

Date: 23 February 2014  
 Opposition: Swansea City  
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## THE TIMES

Henderson Keeps focus as Liverpool channel Keegan

Liverpool 4 Sturridge 3, 36, Henderson 20, 74 Swansea City 3 Shelvey 23, Bony 27, 47 (pen) Referee MJONES Attendance 44,731

Ray Clemence watched Liverpool's previous home game from the Kop, but the spirit of Kevin Keegan, another legendary figure from the club's past, was most tangible yesterday. A sevensgoal thriller shaded, brilliance in attack almost undermined by a porous defence: this was the day when Liverpool stirred memories of Keegan's Newcastle United by serving up a slew of reasons why their unlikely title challenge could yet be maintained and just as many why it may not. If scoring four times for the eighth time this season is impressive -- particularly as Liverpool moved ahead of Manchester City as the Premier League's highest goalscorers in the process -- that they needed as many goals to scrape a victory over Swansea City was a cause for concern to Brendan Rodgers. Being great entertainers, a la Keegan's Newcastle, will win Liverpool many admirers, but whether it will allow them to end a 24-year wait for a league title, or end up costing them the chance to do so, remains to be seen. To misquote Keegan, Rodgers would love it if Liverpool could keep a clean sheet. That has happened on only three occasions this season and they have conceded two or more goals in 11 league games. The increasing strain that such defensive weakness is placing on Liverpool's attack is as evident as their threat going forward, prompting Rodgers to warn that unless a more parsimonious approach is adopted, Liverpool could become the architects of their own downfall. That Kolo Toure -- recently depicted as a figure of fun after two catastrophic errors -- was seen as the solution to Liverpool's defensive problems on this occasion said it all. With the score at 3-3, Rodgers introduced Toure at Daniel Agger's expense and the Liverpool manager was unsparing about the reasons why. "He [Agger] was not injured," Rodgers said. Asked if it was because a greater physical presence was required to cope with Wilfried Bony, he confirmed that was the case. What took place in the hour before that substitution was as good an advertisement for open, attacking football as one could wish to see. In Daniel Sturridge, Liverpool possess a forward at the peak of his powers, one who would be well within his rights to look at the chaos behind him and ask how many more times he must bail out his team-mates. Sturridge opened the scoring with three minutes gone after taking Raheem Sterling's pass in his stride and rounding Michel Vorm. In doing so, he became the first Premier League player since Ruud van Nistelrooy to score in eight successive games. From that point on, carnage ensued at both ends of the pitch. Initially, it seemed that Liverpool would run amok, as they had done against Arsenal and Everton in their previous home fixtures, and that feeling grew when Jordan Henderson took advantage of Sturridge's creativity by sweeping a shot past Vorm from the edge of the penalty area. There had already been signs of their defensive vulnerabilities, though, and Bony was providing Swansea with a nuisance value that Liverpool looked ill equipped to deal with. Allowing Nathan Dyer to skirt along the edge of their own penalty area highlighted Liverpool's lack of diligence, and Jonjo Shelvey punished them for it with a remarkable strike that entered the Kop goal via the underside of Simon Mignolet's crossbar. In deference to his former club, Shelvey refused to celebrate and even gesticulated an apology to the Liverpool fans. The goal itself was even more symbolic, though, as it reminded Swansea of their opponents' soft underbelly as well as bringing them back into the game. Liverpool's shortcomings were again apparent after a free kick was awarded against Martin Skrtel for a challenge on Shelvey. Jonathan de Guzman's delivery from the set-piece did not appear to be particularly dangerous, but it became so when Glen Johnson allowed Bony to escape his attentions, and the forward beat Mignolet with a flick header that took a significant deflection off Skrtel. Swansea's response had been impressive, but the visiting team remained susceptible to Liverpool's attack, and they conceded a third goal before the interval when Sturridge met Luis Suarez's cross with a powerful header that afforded Vorm no chance of making a save. Yet it required a sprawling save from Mignolet on the stroke of half-time to ensure that Liverpool went in ahead at the interval, and it was difficult to imagine that Rodgers's team talk featured much more than a demand to tighten up at the back. If that was the case, then his team failed to heed the message. Bony equalised from the penalty spot after Skrtel was adjudged to have pushed the forward. At that stage, with Liverpool reeling and becoming increasingly ragged, it seemed that this would be the day when their title credentials were exposed. But, somehow, they found a way to win, a quality that remains the hallmark of champions, even if their overall performance fell a long way short of that standard. "It was a game where there was a bit of pressure, mentally and physically," Rodgers said. That they managed to survive that dual test owed much to Henderson, who not only scored the decisive goal after Ashley Williams had blocked Suarez's shot, he drove Liverpool on at a time when they were crying out for leadership and direction. He also ensured that the final score was one with which Keegan remains synonymous.

Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet 6 -- J Flanagan 6, M Skrtel 4, D Agger 4 (sub: K Toure, 63min 5), G Johnson 4 -- J Henderson 8, S Gerrard 6, P Coutinho 6 -- D Sturridge 9 (sub: V Moses, 79), L Suarez 7, R Sterling 6 (sub: J Allen, 58 6). Substitutes not used: B Jones, I Aspas, A Cissokho, J Teixeira.

Swansea City (4-2-3-1): M Vorm 6 -- A Rangel 5, J M Flores 5, A Williams 5, N Taylor 5 -- J De Guzman 6 (sub: P Hernandez, 73), L Britton 5 -- N Dyer 6 (sub: D Ngog, 79), J Shelvey 6 (sub: J Canas, 46 5), W Routledge 6 -- W Bony 6. Substitutes not used: G Tremmel, D Tiendalli, M Ennes, J Amat. Booked: Skrtel.

