

Date: 31 August 2014

Opposition: Tottenham Hotspur

Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	BBC

31 August 2013

THE TIMES

Sterling sparkles to overshadow you know who

Tottenham 0

Liverpool Sterling 8, Gerrard 49 (pen), Moreno 60 3

Referee PDOWD Attendance 36,130

The highest praise you could offer Liverpool's performance at White Hart Lane yesterday was that, even while wearing one pink boot and one turquoise on his much heralded return to English football, Mario Balotelli was nothing like the centre of attention. Brendan Rodgers, already a little piqued by the media fascination with his latest signing, had said beforehand that "it's not the Mario Balotelli show" and that his team would continue to transcend any individual. That is certainly how it looked yesterday, with the new acquisition from AC Milan appearing to settle quickly into a machine that clicked into gear to inflict another resounding defeat on Tottenham Hotspur. This was a reality check for Tottenham, who had begun the new season with victories over West Ham United and Queens Park Rangers in the Barclays Premier League and AEL Limassol, twice, in the Europa League. They had no answer to the speed and fluency of Liverpool's attacking play and, after goals from the outstanding Raheem Sterling, Steven Gerrard and Alberto Moreno put the visiting team 3-0 up inside an hour, Mauricio Pochettino might just have been grateful that the scoreline did not end up quite so one-sided as on the teams' two meetings last season.

A 5-0 home defeat in this fixture last December proved the end for Andre Villas-Boas's tenure at Tottenham. A 4-0 loss at Anfield in March was followed within days by the news that Tim Sherwood would be replaced in the summer. This, by contrast, will be greeted internally as a mere setback after an encouraging start for Pochettino, who said that his players had been beaten by "a very good team who almost won the Premier League last season and have been building the team for more than two years". The sale of Luis Suarez to Barcelona has represented the greatest challenge in Rodgers's construction job with Liverpool, but he maintains that his club have invested the proceeds of that deal far more shrewdly than Tottenham did after the departure of Gareth Bale last summer. It is not as easy as it sounds, improving a team after selling a star player for an enormous fee, so at this early stage of the season Rodgers will be delighted by a performance such as this in a difficult-looking game that four of his summer signings -- Javier Manquillo, Dejan Lovren, Alberto Moreno and Balotelli -- started, with Emre Can and Lazar Markovic coming off the bench.

Balotelli should have scored at least once in the first half. Less than three minutes had gone when Sturridge crossed from the left, picking out Balotelli at the far post. The Italian's first effort, a header, was well saved by Hugo Lloris, but it was less excusable that he scuffed the follow-up wide. Then came another free header, with which he missed the target from Steven Gerrard's free kick, and, to the delight of the home supporters, a misdirected volley when the ball dropped at his feet 35 yards from an unguarded goal after a poor kick from Hugo Lloris near the end of the first half. By that stage, Liverpool were 1-0 up through Sterling's seventh-minute goal, which underlined Rodgers's point about how the fluency of his team is what really matters. Sturridge dropped towards the right touchline, evaded Jan Vertonghen and played a clever pass into the path of Jordan Henderson, driving forward through the insideright channel. Henderson's break from midfield was matched by that from Sterling, arriving on the blind side of the Tottenham defence to score at the far post when the cross arrived.

There were chances at the other end too, but they tended to owe more to poor Liverpool defending than any great ingenuity on Tottenham's part. Emmanuel Adebayor should have scored after the visiting defence was carved open by Nabil Bentaleb's pass over the top, but the forward's lob landed on the roof of the net. Similarly, when Lovren and Mamadou Sakho were caught out by a routine diagonal ball from Eric Dier, an equaliser looked likely, but Nacer Chadli's fierce shot was struck too close to Simon Mignolet.

Errant defending was the only real threat to Liverpool -- the Lovren-Sakho partnership needs a lot of work -- but Tottenham's carelessness was on another scale. Early in the second half, Dier inexplicably tugged Joe Allen in the penalty area. Allen's tumble was theatrical, but that, sadly, is to be expected these days. It was a soft penalty rather than a harsh one. Either way, Gerrard showed no mercy. Pochettino sent on Mousa Dembele and Andros Townsend in the hope of seeing something different from his team, but the latter's first contribution was to be dispossessed by Moreno just inside the Liverpool half. Moreno accelerated away, continued his run and let fly from inside the penalty area, beating Lloris to make it 3-0. Balotelli took his leave soon after and watched from the bench as Sterling sparkled in the final half-hour. One mazy run, in particular, underlined Sterling's talent, even if the finish did not. Tottenham never threatened to make a game of it and at times it seemed that a repeat of last season's 5-0 scoreline might be on the cards. When Rodgers described afterwards how his diamond formation had meant that Liverpool would never be outnumbered by what he called Tottenham's "narrow" 4-2-3-1, it all sounded remarkably easy.

It looks easy, too, when talented players are all pulling in the right direction, enhancing a framework in which they are all comfortable. That challenge has been complicated a little by the arrival of Balotelli, but this was a highly encouraging start.

RATINGS

Tottenham Hotspur (4-2-3-1): H Lloris 5 -- E Dier 5, Y Kaboul 4, J Vertonghen 4, D Rose 4 (sub: B Davies, 71min) -- N Bentaleb 6 (sub: M Dembele, 59 5), E Capoue 5

-- C Eriksen 4 (sub: A Townsend, 59 4), E Lamela 5, N Chadli 5 -- E Adebayor 5. Substitutes not used: B Friedel, V Chiriches, L Holtby, H Kane.

Liverpool (4-3-1-2): S Mignolet 7 -- J Manquillo 7, D Lovren 6, M Sakho 6, A Moreno 8 -- J Henderson 8, S Gerrard 7, J Allen 6 (sub: Emre Can, 61 6) -- R Sterling 8 (sub: J Enrique, 85) -- M Balotelli 6 (sub: L Markovic, 61 5), D Sturridge 7. Substitutes not used: B Jones, K Toure, R Lambert, P Coutinho. Booked: Manquillo, Moreno, Sterling, Allen.

the guardian

Sterling work points the way for Liverpool's show of force

The Premier League has its reminder that Liverpool remain a potent force. Last week's loss to Manchester City at the Etihad has been exorcised in thrilling fashion, visiting players a blur of movement against panicked opponents whose own encouraging start to the season has been put in proper context. Tottenham Hotspur had shipped five to these rivals last term but, at times, this felt every bit as chastening.

