

Date: 12 January 2014

Opposition: Stoke City

Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Stoke Sentinel

12 January 2014

THE TIMES

Look in Britannia mirror reflects well on Liverpool

Stoke City Crouch 39, Adam 45, Walters 85 3

Liverpool Shawcross (og) 5, Suarez 32, 71, Gerrard (pen) 51, Sturridge 87 5

Referee A Taylor Attendance 27,160

There are five minutes and injury time to go of a curious, chaotic game.

Liverpool lead Stoke City by the odd goal in seven. Brendan Rodgers' team have thrown away a two-goal lead, edged ahead thanks to an extraordinarily soft penalty and then, just when Luis Suarez seems to have wrapped things up, allowed their hosts back into it. Liverpool hate it at the Britannia. Every visiting team hates it at the Britannia, but Liverpool hate it more than most. They have never won here in the Barclays Premier League. Not only that, it is in these surroundings, against these opponents, where over the past five seasons they have consistently seen their limitations exposed and their ambitions shattered. It was at the Britannia that Rafael Benitez's title challengers in 2009 stumbled to a draw, 24 hours after the Spaniard's "rant" about Manchester United's influence in the English game. In that single moment, they lost the league.

Defeat here accelerated the demise of Roy Hodgson, and brought Kenny Dalglish's renaissance to a shuddering halt. The Britannia has long been the mirror which reveals all Liverpool's flaws. This is where they learn cruel, crucial lessons. This is where they come when they want to know how far there is to go.

So, with five minutes and injury time to go, and Liverpool leading by the odd goal in seven, it was impossible to escape the feeling that what happens next matters. All of their rivals for fourth place, and the cherished, coveted Champions League, won this weekend, after all. What happens next will go quite some way to defining how Rodgers's side's season turns out, that this is when Liverpool find out where they are, and to some extent who they are. Throw it away, and raise all the old ghosts, of insecurity, of uncertainty. Hold on, and escape their shadow.

That is when Daniel Sturridge scores the fifth.

Liverpool came to Stoke City yesterday and learnt plenty about themselves, just as they always do. They learnt that they are still deeply flawed defensively. They learnt they are far from perfect, and, as Rodgers said, that they have a self-destructive streak they need to eliminate. But they also learnt that they can win games, and end hoodoos, and lift curses, despite all of that, simply because they are so ruthless in the final third. They learnt they can win when they need to win, even on hostile territory and against dogged, defiant opponents. They learnt that in Suarez and Sturridge, they have a partnership that can write its own scripts and define its own destiny. They learnt that they do not have to be perfect to be getting somewhere. "We are a real offensive threat, and we can score goals," Rodgers said. "Anything is still possible this season. We have shown enough that we are going to be challenging. We have never said we want to win the league. We just needed to be in the conversation." Of course, Rodgers will be troubled by quite how easily his side wilted in the final ten minutes of the first half. They had been gifted a two-goal lead, Stoke's resistance, usually so stout, melting away as fortune whirled towards their visitors. First came Aly Cissokho's speculative shot that was heading out for a throw in until Ryan Shawcross's thigh diverted it past Jack Butland; then the goalkeeper, the captain and his defensive partner Marc Wilson conspired to turn Martin Skrtel's garryowen into a through ball of rare and precious beauty, the three of them watching in horror as Suarez tapped home from an acute angle. Liverpool had been marginally the better side at that point -- Philippe Coutinho, once, and Suarez, twice, might have added to the lead -- but, if Rodgers had wanted proof that his side are not yet the finished article, it came in the seven minutes before the break. Kolo Toure, inexplicably, dropped off Peter Crouch as Marko Arnautovic whipped in a cross from the right. The England striker's header squeezed past Simon Mignolet. And then, just after Coutinho had spurned the chance to restore the visiting team's advantage, Charlie Adam -- granted possession by Jordan Henderson and Steven Gerrard -- equalised, rifling home from the edge of the box. "We went a bit soft," the Liverpool captain said.

In seasons past, that would have been that for Liverpool. They would have crumbled, despite all of the luck flooding their way, in the face of adversity. This year is a little different. True, they required another considerable slice of fortune to retake the lead, Raheem Sterling dropping like a feather under the slightest touch from Wilson and Anthony Taylor, the referee, awarding a penalty. Gerrard duly converted. Stoke poured forward, but they were caught by the first goal which owed nothing to ineptitude and everything to talent, Sturridge's clever reverse pass creating space for Suarez to curl home. "They are outstanding players, you can see that from the way they link up," Rodgers said. It was that pairing that would prove decisive. With five minutes to go, plus injury time, Jonathan Walters pulled one back. The stage was set for the lesson to be learnt. And then Sturridge, set clear by Suarez, scored again, slipping the ball home at the second attempt after a wonderful save from Butland. Liverpool had vanquished their ghosts. They had learnt their lesson.

RATINGS Stoke City (4-3-3): J Butland 6 G Cameron 6, R Shawcross 4, M Wilson 4, E Pieters 6 C Adam 7, G Whelan 6, S N'Zonzi 6 (sub: S Ireland, 81min) J Walters 6, P Crouch 7, M Arnautovic 5. Substitutes not used: T Sorensen, M Muniesa, J Pennant, W Palacios, M Etherington, R Shotton. Booked: Shawcross. Liverpool (4-2-3-1): S Mignolet 5 G Johnson 5, M Skrtel 5, K Toure 6, A Cissokho 6 S Gerrard 7, Lucas Leiva 7 R Sterling 8, J Henderson 7, P Coutinho 6 (sub: D Sturridge, 66 7) L Suarez 8. Substitutes not used: D Ward, L Alberto, I Aspas, V Moses, J Ibe, M Kelly. Booked: Cissokho.

the guardian

Sturridge back to help out Suarez in the wind and rain

So much for the theory that the Britannia Stadium is a difficult place to come. On a cold and wet afternoon in the Potteries, and at the end of a helter-skelter game, Brendan Rodgers and Liverpool celebrated their first Premier League victory here and a hugely significant three points that lifts them back into the top four. Stoke City, however, could not have been more obliging opponents. As ruthless as Liverpool were with their finishing, in particular the irrepressible Luis Suarez, who scored twice to take his tally for the season to 22, Stoke were guilty of some calamitous defending and contributed largely to their own downfall. Marc Wilson and Ryan Shawcross, Stoke's central defenders, will have nightmares about this game.