## the guardian

Henderson and Sturridge double-act sinks Swansea

Expectation got to Liverpool yet they got the job done. The nerves frayed against Swansea City, defensive composure was given the day off and the over-riding reaction to the final whistle was relief, but this was another box ticked by Brendan Rodgers's team on the list of Premier League title credentials. A repeat, however, would not be advised. Two goals apiece from Daniel Sturridge and Jordan Henderson kept Liverpool in the title race after Garry Monk's assured Swansea side threatened to puncture the optimism around Anfield. The need to respond to wins for Chelsea, Manchester City and Arsenal 24 hours earlier clearly affected the team in fourth, and Rodgers's appeals for a reality check on title talk sounded justified as the visitors recovered from two goals down and spread panic throughout the Liverpool backline. But, not for the first time, the home side's firepower and spirit proved overwhelming.

"We didn't defend anywhere near well enough but once again the offensive side of our game was very good," the Liverpool manager said. "Up until now we have got away with it [poor defending]. It is not about coaching, the way we concede goals. The way we concede isn't structural, it is down to mistakes and decision-making. "But I'd rather focus on the other side. We have been spoilt here at Anfield. We have won by one goal when usually people are going away happy after a win by three or four, but this was always going to be a more difficult game than it would have been three weeks ago. That's because of what Garry has done with Swansea. They are an excellent side, so I take great pride in our character, the quality of our goals and our determination to get the job done."

Monk's men were utterly dejected on the final whistle after a performance that merited reward but brought only despair. Liverpool's reaction was also telling as their players, management and supporters breathed a collective sigh. Anfield, as Rodgers noted, has grown accustomed to Liverpool blitzing opponents before half-time or relying on brilliance in attack to cover shortcomings in their defence. There was an element of both as Swansea's adventure and their own quality up front produced an open, hugely entertaining contest.

An early Liverpool onslaught is also a regular feature at Anfield and although opponents know the test is coming, few survive. Swansea were behind inside three minutes thanks to a fine pass from Raheem Sterling after Angel Rangel over-ran the ball deep inside the Liverpool half. There appeared little on but Sterling further enhanced his prospects of an England recall by sweeping a glorious ball behind Ashley Williams and Sturridge rounded the goalkeeper Michel Vorm to convert. In doing so, Sturridge became only the second player in Premier League history to score in eight successive games, Ruud van Nistelrooy being the other. Unlike Arsenal and Everton, Swansea responded impressively and were the more composed, enterprising team for the next 18 minutes. Then Liverpool scored again. The goals may have dried up for Luis Suarez recently but his contribution to the team's attack has remained constant. An instinctive cross-field pass released Sturridge down the right and the striker cut inside to find Henderson, who stroked a measured finish into the top corner from the edge of the area.

Liverpool looked home and hosed but their suspect defence and Swansea's refusal to wilt destroyed that script. The visitors were deservedly level with two goals in three minutes. Jonjo Shelvey, impressive on his Anfield return before a tight hamstring prompted his withdrawal, started the comeback with his own, improved take on the Henderson goal. Taking Nathan Dyer's square pass first time, the former Liverpool midfielder swept the ball in off the bar and bizarrely apologised to the Liverpool fans who sportingly applauded the goal.

Moments later Shelvey was clipped by Martin Skrtel and, from Jonathan de Guzman's free-kick, Wilfried Bony headed in his first Premier League goal on English soil via a deflection off Liverpool's Slovakian defender. Bony and Dyer had decent chances for a third before the interval but Liverpool edged ahead again as Suarez and Sturridge performed another rescue act. Jon Flanagan and Sterling combined to release Suarez, who floated an inch-perfect cross from the left for Sturridge to head beyond Vorm for a his 18th goal in 19 Premier League appearances. "I wasn't happy with the first half," said Monk, who added that he wants Michu to stay with Swansea despite reported interest from Anzhi Makhachkala. "We were a bit too slow and gave them too much space. But once we sorted that out we were back to ourselves in the second half. The crowd were getting edgy and at 3-3 I thought we could do something but we left ourselves too open for their fourth goal." Anxiety increased in the Liverpool display and Swansea levelled moments after the restart when Skrtel, who has escaped with more obvious grappling inside his area this season, was penalised for pulling Bony to the floor as they awaited a Dyer cross. The Ivory Coast forward picked himself up to beat Simon Mignolet from the spot. Despite Skrtel's carelessness it was his defensive partner, Daniel Agger, who was replaced by Kolo Toure, with Rodgers worried about the Dane's physical struggle against Bony.

Chances continued at both ends and Suarez was denied a penalty claim after Liverpool had refused to return the ball to Swansea following injury to a visiting player. "I don't know why we didn't give the ball back," said Rodgers. "It wasn't a penalty because we should have given it back." Tension finally eased when Henderson grabbed his second goal. Steven Gerrard found Suarez and though Williams blocked the Uruguayan's shot, the ball fell for the midfielder to beat Vorm at the second attempt. Job done, just.

Man of the match Jordan Henderson (Liverpool)

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## The Mail

Brendan vows to do it in style

LIVERPOOL 4 SWANSEA 3

BRENDAN RODGERS is committed to steering Liverpool into the Champions League with style as they cemented their topfour place with a thrilling win over Swansea. Liverpool (70) have overtaken Manchester City (69) as the highest scorers in the English top flight after a dramatic victory at Anfield that saw Daniel Sturridge maintain his current hot streak -- the England striker has now scored in eight consecutive Barclays Premier League games. But it wasn't a totally satisfying day for Rodgers. He was critical of his side's poor defending and admitted to having concerns about how individual mistakes are proving costly and mean that Liverpool have kept only three clean sheets in their last 24 league fixtures.

The manager, however, believes grinding out results -- as Chelsea have been doing -- is not how Liverpool go about their business and he will urge his players to stay on the front foot as they attempt to qualify for the Champions League for the first time since 2009. He said: 'It's not our style (to grind it out). I work always to play good football. I'm not one who is totally satisfied about results, but it's the point of the season that's about winning. 'I will always concentrate on performance, though, because the consequence of performing well consistently is you get results. We've shown that this season. 'There have not been too many times this season when we have talked about hard-luck stories.