Brendan Rodgers could not have envisaged a more satisfying way to celebrate a century of games in charge, his 56th win in that time matching the records of Bill Shankly and Rafael Benitez. If his team's progress through their first two fixtures had suggested they were still embroiled in a period of post-Luis Suarez adjustment, then this was them reimposing their credentials. Raheem Sterling was irrepresible, every bit as threatening as he had been last December, while Jordan Henderson swarmed around central midfield and Daniel Sturridge demonstrated he can provide a supply line as well as a finishing touch these days. They have added Alberto Moreno's aggression and jet-propelled pace down the left. The full-back was the scorer of a fine goal and was generally far more impressive here than he had been when more pertinently tested at City on Monday. Mario Balotelli, who had drawn the pre-match focus, was hardly required to revel on debut. Yet the reality that Rodgers even coaxed a performance of impressive work-rate from the pounds 16m arrival from Milan also bodes well. Balotelli's radar was uncharacteristically awry in front of goal but his composure in the six-yard box will return. Liverpool had him defending corners for the first time in his career, and holding up the ball superbly against Younes Kaboul with his back to goal. If he can maintain the industry and eagerness to combine with team-mates that typified his display in little over an hour here Liverpool really will have secured a bargain.

The Italian will add to their options up front, but this was Liverpool rediscovering last season's zest. They hassled and harried the composure from Spurs here, Mauricio Pochettino's team denied any time to consider their options on the ball and too often lethargic in chasing back possession once it had been surrendered. They seemed dazed. Dismantling Queens Park Rangers, or even triumphing at West Ham, is all well and good but, when jolted out of their own rhythm, they lacked the nous to recover. "We are a team who are still improving, still learning," said Pochettino. "We were up against a very good team who almost won the Premier League last season and have built the team for more than two years. But that's no excuse. We lost this in the key moments of the game."

They had trailed early, Sturridge teasing space from Jan Vertonghen and Nacer Chadli before liberating Henderson, whose centre was converted neatly by Sterling at the far post. Yet having been spared a second concession by Balotelli's profligacy - a pair of headers from close range and a miscued volley from distance with Hugo Lloris out of his area - they should have equalised when Kaboul's pass confused Mamadou Sakho and Dejan Lovren to leave Chadli in possession in front of goal. Yet Simon Mignolet saved that attempt and, if that had hinted at a shift in momentum just before the break, the award of a soft penalty to the visitors knocked the stuffing from Tottenham's challenge.

Eric Dier, exposed here for the first time since his summer arrival from Sporting Lisbon, was penalised for a tug back on Joe Allen. "Soft," claimed Pochettino, though the contact was ill-advised. Steven Gerrard scored his 43rd penalty for the club and Liverpool were not finished there. Pochettino flung on Andros Townsend to chase the game but the winger was dispossessed by Alberto Moreno inside the visitors' half and pursued the full-back as he seared upfield. There was no catching the Spaniard, his finish from inside the penalty area dispatched crisply inside the far post to settle the contest.

Sterling should have added a fourth after a glorious dribble that left opponents on their knees only for anxiety to grip, indecision choking the finish at a grateful Lloris. "He dribbled through the Spurs defence like Ricky Villa, but his finish was more like Ricky Gervais," said Rodgers. "But he was exceptional. His tactical awareness is improving, and for a kid of 19... he's going to be great, even if he does have to work a bit on that left foot." Opponents will not always offer him this much space, but Spurs tend to be obliging. Liverpool have now scored 14 times against Tottenham in the last 300 minutes of games between the sides, with the London club having failed to register at all in that period.

They anticipate concluding the signing of Montpellier's Benjamin Stambouli, a defensive midfielder of considerable promise, on deadline day and he should add to their steel in the centre, with Etienne Capoue in particular having reverted to last year's rather laboured form here. Others will be moved on, with QPR interested in taking Sandro and Aaron Lennon, and Crystal Palace hoping to sign the left-back Zeki Fryers, most likely on loan. This Spurs team are still learning how to impose the style Pochettino demands, their side very much a work in

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progress. Liverpool, on this evidence, feel much more like the finished article. Man of the match Raheem Sterling (Liverpool)

The Mail

LANDSLIDE AT THE LANE; Mario an enigma but Liverpool give Spurs a stern reality check

TOTTENHAM 0

LIVERPOOL 3 Sterling 8, Gerrard 49 (pen), Moreno 60.

MARTIN SAMUEL HAT is 14-0 now. LIVERPOOL have scored 14 goals without reply against Tottenham Hotspur, going back to March 10, 2013.

On that day, Stewart Downing and Steven Gerrard claimed the last two in a 3-2 victory. The following season Liverpool won 9-0 on aggregate. Now this. It was meant to be a new era under Mauricio Pochettino, but new eras don't tend to last long around White Hart Lane. Don't worry, there will be another along in a minute. This is, of course, the post-Suarez era at Liverpool and yesterday was the brightest it has looked. The visitors were worth the impressive margin of victory and could have had more if Mario Balotelli, in particular, had taken his first-half chances. He missed two free headers and a long-range shot into an unguarded net, but his debut was exciting nonetheless. His movement, energy and commitment were close to a 10, even if his finishing was a two.

There were no great shocks beyond his garish footwear, though, and he even stood gallantly aside to let Gerrard take Liverpool's second-half penalty. When his number came up after 61 minutes, Balotelli walked calmly to the touchline and shook Rodgers' hand. It was a smart move, giving him a short debut and Tottenham's defence looks to have been flattered by opening league games against West Ham United and Queens Park Rangers. They had not conceded going into this match: within 45 minutes they could have been 4-0 down.

With Balotelli there is no such thing as a quiet afternoon, and so it proved. He could have scored a goal after three minutes, a hat-trick before half-time, he nearly got snapped in half by Eric Dier and sported a collection of the most outrageous footwear this side of Elton John in Pinball Wizard guise.

