

Date: 4 March 2015
 Opposition: Burnley
 Competition: League

Times	Independent	Echo
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4 March 2015

THE TIMES

Henderson finds range to maintain Liverpool's charge

Liverpool
 Henderson 29, Sturridge 512 02
 BurnleyWest 0

While doubts continue about who will succeed Steven Gerrard as Liverpool captain, Jordan Henderson's continuing emergence as a player of substance and a growing leader could not be more timely. A goal and an assist against Burnley were the midfielder's latest contributions as Liverpool's increasingly ominous form continued with a fourth successive league win.

Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, continues to maintain that it is not a foregone conclusion that Henderson will be promoted from vice-captain, but on this form his coronation appears a formality. Answering his call for new leaders to come to the fore, the England international had the kind of impact for which Gerrard has long been renowned, scoring a firecracker of a goal and creating another for Daniel Sturridge, condemning Burnley to defeat in the process.

The victory means that Liverpool have taken 29 points out of the last 33 available to them, a run that has allowed them to mount a concerted challenge for the top-four place that had looked beyond them earlier in the season. Form of that type indicates that Henderson is far from being the only one who is excelling as Liverpool look to qualify for the Champions League for the second season in succession.

The game began at breakneck speed, with Liverpool almost taking the lead within 24 seconds as an intricate exchange between Raheem Sterling, Adam Lallana and Sturridge culminated in the latter bringing a fine save from Tom Heaton, the Burnley goalkeeper. Henderson then headed over from a Philippe Coutinho corner as Burnley struggled to cope with the intensity of Liverpool's early play.

With only one away win all season, the scene seemed set for Burnley to face an onslaught, but by midway through the first half the visiting team had stabilised and Liverpool's early storm appeared to have blown itself out. It took until the 23rd minute for Liverpool to create their next opportunity and Heaton again excelled, plunging down to his left to palm Henderson's shot around a post.

Burnley were straining every sinew to stay in the game and their resistance broke just before the half-hour, when Henderson's persistence paid off with his second stunning goal in four days. Having struck against Manchester City on Sunday, the midfielder repeated the trick with a piledriver from the edge of the penalty area after Coutinho's shot had been blocked.

Coutinho, another who seems to be benefiting from extra shooting practice, attempted the kind of curling strike that is rapidly becoming his trademark but, unlike in his past two league games, the ball whistled narrowly wide.

Burnley's plight should have become worse shortly before the interval, when Sturridge raced on to Coutinho's defence-splitting pass with only Heaton to beat. The forward, though, is still searching for peak form after a lengthy injury layoff and shot too close to the goalkeeper, who saved with his legs. It could have proved a costly miss, as Ashley Barnes met Kieran Trippier's free kick with a powerful header, but Simon Mignolet saved well.

Having failed with his feet, Sturridge succeeded with his head shortly after half-time, making a perfectly timed run to the far post to nod Henderson's searching cross past Heaton. It was Sturridge's tenth goal in his past 11 Premier League starts at Anfield but, more importantly, it provided the confidence boost that he needed while also edging Liverpool closer to victory.

Typically, Burnley refused to accept defeat and raised their game to such an extent that Liverpool spent a lengthy spell on the back foot, although the only chance of note fell to Barnes, who missed the target with a half-volley. A flurry of substitutions followed as both Rodgers and Sean Dyche looked to preserve energy for the battles that lie ahead and while the game's pace subsided, Liverpool's control did not.

Liverpool (3-4-2-1): S Mignolet -- E Can, M Skrtel, D Lovren -- R Sterling (sub: R Lambert, 90min), J Allen, J Henderson, A Moreno (sub: K Toure, 73) -- A Lallana, P Coutinho -- D Sturridge (sub: G Johnson, 83).

Substitutes not used: D Ward, M Balotelli, J Williams, L Markovic.

Burnley (4-4-2): T Heaton -- K Trippier, M Keane, J Shackell, B Mee -- G Boyd, S Arfield, D Jones, M Kightly (sub: R Wallace, 52) -- A Barnes (sub: S Vokes, 66), D Ings (sub: L Jutkiewicz, 90).

Substitutes not used: M Gilks, M Duff, S Reid, S Ward. Booked: Mee.

Referee: L Mason.

the guardian

Jordan Henderson and Daniel Sturridge fire Liverpool past Burnley
 Brendan Rodgers denies it is a foregone conclusion that Jordan Henderson will be promoted from vice- to club captain when Steven Gerrard heads for Los Angeles this summer. Liverpool's deputy, however, is compiling a strong case while the Anfield judge considers his options.