'We weren't quite at our best but we scored four goals and won. There's no doubt we will continue to work on it. The balance in our training is very much equal in relation to our pressing, defensive mentality and our offensive side. That offensive side was very good and got us our points.'

The first goal, in the third minute, was a beauty. Raheem Sterling spotted Sturridge's run off the shoulder of Chico Flores and found his team-mate with a sublime pass. Sturridge, aided by Michel Vorm's poorly-judged dash from goal, eased round the Swansea keeper and converted from an angle.

Having missed three such chances at Arsenal a week earlier, the striker will have been delighted. Soon after, he played his part in Liverpool's second goal. Sent wide on the right by Luis Suarez's pass, Sturridge cut inside patiently. His touch found Jordan Henderson in space and the midfielder's right-foot shot was perfectly placed just inside Vorm's right-hand post.

It was fitting that Liverpool's early promise was built on the back of players like Sterling, Sturridge and Henderson, whose vast improvement this season under Rodgers has been at the heart of the team's progress.

Equally typical at times, though, has been errant defending and there was certainly something rather skittish about Liverpool's play for the rest of the half. Swansea were excellent in their passing, movement and tenacity.

New coach Garry Monk has certainly improved them.

Liverpool, though, were far too compliant and a slackness that Rodgers later admitted had worried him allowed Swansea enough possession to find a way back.

His first goal was dispatched by Jonjo Shelvey. The former Liverpool midfielder's shot, high into the net from 20 yards, was terrific, even if his subsequent refusal to celebrate seemed a little staged. At one point, he actually seemed to be apologising to the Kop, which, frankly, was ridiculous.

His goal gave Swansea impetus and, three minutes later, they were level.

Martin Skrtel should not have been penalised for a fair tackle on Shelvey but when the free-kick was whipped across goal, Liverpool should have defended it better. As it was, Wilfried Bony's header was deflected past Simon Mignolet by Skrtel.

There was still time for another Sturridge goal before half-time as he headed Suarez's cross in to the net. By now the pattern of the game was set and Swansea emerged for the second half to level again.

There seemed little danger by the touchline as Sterling prepared to bring the ball clear but a slip allowed Nathan Dyer to have the ball and his cross saw Skrtel and Bony clash, prompting referee Mike Jones to award a penalty.

Rodgers claimed Jones had erred and he may be right. Nevertheless, Skrtel has a reputation for grappling in the area and, if that contributed to this decision, then he has only himself to blame.

Bony converted calmly and for a while it was anybody's afternoon.

When Liverpool needed some calm, they had none.

Swansea, meanwhile, sensed opportunity and could have won had Mignolet not saved from Jonathan de Guzman.

What will have worried Rodgers about this passage of play was that his team were playing with no discernible pattern. Eventually, though, they grabbed victory when Henderson followed up his own shot to score from six yards.

Liverpool, however, will have to improve. Their season will stand or fall on visits to Anfield by Manchester City and Chelsea and a trip to Manchester United. They will not get away with performances like this on those occasions.

LIVERPOOL (4-1-4-1): Mignolet; Flanagan, Skrtel, Agger (Toure 63), Johnson; Henderson; Gerrard, Coutinho, Sturridge (Moses 79), Suarez; Sterling (Allen 58). Subs not used: B Jones, Aspas, Cissokho, Teixeira. Booked: Skrtel. SWANSEA (4-2-3-1): Vorm; Rangel, Chico, Williams, Taylor; de Guzman (Hernandez 73), Britton; Dyer (Ngog 78), Shelvey (Canas 46), Routledge; Bony. Subs not used: Amat, Tiendalli, Tremmel, Emnes. Booked: None. Referee: Mike Jones. Attendance: 44,731. Man of the match: Daniel Sturridge

## The Daily Telegraph

Vibrant Liverpool sprint for the finish

Liverpool 4 Sturridge 3, 36, Henderson 20, 74

Swansea City 3 Shelvey 23, Bony 27, 47 pen Att: 44,731

They should not have bothered signalling the kick&#x2013;off at Anfield with a referee's whistle. A starting pistol would have been more appropriate for this game. Liverpool are attempting to win a marathon by engaging in a 38&#x2013;game sprint.

It is glorious to watch, particularly on their own ground, but after needing a photo finish to get the better of a Swansea side reasserting its identity under Garry Monk, even Brendan Rodgers admitted it is not always so desirable to try to spend every second in fifth gear.

For all Liverpool's attacking verve &#x2013; they led 2&#x2013;0 after 21 minutes just as they have done so often in recent home fixtures &#x2013; this was an occasion where the ability to pause for breath and take a more measured view of proceedings would have avoided later discomfort.

After conceding their two&#x2013;goal advantage, and a 3&#x2013;2 lead early in the second half, Liverpool needed a second for the outstanding Jordan Henderson on 74 minutes to retain their title aspirations.

While Liverpool evidently possess the firepower to end their title drought, the lingering defensive flaws may undermine their efforts and the pursuit of attacking perfection can leave them exposed.

"It's not a tactical fault," said Rodgers, insisting individual errors are proving most costly.

That may be so, but the sight of Steven Gerrard single&#x2013;handedly protecting his defence while Henderson &#x2013; even when Liverpool were ahead &#x2013; joined the attack searching for more goals is hardly pragmatic. The ambition is admirable and, for the most part, the execution of it is working. Swansea, not only echoing Rodgers's passing sermon but at times delivering it with more gusto, could consider themselves unfortunate to suffer a slender defeat in a seven&#x2013;goal banquet that was mesmerising but also utterly ridiculous. There was caviar up front, cabbage at the back.

Reviewing the video evidence, Rodgers and Monk will thrill at the entertainment served going forward but hunt the nearest sofa to take cover when they survey the horrors when they conceded.

When Daniel Sturridge struck after three minutes it seemed the Anfield trend of banking the points by halftime would continue.