As a performance it was close to impossible to evaluate, however. Balotelli contrived to be effective and yet wasteful, and was saved by the finishing of his team-mates. Had the game finished goalless, those first-half chances would have been scrutinised more harshly. Balotelli arrived in enormous bright red training shoes, a photographer's dream, and changed into boots -- one pink, the other pale blue -- that were equally made for a lens. He is box office, no doubt of that, and from Liverpool's first attack could have captured the headlines as well as the pictures. It was Raheem Sterling's cross that picked him out at the far post, surprisingly unguarded by Tottenham's napping defence. It should have been a goal, but instead his header found goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. The ball bounced back, but Balotelli could not turn it in. In the 14th minute, same again. Gerrard struck a free-kick from the left, the sound of gentle snoring emanated from Tottenham's back four, and Balotelli missed with another far post header.

It was just past the half hour when Balotelli had the chance to mark his debut with the spectacular. It would certainly not have been undeserved after some superbly tenacious work from Daniel Sturridge on the right. Lloris was quick off his line, but cleared only as far as Balotelli, who had a free shot at goal from 30 yards. His detractors think he lacks the common sense to be nervous, but this suggested otherwise. His effort was, frankly, woeful; rotten enough to provoke a rueful smile from Rodgers on the touchline. Between those last chances came a thundering tackle from Dier which would have been classified as a welcome-to-the-Premier-League moment had Balotelli not been more familiar with the competition than Tottenham's full back. There were 21 other players on the field, though, and many of the ones in red shirts also did things that were noteworthy -- not least Sterling, probably the brightest light in the English game right now. It was his goal that gave Liverpool the lead after eight minutes, an event made all the more heartening by the fact it was created by two of his England team-mates. Sturridge played a low pass to Jordan Henderson and, when Dier made the fatal error of allowing his cross to run, Sterling's intelligent movement allowed him a simple conversion at the far post. It could have been more. Sturridge was, on three occasions, set up for shots from mid-range -- twice by Sterling and also by a neat Balotelli back-heel -- and a quite brilliant second-half run by Sterling ended with the most disappointing finish. 'He went through like Ricky Villa and finished like Ricky Gervais,' said Rodgers. Harsh, that, on Ricky Gervais.

It meant Liverpool had to settle for just three this time -- Tottenham lost by four and five last season -- but both goals were special in their way. After Dier had tugged Joe Allen, Gerrard stepped up to score his 43rd penalty for the club, breaking the record held by Jan Molby. Lloris guessed the correct side, but the shot was too well-positioned for it to make a difference. Balotelli is something of an expert from 12 yards, too, and had requested the duty when he signed. Rodgers told him that, no, Liverpool's captain would be keeping the job and his decision was vindicated. So harmony reigns, for now at least.

Hoping to spark revival, Pochettino introduced Andros Townsend in the 59th minute, and he made an immediate impact, caught in possession for the goal that put the game beyond Tottenham's reach. Townsend's first touch turned the ball over to Alberto Moreno, who sped down the left flank, sized up the angle in an instant, and lashed the ball past Lloris, for 14 unopposed.

After his unfortunate appearance against Manchester City last Monday, caught out for the first goal, this was more like it from Liverpool's new signing.

What did Tottenham offer by way of resistance? In the 10th minute, a speculative

long ball by Nabil Bentaleb set Emmanuel Adebayor clear, but his lob was too ambitious and travelled high over the bar. Another speculative punt, this time from Younes Kaboul was nodded down by Adebayor to Nacer Chadli, who forced the only demanding save of the game from Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet. That Liverpool could be vulnerable to the long ball again is slightly worrying; that this was Tottenham's most effective route to goal more so. Still, for Rodgers it was a big win. After a humbling night in Manchester last week, his overhauled Liverpool team now break for international football in a brighter frame of mind. This was a test, and they passed. Back-to-back defeats against elite teams -- or an aspiring one here, at least -- would have called into question Liverpool's status as title challengers without Luis Suarez. This, however, was impressive: a result on which to build.

The Daily Telegraph

Sterling efforts leave Spurs in tatters

Tottenham Hotspur 0

Liverpool 3 Sterling 8, Gerrard 49pen, Moreno 60 Att: 36,130

Brendan Rodgers celebrated his 100th game in charge of Liverpool with a good win against Tottenham Hotspur and a very good joke about Raheem Sterling's astonishing second-half miss: "Raheem ran into the box like Ricky Villa and finished it like Ricky Gervais." This was more than another day at the office for Liverpool. This was Rodgers's side back in business.

After Liverpool's defeat at Manchester City last Monday, a few dark clouds of doubt scurried across the Melwood skyline. But Rodgers calmly trained his players well all week, setting them up tactically to outwit Spurs and particularly to expose their highpressing tactics. Liverpool moved the ball quickly, occasionally over the top, catching Spurs out. Rodgers targeted Mauricio Pochettino's young full-backs, Eric Dier and Danny Rose, who pushed high up. Liverpool's manager also deployed Sterling at the tip of a midfield diamond, where he ran amok, linking well with the tireless, selfless Daniel Sturridge and Mario Balotelli, who seemed to have bought into the team's strong work ethic. If the City defeat merely highlighted the even greater effort required in the post-Luis Suarez world, Liverpool are clearly going places under Rodgers. Spurs had started the season well, but were torn apart at times here, seemingly daunted by the opponents. Sterling began the scoring, Steven Gerrard added a penalty before Alberto Moreno thundered in a third after a left-sided run straight from the Alan Kennedy scrapbook.

The Liverpool fans in the corner of the Park Lane stand kept waving their banner declaring: "Brendan Rodgers: We're on our way to glory". Rodgers's 56th victory took him alongside Bill Shankly and Rafa Benitez in joint second of most wins in a first century of Liverpool matches. Kenny Dalglish heads the list with 62.