Shawcross may have been unfortunate with the own goal that gave Liverpool an early lead but it was impossible to have any sympathy with the manner in which the home team conceded a second, when the Stoke captain and Wilson got in a terrible mess.

Stoke, to their credit, hauled themselves back into the match with two goals in the space of six minutes at the end of the first half, when Peter Crouch and Charlie Adam each scored against their former club.

At that point the momentum was with Stoke but the complexion of the game changed again when Anthony Taylor, the referee, adjudged that Wilson had brought Raheem Sterling down.

There was definitely contact and arguably no need for Wilson to attempt to make the challenge but, at the same time, Sterling seemed to go to ground fairly easily. Rodgers described it as a "Spanish penalty" and admitted that Mark Hughes, the Stoke manager, was entitled to be aggrieved. When the dust settled, Steven Gerrard converted from the spot and Stoke were once again chasing the game - an unenviable position to be in against a team that counterattacked as well as Liverpool.

The visitors' threat was augmented by the addition of Daniel Sturridge and the England international, who was making his first appearance in seven weeks after being sidelined with an ankle problem, had an instant impact when he set up Suarez's second. Although Stoke pulled one back through Jonathan Walters, whose weak shot should never have beaten Simon Mignolet, Sturridge restored Liverpool's two-goal lead two minutes later. Incredibly, there was still time for Crouch to hit the upright and Gerrard to be spared an own goal by a superb Mignolet save.

It was that sort of day. A pulsating game was full of goals and mistakes at both ends of the pitch. Rodgers was full of praise for his players, including Gerrard, who pulled the strings in a deeper role just in front of the back four, but if there is a concern for the Liverpool manager it is that his team looked vulnerable defensively. This was the seventh time in eight away games that they have conceded two goals or more.

Liverpool could hardly have wished for a better start. With only five minutes gone Aly Cissokho hit a left-footed shot from 25 yards that was veering closer to the corner flag than the goal until it took a huge deflection off Shawcross, to leave Jack Butland completely stranded.

Things went from bad to worse for Stoke when Martin Skrtel thumped a long ball from back to front that Wilson tried to head back to Butland. Shawcross, seeking to recover the situation, succeeded only in toe-poking the ball into the path of Suarez, who had the simple task of sliding it home.

Stoke had forced plenty of corners - six inside the opening 26 minutes - without ever really looking too threatening but they pulled a goal back when Peter Crouch got away from Kolo Toure and confidently headed home Marko Arnautovic's centre. Seemingly coasting, Liverpool began to look anxious and Stoke capitalised when Gerrard lost his footing deep inside his own half. Adam seized possession and took a couple of touches before cracking a sublime 25-yard drive that arrowed into Mignolet's right corner.

Then came the key moment in the game when Wilson, having squandered possession to Sterling, tried to atone but succeeded only in tangling with the winger and giving away a penalty. Gerrard sent Butland - who picked a bad day to make his first Premier League start - the wrong way from the spot.

Liverpool's fourth arrived when Sturridge carried the ball from inside his own half before choosing just the right moment to flick a neat pass into the path of Suarez, who curled a right-footed shot into the bottom corner. Walters, set up by Arnautovic, then saw his shot slip through Mignolet's arms. He quickly retrieved the ball but it was Liverpool who struck again. This time Suarez turned creator, his cross picking out Sturridge, who scored at the far post at the second attempt. Man of the match Luis Suarez (Liverpool)

The Mail

Deadly double! Suarez makes it 22 for the season as Rodgers' side resist

Potters fightback in thriller... and Sturridge gets in on the act too

It took a simple, four-word tweet from across the Atlantic to show why no-one will underestimate Liverpool when this pulsating season reaches its climax.

'What a dynamic duo!' said John W Henry in the moments after Daniel Sturridge

Date: 12 January 2014

Opposition: Stoke City

Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Stoke Sentinel

12 January 2014

and Luis Suarez had devastatingly combined to secure Liverpool's first Barclays Premier League win at Stoke, a result which propelled them ominously back into the top four. Some moments in this frantic 5-3 triumph will have left Brendan Rodgers appreciating that certain areas of his team require improvement – not least their slapdash defending – but, crucially, his forward line is in perfect working order. Suarez and Sturridge were only on the pitch for 25 minutes at the Britannia Stadium, as Rodgers looked to ease the England international back into the fray after a nine-match absence, but in that time, their pace and movement, understanding and finishing ripped Stoke apart.

They have now scored 17 times in the eight Premier League games they have lined-up together in this year. Should they maintain that ratio, the three sides above them in the table will not be afforded a moment's peace.

This could prove to be a hugely significant afternoon in Liverpool's campaign and the way Rodgers reacted at the final whistle – beaming from ear-to-ear, punching the air and waving to the visiting section as he headed for sanctuary in the dressing room – spoke volumes. These are the games in which Liverpool have fallen short and their deficiencies have been frequently exposed at this stadium, as three consecutive defeats here illustrate. But this was different. From a point at which they could have folded, they summoned spirit and style to finish the job. So even though Mark Hughes grumbled about the manner in which Stoke conceded the crucial third goal, insisting the 51st minute challenge from his defender Marc Wilson on Liverpool winger Raheem Sterling was not a penalty, he was quick to recognise what really made a difference.

Liverpool were leading 3-2 when Sturridge came on to replace Philippe Coutinho but his introduction transformed them and brought a new dimension from the perpetually threatening Suarez; Stoke's defence will not be the last that is left spinning by the SAS. 'It is good to have Daniel back as he's a great player,' said Suarez, who took his tally for the campaign to 22. 'We played a long time without him and now he is back we are so happy. The team's performance was more important than mine. We knew winning would be important for the future.'