Raheem Sterling delivered a pass with the outside of his right foot last seen when Gerrard sent Sturridge clear at Fulham. The England striker has 18 in 19 Premier League games this season, but he will be the first to admit that, with this kind of service, he is rather like Charlie given complete access to the chocolate factory. Henderson's exquisite second on 21 minutes, curled past the static Michel Vorm from 18 yards, began to summon memories of the swift destruction of Arsenal a fortnight ago.

The extremities in the Liverpool line&#x2013;up then came to the fore.

Former Liverpool midfielder Jonjo Shelvey eclipsed Henderson with a similar but more potent strike on 23 minutes, swerving into the top corner after finding time and space on the edge of the penalty area.

Shelvey apologetically held his arms aloft and the Kop applauded. He took his repentance rather too far by going off at half&#x2013;time with a hamstring twinge, a blessed relief for his former club as he was starting to control midfield. By then, Swansea had both equalised and conceded a third.

Martin Skrtel is starting to epitomise Liverpool's defensive uncertainty, the Slovakian's best moments recently being in the opposition's box, or certainly as far removed as possible from his own.

After losing possession and conceding a free kick 30 yards from goal, Skrtel then deflected Wilfried Bony's glancing header past Simon Mignolet.

Liverpool found themselves back in the starting blocks and promptly moved back into top gear before halftime when Luis Suarez crossed for Sturridge to head his side back in front.

Still calamity in the Liverpool's defence was never far away and Skrtel's abysmal afternoon deteriorated when he conceded a 47th&#x2013;minute penalty. Referee Mike Jones adjudged him to have pulled Bony's shirt.

"It was not a penalty," complained Rodgers, but, perhaps, the crimes of previous fixtures and incessant shirt pulling were on the referee's mind.

Bony picked his spot with the penalty and the second half followed a similar pattern to the first, a game more fitting of an ice rink and puck than football pitch. In the frenzy to find a winner, Henderson took advantage of Vorm's fumble to make it 4&#x2013;3 and, despite more jitters in defence, a crucial three points was preserved.

Liverpool cannot be discounted in this title race yet, but if you are looking for a reference point for this Anfield incarnation, it is hard to shake off the image of the 1995&#x2013;96 season under Roy Evans. Like now, Evans's side was built on a prolific striking partnership and an attacking midfield that, on its day, was destructive.

They never won the title because, among other issues, they had a defence containing Phil Babb.

There is no doubt going forward that this Liverpool team can keep the pace. It is their own defence, however, that needs to prove it can keep up.

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## THE INDEPENDENT

Anfield marauders recreate that old next-goal-wins feeling

It's some throwback we're getting from Liverpool - not just to the days of Thatcher's Britain, when Anfield last aspired to win the title, but to the days of football in the park, when next goal wins.

Exhilarating as the football might be from Brendan Rodgers' troubadours - who have scored more goals here already this season than in any of the past three and have now overtaken Manchester City's overall tally - their defensive brittleness is the trait which casts a shadow over their quest to return to Europe's top table. The seventh goal of another breathless afternoon finally proved enough to take the home side within four points of Chelsea but there was suffering and celebration in equal measure for those who came to watch. The other sides who covet fourth place will have taken heart from what they saw in the performances of Martin Skrtel, the returning Glen Johnson and Daniel Agger. The manager's admission that he had substituted Agger for no other reason than his lack of physicality was a damning indictment. It comes to something when you turn to Kolo Tour[c] as a reinforcement.

But this is the way it is going to be for Liverpool between now and May. The most revealing aspect of Rodgers' post-match dissection of yesterday's game was his declaration that greater defensive security is something he can't coach in his players. If they can't know it instinctively, they'll never have it.

There might need to be more composure in the three months ahead, the manager admits, but it is the incredible offensive component - one which has made Anfield the most consistently fine place to watch football this season - which will take them back to the European big time.

To the very end, Liverpool's lead lacked any type of security. A passage eight minutes from time told it all: Tour[c] allowed the ball to be played inside him and Johnson slammed a clearance straight into Skrtel, two feet to his right. Yet in Raheem Sterling and Jordan Henderson there was evidence of that transformative effect Rodgers has on those players who are willing to play the game his way. Both fizzed with menace as the home team began with a now trademark Anfield intensity which suggested another avalanche. Jonathan de Guzman was left sprawled across the turf as Sterling dispossessed him, advanced and clipped an imperious pass with his right outstep behind Chico Flores which Daniel Sturridge ran on to, eased past Michel Vorm and steered into the net. Sturridge really does love rounding a goalkeeper.

Sterling's breezy self-confidence - immediately bending a right-foot shot which Vorm dived to claw away - gave him the air of a player who could win this match single-handed. And then Henderson stepped up, doubling Liverpool's lead on 20 minutes, arcing a first-time shot onto the ball which Sturridge had rolled into his path from the side of the penalty area.

But even in those early stages there was a premonition of what was to follow. Sterling's confidence led to him attempting a cushioned volley pass from the edge of his own area - straight to Angel Rangel. That kind of swagger was unwise against a side in whom Garry Monk has restored the crisp technical component which had drifted away in the last weeks of Michael Laudrup's tenure.

In a very gratifying match for those who extol the innate virtues of the English footballer, Leon Britton, Jonjo Shelvey and Nathan Dyer - Englishmen all - were excellent for Monk.

It was Dyer who advanced in from Swansea's right to supply a short pass which Shelvey's right foot sent fizzing into the top right-hand corner of Simon Mignolet's net - a mirror image of Henderson's strike - and within four minutes Wilfried Bony had levered a header onto De Guzman's free-kick which Skrtel diverted haplessly into his own net.

Though Sturridge's header re-established his team's lead - Flores and Ashley Williams allowing him a criminal quantity of space when Luis Suarez's cross from the left split the pair of them - the first half concluded with Dyer dispossessing Philippe Coutinho and Henderson sending an aimless, dangerous ball across his own area.