Henderson followed his sublime opener against Manchester City on Sunday with another fine 20-yard goal to puncture a determined display by Burnley at Anfield. Not even Philippe Coutinho could eclipse the midfielder on this occasion and the 25-year-old embellished his night's work by creating the second goal for Daniel Sturridge. Scored one, made one; and Liverpool required a captain's performance from Henderson, with Sean Dyche's men proving predictably obstinate opponents. Burnley have the character to fight for Premier League survival. Liverpool have the class and confidence of Champions League place contenders. "Jordan is improving all the time," said Rodgers, who argued Liverpool's display was on a par with the win against City in terms of defensive organisation and professionalism. "As he matures he will be even better tactically. It was a terrific strike for the goal and he showed great technique and precision for the second. He is becoming one of the real leaders of this team."

Whether that is enough to succeed Gerrard as captain remains to be seen and the impasse over a new contract for Henderson, who enters the final 12 months of his current deal this summer, does not help his cause. Maybe that explains Rodgers' reticence over Liverpool's next captain. Beyond doubt is the momentum behind Liverpool's push for the top four, with 29 points now taken from the last 33 available after breaking down Burnley's resistance.

The recalled Sturridge tested Tom Heaton in the Burnley goal after 25 seconds and while that marked the start of a high-tempo contest it was not the signal for Liverpool to dominate against relegation-threatened visitors. Dyche's side made life difficult until Henderson's opener in the 29th minute by employing the same high-pressing tactics that Rodgers used to telling effect against the Premier League champions. The number of chances they created regardless was a measure of Liverpool's quality.

Advertisement

Henderson headed over from a Coutinho corner and forced Heaton into another decent save low to his left from the edge of the area. Michael Keane almost gifted Sturridge an opener with a weak header from Emre Can's deflected shot but Heaton gathered just in time. The keeper was given no chance when Liverpool's captain for the night reprised his breakthrough act from the City game.

Coutinho was under close scrutiny all night but managed to cut inside from the left and evade two Burnley players before his shot was blocked by a third. The rebound bounced towards Henderson on the edge of the area and, having adjusted his body shape to get behind the ball, the midfielder sent an unstoppable half-volley swerving away from Heaton's grasp and into the Kop goal. Joe Allen and Coutinho went close to doubling Liverpool's lead from distance and Sturridge had the best opportunity for a second when played clear by a deft pass from the Brazilian midfielder. His low, left-foot effort was well saved by the Burnley keeper. His opposite number, Simon Mignolet, was tested only once before the interval and dealt comfortably with Ashley Barnes' header from Kieran Trippier's free-kick.

The threat level from Burnley did increase but, unfortunately for Dyche, only after Sturridge had extended Liverpool's advantage. This time Henderson turned creator, finding space in central midfield to float an inch-perfect cross over the visitors' defence. Sturridge read the midfielder's intentions expertly and peeled away from his marker to steer a fine header inside Heaton's right-hand post. It was the England international's 10th goal in his last 11 Premier League starts at Anfield and the 17th headed goal that Burnley have conceded this season, the most in the top flight.

"They are an expensively assembled side with top-class players who have found their form and belief," said Dyche. "That was a different side to what we faced on Boxing Day. It is possibly too late for this season but if they carry on like that they will be up there next season."

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The Mail

Henderson leads from the front

LIVERPOOL 2

BURNLEY 0

MAYBE it is a formality after all. Brendan Rodgers said recently that no decision had been made on who would replace Steven Gerrard as captain, but is there really a decision to make?

For all that Liverpool's manager will not be rushed into anointing Gerrard's successor, Jordan Henderson is compiling a case that is becoming impossible to overlook. He did exactly what a Liverpool skipper should do against Burnley, providing inspiration in a crucial win.

Fresh from his heroics against Manchester City, Henderson delivered once again here with a goal, an assist for Daniel Sturridge and 90 minutes of relentless running in a win that keeps the Reds in the thick of the Champions League race. This was not Liverpool at their most vibrant or energetic but this was not a night for over-elaboration. What mattered was getting the job done.

These are the types of games that Gerrard, watching in the directors box, has grabbed by the scruff of the neck and he would have nodded approvingly at the way Henderson led Liverpool in his absence. So, too, would Rodgers.

Games that come so soon after significant victories can often become tests of endurance rather than opportunities to make statements. There was a reason to believe, having expended so much energy against City, that Burnley would present a difficult task.

As injured captain Steven Gerrard observed in his programme notes 'nobody has it easy against Burnley' and with Danny Ings looking to pass an audition ahead of a possible move to Anfield this summer, this had the potential to be problematic. The home side started, however, as they had finished when flattening City. Quick, aggressive and energetic, they burst out of the blocks and almost had the lead within 24 seconds when a move full of deft flicks and subtle touches ended with Tom Heaton flinging himself to thwart Sturridge.