Rodgers is incredibly popular with his players, who appreciate being treated as adults, enjoy the attacking philosophy and can clearly see how Liverpool are rising high. Rodgers loves working with talent, and shaping it for the collective benefit. Balotelli worked hard for an hour before being replaced. The Italian looked genuinely delighted to be back in England, shaking hands enthusiastically with the mascots, embracing his old City team-mate Emmanuel Adebayor and almost scoring after two minutes, heading Sturridge's superb cross goalwards but being denied by Hugo Lloris. It was a sign of the strength of Rodgers's relationship with Sterling that he could make that joke to Match of the Day of the youngster's mazy dribble and amazing miss late on. The Office? Sterling was more box office here. He scored after eight minutes, finishing off a wonderful move. Sturridge, venturing down the right, was too clever for Jan Vertonghen, finding space and passing forward to Jordan Henderson, who crossed for the unmarked Sterling to score. Rodgers's relationship with Sterling provides a useful window on the manager's impact in these 100 games. He takes promising but still raw talent, often English, and improves it, making players more effective and tactically cuter. Sterling is more versatile, capable of playing at the tip of a diamond, as here, and also wide. "He's flexible," said Rodgers, whose team switched to 4-3-3 after an hour. "We've tried to develop him not only to be a wide player but to have the freedom and the awareness to play on the inside. It was perfect for him today: he can turn, press, work, and in a 4-3-3 he can work on the side and penetrate. It's important he has the intelligence to play these different positions."

Rodgers's influence was seen all around the team. He has galvanised a willing Henderson to such an extent that the Englishman is a contender to be Liverpool's vice-captain now that Daniel Agger has left. With Henderson dynamic, and Sterling scaring Spurs, more chances came for Liverpool. Sturridge shot wide. Balotelli wasted a good opportunity, misdirecting a header, and an even better chance, squandering a gift of a misjudged clearance from Lloris.

Spurs were below par, seemingly too in awe of Liverpool and lacking creativity. They still had their chances to equalise before half-time. Rose shot over. Adebayor's threatening run was stopped by Gerrard's well-timed sliding challenge. Adebayor then leapt above Dejan Lovren and Mamadou Sakho to flick the ball through for Nacer Chadli, who placed his effort straight at Simon Mignolet. It was a rare moment that Spurs had broken through. Gerrard patrolled well in front of Liverpool's back four, launching attacks. "He dictated the game from behind," Rodgers said. "A brilliant player." The Liverpool manager's use of the 34-year-old in deep midfield has worked, barring a certain slip last season. Gerrard doubled Liverpool's lead four minutes after the break. When Sterling teased the ball into the box, Joe Allen ran in but was tugged back lightly by Dier.

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Allen went down as if punched rather than pulled but it was still a foul, and Spurs' complaints were minimal. Balotelli loves a penalty but this is Gerrard's team and the captain drilled the ball low past Lloris. His 43rd successful penalty eclipsed the Liverpool record of the watching Jan Molby. Spurs looked ripe for further punishment. The last time Rodgers's side were here, Dec 13, 2013, they won 5-0 and Andre Villas-Boas was dismissed the next day. Pochettino has rebuilding work to do, perhaps bringing another attacker in, and further work required on organising the defence. The highly promising Dier still has plenty to learn about the defensive arts. Pochettino sent on Andros Townsend after a minute's tactical discourse with the winger. Townsend immediately attempted a Cruyff turn on the halfway line, Moreno pinched the ball, raced away and let fly with his left foot, the ball speeding past Lloris. Rodgers strolled briefly down the line, a smile on his lips. Encouraged by Rodgers, Moreno responded positively to a chastening debut at the Etihad Stadium. "He should have got tighter to Jesus Navas in the City game, and we spoke about that, how we play, our philosophy but he learnt from that," Rodgers said. "He presses Townsend, nicks the ball and then he's away. The speed he showed was phenomenal, and a great finish. That's what I ask of the fullbacks: defend first, and then attack. He was excellent."

Moreno, a gutsy, hard-running PS12 million left-back from Seville, pushed Sterling for man of the match. Sterling should have made it 4-0 but his dribble and finish brought advice as well as that joke. "He needs to be better on his left foot," Rodgers said. "Wonderful skill, comes inside, caught in two minds. Was going to toe-poke it first time, and then tried to work it on to his left side. But he was fantastic today. His tactical awareness is improving, and for a kid of 19 ... he's going to be great." Sterling was substituted towards the end, departing to a standing ovation from Liverpool fans. Rose also departed early, hobbling slightly and heading straight down the tunnel, but Pochettino said he should be all right for England's games with Norway and Switzerland. Roy Hodgson, watching here, will simply be buoyed by Sterling's display and thankful to Rodgers.

THE INDEPENDENT

If ever a new Tottenham team was going to crumble early in the season, it might as well be just before transfer deadline day, also quite possibly their chairman Daniel Levy's favourite 24 hours of the year.

For Mauricio Pochettino, with two wins and a summer of low-key but interesting trading, this was a shock to the system. Like so many incumbents of the padded manager's seat in the White Hart Lane dug-out, he was forced to contemplate the creeping anxiety that this Spurs team he has started shaping might not be everything he had hoped it would be – in fact, at times it looked like it filled none of that particular criteria at all. Tottenham were well beaten, although one could argue that the three-goal margin was an improvement on the 5-0 and 4-0 defeats by Liverpool last season – carry on like this and Spurs will be due a draw against Brendan Rodgers' team sometime in the second half of the next campaign. Liverpool showed both of Spurs' managers last season the weaknesses in their teams – and they obliged Pochettino by doing the same this time.

Watching from on high was the 77-year-old billionaire Joe Lewis, the man who has ultimate control of Spurs and is a rare visitor to White Hart Lane. Not an easy man to impress, he will have left wondering whether he will ever see a Tottenham team capable of challenging for the title. Tomorrow will be a busy day for Levy once again, which, of course, is the way he likes it.

Pochettino would not confirm that the club will push to sign Morgan Schneiderlin on the last day of the window, nor the departures of Sandro or Roberto Soldado, although all three will surely be in play as far as Levy is concerned. As for Liverpool, this was a ruthless display, with some stand-out performances from the likes of Daniel Sturridge, Raheem Sterling and their new left-back, Alberto Moreno. There was an hour from Mario Balotelli before he was substituted by a happy Rodgers, although even this particular Italian could not steal the show from some of his team-mates. A week after the Manchester City defeat this was a very solid response from Rodgers' team. Later, Rodgers told a good story at Balotelli's surprise at being told earlier in the week that he would be expected to mark at defensive corners. "For the first time in his life, he marked at a corner," the Liverpool manager said. "Serious. An international player who has won three titles in Italy, cups, the Champions League." Balotelli should have scored with a header within two minutes, when Sturridge picked him out at the back post and the ever-reliable Hugo Lloris somehow managed to intervene between forehead and goal. It was early – in the game and in his Liverpool career – but it should have been a goal. Accommodating Balotelli was one of the great challenges for Liverpool and in the first half he tried out most of the forward line for size. He had even asked for the penalty responsibility, Rodgers said, but that remained with Steven Gerrard, whose successful spot kick took him ahead of Jan Molby as the club's all-time leading penalty taker with 43. The Italian started on the right side of the attacking three behind Sturridge and ended the half on the left side. There were times when it looked like he was part of a two-man strike force. There are few players who walk back to their own half more slowly than Balotelli when a move breaks down, but when the ball came to him he came to life.