The interval made no apparent difference. Swansea levelled again within two minutes of the restart - though Skrtel was unfortunate to have been adjudged to foul Bony as the two tussled for the ball in the area. The Ivorian dispatched the penalty.

It said everything about Swansea's threat that Joe Allen was needed from the bench, in Sterling's place, as a reinforcement, against a side who had managed half of Liverpool's season's tally before yesterday. It worked - and Allen also almost set Liverpool back on their course, dispossessing Flores five yards in front of Swansea's area before feeding Sturridge, whose shot had left his boot when Williams launched himself into a monumental block.

There was a na[macron]vety about the way Swansea kept advancing, creating a vast pocket of space between midfield and defence which Liverpool could eventually seize to score the decisive goal.

One of Steven Gerrard's several zeroed 20-yard passes found Suarez, whose shot Williams could only block to the feet of Henderson. Vorm repelled the midfielder's strike but the rebound fell back at the same player's feet to score. Gerrard also hit the post in the last minute. His side are another step towards their holy grail but hold on tight - because this journey will be high octane to the last.

## DAILY MIRROR

SAS UP FRONT ..HOME GUARD AT THE BACK! Liverpool's hotshots bail out defence in seven-goal thriller

LIVERPOOL 4 SWANSEA 3

LIVERPOOL showed yesterday why they could win the league - but also why they probably will not.

The Reds were relentless in attack and they have overtaken Manchester City to become the Premier League's top scorers with 70 goals after their four strikes against Swansea.

But they continue to resemble a colander at the back and came close to snatching a draw from the jaws of victory.

The three they conceded against the Swans means they have let in 35 league goals this term.

Liverpool have managed just six clean sheets in the league and titles are not won with leaky defences.

The Reds cannot keep relying on their potent strikeforce to bail them out in the hope they will always score one more than they concede.

Brendan Rodgers acknowledged this weakness in his side and insisted he was not ignoring defending in training.

The Kop boss said: "The offensive side of our game was very good to get four goals. But we did not defend anywhere near well enough in any aspect.

"Up until now, we have got away with it, but you're right - we can't rely on that.

It's not coaching and you can't coach some of the goals we conceded.

"It's not something that is planned. It's down to mistakes and decision making and the balance in training is right between offensive and defensive."

Rodgers claims he will never try and imitate his mentor Jose Mourinho and grind out results like he does so efficiently at Chelsea.

He added: "I think it's not our style. I worry always to play good football.

I'm not one who is totally satisfied to always grind out results."

Even if Liverpool's porous defence does cost them their chance of a first title since 1990, Champions League football will be a welcome consolation prize.

Rodgers' side remain firmly on course and effectively need five more wins from their remaining 11 games to claim a top-four spot.

The Ulsterman rightly praised their character and they just about deserved to edge this thrilling encounter against Garry Monk's born-again Swansea through Jordan Henderson's second goal.

Henderson was excellent, as was Daniel Sturridge, who took just three minutes to net the opener when he latched on to Raheem Sterling's defence-splitting pass.

Sturridge turned creator on 20 minutes when he cut in from the right and teed up Henderson to plant his shot into the far corner.

Liverpool's generous defence allowed Swansea back into the game on 23 minutes and Jonjo Shelvey marked his Anfield return by scoring a virtual copy of Henderson's strike, picking out the top corner after good work by winger Nathan Dyer.

The Kop applauded his fine effort, but they were not clapping just three minutes later when Wilfried Bony's header from Jonathan de Guzman's free-kick went in off Martin Skrtel.

Luis Suarez had been quiet up to this point, but he belatedly announced his arrival on 36 minutes when he crossed from the left for Sturridge to head home his 18th league goal in 19 Reds appearances.

Liverpool remained wide open and keeper Simon Mignolet touched away a shot from Bony, who gave Daniel Agger a torrid time.

Bony won a soft penalty for Swansea's equaliser two minutes after the interval, when Mike Jones ruled he had been fouled by Skrtel, and the Dutch striker converted.

Rodgers stiffened his rearguard by replacing Agger with Kolo Toure, while the addition of Joe Allen added composure to their midfield, and they netted the decisive goal on 74 minutes.

Ashley Williams blocked Suarez's shot and when Swans keeper Michel Vorm saved Henderson's first effort, the rebound fell nicely for the England midfielder to score.

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### Red alert!

When Brendan Rodgers spoke about the return of the Anfield fear factor this wasn't what he meant. Liverpool have made a habit of demolishing teams on home turf this season but this was an afternoon when the only ones put through the wringer were their own supporters. The final whistle was greeted with a collective outpouring of relief. After the ruthless thrashings dished out to Everton and Arsenal in L4, this was a very different type of victory against Swansea City. It was a seven-goal thriller the Kop couldn't wait to see the back of.

Once again the attacking brilliance of Brendan Rodgers' side was on display but it was accompanied by glaring defensive deficiencies. Rodgers' stated ambition has been to ensure a visit to Merseyside is the longest 90 minutes of an opponent's life. However, it was only those clad in red who were clock-watching yesterday. From a position of control following early goals from Daniel Sturridge and Jordan Henderson, standards slipped alarmingly. Former Red Jonjo Shelvey and Wilfried Bony made the hosts pay as Anfield was gripped by anxiety.

With the pressure cranked up following wins for Chelsea, Manchester City and Arsenal 24 hours earlier, Liverpool were playing catch-up and they developed a bout of the jitters. Sturridge nodded them back in front before the break but once again they caused trouble for themselves with Bony gifted the opportunity to equalise from the spot. To their credit, Liverpool dug deep and showcased the character and resolve which has enabled them to win ugly at times this season. Henderson gleefully tucked away the most important goal of his Anfield career in front of the Kop and the hosts survived a nervy finale.

The value of an unconvincing triumph was swiftly magnified by Tottenham's defeat at Norwich City. With a healthy six-point cushion over the Londoners, Liverpool find themselves in a glorious position to end the club's five-year wait for Champions League football. Yet it requires a leap of faith to believe Rodgers' side are capable of climbing higher over the coming months.

