and although his header only reached Suso the young Spaniard had the presence of mind to lay the ball back for Henderson to drill a shot past Padelli.

In truth the visitors failed to properly test Udinese's second-choice goalkeeper, who made just one appearance in May 2007 for Liverpool while on loan from Sampdoria. Udinese briefly threatened when Reina had to make a low save from Fabbrini's long-distance shot but Liverpool finished the stronger.

Suso looped over a stooping header from Shelvey's cross and Suarez, having fired over an angled shot, forced Padelli into a fingertip save with a close-range overhead effort from the last kick of the half.

Suarez and Suso both had shooting opportunities early in the second half but failed to hit the target while Ranegie powered a header just over as the hosts pressed for the equaliser. Henderson must have thought he had doubled his tally in the 65th minute when he perfectly timed his side-foot volley from Jose Enrique's cross but Padelli stuck up a hand to tip it over.

Four minutes later the goalkeeper produced another stunning stop to deny Suarez from close range after the Uruguay international had jinked past three players in the penalty area. However, just when Udinese started to step up the pressure for an equaliser their chances were diminished by a red card for Giovanni Pasquale. Having already been booked for clattering into the back of Suso he was shown a second yellow 11 minutes from time for tangling with Sterling. Substitute Antonio di Natale almost produced the cruellest of endings when he fired over with the last kick of the match but Liverpool survived - just.

Having closed out only their fourth victory in 10 matches on Italian soil they can now put Europe to bed until February and focus on improving their Premier League position.

Date: 6 December 2012
 Opposition: Udinese
 Competition: Europa League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Post
Independent	Mail	BBC

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90:00+3:27 Full time The final whistle is blown by the referee.
 90:00+3:11 Antonio Di Natale produces a right-footed shot from deep inside the penalty area which goes wide of the right-hand post.
 90:00+2:25 Sanchez Jose Enrique challenges Diego Fabbrini unfairly and gives away a free kick. Max Reintaler takes the direct free kick.
 90:00+1:59 Raheem Sterling concedes a free kick for a foul on Larangera Danilo. Free kick taken by Daniele Padelli.
 89:53 Corner taken short by Joe Allen.
 87:29 Free kick awarded for a foul by Pablo Armero on Raheem Sterling. Direct free kick taken by Glen Johnson.
 86:40 Thomas Heurtaux gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Luis Suarez. Jonjo Shelvey takes the free kick.
 86:01 Foul by Max Reintaler on Jordan Henderson, free kick awarded. Martin Skrtel takes the free kick.
 84:50 Substitution Substitution Antonio Di Natale on for Math Ranegie.
 82:49 Martin Skrtel challenges Math Ranegie unfairly and gives away a free kick. Pablo Armero takes the direct free kick.
 81:03 Emmanuel Agyemang-Badu takes the free kick.
 81:03 Booking Jamie Carragher is shown a yellow card.
 80:59 Jamie Carragher challenges Diego Fabbrini unfairly and gives away a free kick.
 80:15 Corner taken right-footed by Jonjo Shelvey, save by Daniele Padelli.
 79:25 Booking Emmanuel Agyemang-Badu is shown a yellow card for dissent.
 79:03 Dismissal Dismissal Giovanni Pasquale is shown a red card.
 78:30 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Raheem Sterling by Giovanni Pasquale. Direct free kick taken by Stewart Downing.
 75:24 Corner taken left-footed by Roberto Pereyra, Math Ranegie has a headed effort at goal from deep inside the area missing to the left of the target.
 74:29 Martin Skrtel challenges Emmanuel Agyemang-Badu unfairly and gives away a free kick. Direct free kick taken by Giovanni Pasquale.
 71:37 Unfair challenge on Roberto Pereyra by Raheem Sterling results in a free kick. Free kick taken by Giovanni Pasquale.
 70:02 Direct free kick taken by Emmanuel Agyemang-Badu.
 70:02 Substitution Substitution Jesus Fernandez Saez goes off and Raheem Sterling comes on.
 70:02 Booking Joe Allen shown a yellow card.
 69:55 Joe Allen challenges Diego Fabbrini unfairly and gives away a free kick.
 68:42 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Jesus Fernandez Saez by Giovanni Pasquale. Glen Johnson restarts play with the free kick.
 67:19 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save by Daniele Padelli. Outswinging corner taken by Sanchez Jose Enrique.
 66:26 Glen Johnson takes the direct free kick.
 66:26 Booking Giovanni Pasquale booked for unsporting behaviour.
 66:19 Giovanni Pasquale gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Jesus Fernandez Saez.
 64:15 Save by Daniele Padelli. Corner taken by Jonjo Shelvey, save by Daniele Padelli.
 64:15 Substitution Udinese makes a substitution, with Max Reintaler coming on for Mehdi Benatia.
 64:15 Jordan Henderson takes a shot.
 61:22 Free kick awarded for a foul by Giovanni Pasquale on Luis Suarez. Martin Skrtel takes the free kick.
 59:06 The ball is delivered by Pablo Armero, clearance by Martin Skrtel. Corner taken by Davide Faraoni, Headed effort from deep inside the penalty area by Math Ranegie goes harmlessly over the crossbar.
 58:38 Jamie Carragher challenges Math Ranegie unfairly and gives away a free kick. Direct free kick taken by Larangera Danilo.
 57:09 Mehdi Benatia concedes a free kick for a foul on Luis Suarez. Glen Johnson takes the direct free kick.
 55:26 Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Jonjo Shelvey from the right by-line, Larangera Danilo manages to make a clearance.
 53:37 Emmanuel Agyemang-Badu produces a right-footed shot from long range which goes wide right of the goal.
 51:19 Pablo Armero takes a shot. Martin Skrtel gets a block in. Outswinging corner taken by Davide Faraoni from the right by-line.
 49:08 Luis Suarez takes a shot from just outside the penalty area which clears the crossbar.
 48:08 Sanchez Jose Enrique is penalised for a handball. Direct free kick taken by Davide Faraoni.
 46:48 Effort from inside the area by Jesus Fernandez Saez misses to the right of the target.
 45:01 The game restarts for the second half.
 45:01 Substitution Substitution Giampiero Pinzi goes off and Mehdi Benatia comes on.
 45:00+1:47 Half time The whistle is blown to end the first half.
 45:00+0:31 Corner taken by Jonjo Shelvey. Shot by Luis Suarez from 6 yards. Save made by Daniele Padelli.
 43:45 Shot by Luis Suarez from deep inside the penalty area misses to the right of the goal.
 43:18 Luis Suarez gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Larangera Danilo. Direct free kick taken by Larangera Danilo.
 40:53 Outswinging corner taken from the right by-line by Jonjo Shelvey, clearance made by Larangera Danilo. A cross is delivered by Jonjo Shelvey, Headed effort from deep inside the penalty area by Jesus Fernandez Saez goes harmlessly over the crossbar.
 38:34 Sanchez Jose Enrique delivers the ball, save by Daniele Padelli.
 38:09 Giampiero Pinzi takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.
 37:50 Pablo Armero fouled by Jordan Henderson, the ref awards a free kick. Free kick taken by Giampiero Pinzi.