Almost from the first whistle, it looked like it was going to be Liverpool's day. The game was just four minutes old when Aly Cissokho had a wild swing at a cross from Sterling but, to his great surprise, his shot cannoned into Ryan Shawcross and wrong-footed Jack Butland. That goal from the French left-back settled Liverpool's nerves and, before long, the visitors had doubled their advantage, this time Suarez seized upon a dreadful mix-up between Wilson and Shawcross to slip a finish beyond the England Under 21 goalkeeper.

From that point, it should have been a cruise but, inexplicably, Liverpool took their foot off the pedal, lost concentration and made mistakes which were punished by two of their old boys immediately before half-time.

First Peter Crouch rose to divert Marko Arnautovic's cross in from 12 yards before Charlie Adam seized upon a loose pass from Jordan Henderson to ram a 25-yard drive past Simon Mignolet and turn the game upside down.

'For 38 minutes it was the perfect away performance,' said Rodgers. 'Then all of sudden it got to 2-2. I didn't want to focus too much on that at half-time. I said to the players if we keep making mistakes like that we'll lose games. I thought our response was brilliant.' But it was given a controversial kick-start. The pendulum swung back in Liverpool's favour when Sterling charged down Wilson's attempted clearance with his arm and set off on a run that ended with him having his legs clipped and being sent sprawling in front of the Liverpool fans.

So outraged was Hughes with the award of a penalty against Marc Wilson, he hurled a bottle of water on the floor in disgust before berating the match officials. His mood darkened further when Steven Gerrard, on his 650th appearance, sent Butland the wrong way. 'I would call that a Spanish penalty, which means that if you get it you are happy,' conceded Rodgers. 'Mark (Hughes) would be aggrieved with that, to be honest.' Yet if that was contentious, the fourth goal was magnificent. Sturridge, having picked up the rhythm of the game instantly, hoodwinked Stoke's defence, slipping a ball with the outside of his left foot into the path of his partner. Suarez didn't break stride and bent a superb drive past Butland. Still Liverpool couldn't relax and they conceded another cheap goal in the 83rd minute when Jon Walters' tame shot skidded past Mignolet – Rodgers and Gerrard both went berserk at the Belgian keeper – but Sturridge ensured there was no calamity with a brilliant finish four minutes later.

'It was all about the team performance and the three points,' said Gerrard. 'It's results like this that we need if we are going to finish in the top four.' That is true. With the 'Dynamic Duo' in tandem, however, Liverpool's ambitions could yet end up being significantly grander, as a simple, three word observation from Rodgers confirmed. Anything is possible.

Stoke City: (4-2-3-1) Butland 6, Cameron 6, Shawcross 5, Wilson 4, Pieters 4; Nzonzi 6, (Ireland 81) Whelan 6; Walters 6, Adam 8, Arnautovic 7; Crouch 7.

Subs: Sorensen, Muniesa, Pennant, Palacios, Etherington, Shotton.

Goals: Crouch 39 Adam 44, Walters 84

Bookings: Shawcross

Liverpool: (4-3-3) Mignolet 6, Johnson 6, Toure 6, Skrtel 7, Cissokho 5; Leiva 6, Gerrard 6, Henderson 6; Sterling 7, Suarez 8, Coutinho 6. (Sturridge 66, 8)

Subs: Ward, Alberto, Aspas, Moses, Ibe, Kelly.

Goals: Shawcross 5, (og) Suarez 32, 71 Gerrard 51 Sturridge 87

Bookings: Cissokho

Referee: Anthony Taylor - 6

Attendance: 27,160

Man-of-the-match: Luis Suarez

The Daily Telegraph

So often Liverpool have left Stoke City with nothing more than a chill. But there the atmosphere was hot inside the Britannia Stadium as they celebrated their first Premier League win there, partially because of their breathless victory and also the fact that their Champions League hopes were boosted as a result.

The second half of the season is full of what are deemed symbolic fixtures; games marked on the calendar as the most serious examination of title, Champions League or survival credentials.

For Liverpool, the red marker pen always highlights the trip to Stoke, before writing it out again in capital letters and underlining it just to stress the point. Liverpool have waited 30 years to leave this city in possession of three points. Being annually outmuscled, outrun, outkicked (and out-thrown) tended to hasten a period of soul searching at Anfield, so it was no wonder that Brendan Rodgers was declaring this as one of his most satisfactory successes of the season.

It was a flawed win, but compared to the grim nature of Liverpool's most recent performances and results here, the temptation has to be to linger on the ferocious attacking that brought them five goals rather than the defensive unease that saw Liverpool squander a two-goal lead.

All the questions being directed at Rodgers concern the direction of the club. It is not often in the last 25 years a Liverpool manager is still being asked about title chances in January, at least not without someone sniggering at the back of the room. Rodgers never needs much encouragement to dwell on positives, so there was an ample supply. Luis Suárez scored twice and revived his partnership with Daniel Sturridge, who returned from an ankle injury with an exceptional cameo during which he created the Uruguayan's second and added a final, nerve-easing goal.

"What a dynamic duo," Liverpool owner John W Henry tweeted, his in-match commentaries becoming a regular feature of the season. It is fair to presume that he was not talking about Martin Skrtel and Kolo Touré.

Raheem Sterling maintained his resurgence with the kind of trickery and directness that earned him a rapid promotion from youth football two years ago. On the basis of his performance, the England teenager should have been applauded off at full-time, but instead found himself jeered for his role in the game's most controversial moment.

Referee Anthony Taylor's decision to award a 51st-penalty for Marc Wilson's challenge on Sterling was the most significant of several turning points.

Mark Hughes argued that the contentious penalty was a momentum shift too far after his side recovered from two goals down, and you could forgive his angst in the circumstances. Sterling accepted an invitation to hit the deck, but there was enough contact to justify the decision. A more reasonable grievance was whether the Liverpool winger handled Wilson's clearance in the build-up.

Before this happened, it seemed that Liverpool's Champions League credentials were about to be undermined by a former players' association as Peter Crouch and Charlie Adam cancelled out a two-goal lead.