Just four points separate the Reds from the Premier League summit with 11 games remaining, but there is good reason why bullish talk about winning the title is thin on the ground. There are two faces to this Liverpool side. Going forward they are an irresistible force – they boast pace, creativity and deadly firepower.

With 70 league goals, the Reds have now outscored Manchester City and in Europe's top five leagues only Real Madrid have been more prolific.

Yet at the other end it's a very different story. Liverpool have leaked 35 league goals and only Newcastle in the top half of the table have conceded more.

Having kicked off their campaign with three successive clean sheets, Rodgers' side have only kept four more in their 24 league matches since. Those frailties need to be addressed because they can't keep relying on their threat in the final third to paper over the cracks. It's too simplistic to suggest that conceding goals is an occupational hazard when you play such an attacking brand of football. The reality is that Liverpool aren't getting caught out by slick counter-attacks which have left their back four out-numbered. Their defenders have been guilty of failing to do the basics right. The DVD won't make pleasant viewing for Glen Johnson or Martin Skrtel in particular. Johnson marked his return to action after a month out with an error-strewn display at left-back, while Skrtel struggled to deal with Bony. With a succession of careless passes, needless fouls and poor positional play, the uncertainty generated by the back four spread like wildfire. Rodgers had been wary of a Swans side revitalised by his old captain Garry Monk but for 20 minutes this looked like being another routine home victory for Liverpool. The hosts enjoyed a dream start as Raheem Sterling dispossessed Angel Rangel and dispatched a perfectly weighted pass into the path of Sturridge. The England striker, desperate to make amends after the chances he spurned in the FA Cup defeat to Arsenal, made no mistake as he skipped past Michel Vorm and slotted home. In doing so Sturridge equalled Ruud van Nistelrooy's Premier League record of scoring in eight successive league games.

Sterling forced a sprawling save before Liverpool doubled their tally. Luis Suarez picked out Sturridge on the right and he cut inside before finding Henderson, who curled an exquisite finish beyond the keeper. But rather than drive home their advantage, the Reds eased off and within six minutes their lead had been wiped out. Shelvey opted not to celebrate after finding the top corner from the edge of the box – raising his hands apologetically to the Kop, who responded with applause. They weren't clapping moments later when Johnson allowed Bony to get away from him and meet Jonathan De Guzman's free-kick. The Ivorian's header deflected off Skrtel and left Mignolet beaten.

Nine minutes before the interval, Liverpool were back in front. Suarez, who went close with an audacious effort from halfway and was later thwarted by Vorm, hasn't scored for five matches, but his contribution to the cause shows no sign of dwindling. No Premier League player has more assists than his nine this season and it was his inviting cross which Sturridge nodded home from six yards. With 18 league goals, Sturridge is only five adrift of the Uruguayan in the race for the Golden Boot. Once again from being in the ascendancy, Liverpool got sloppy. Possession was tossed away, runners weren't tracked and Rodgers' side were slow to close down. Somehow their lead remained intact until the break but Rodgers couldn't hide his frustration on the touchline.

His half-time call for a greater show of composure failed to register as within 70

seconds of the second half Skrtel had hauled Bony to the floor. Skrtel has been playing with fire all season with his robust approach inside the box and this was the day he got his fingers burned. Mike Jones pointed to the spot and Bony made it 3-3. Liverpool needed a calming influence and Joe Allen provided it after replacing Sterling. The Welshman worked tirelessly and used the ball intelligently. What didn't ease the tension was the sight of Kolo Toure, after his recent blunders, coming on for Daniel Agger. The Dane had made a rash challenge on Dyer moments before but was unfortunate to make way as there were weaker links in the back four. Mignolet made a vital save to thwart De Guzman after Bony had pounced on Johnson's woeful pass. Liverpool were in need of inspiration and it arrived 16 minutes from time. Steven Gerrard's raking pass found Suarez. His low drive was blocked by Ashley Williams but it dropped kindly for Henderson. Vorm kept out his initial effort but the midfielder reacted smartly to net the rebound. Gerrard struck the post late on but it was never comfortable. If Liverpool continue to defend like this, tickets will need to come with a government health warning.

## WALES ONLINE

Swansea City back to their breathless best despite gut-wrenching defeat against Liverpool

Breathless. Brilliant. Bonkers. Beaten. In a game difficult to do justice let alone comprehend, it was the last point that resounded the most with Garry Monk. It is why a smile at a pride of coming back from two goals down, to become the first side to score three at an Anfield reinforced as a place to be feared, and to play at a level, pace and standard that this team has long been capable of, was mixed with more than a hint of frustration. But if ever no points pointed towards success, this was it. For amid all the madness, amid the frenzy of this stunning seven-goal game that will be shown over and over again as one of the Premier League classics, there was a calmness about those judging what lies in store for Swansea right now. They remain only four points outside the bottom three, but they had fought punch for punch with a team whose move to within four points of the top maintains their outside chances of the title.

They drew compliments from all around about being the first to stand up the highest scorers in the Premier League, about refusing to give in - but doing with a style and a flourish than just a fight alone. They, like they were with Brendan Rodgers in their first year here, were applauded off the pitch by all corners. It was somewhat ironic, that, it was a case of not getting the result their performance deserved – something that was so often the case as the Swans found their way under Rodgers' successful charge. But there was no false praise from the victor in the battle between mentor and pupil. Rodgers knew he had seen Swansea back to their best. Not that Monk would have it. He admitted to being fuming at a first-half display that had seen Liverpool surge into a two-goal lead within 20 minutes. Arsenal, Everton and others have all been torn apart after the kind of quick start that Liverpool have now become feared for.