Rodgers had said that Sturridge recapturing full fitness would see him 'light up' Liverpool's system and this was clear evidence of what he meant. The understanding and skill he and Raheem Sterling showed to create the opportunity had Anfield on its feet.

When Henderson then wasted a free header from Philippe Coutinho's corner in the next attack, you began to sense that this would be a long evening for the visitors.

At times the pace with which Liverpool moved the ball was too quick for Burnley to comprehend. Still, they kept fighting and there were moments, when Ings chased lost causes or George Boyd drove forward, that suggested Burnley might make a game of it.

Any anxieties that Rodgers might have had were soon quelled. Henderson had served notice of his intent in the 24th minute, when forcing a plunging save from Heaton, but there was nothing Burnley's keeper could do when the ball fell to the Liverpool captain on the half-hour.

When Coutinho's effort was charged down, Henderson was in the perfect position to dispatch a 20-yard drive that swerved past Heaton before nestling in the net. Had Sturridge taken a glorious chance in the 42nd minute the game would have been wrapped up but, as it was, Liverpool were given a reminder in first-half injury time that they still had work to do when Ashley Barnes tested Simon Mignolet with a header.

Burnley came out fighting after the restart and Mignolet needed to take dramatic action in the 48th minute, surging out of his goal to head away a ball that was Barnes was chasing, clattering into the forward in the process.

Yet any hope that Burnley had of launching a comeback was soon snuffed out when Henderson provided the perfect cross for Sturridge. Not needing to break his stride, Sturridge nodded his header past Heaton to make sure of the points and was quick to show his appreciation to Henderson, who was providing his 11th assist of the campaign -- the type of figure you might expect from a captain.

LIVERPOOL: Mignolet, Can, Skrtel, Lovren, Lallana, Henderson, Allen, Moreno (Toure 73), Sterling, Sturridge (Johnson 82), Coutinho. Scorers: Henderson 29, Sturridge 51 BURNLEY: Heaton, Trippier, Shackell, Keane, Mee, Arfield, Jones, Boyd, Kightly (Wallace 52); Barnes (Vokes 66), Ings (Jutkiewicz 90).

Referee: L Mason.

The Daily Telegraph

Henderson touches new heights as Liverpool punish tireless Burnley

Liverpool 2

Henderson 29, Sturridge 52

Burnley 0

Att: 44,717

Jordan Henderson will be the first to admit he can never replace Steven Gerrard, but for one night only he performed an impressive tribute act to inspire Liverpool to victory over Burnley.

All that was missing was the host of Stars in Their Eyes to introduce the acting captain, explaining how he would be spending the evening impersonating his absent captain.

Henderson's opening goal was of the standard Gerrard has copyrighted during his career, a net bruising drive from the edge of the penalty area.

Just as satisfying was Henderson's assist for the second, a clipped cross rather like the pitching wedge finding the pin, for Daniel Sturridge's header on 51 minutes. Such demonstrations bode well for Liverpool and England.

Liverpool have emerged from their hibernation since Christmas. For the first time in eight months they went into a fixture knowing favourable results could put them back in a Champions League place.

The applause for the revival will swiftly fade if Brendan Rodgers' side do not maintain their momentum, however, and this looked a far trickier fixture than the league table suggested.

In an effort to acquire a seventh win in eight league games, Rodgers overloaded his line-up with attacking intent.

Raheem Sterling was used a rightwing-back, accommodating the return of Sturridge who is still easing his way back to full fitness and adjusting to the fresh formation. That said, the England striker can carry a goal threat even at half pace.

The striker tried to shake off any fear of rustiness within 30 seconds, exchanging one touch passes with Sterling prior to forcing Tom Heaton into the first of a series of key firsthalf saves. Sturridge was more culpable when he fluffed a one-on-one just before half-time, Heaton blocking with his legs, but by then Liverpool had the lead via Henderson's Gerrard-esque half-volley on 28 minutes.

Inevitably, Coutinho was the creator, turning away from Scott Arfield in midfield before seeing his blocked shot drop invitingly to his acting captain. Henderson's connection was perfect and his celebration, a leg slide at the Kop corner flag, was also straight from the captain's handbook.

For a side in the bottom three Sean Dyche's side have much to admire, their work-rate and confidence in possession limiting Liverpool's space far more effectively than Manchester City managed last weekend.

Dyche's problem is Liverpool have the capacity to wear teams down, Coutinho and Lallana particularly relishing their emerging partnership. But for their keeper, the visitors would have been four down at half-time despite an encouraging display.