Rodgers's side gave themselves the platform for victory thanks to Aly Cissokho and Suárez, only for the former Anfield pair to score twice in the six minutes before half-time.

Inept defending – Liverpool's back four and goalkeeper looked anxious under pressure – contributed to the goal bonanza. Crouch hit the post with a late header and forced Simon Mignolet into several saves. If the Belgian has enjoyed better afternoons, spare a thought for Jack Butland on his Premier League debut – a harrowing experience.

Liverpool led early thanks to generous Stoke defending, Cissokho's shot from 20 yards deflecting off Ryan Shawcross to wrong-foot Butland. Cissokho took the credit, but the dubious goals panel will be meeting.

When Suárez tapped in a second on 32 minutes after a terrible mix-up between Wilson, Butland and Shawcross, it seemed Liverpool were in for a rare afternoon of serenity in Staffordshire.

Not so. Crouch shook off Touré too easily to head in Marko Arnautovic's cross on 39 minutes, before Adam took advantage of Henderson's loose pass to slam a lethal left-footer past Mignolet. Both the former Anfield players were subdued in their celebrations, while Rodgers looked on bemused. Hughes may have been considering sending on Jermaine Pennant to complete an old boy hat-trick.

Sterling's intervention enabled Gerrard to restore the visitors' lead from the penalty spot, before substitute Sturridge's penetrative run and perfectly weighted pass to Suárez restored a two-goal cushion.

Jon Walters offered hope of another comeback as Mignolet somehow allowed a tame strike through his legs, but Sturridge stretched to meet Suárez's cross, reacting as his own as his hot rebounded to drill in his 12th of the season – the 17th goal in eight games the attacking pair have played together.

Date: 12 January 2014
 Opposition: Stoke City
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Stoke Sentinel

12 January 2014

THE INDEPENDENT

Liverpool old boys Peter Crouch and Charlie Adam can't halt Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge

Just about everything that could go right for Liverpool did, plus they have Luis Suarez. Goals number 21 and 22 helped bounce Liverpool back into the top four on a day when Stoke brought misfortune almost entirely on themselves.

This was not vintage Suarez but it hardly seems to matter. Half a sniff is enough for this boy to ferret a goal. His first was handed to him by the benevolent society active in the Stoke defence. Marc Wilson, with a header back to his keeper that came up short, and then Ryan Shawcross failed to clear, allowing Suarez in.

His second was a brilliant finish following a smart exchange with substitute Daniel Sturridge, who did as much as any to ensure Liverpool went home happy. Stoke were full value in their guise as a footballing outfit retrieving a two-goal deficit in the first half and threatening similar in the second after Liverpool had restored their advantage. When it's your day, it's your day. Liverpool were ahead after five minutes in circumstances that could hardly have been more fortuitous. Aly Cissokho's shot was heading for Stoke town centre before it hit Shawcross and ricocheted past the helpless Jack Butland.

Liverpool were forced into plenty of defending in the opening half hour as Stoke piled forward in search of an equaliser. Simon Mignolet, who started the season so well following his move from Sunderland, looked increasingly unconvincing under the high ball, flapping badly at one cross and then punching another poorly. On the break Liverpool were bright and dangerous, moving the ball quickly to the feet of Raheem Sterling. The Liverpool youngster has a lot to commend him. He is rapid and has quick feet. Judgement, though, is the part of his game that appears in greatest need of refinement. At the moment he appears to be stuck on the Shaun Wright-Phillips plateau. The same cannot be said of Suarez, obviously, who is never anything less than direct. Goal number 21 of his truncated season came courtesy of catastrophic clumsiness in the Stoke defence, allowing Suarez to insinuate his way between Buckland and Shawcross to stab the ball home.

It was hard on Stoke, and left them in an unfamiliar position at home, where they have lost only once in 12 months. Mark Hughes urged his team forward from the technical area, knowing that a goal before half-time was the requirement. In the event Stoke delivered two. For the first Marko Arnautovic cut inside off the left to pick out the head of Crouch, who steered the ball past Mignolet. The second was a beauty from Charlie Adam, smashing the ball left-footed from distance against his former club. Mignolet dived but it is doubtful he saw much of it as the ball whistled past his outstretched left hand.

So into the break they went all square, with Stoke fancying their chances of a serious scalp. Had they gone ahead in the early minutes of the second half as they might have done, who knows how this match would have ended. As it was Stoke invited Liverpool to set the agenda, Wilson again the offender sweeping the ball into the chest of Sterling, who made the most of the bounce to race away towards goal. None in Stoke felt there was much wrong with Wilson's challenge but the referee Michael Oliver pointed straight to the spot and Steven Gerrard stroked Liverpool back in front.

Even then Stoke came back at them. The Britannia Stadium has seen fewer goals this season than any other Premier League Ground, and here we were needing an abacus to keep up. Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, did what he has done so often this year and brought off Philippe Coutinho just after the hour. His replacement, Sturridge made an immediate impact, taking the ball at every opportunity and linking beautifully with Suarez.

A superb turn to wrong-foot the Stoke defence allowed him to set Suarez free down the left. The move had goal written all over it, Suarez shaping his shot expertly past Buckland. Hughes was rooted to the spot. His team had enjoyed the greater possession and were always looking to attack, but each time they threatened to take control a mistake cost them.

To their credit heads never dropped. Jonathan Walters raised hope once more of parity, capitalising on confusion in the Liverpool defence with five minutes remaining. There was no sense that the scoring had stopped and no knowing who might score the next. Sturridge had the final say of a mad afternoon. He has not played since November, but you would not have known it as he jinked his way on to the scoresheet. Gerrard played the ball long, Suarez delivered the killer pass for Sturridge to stretch the keeper at the far post. Buckland did well to deflect the ball on to the timber but Sturridge was on it in an instant, taking the ball away from goal before turning to smash Liverpool's fifth.

And that was it, an outcome that could not have been foretold and was never totally secure. Liverpool won't mind that at a stadium that has not been kind to them. Though they have won twice here in the League Cup never before had they triumphed in the Premier League.