There was a back-heel to Sturridge in the first half that opened up the space for the Englishman to shoot. On the half hour a brilliant turn around the halfway line took Balotelli away from Younes Kaboul. His chip forward to Sterling might have been better but it drew Lloris from his line and the loose ball pinged back to

Balotelli. With the Spurs goalkeeper off his line, the Italian failed to hit the target. Nevertheless, on the touchline, Rodgers clapped and grinned as if to say that was exactly what he brought Balotelli back to English football to do.

As for English football, it welcomed Balotelli back with one of those sliding tackles that, uniquely, an English crowd rise to applaud. This one was from Eric Dier, schooled in Lisbon but English to his boots, who spotted that Balotelli had slowed down and took man and ball at once. The first goal came down the right but had no Balotelli involvement, being worked down the wing by Sturridge and then Jordan Henderson who brilliantly picked out Sterling, who squeezed the ball in from the back of the area. Spurs created too few chances, the best of which was an Emmanuel Adebayor flick on for Nacer Chadli just before half-time. There was a strong spin on the ball which took it away from the Belgian just as he set himself to shoot and gave Simon Mignolet a chance of saving it.

Within two minutes after the break, Spurs conceded the penalty that changed the balance of the game for good. Dier, who had been physical and decisive, grabbed at Joe Allen's shirt as he went past him in the area and got enough of a contact for the midfielder to go down. It was, as Pochettino said, "soft" but the kind of thing that invites a tumble. Gerrard dispatched the penalty with authority, and it was then that Pochettino will have started to consider his options. A minute before the hour he sent on Mousa Dembele and Andros Townsend, and within a minute Townsend had conceded possession for Liverpool's third. In defence of the Englishman, Alberto Moreno should never have been allowed to run unchecked from his own half to score. Moreno's mistake allowed Manchester City in for their first goal last week but yesterday he was committed and effective from the start. His shot, perfectly placed, clipped the base of Lloris' far post, out of the reach of the goalkeeper. One more indicator that Liverpool were getting the details right while Spurs floundered. Rodgers switched to 4-3-3 to see out the last 30 minutes. There might have been a fourth, a brilliant penalty-box adventure from Sterling that just lacked a decent finish. "Raheem ran into the box like Ricky Villa and finished it like Ricky Gervais," Rodgers said. All in all, though, a good day at the office.

Tottenham (4-2-3-1): Lloris; Dier, Kaboul, Vertonghen, Rose (Davies, 72); Bentaleb (Dembele, 59), Capoue; Chadli, Eriksen (Townsend, 59), Lamela; Adebayor. Substitutes not used: Friedel (gk), Chiriches, Holtby, Kane.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): Mignolet; Manquillo, Lovren, Sakho, Moreno; Gerrard, Henderson; Balotelli (Markovic, 60), Sterling (Enrique, 86), Allen (Can, 60); Sturridge. Substitutes not used: Jones (gk), Toure, Lambert, Coutinho.

Referee: P Dowd Man of the match: Sturridge Rating: 7

Booked: Liverpool Allen, Manquillo, Sterling



Raheem Sterling steals the spotlight from much-hyped Mario Balotelli debut

Lightning did not quite strike twice at White Hart Lane for Liverpool. But it could have done and should have done. They were too good for soft Spurs, just as they were last season when they hit them for five and tipped Andre Villas-Boas into the Tottenham history books. Far too clever, inventive, potent and penetrative for Mauricio Pochettino's side. Raheem Sterling and Daniel Sturridge caused panic attacks every time they got within 10 yards of the ball. And while Luis Suarez will never be forgotten, there is abundant proof that there is life and real title aspirations after the Uruguayan – even if Mario Balotelli's lack of sharpness cost him the chance to mark his Reds bow with a goal. Six days after being schooled by City at the Etihad, it was Liverpool handing out the lesson.

Tottenham were forced to realise that beating QPR and taking on a real side are two very different tasks. Faster to the ball. Stronger in nearly every tackle. A chilling, terror-inducing threat each time they crossed the halfway line. Brendan Rodgers will know there is a long way to go. That City and Chelsea remain the teams to beat. That his own side has to take the next step up without losing what took them so close last term. But as Sturridge swaggered, Sterling blitzed, Jordan Henderson won the midfield battle on his own and Balotelli was, well, simply Mario, this was the perfect response to that first defeat of the season. Sometimes a scoreline does not do a team justice, even when they win. This, unquestionably, was one of those occasions. Admittedly, Spurs were a shambles. Younes Kaboul was a walking car crash, Jan Vertonghen scarcely any better, Danny Rose's display putting his England call under question even before he limped down the tunnel. But that, and the fact that the trio of Nacer Chadli, Christian Eriksen and Erik Lamela looked to have morphed back into last term's incarnations, was as much down to the visitors' domination as their own frailties. On another day, when he has fully found his feet, Balotelli would have converted the three first-half chances that went begging. Here, just his boots were eye-catching, as he allowed Spurs to reach the break still in the contest.

The Italian headed straight at Hugo Lloris from five yards as Spurs unaccountably stood off Sturridge, nodded past the post from similar distance then dragged horribly wide from a poor clearance by the keeper. Yet this was Balotelli on his best behaviour. A team player, helping out at full-back when required, then bursting forward to join the cavalry charges that tore Spurs to shreds. Sterling's early opener, after Sturridge destroyed Vertonghen out wide and played a perfect pass for the rampaging Henderson to find the speedster unmarked, was the only tangible reward for a display which was proof of Liverpool's intentions.