Daniel Sturridge and Jordan Henderson got their two and the abacuses were already being eyed up with Monk no doubt having horrible flashbacks to the 5-0 hammering here last season or his 7-1 beating while a rookie defender at Southampton. Yet Jonjo Shelvey's reply and Wilfried Bony's leveller were deserved and even when Sturridge pounced again to make it 3-2 at the interval, you knew there was something in it for Swansea. Bony's penalty two minutes after the restart confirmed such thoughts, only for Liverpool to provide the Stan Collymore moment as the 4-3 scoreline echoed the iconic Liverpool-Newcastle game of 1996. There was no last second drama this time, although there could well have been such was the way both teams refused to give an inch in their attacking ambition. Indeed, it was almost cruel when the script teasingly opened up for David N'Gog in injury time at his former home only for the striker to scuff the half-chance. There will be those who scoff at the defending, and certainly Rodgers was far from happy after the game at some of the mistakes and space offered by his players. Of such generosity are title winners not made.

That is of no concern to Swansea nor Monk who will only be worried about wanting better from his own men as they look to seal the 10 points that should bring safety in the remaining 11 games. Indeed, there is no doubt that there should have been white shirts tighter at times, like when Steven Gerrard's searching pass found Luis Suarez 16 minutes from time, his blocked shot making its way to Henderson and ricocheting back to him off a Michel Vorm save.

Yet it seems difficult to overly criticise any player trying to get to grips with an almost awe-inspiring fluidity of Liverpool's frontmen, players switching positions and spotting runs with ease. Their opener just three minutes in was a case in point; Angel Rangel losing possession in attack, Raheem Sterling snapping in and spotting Sturridge who collected, rounded and scored for his eighth successive Premier League game. But you had the feeling that Sturridge perhaps could have been stopped as he danced inside on 20 minutes and teed up Henderson to make it 2-0. There could have been better marking as Swansea-like patience from Liverpool eventually saw Suarez find an unmarked Sturridge to head home on 36 minutes, especially given Swansea had levelled by that point.

In great style too, Shelvey bettering Henderson's effort from the edge of the area after superb skill and great vision from fliers Nathan Dyer and Wayne Routledge on 23 minutes. Then there was the beastly presence of Bony that saw a Jonathan de Guzman free-kick flicked onto the decisive shoulder of Martin Skrtel four minutes later.

Date: 23 February 2014  
 Opposition: Swansea City  
 Competition: League

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His hold-up play had been superb, his menace frightening mistake after mistake from Liverpool's centre-backs – including two minutes after the restart as they felled him in attempts to meet Dyer's delicious cross.  
 The result a penalty and Bony's 19th of the season; not too bad for a late starter. He couldn't add to it, no matter how Swansea tried to have the final say on this spectacularly entertaining affair.  
 But Monk has definitely added to this team. Even in his assessment of mixed emotions he pointed to an honesty from the dressing room that they know things must be better.  
 And yet you wonder if that truly is the case. Few sides will present Swansea with the kind of attacking questions Liverpool did during their remaining fixtures and the sharpness of Swansea in their passing and movement will be too much for most.  
 More importantly, there was a pressing and a tempo to their work off the ball that was right out of the Rodgers notebook, a fight and collective effort that suggests they are ready to tough it out too.  
 They have shown they can be brilliant, they have shown the speed of their play can once again be breathless.  
 It would be bonkers to suggest they cannot be involved in more Premier League classics next season. Despite this latest loss, this Swansea City side are not ready to be beaten.



Jordan Henderson and Daniel Sturridge scored twice as Liverpool beat Swansea in a thriller to tighten their grip on fourth place in the Premier League.  
 Sturridge's opener came two minutes in and Henderson soon bent in a second. But Jonjo Shelvey pulled one back with a fine 20-yard shot and Wilfried Bony headed in off Martin Skrtel to level.  
 Sturridge headed in his second from Luis Suarez's cross but Bony pulled Swansea level from the penalty spot before Henderson stabbed in the winner.  
 The best and worst of Liverpool was once again on show as the Reds closed the gap to Premier League leaders Chelsea to four points.  
 But manager Brendan Rodgers was once again relying on his team's attacking class to override its defensive deficiencies as they maintained their bid to end a five-season exile from the Champions League.  
 There were flashes of fine forward play as Sturridge became only the second player to score in eight consecutive Premier League matches, taking his tally to 18 league goals for the season in the process.  
 The Reds are now the Premier League's top scorers with 70 goals but looked ragged at the back far too often for Rodgers's comfort.  
 Garry Monk's Swansea, who remain four points above the relegation zone, deserve credit for the way they fought back from Liverpool's early goals, and showed no little quality themselves after the exertions of Thursday's goalless draw with Napoli in the Europa League.  
 The hosts moved in front after just two minutes when Raheem Sterling played through Sturridge, who took the ball around visiting keeper Michel Vorm and clipped it into an empty net.  
 But the Reds were far from convincing, and Swansea had created two chances for Bony before Henderson doubled their advantage.  
 Sturridge chased down a long ball from Suarez and drifted in from the right before laying off for Henderson to bend a shot into the top corner.  
 But two minutes later the visitors made good on their early threat, Nathan Dyer cutting in from the right and feeding former Liverpool man Shelvey, who curled a first-time shot into the top corner off the underside of the bar.  
 Suarez the creator  
 Suarez has not scored in five matches in all competitions but, with nine, he now has the joint highest number of goal assists in the Premier League - as well as being top scorer with 23.  
 And Monk's side were level four minutes later when Jonathan de Guzman's free-kick was headed in by Bony via a deflection off Skrtel.  
 But Liverpool restored their advantage 10 minutes before the break when Philippe Coutinho found Suarez and the Uruguayan lifted a cross to the far post for Sturridge to head in.  
 Again the lead was destined not to last. Two minutes after the interval Skrtel was penalised for his grapple with Bony in the area and the Swansea striker found the corner with the resulting spot-kick.  
 As the hosts looked to go back in front, Vorm turned wide from Suarez and Skrtel headed over from the Steven Gerrard corner that followed.  
 De Guzman bent a free-kick just wide at the other end but with 15 minutes left Henderson stabbed the Reds ahead for the third time.  
 Suarez's shot was blocked by Ashley Williams and after Vorm blocked Henderson's first shot the England midfielder prodded in the rebound from six yards.  
 Liverpool were not about to give up the lead again and Gerrard even had a late effort deflected on to the post by Chico Flores as they pressed for a fifth.