Gerrard is back, Sturridge, too and Suarez can't stop scoring. That's a potent combination, and timely if they are to keep pace with Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal.

Booked: Stoke City Shawcross. Liverpool Cissokho.

Man of the match Suarez.

Match rating 8/10.

Possession Stoke City 51% Liverpool 49%.

Attempts on target Stoke City 4 Liverpool 9.

Referee A Taylor (Greater Manchester). Attendance 27,160.

DAILY Mirror

Luis Suarez nets twice as Reds edge thriller at the Britannia

Sometimes, in the midst of insanity, you get a glimpse of an inner reality.

And in what can only be described as a truly mad game at the Britannia Stadium, we saw why Liverpool, for all their weakness in defence, still have a real shot at the title.

It is hard to know where to start with this breathtaking contest, but easy enough to know where to finish – with the Reds' world-class ability to do just that.

In Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge, they have two strikers who can keep them in the hunt at the business end of the Premier League, for all the reasons offered here why they should not be.

Manchester United won the title last season because they had two outstanding goalscorers and you could argue that Liverpool's front two are even better.

In previous years, in fact for perhaps the last 20 years, Liverpool would have lost this game after throwing away a two-goal lead before half-time. That is why they had never won here before in the Premier League.

But they won because Suarez and Sturridge produced a world-class finish and a world-class assist apiece, to just about haul their side over the line, despite the best efforts of their defence to prevent them.

As Suarez said afterwards, victory here was always going to be a marker.

"We knew how important the win here was," he said with a smile.

Few teams win at the Britannia, and even fewer do it defending like this.

It certainly was not a game for the purists, which is a kind way of saying it was littered with errors.

In fairness, the rain and wind were almost biblical and that explains the uncertainty underfoot which for a long period suggested Liverpool's title hopes would slide away.

Even after taking what appeared a comfortable first-half lead – thanks to some shocking defending from the home side – their mental block against Stoke produced a mini meltdown.

At least the Potters had an excuse for their woeful rearguard with Marc Wilson employed as an emergency centre-half.

It was his frailty alongside Erik Pieters – tormented all afternoon by the pace of Raheem Sterling – which inspired the comedy of errors and made the contest both farcical and fascinating.

Sterling was the obvious outlet for Liverpool and when his escape and cross found Aly Cissokho on five minutes, we were offered what was to be a portent of things to come as the defender's wild shot was deflected in off Ryan Shawcross.

Minutes later, it seemed Wilson had delivered the fatal blow to his side with a poor back header exacerbated by Shawcross's further mistake, leaving Suarez with a gift his talent hardly requires.

But then came the period that screams why Liverpool could struggle to keep pace with Manchester City and Chelsea.

They let Stoke back into the game when Kolo Toure went to sleep and allowed Peter Crouch acres of space to head home.

And Stoke were level, without doing much at all, when Jordan Henderson and Steven Gerrard in a deeper holding role contrived to give Charlie Adam a shooting chance he took with audacious style.

In the past, that would have been it for the visitors, and with it their title hopes.

But Sterling is growing up with every game, and capitalised on a clear handball to race away and claim a soft but justifiable penalty which Gerrard converted on his 650th appearance for the club.

Even then it was not over, despite Sturridge producing the moment of the game with a touch of genius to allow Suarez to finish with almost equal class, as more errors from Toure and Simon Mignolet allowed Jon Walters to sneak a tame shot into the net.

But Sturridge had the final word, as he showed why Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers gambled on an extra striker from the bench.

And that illustrated why it is folly, for all their frailties, to write off his Liverpool side.

No one scores five at Stoke. Yet they deservedly did. With ruthless style.

Date: 12 January 2014
 Opposition: Stoke City
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Stoke Sentinel

12 January 2014



Rule Britannia!

As an incredible contest was brought to a close, the travelling Kop were in full voice. "There's only one Brendan Rodgers", echoed around the Britannia Stadium – it was a fitting soundtrack at the end of a rollercoaster afternoon. The hoodoo had finally been broken. For the first time in Premier League history, the Reds claimed the scalp of Stoke City on their own patch. An away victory against modest mid-table opposition doesn't usually trigger scenes like this, but this was a landmark triumph for Liverpool as they climbed back into the top four. So often in recent years the Britannia has been the setting for the Reds' weaknesses to be brutally laid bare.

Stoke have made a habit of exposing Liverpool's soft underbelly and delivering painful setbacks. They did it to Rafa Benitez's title challengers in 2009 and they inflicted one of the most chastening defeats of Roy Hodgson's short-lived reign. The Potters turned over Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool and then successfully preyed on the Reds' frailties during Rodgers' first season at the helm.

Not this time. When Jon Walters reduced the deficit to 4-3 with five minutes to go, the sense of impending doom was tangible. But rather than wilt under the pressure, Rodgers' side dug deep and delivered the glorious killer blow courtesy of substitute Daniel Sturridge. The fans rejoicing in the away end responded by toasting their manager in song. Never over the past 18 months has Rodgers' name been chanted with such feeling. Some have been slow to take him to their hearts but in this thrilling season of progress he's belatedly getting the accolades he richly deserves. This was far from a vintage performance but the win was testament to both the spirit and the attacking brand of football Rodgers has installed. Having carelessly tossed away a 2-0 lead before the break, Liverpool produced a show of real character. They simply refused to be bullied.

Crucially, after skipper Steven Gerrard restored their advantage from the penalty spot, Rodgers was bold. Rather than attempt to hold on to what the Reds had, he went for the jugular with the introduction of Sturridge and it paid a rich dividend. With Sturridge reunited with two-goal hero Luis Suarez, Liverpool ran riot. "What a dynamic duo!" tweeted principal owner John W Henry. No-one was arguing. Having conceded just seven goals in 10 league games at the Britannia this term, Mark Hughes' side shipped five in one crazy afternoon.