Date: 31 August 2014
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Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	BBC

31 August 2013

Indeed, had Emmanuel Adebayor – whose physical threat did hurt Dejan Lovren and Mamadou Sakho – or Chadli taken their openings, things might have been different. But it was hanging the illusion out there as bait, simply to snatch it away when Eric Dier, twice a hero on the opening weekends of the campaign, turned villain. His little tug on Joe Allen was enough to persuade Phil Dowd to award the spot-kick Steven Gerrard stroked home. Could Spurs, unlike last season, respond? No. Andros Townsend may have sealed his fate under Pochettino, his first touch being to lose the ball to Alberto Moreno, who ran half the field to smash into the far corner. A great goal which would have been exceeded had Sterling found a better finish than to prod at Lloris after dancing round the entire Spurs defence. Rodgers laughed, more Ricky Gervais than Ricky Villa, but the smile was genuine. No wonder. When it comes to what matters, Liverpool are deadly serious. Quality counts. And they have quality in abundance. And, now, Mario too.



Liverpool FC celebrated Brendan Rodgers' century in style with a devastating show of force in the capital.

The Northern Irishman's 100th game at the helm yielded a 56th victory which took him level with Bill Shankly and Rafa Benitez. Only Kenny Dalglish with 62 wins has enjoyed a better start to a managerial reign in the Reds' illustrious history. Rodgers may not yet have the silverware to match that cherished trio but this was a performance which provides genuine hope that similar glory will be forthcoming. Written off by some a week ago after the painful 3-1 defeat to champions Manchester City, Liverpool delivered the perfect response as they comprehensively outclassed Tottenham. The result wasn't as emphatic as the 5-0 and 4-0 thrashings dished out to Spurs last season but the gulf between the sides remains huge. Tottenham had enjoyed a perfect start to the campaign under new boss Mauricio Pochettino and have been touted as genuine rivals for Liverpool's coveted top-four status, but an expectant White Hart Lane was well and truly silenced by Rodgers' new-look red machine.

They may have lost a world-class talent in Luis Suarez but here was proof that Liverpool still possess the tools required to ruthlessly dismantle opponents in the same manner as they did last term. 'This is not the Mario Balotelli show,' rapped the manager prior to the journey south after being repeatedly questioned about the club's highest profile new arrival. Rodgers prefers to focus on the 'collective' as he calls it and to his delight Liverpool produced the kind of slick, cohesive team performance which he prides himself on. This was no one-man show with big contributions from all areas of the field. Balotelli, lauded in song as 'Mario magnifico' by the travelling Kop, played his part as the debutant got through a promising hour before making way for Lazar Markovic.

The £16million striker's lack of match sharpness showed as he spurned a hat-trick of first-half chances but there was plenty to admire about the shift he put in. By starting Balotelli alongside Daniel Sturridge ahead of a midfield diamond Rodgers was typically bold and fortune favoured the brave.

Raheem Sterling sparkled in an advanced central role as Spurs simply couldn't handle him. It's hard to believe he's still only 19. Blessed with blistering pace, remarkable strength and now incredibly tactically astute, Sterling ticks all the boxes. Forget big money signings, if the former QPR youngster maintains his current standards he has the ability to succeed Suarez as Footballer of the Year. Sterling put the finishing touch to a sweeping move as he broke the deadlock inside eight minutes. Sturridge's pass picked out the run of the outstanding Jordan Henderson, whose intelligent low cross towards the back post was clinically tucked away by the teenager. Henderson shone throughout with his range of passing and tireless work rate keeping the Reds on the front foot. With Daniel Agger having moved on, Rodgers needs a new vice-captain and Henderson would be a worthy recipient of that honour. Liverpool were all over Spurs with Balotelli spurning gilt-edged opportunities either side of the opener.

He should have buried a header from Sturridge's cross but nodded too close to Hugo Lloris and prodded the rebound wide. Then the Italian failed to capitalise on Steven Gerrard's inviting free-kick which dropped to him at the far post.

All eyes were on whether Balotelli would do the dirty work in terms of closing down Spurs' backline and chasing lost causes. For the most part he delivered, although he was on the receiving end of a thunderous challenge from Eric Dier which could have been avoided if he hadn't ambled after Henderson's through ball. Rodgers knows he has gambled by signing a player with such a chequered past but if he can unlock Balotelli's potential and keep him on the straight and narrow that fee will soon look like small change. Balotelli's best moment came just after the half hour mark when he held the ball up under pressure from Younes Kaboul, turned away from the Frenchman and clipped a pass for Sterling to burst on to. However, when Lloris' woeful clearance dropped to him 40 yards out the striker got his finish horribly wrong. For all their potency going forward, the Reds looked vulnerable at times defensively. However, unlike Man City, Spurs were unable to take advantage. With a backline made up of three new signings and Mamadou Sakho, who has yet to truly establish himself at Anfield, some uncertainty was inevitable. There were moments when Dejan Lovren and Sakho played Liverpool into trouble due to slack distribution and poor decision making. Three minutes before the break the two centre-backs failed to deal with a routine ball forward but Simon Mignolet saved their blushes as he expertly pushed over

Nacer Chadli's fierce strike.

It was a vital save by the Belgian keeper and in the second half Liverpool raised the bar and simply blew Spurs away. Gerrard epitomised that improvement as he snapped into tackles and provided the platform for the Reds to dominate.

Just three minutes into the second half the skipper doubled the lead from the spot after Dier was adjudged to have hauled back Joe Allen. In beating Lloris, Gerrard bagged another landmark strike as he became the highest scorer of penalties in the club's history, overtaking Jan Molby's tally of 42. He's also the first Reds player in history to score in 16 successive seasons – beating the record previously held by the great Billy Liddell. The away fans serenaded the captain and those jubilant Kopites were in dreamland on the hour.

Alberto Moreno put his baptism of fire against City firmly behind him by capping an accomplished display with a solo goal of true quality. The £12million left-back dispossessed Andros Townsend inside the Reds' half and raced 50 yards before arrowing an unstoppable strike into the far corner. The introduction of Markovic and Emre Can for Balotelli and Allen showcased the strength in depth Rodgers can now call upon as their vice-like grip on proceedings remained. Liverpool could and should have had more. Sterling's mazy dribble left three defenders chasing shadows but he fired tamely at Lloris. "Raheem ran into the box like Ricky Villa and finished it like Ricky Gervais," Rodgers joked. The manager could afford to see the funny side. After a stuttering start to the campaign, Liverpool have clicked into gear.