35:44 Larangera Danilo restarts play with the free kick.
 35:44 Booking Jesus Fernandez Saez is shown a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.
 35:05 Free kick awarded for a foul by Jonjo Shelvey on Roberto Pereyra.
 33:11 Diego Fabbrini takes a shot. Jose Reina makes a save.
 32:43 The assistant referee signals for offside against Luis Suarez. Larangera Danilo takes the indirect free kick.
 31:16 Martin Skrtel concedes a free kick for a foul on Math Ranegie. Giampiero Pinzi restarts play with the free kick.
 30:34 Jamie Carragher fouled by Math Ranegie, the ref awards a free kick. Jose Reina takes the free kick.
 29:03 Diego Fabbrini fouled by Stewart Downing, the ref awards a free kick. Emmanuel Agyemang-Badu restarts play with the free kick.
 27:39 Free kick awarded for a foul by Luis Suarez on Larangera Danilo. Free kick taken by Giampiero Pinzi.
 26:15 The referee blows for offside. Daniele Padelli takes the indirect free kick.
 22:45 Assist on the goal came from Jesus Fernandez Saez.
 22:45 Goal scored Goal - Jordan Henderson - Udinese 0 - 1 Liverpool Jordan Henderson finds the back of the net with a goal from deep inside the penalty box to the bottom left corner of the goal. Udinese 0-1 Liverpool.
 22:16 Outswinging corner taken by Stewart Downing.
 21:07 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Jonjo Shelvey by Giampiero Pinzi. Luis Suarez takes the free kick.
 20:27 Free kick awarded for a foul by Giovanni Pasquale on Jesus Fernandez Saez. Glen Johnson takes the direct free kick.
 18:53 Roberto Pereyra takes a shot. Jose Reina makes a save. Outswinging corner taken left-footed by Giovanni Pasquale played to the near post.
 17:41 Corner from the right by-line taken by Davide Faraoni, Stewart Downing makes a clearance.
 16:35 Jordan Henderson restarts play with the free kick.
 16:35 Booking Diego Fabbrini is shown a yellow card.
 16:31 Foul by Diego Fabbrini on Jonjo Shelvey, free kick awarded.
 15:03 The ball is swung over by Giovanni Pasquale, Headed effort from deep inside the penalty area by Math Ranegie misses to the right of the target.
 14:35 Jesus Fernandez Saez takes a shot. Save made by Daniele Padelli.
 11:50 Shot by Jonjo Shelvey from deep inside the penalty area misses to the left of the goal.
 11:04 Stewart Downing takes the direct free kick.
 11:04 Substitution Substitution Jonjo Shelvey replaces Nuri Sahin.
 11:04 Sanchez Jose Enrique fouled by Davide Faraoni, the ref awards a free kick.
 4:45 Inswinging corner taken left-footed by Nuri Sahin from the right by-line, save by Daniele Padelli.
 3:21 Unfair challenge on Jesus Fernandez Saez by Pablo Armero results in a free kick. Glen Johnson restarts play with the free kick.
 1:00 Math Ranegie concedes a free kick for a foul on Martin Skrtel. Jose Reina takes the direct free kick.
 0:13 Outswinging corner taken from the right by-line by Giampiero Pinzi.
 0:00 The match gets underway.