The impact of Sturridge after six weeks out with ankle ligament damage was remarkable. The £12million man brilliantly created Suarez's 22nd Premier League goal of the campaign before the Uruguayan returned the compliment for the Reds' fifth. There is no better strike partnership in the top flight and if Suarez and Sturridge maintain these standards then the coming months promise to be some ride. It's just as well Liverpool boast such firepower because defensively they continue to look vulnerable. In seven of their last eight away league games they have conceded at least twice. Injuries haven't helped with Rodgers having to chop and change his line-up so often but it remains an area of concern.

Neither Kolo Toure nor Martin Skrtel covered themselves in glory and the full-backs weren't blameless either. This time it didn't matter, but there will be days when Suarez and Sturridge can't get them out of jail.

For most of the first half the Reds were cruising. They led inside five minutes courtesy of a big slice of good fortune. Aly Cissokho's 25-yarder was heading for the corner flag before hitting Ryan Shawcross and flying past Jack Butland. Liverpool worked tirelessly as a unit as they pressed Stoke relentlessly and forced them into mistakes. Raheem Sterling extended his purple patch with another eye-catching display – he was as impressive without the ball as he was when tormenting the Potters' backline with his pace.

One mazy run from the young winger ended with a pass to Philippe Coutinho, who curled a right-footer over the bar. If only the talented Brazilian had an end product this victory would have been a lot more straightforward.

Just past the half hour mark the Reds doubled their account, aided by comedy defending and Suarez's commitment to chasing down lost causes.

Martin Skrtel launched a clearance forward and centre-backs Marc Wilson and Shawcross messed up. Shawcross could only divert Wilson's header into the path of Suarez who finished clinically. The irony of Stoke being caught out by such route one tactics wasn't lost on anyone. Yet from a position of control, the Reds floundered badly as in the space of six minutes before the break they undid all their good work. First, Marko Arnautovic was granted far too much time and space on the left. His cross was met by Peter Crouch, who pulled away from Toure to guide a header past Simon Mignolet. Suddenly, the atmosphere around the Britannia Stadium was transformed. Coutinho should have swiftly silenced the home fans but his volley from Suarez's cross was too close to Butland.

With half-time looming, another Anfield old boy returned to haunt his former employers. Jordan Henderson's error gifted possession to Charlie Adam and he unleashed a 20-yarder beyond Mignolet and into the bottom corner.

The interval gave Liverpool the chance to regroup and within six minutes of the second half they had regained the initiative. Sterling blocked Wilson's attempted clearance close to halfway and raced goalwards. The Irish defender tried to atone for his error but a clumsy challenge sent the teenager sprawling inside the box. Stoke were incensed but Gerrard kept his cool to mark his 650th appearance for the club in style.

Coutinho made way for Sturridge and the substitute needed just five minutes to make his mark as Stoke were picked off on the counter-attack. The England international ran from inside his own half and showed great vision and awareness with a wonderful pass to Suarez. The outcome was inevitable as the Uruguayan found the bottom corner. That should have been game over but Mignolet somehow allowed Jon Walters' weak shot to squirm under him.

Stoke had a glimmer of hope and Crouch headed wide before Liverpool bagged a match-clinching fifth. This time Suarez turned provider, whipping an enticing cross towards Sturridge at the back post. Butland made a smart save but Sturridge reacted quickly to ruthlessly put away the rebound. There was still time for Crouch to nod against the woodwork and Mignolet to claw away Gerrard's misplaced header. They say the true gauge of a team is how they measure up on a cold, windy night in Stoke. Finally, Liverpool have passed the test.

Stoke Sentinel

STOKE went toe-to-toe with Liverpool in a stunning game the Reds had to win twice, at least, as the Britannia enjoyed its biggest-ever goal feast in the Premier League.

Stoke survived one test of character to transform a 2-0 deficit into 2-2 with quickfire goals from Peter Crouch and Charlie Adam just before the break. And when a controversial penalty had catapulted Liverpool into a 4-2 lead, Stoke dragged themselves off the floor once more after Jon Walters struck for 4-3. Liverpool's superior quality in front of goal eventually prevailed, however, with Daniel Sturridge pouncing to finally conclude a remarkable afternoon's action. The game was laden with so many goals and near misses that Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet even had to produce a flying save in the very last seconds... from team-mate Steven Gerrard's wayward header.

Liverpool finally had their first Premier League win at the Britannia, but not before enduring several spooky reminders of their five previous failures after Stoke bravely reprised the spirit of years gone by.

Stoke, showing two chances from their FA Cup win over Leicester following the return of Peter Crouch and Jon Walters for the indisposed Kenwyne Jones and the ineligible Oussama Assaidi, could hardly have suffered a worse or more unfortunate start than was to afflict them in only the fifth minute of the game. There seemed little danger, probably because there wasn't any, when Liverpool worked the ball from right to left for full-back Aly Cissokho to let rip with a shot that would have missed a second set of goals had it not cannoned off a hapless Ryan Shawcross to wrong foot and beat Jack Butland's re-arranged dive to his right.

As unlucky own goals go, this one fell off the scale, and there were audible gasps of exasperation from wounded keeper Asmir Begovic at the Radio Stoke commentary point.

Stoke prospered after early adversity in this fixture last season, but there would be no obvious favours off the referee 12 months later, it seemed, after serial offender Martin Skrtel wantonly tugged at Geoff Cameron's shirt with impunity as they leapt for a free-kick in front of the Liverpool goal.

Walters was feeling the full effects of a pretty belligerent approach from the visitors as they demonstrated a somewhat meaner edge than on previous visits by leaving the Stoke winger grounded under the weight of meaty challenges from both Skrtel and Gerrard.

Liverpool could quickly flick the switch to their more traditional game, however, and Philippe Coutinho was only a yard over with a side-footed effort following a deft break from Raheem Sterling.

Stoke's most promising source of attack, as so often at home, came via Adam's attempts from the right to inflict damage on his one-time employers.

Over on the left, meanwhile, Marko Arnautovic announced his attacking presence with an ambitious volley destined for scornful Scousers behind Mignolet's goal. Their voices might have hit a higher pitch shortly after had the officials seen Skrtel wrestle Shawcross to the ground and then lie on top of him, just for good measure, as the pair tried to beat one another to a left-wing corner.