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Full time Match ends, Liverpool 4, Swansea City 3.  
 90:00+3:02 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 4, Swansea City 3.  
 90:00+1:30 Attempt missed. David Ngog (Swansea City left footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right.  
 90:00+0:32 Offside, Liverpool. Joe Allen tries a through ball, but Luis Suarez is caught offside.  
 89:19 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.  
 89:02 Attempt blocked. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.  
 87:01 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 87:01 Foul by David Ngog (Swansea City.  
 86:44 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Jon Flanagan.  
 86:03 Jon Flanagan (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.  
 86:03 Foul by Wayne Routledge (Swansea City.  
 80:50 Simon Mignolet (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 80:50 Foul by Ashley Williams (Swansea City.  
 80:46 Attempt missed. David Ngog (Swansea City left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Wayne Routledge.  
 80:07 Corner, Swansea City. Conceded by Kolo Touré.  
 78:38 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Victor Moses replaces Daniel Sturridge.  
 77:59 Substitution Substitution, Swansea City. David Ngog replaces Nathan Dyer.  
 75:42 Attempt saved. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Luis Suarez.  
 74:37 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 74:37 Foul by Ashley Williams (Swansea City.  
 73:39 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 4, Swansea City 3. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range to the centre of the goal.  
 73:37 Attempt saved. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.  
 73:35 Attempt blocked. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.  
 72:23 Substitution Substitution, Swansea City. Pablo Hernández replaces Jonathan De Guzmán.  
 70:55 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 70:55 Foul by Neil Taylor (Swansea City.  
 69:57 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.  
 66:38 Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
 66:00 Delay in match Chico (Swansea City because of an injury.  
 62:52 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner.  
 62:42 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Kolo Touré replaces Daniel Agger.  
 62:09 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ashley Williams.  
 62:08 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Joe Allen.  
 61:06 Corner, Swansea City. Conceded by Jordan Henderson.  
 60:31 Foul by Daniel Agger (Liverpool.  
 60:31 Nathan Dyer (Swansea City wins a free kick on the right wing.  
 59:46 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.  
 58:24 Attempt saved. Jonathan De Guzmán (Swansea City right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Wilfried Bony.  
 57:15 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Joe Allen replaces Raheem Sterling.  
 55:14 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 55:14 Foul by Jonathan De Guzmán (Swansea City.  
 54:53 Attempt missed. Jonathan De Guzmán (Swansea City right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right from a direct free kick.  
 54:09 Foul by Glen Johnson (Liverpool.  
 54:09 Nathan Dyer (Swansea City wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 51:56 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool.  
 51:56 José Cañas (Swansea City wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 51:13 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.  
 49:54 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.  
 49:54 Foul by José Cañas (Swansea City.  
 48:58 Attempt missed. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner.  
 48:24 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Michel Vorm.  
 48:21 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.  
 46:59 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 3, Swansea City 3. Wilfried Bony (Swansea City converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom left corner.  
 46:08 Penalty conceded by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool after a foul in the penalty area.  
 46:08 Penalty Swansea City. Wilfried Bony draws a foul in the penalty area.  
 45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 3, Swansea City 2.  
 45:00 Substitution Substitution, Swansea City. José Cañas replaces Jonjo Shelvey because of an injury.  
 45:00+3:08 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 3, Swansea City 2.  
 45:00+0:13 Attempt missed. Nathan Dyer (Swansea City right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Jonathan De Guzmán.

43:20 Attempt missed. Angel Rangel (Swansea City header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jonathan De Guzmán with a cross following a corner.  
 42:43 Corner, Swansea City. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.  
 42:42 Attempt saved. Wilfried Bony (Swansea City right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Nathan Dyer.  
 37:11 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from more than 35 yards is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.  
 35:09 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 3, Swansea City 2. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the top right corner. Assisted by Luis Suarez with a cross.  
 33:01 Foul by Jonathan De Guzmán (Swansea City.  
 33:01 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 32:05 Neil Taylor (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 32:05 Foul by Jon Flanagan (Liverpool.  
 30:52 Chico (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 30:52 Foul by Luis Suarez (Liverpool.  
 28:56 Corner, Swansea City. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.  
 28:55 Attempt blocked. Neil Taylor (Swansea City left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Leon Britton.  
 26:01 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 2, Swansea City 2. Wilfried Bony (Swansea City header from the centre of the box to the high centre of the goal. Assisted by Jonathan De Guzmán following a set piece situation.  
 25:21 Booking Martin Skrtel (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
 25:08 Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea City wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 25:08 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.  
 23:23 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.  
 22:16 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 2, Swansea City 1. Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea City right footed shot from outside the box to the top right corner. Assisted by Nathan Dyer.  
 21:33 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Raheem Sterling is caught offside.  
 19:57 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 2, Swansea City 0. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.  
 18:56 Attempt missed. Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea City right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Jonathan De Guzmán.  
 17:26 Corner, Swansea City. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.  
 17:23 Attempt blocked. Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea City right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Wilfried Bony.  
 16:08 Nathan Dyer (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 16:08 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.  
 14:39 Foul by Wilfried Bony (Swansea City.  
 14:39 Daniel Agger (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 13:04 Wayne Routledge (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 13:04 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.  
 10:38 Foul by Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea City.  
 10:38 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 8:28 Foul by Chico (Swansea City.  
 8:28 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 7:18 Attempt missed. Wilfried Bony (Swansea City right footed shot from outside the box is just a bit too high.  
 4:56 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Michel Vorm.  
 4:52 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Luis Suarez.  
 2:52 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 1, Swansea City 0. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling with a through ball.  
 0:28 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Luis Suarez.  
 0:00 First Half begins.  
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.