Sterling shines as Reds humble toothless Spurs at White Hart Lane

Alberto Moreno's exquisite solo strike capped a dominant Liverpool performance as Mauricio Pochettino's perfect start to life at Tottenham came to an abrupt end. Brendan Rodgers' side produced the ideal response to Monday's defeat at Manchester City, with Raheem Sterling, Steven Gerrard and a wonderful effort from Moreno condemning Spurs to a 3-0 loss at White Hart Lane.

The first defeat of the Pochettino era would have been worse was it not for high-profile debutant Mario Balotelli's clear rustiness on an afternoon which will have brought back painful memories of last season's humblings.

Liverpool followed up a 5-0 win at White Hart Lane with a 4-0 triumph at Anfield last term and it looked like a similar scoreline would be on the cards when Sterling swept home after a fine team move in the eighth minute.

Balotelli should have put the visitors up before that and wasted two more wonderful first-half chances, although Gerrard slotted home from the penalty spot early in the second half after Eric Dier was adjudged to have hauled back Joe Allen. The scoreline got worse for the hosts when Moreno dispossessed substitute Andros Townsend and raced the length of the Spurs half to unleash a fine low drive as Liverpool emphatically put Monday's 3-1 loss at the Etihad Stadium behind them. The win was a fitting way to celebrate Rodgers' 100th match at the helm - only Kenny Dalglish had a better win ratio over the same period - and victory looked likely from the outset. Despite insisting in the build-up it would not become "the Mario Balotelli show", the pre-match focus was on the Italian who had a wonderful chance to open his account after three minutes.

The maverick striker found space to meet a Daniel Sturridge cross at the back post, only for Hugo Lloris to save his close-range header before the striker turned the rebound wide. It was poor from Balotelli but a missed opportunity soon forgotten as Liverpool's England trio combined for a stylish opener.

Sturridge played through Jordan Henderson, whose low, driven cross was turned in at the backpost by Sterling - a team goal which will have no doubt pleased watching England manager Roy Hodgson. Emmanuel Adebayor had a decent chance to level almost immediately when put through by Nabil Bentaleb, only for him to lift the ball onto the roof of the net. It was a rare moment of respite as Liverpool toyed with the hosts, wasting several decent chances to pull further ahead. Sturridge wriggled free to strike a low left-footed effort just wide, before Balotelli wasted another gilt-edged chance when failing to head on target despite being left unmarked from a Gerrard free-kick.

Adebayor was proving a nuisance as Spurs began to settle, although a wayward effort from Danny Rose was all they had to show for their improved performance. They were still looking shaky on occasion at the back and Lloris was fortunate not to be punished for a rush of blood to the head. Soon after saving a Sturridge pot shot, the French goalkeeper, like so many times before, burst off his line to make an interception, which he put straight at Balotelli - a chance the Italian snatched at, screwing wide of the open goal. Balotelli was guilty of firing wildly over a corner just before the break, which Spurs were close to going into level. Adebayor showed good strength to flick the ball through to Nacer Chadli, although the attacker's goalbound drive was denied by Simon Mignolet. Spurs were fortunate not to be further behind at the break but Liverpool did double their advantage four minutes into the second half. Dier was adjudged to have pulled back Allen in the box, with Gerrard striking home the resulting penalty - a record 43rd successive spot-kick for Liverpool. It looked a soft decision by referee Phil Dowd and one which led Pochettino to make alterations, although the introduction of Townsend immediately cost Spurs.

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31 August 2013

The dawdling winger was dispossessed by Moreno just inside the Liverpool half, with the left-back powering down the flank before letting fly across Lloris. Balotelli was withdrawn after the Spaniard's fine solo effort, which would have been usurped as the game's best goal had the final touch matched the quality of Sterling's inspired, mazy run. Lloris denied that tame effort and a low Sturridge strike as the tempo slowed and game petered out. There was a worrying moment for Hodgson as Rose was replaced after picking up a knock towards the end of a match which Spurs underwhelmed.



Brendan Rodgers celebrated his 100th match as Liverpool manager with another comfortable win against previously unbeaten Tottenham at White Hart Lane. Mario Balotelli wasted several chances on his Reds debut but it mattered little as Spurs lost for the first time under new boss Mauricio Pochettino. Liverpool, who won 5-0 in this fixture last season, led when Raheem Sterling converted at the far post. Steven Gerrard's penalty and Alberto Moreno's precise finish sealed the win. Liverpool scored nine unanswered goals against Spurs last season - following up the 5-0 success in north London with a 4-0 victory at Anfield - and tore apart a new-look Spurs side which had made a positive start under Pochettino. The Reds have since lost talismanic striker Luis Suarez, who tormented Spurs on both occasions last season, but demonstrated the same attacking verve which helped them finish as Premier League runners-up in May. Rodgers is still integrating nine summer signings into his squad and saw his side edge past Southampton on the opening weekend, before being comfortably beaten by reigning champions Manchester City on Monday. But they clicked into gear against Spurs as England forward Sterling carried his encouraging World Cup form into the new domestic season. The 19-year-old, playing in a more central role, worried the home defence with his pace and direct running throughout. He scored the opening goal as the Reds needed just eight minutes to find a breakthrough against a Spurs side which had not conceded in their opening two Premier League fixtures. Daniel Sturridge picked out the intelligent run of Jordan Henderson and he unselfishly squared across the Spurs goal for Sterling to steer in. And the home side were lucky not to fall further behind as Liverpool dominated the opening 15 minutes. Despite Rodgers insisting his team have not turned into "the Mario Balotelli show", the Italian inevitably proved to be a central figure in the opening exchanges. His firm header forced Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris into an acrobatic save after just three minutes, before a weak header from inside the six-yard box squirmed wide shortly after Sterling's opener. The ex-Manchester City striker also haplessly miscued a long-range effort when Lloris rashly raced from his goal and played a poor clearance straight to his feet. But his failure to give the visitors a more commanding lead did not prove significant. Spurs had netted 21 goals in their previous six home games but were unable to exploit some defensive uncertainty from the visitors as they searched for an equaliser before the break. Emmanuel Adebayor lobbed over the Liverpool goal when a long punt forward caught the away defence flat-footed, before Reds defender Dejan Lovren came to the rescue by blocking Erik Lamela's shot after Mamadou Sakho sloppily surrendered possession. But their clearest opportunity came when Liverpool allowed another high ball to slice them open, with an unmarked Nacer Chadli pouncing to force Belgium teammate Simon Mignolet into a smart reaction save. Any Spurs momentum gained soon dissipated, however, when right-back Eric Dier tugged back Reds midfielder Joe Allen in the box moments after the restart and Gerrard confidently fired low into the corner from the spot. And Spain full-back Moreno, a recent £12m signing from Sevilla, sealed the comprehensive win when he charged forward unchallenged before driving a low shot into the far corner. Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino: "We need to learn and improve - today was a very tough game for us. "I think the first 45 minutes we competed very well and had some good chances. But the key moment came in the second half - it was a very soft penalty. When you are 2-0 down against Liverpool it is very difficult."