Suarez was a picture of frustration after seeing Butland's fist narrowly miss the tip of his nose and then having a free-kick deflect off a Stoke defender for a goal-kick. But Suarez was all smiles just after the half-hour when his scavenging was rewarded with a goal via at least one error of judgement in Stoke's defence. The home side were in trouble from the moment Marc Wilson attempted to head back to his keeper to force Shawcross and Butland to converge with catastrophic consequences.

Shawcross poked out a boot that neither cleared the danger or found his goalkeeper – leaving Suarez to nip and slide into an unguarded goal as his two adversaries looked on, helpless and ashen faced.

Much of the home side's approach play thereafter was either ragged or merely petering out, but then came a goal in slow motion to suddenly halve Liverpool's advantage out of the blue.

Arnautovic was allowed time to arc over a high ball from the City left and Crouch, having peeled away from goal, still managed enough power and direction on his header to send the ball creeping inside Mignolet's right-hand post. Stoke's celebrations were very nearly silence barely a minute later, but Butland positioned himself perfectly and strongly to beat away Coutinho's 12-yard volley before seeing Shawcross clip the loose ball off the Brazilian's predatory feet. All Stoke had to do now was see the half out without further goals to give them a

Date: 12 January 2014
 Opposition: Stoke City
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Stoke Sentinel

12 January 2014

platform for the second 45... but they failed miserably!

For the clock was edging towards first-half stoppage time when Adam seized on a poor touch from Jordan Henderson in the middle of the pitch, put his head down as he motored goalwards, then let fly with a near 25-yard beauty which simply pinged past a helpless Mignolet to bulge the left-hand corner of the Belgian's net. The only pity was that Adam didn't have the Bothen End's embrace to fall into, just the faces of 3,000 bewildered Liverpoolians to feast his eyes upon.

How things changed five minutes into the second half, however, when another mistake by Wilson was followed by a bigger gaffe from the referee.

Wilson's judgement was again found wanting as he all too casually tried to waft the ball to his left and allowed Sterling, with no small hint of handball, to intercept and charge into the Stoke area.

Wilson made amends by stifling Sterling's goalward advance before the England winger went over far too easily in a crude attempt to win a penalty.

But howls of derision at Sterling were swiftly transferred to referee Anthony Taylor when he incredibly pointed to the spot, with a straight face somehow, to leave Gerrard sending Butland the wrong way to restore Liverpool's lead.

Stoke's spirit appeared intact, however, as the likes of Adam and Arnautovic tried to inspire another comeback at one end, while others were often retreating furiously to prevent Liverpool scoring on the break at the other.

The home side's gamble on committing so many forward so early backfired in the 71st minute when Liverpool, with Daniel Sturridge now on the pitch, ruthlessly exploited their pace and Stoke's lack of numbers to kill the game once and for all this time.

It was Sturridge who ran so effectively at back-tracking defenders that he sucked three in before clipping the ball to his left for the unattended Suarez to steer his shot clinically across Butland's full-length dive and inside his far post.

The game remained open, but still Stoke struggled for outright chances to narrow their deficit, and Mignolet biggest scare in a while came from Kolo Toure's header on to the roof of his own net.

Toure's header prevented Walters having any joy, but the Stoke man almost had his revenge soon after when meeting Crouch's flicked cross with a downward header that Mignolet fumbled away.

But Walters was to have his moment – and some revenge for that penalty miss at Anfield on the opening day – when turning on Arnautovic's square ball to confound Toure before sliding his shot through Mignolet's fragile defences for 4-3.

Crouch then headed wide with Stoke's one chance – a half-chance in reality – to level an extraordinary game.

For moments later Suarez was crossing to the far post for Sturridge's first effort to be brilliantly saved by the diving Butland, but the England striker recovered his balance quicker than the unfortunate keeper to stroke the loose ball just inside the upright.

There was still time for Crouch to force a header against the far post -and for Suarez to fire against Butland at the near post – in a scintillating game refusing to call time on all the goalscoring.

Stoke were beaten and bloodied, but what a part they had played.



Luis Suarez scored twice as Liverpool recorded their first victory at Stoke in the Premier League to move five points behind leaders Manchester City.

They took a 2-0 lead in the first half following an own goal from Ryan Shawcross and a strike from Suarez.

Stoke hit back through a Peter Crouch header and a superb Charlie Adam shot. Steven Gerrard made it 3-2 from the spot and Suarez fired in an angled shot before Jon Walters's strike, but Daniel Sturridge sealed the win late on.

That last goal came with three minutes of the 90 remaining, which still was enough time for Crouch to head against the post and for Simon Mignolet to produce an outstanding save to prevent Gerrard from scoring an own goal. In total, there were 13 efforts on goal from each side at the Britannia Stadium, a venue where Stoke had only conceded seven goals in their previous 10 league fixtures.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers will be bemoaning his side's defending, as will opposite number Mark Hughes, but the Irishman will be thrilled by the reunion of Sturridge and Suarez in attack.

England international Sturridge, who had not played because of an ankle injury since 23 November, came on in the 66th minute and five minutes later provided the assist for Suarez's second.

And with three minutes remaining, the Uruguay forward found his partner, who then scored the fifth as the Reds climbed from sixth to fourth.

Liverpool began brilliantly and were in cruise control up until six minutes before the break. Shawcross inadvertently found the net after Aly Cissokho's drive took a huge deflection off his leg, before Suarez capitalised on errors from Marc Wilson and the goalscorer to slot in the second.

Stoke's riposte to going two goals down was commendable. They reduced the arrears when Austrian winger Marko Arnautovic, in the team for the ineligible Oussama Assaidi, flung in a ball from the left which Crouch guided into Mignolet's bottom right.

They then levelled in spectacular style when another ex-Red, Adam, drove forward and launched a ferocious shot from 20 yards that easily beat the Belgium keeper.

However, Liverpool were back in front six minutes after the restart.

Once again it was a defensive mistake - and once again it was Wilson. The Republic of Ireland defender, in an attempt to find a team-mate, played the ball to the effervescent Raheem Sterling.

The Liverpool winger, who seemed to control the ball with his hand, sped into the area before he was pushed over by Wilson, who was trying to atone for his initial mistake.

Captain Gerrard, who was playing in a holding midfield role on his 650th appearance for the club, slotted in his spot-kick to Jack Butland's left.

And Liverpool twisted the knife once more when substitute Sturridge jinked one way then the other before playing in Suarez, who smacked an angled drive that nestled in the bottom left.

It should have been game over, but there was still time for one more Stoke response when Walters was quick to pick up the loose ball in the area before firing in past the reach of Mignolet.

With Stoke pouring forward in search of an equaliser, they were left exposed at the back allowing Suarez to break and find Sturridge.

The ex-Chelsea player's initial strike was saved by Butland, but he stayed alert to pick up the follow-up, juggle the ball and fire in at the far post.

Date: 12 January 2014

Opposition: Stoke City

Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo		12 January 2014
Guardian	Mirror	BBC		
Independent	Mail	Stoke Sentinel		



Full time Match ends, Stoke City 3, Liverpool 5.
90:00+4:02 Full time Second Half ends, Stoke City 3, Liverpool 5.
90:00+3:05 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.
90:00+2:01 Foul by Charlie Adam (Stoke City).
90:00+2:01 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
90:00+0:32 Attempt saved. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
89:57 Peter Crouch (Stoke City hits the right post with a header from the centre of the box. Assisted by Charlie Adam with a cross.
88:41 Ryan Shawcross (Stoke City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
88:41 Foul by Luis Suárez (Liverpool).
86:46 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Stoke City 3, Liverpool 5. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from very close range to the bottom right corner.
86:42 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Luis Suárez.
85:50 Attempt missed. Peter Crouch (Stoke City header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Geoff Cameron.
84:05 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Stoke City 3, Liverpool 4. Jonathan Walters (Stoke City left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Marko Arnautovic with a cross.
82:47 Attempt saved. Jonathan Walters (Stoke City header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Peter Crouch with a cross.
81:30 Foul by Aly Cissokho (Liverpool).
81:30 Geoff Cameron (Stoke City wins a free kick on the right wing.
80:35 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Stoke City. Stephen Ireland replaces Steven N'Zonzi.
78:11 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
74:19 Attempt blocked. Charlie Adam (Stoke City left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Marko Arnautovic.
72:00 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Marc Wilson.
70:16 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Stoke City 2, Liverpool 4. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge following a fast break.
67:59 Attempt missed. Steven N'Zonzi (Stoke City left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Charlie Adam.
66:54 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.
66:33 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
66:33 Foul by Erik Pieters (Stoke City).
65:39 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Philippe Coutinho.
64:29 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.
59:08 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Aly Cissokho.
58:33 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Glen Johnson.
57:45 Booking Ryan Shawcross (Stoke City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
57:31 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
57:31 Foul by Ryan Shawcross (Stoke City).
56:57 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
56:57 Peter Crouch (Stoke City wins a free kick on the left wing.
55:44 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is too high following a corner.
55:20 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steven N'Zonzi.
55:09 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
55:09 Foul by Ryan Shawcross (Stoke City).
54:21 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
54:21 Foul by Marc Wilson (Stoke City).
52:51 Attempt blocked. Marko Arnautovic (Stoke City right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Charlie Adam.
52:05 Booking Aly Cissokho (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
52:03 Foul by Aly Cissokho (Liverpool).
52:03 Charlie Adam (Stoke City wins a free kick on the right wing.
51:35 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Aly Cissokho.
50:36 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Stoke City 2, Liverpool 3. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom right corner.
49:35 Penalty Liverpool. Raheem Sterling draws a foul in the penalty area.
49:35 Penalty conceded by Marc Wilson (Stoke City after a foul in the penalty area.
46:12 Attempt missed. Charlie Adam (Stoke City left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.
45:00 Second Half begins Stoke City 2, Liverpool 2.
45:00+4:00 Half time First Half ends, Stoke City 2, Liverpool 2.
45:00+0:50 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
45:00+0:50 Marko Arnautovic (Stoke City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
44:04 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Stoke City 2, Liverpool 2. Charlie Adam (Stoke City left footed shot from outside the box to the bottom right corner.
40:23 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Luis Suárez.
38:55 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Stoke City 1, Liverpool 2. Peter Crouch (Stoke City header from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Marko Arnautovic with a cross.
32:26 Foul by Aly Cissokho (Liverpool).
32:26 Jonathan Walters (Stoke City wins a free kick on the right wing.
31:09 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Stoke City 0, Liverpool 2. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box to the centre of the goal.
29:02 Attempt missed. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box

misses to the left from a direct free kick.
28:09 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
28:09 Foul by Marko Arnautovic (Stoke City).
25:09 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
25:06 Attempt blocked. Peter Crouch (Stoke City header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Charlie Adam with a cross.
24:46 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.
24:42 Attempt blocked. Glenn Whelan (Stoke City right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.
23:37 Attempt missed. Marko Arnautovic (Stoke City right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jonathan Walters with a cross.
22:45 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.
19:48 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Raheem Sterling following a fast break.
19:06 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
17:34 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool).
17:34 Jonathan Walters (Stoke City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
16:12 Dangerous play by Jonathan Walters (Stoke City).
16:12 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
15:37 Offside, Stoke City. Charlie Adam tries a through ball, but Geoff Cameron is caught offside.
15:28 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
13:48 Delay in match Jonathan Walters (Stoke City because of an injury.
12:36 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
11:48 Delay in match Peter Crouch (Stoke City because of an injury.
11:22 Foul by Kolo Touré (Liverpool).
11:22 Peter Crouch (Stoke City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
5:43 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
5:43 Foul by Erik Pieters (Stoke City).
5:05 Foul by Ryan Shawcross (Stoke City).
5:05 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
4:10 Goal scored Goal! Own Goal by Ryan Shawcross, Stoke City. Stoke City 0, Liverpool 1.
4:08 Attempt missed. Aly Cissokho (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
0:59 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.
0:28 Corner, Stoke City. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
0:00 First Half begins.
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.