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Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	BBC

31 August 2013



Full time Match ends, Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 3.

90:00+3:09Full time Second Half ends, Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 3.

90:00+1:11 Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the attacking half.

90:00+1:11 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.

89:04Booking Alberto Moreno (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

88:47 Corner, Tottenham Hotspur. Conceded by Lazar Markovic.

87:24 Foul by Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur.

87:24 Javier Manquillo (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

85:37Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. José Enrique replaces Raheem Sterling.

84:50 Offside, Tottenham Hotspur. Erik Lamela tries a through ball, but Emmanuel Adebayor is caught offside.

82:39 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

81:17 Foul by Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur.

81:17 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

79:57 Foul by Etienne Capoue (Tottenham Hotspur.

79:57 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

74:39 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Lazar Markovic.

73:34Booking Raheem Sterling (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

73:29 Younes Kaboul (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the attacking half.

73:29 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.

72:32 Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

71:45 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

71:42Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Tottenham Hotspur. Ben Davies replaces Danny Rose because of an injury.

71:25 Delay in match Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur because of an injury.

70:34 Foul by Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur.

70:34 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

69:39 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Emre Can.

68:08 Attempt missed. Emmanuel Adebayor (Tottenham Hotspur header from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Etienne Capoue.

66:56 Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner.

66:20 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Hugo Lloris.

66:19 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner.

65:11 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right following a corner.

64:23 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mousa Dembélé.

60:59Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Lazar Markovic replaces Mario Balotelli.

60:39Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Emre Can replaces Joe Allen.

59:12Goal scored Goal!Goal! Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 3. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box to the bottom right corner following a fast break.

58:50Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Tottenham Hotspur. Mousa Dembélé replaces Nabil Bentaleb.

58:36Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Tottenham Hotspur. Andros Townsend replaces Christian Eriksen.

56:44 Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the defensive half.

56:44 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.

55:21 Corner, Tottenham Hotspur. Conceded by Joe Allen.

55:20 Attempt blocked. Christian Eriksen (Tottenham Hotspur right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Nacer Chadli.

54:41 Offside, Liverpool. Mamadou Sakho tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

53:03 Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick on the left wing.

53:03 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool.

52:20 Corner, Tottenham Hotspur. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.

52:17 Attempt blocked. Emmanuel Adebayor (Tottenham Hotspur right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked.

51:19 Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the attacking half.

51:19 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.

50:26 Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the defensive half.

50:26 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool.

49:55 Foul by Nacer Chadli (Tottenham Hotspur.

49:55 Javier Manquillo (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

48:06Goal scored Goal!Goal! Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 2. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom left corner.

47:10 Penalty Liverpool. Joe Allen draws a foul in the penalty area.

47:10 Penalty conceded by Eric Dier (Tottenham Hotspur after a foul in the penalty area.

45:08 Foul by Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur.

45:08 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

45:00 Second Half begins Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 1.

45:00+1:10Half time First Half ends, Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 1.

45:00+0:31 Foul by Etienne Capoue (Tottenham Hotspur.

45:00+0:31 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

43:54 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Steven Gerrard following a corner.

43:24 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jan Vertonghen.

42:38 Hand ball by Emmanuel Adebayor (Tottenham Hotspur.

41:50 Corner, Tottenham Hotspur. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

41:49 Attempt saved. Nacer Chadli (Tottenham Hotspur right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Younes Kaboul.

39:26 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

39:26 Foul by Emmanuel Adebayor (Tottenham Hotspur.

36:23Booking Javier Manquillo (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

31:32 Foul by Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur.

31:32 Javier Manquillo (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

30:46 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.

29:25 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Mario Balotelli.

28:33 Offside, Tottenham Hotspur. Emmanuel Adebayor tries a through ball, but Danny Rose is caught offside.

27:33 Attempt missed. Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Christian Eriksen.

26:01Booking Joe Allen (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

25:45 Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the attacking half.

25:45 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.

22:27 Corner, Tottenham Hotspur. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.

21:46 Offside, Tottenham Hotspur. Jan Vertonghen tries a through ball, but Emmanuel Adebayor is caught offside.

19:04 Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the defensive half.

19:04 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool.

15:07 Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the defensive half.

15:07 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.

14:24 Corner, Tottenham Hotspur. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.

13:28 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a set piece situation.

12:52 Foul by Eric Dier (Tottenham Hotspur.

12:52 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

11:34 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

10:34 Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the defensive half.

10:34 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool.

9:56 Hand ball by Erik Lamela (Tottenham Hotspur.

8:42 Attempt missed. Emmanuel Adebayor (Tottenham Hotspur right footed shot from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Nabil Bentaleb with a through ball.

7:21Goal scored Goal!Goal! Tottenham Hotspur 0, Liverpool 1. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.

5:51 Attempt missed. Nacer Chadli (Tottenham Hotspur header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Christian Eriksen with a cross following a corner.

5:27 Corner, Tottenham Hotspur. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.

4:05 Mario Balotelli (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

4:05 Foul by Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur.

3:04 Foul by Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool.

3:04 Emmanuel Adebayor (Tottenham Hotspur wins a free kick in the defensive half.

2:09 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box misses to the right.

2:07 Attempt saved. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool header from very close range is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge with a cross.

0:00 First Half begins.

0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.