Liverpool extended their lead six minutes into the second half as Sturridge continued his extraordinary strike rate as he tries to become the club's quickest player to 50 goals.

Henderson was the creator, a looping ball over the Burnley centre-half - similar to the move against Crystal Palace in the FA Cup recently - picked out Sturridge at the back post, and his header beat Heaton.

Liverpool's attacking intent wilted after they doubled the lead, Burnley showing plenty of endeavour but struggling to provoke Mignolet into significant action. The biggest concern for the Belgian was a couple of loose passes in his direction from Dejan Lovren, although in the Croatian's defence, he is also looking far more comfortable than earlier in the season.

Lallana and Coutinho still looked capable of moving into a higher gear as and when required, but it was a sign of how comfortable Rodgers felt when he replaced Sturridge on 83 minutes, no doubt with this weekend's FA Cup quarter-final on his mind.

With such fluent football, a winning run, the captain in top form and a charismatic South American leading the charge, Rodgers truly can say his side is starting to resemble that of last season - with one significant exception. Liverpool are starting to look good in defence, too.

Liverpool (3-4-3) Mignolet; Can, Skrtel, Lovren; Sterling, Henderson, Allen, Moreno (K Toure 73); Lallana, Sturridge, Coutinho. Subs Johnson, Lambert, Balotelli, Williams, Markovic Ward.

Burnley (4-4-2) Heaton; Mee, Keane, Shackell, Trippier; Kightly (Wallace 52), Jones, Arfield, Boyd; Ings, Barnes (Vokes 66).

Subs Duff, Reid, Jutkiewicz, Gilks, Ward. Referee Lee Mason (Bolton).

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Liverpool extend their run after Henderson's stunning opening strike
 Liverpool finished this match riding as high as the near-full moon over the Centenary Stand and, if they are to be denied a Champions League spot, someone is going to have to accumulate a lot of points.

Of the five straight wins that have carried them to fifth place, this was perhaps the most comfortable and, but for some laughable late defending at St James' Park, it would have taken Liverpool level on points with Manchester United. The meeting between these sides on March 22 will be for very high stakes.

This game was rather easier to call. Burnley were what they have been all season, brave and game and willing. The storyline demanded that Danny Ings, who may be spending next season at Anfield, demonstrate something of his ability. He ended the match as something of a footnote.

Liverpool might have won by a rather greater margin than 2-0. Daniel Sturridge was presented with three startling opportunities and scored from the hardest. Jordan Henderson delivered a performance that carried some of the echoes of the man he will replace, Steven Gerrard. Philippe Coutinho almost scored the kind of goal that had carried them to victory against Manchester City.

This is a Liverpool side in the kind of rhythm a long-distance runner going through the pack, from athlete's shoulder to athlete's shoulder, would recognise. They have not lost a league match this year and, if as Arsne Wenger suggested, 72 points will be enough for a Champions League place, it is a target five clubs are likely to reach.

For Burnley this was the latest instalment of a fixture list that seemed to have been dreamed up by someone in Blackburn. February and March are usually the months when promoted teams begin to flounder, when the rest of the Premier League are used to their tactics, when injuries have exposed the thinness of their squad and a deep weariness creeps in.

Burnley had been given games against Manchester United, Chelsea, Swansea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Southampton, Tottenham and Arsenal.

As they have all season, they ploughed into the task with all the spirit at their disposal. In defeat, they had been the better side at Old Trafford and had drawn at Stamford Bridge. At Turf Moor, against Swansea, which seemed the easiest of their opponents, they had given one of their most insipid displays. This was better but nowhere near enough against Liverpool in their present ruthless mood.

They would get respect from the home side. Brendan Rodgers had known Sean Dyche since he was managing Watford's Under-18s while Rodgers was running Vicarage Road. Burnley tried to disrupt Liverpool's rhythm by defending the Kop in the first half and within 25 seconds they were defending it desperately as Sturridge turned deep in the area and saw Tom Heaton push his shot wide.

Just before the interval, a wonderful ball from Coutinho, who played as well as he had done at Southampton and against Manchester City on Sunday, gave Sturridge another opportunity. This time Heaton saved with his legs.

Burnley were not to escape a third time. Liverpool were already one up, the second half was a few minutes old and Sturridge stole away from three defenders to head home Henderson's cross at the far post. For the 17th time this season, Burnley had conceded a headed goal, more than any other team in the Premier League.

They had begun by passing the ball well and defended resolutely but it appeared only a matter of time before they cracked and it arrived in the 29th minute.

Since taking the captain's armband from Gerrard, Henderson has picked up some of the injured midfielder's characteristics, not least the ability to score spectacularly. Sunday's goal against Manchester City had been good but this in its way was better.

Adam Lallana fed Coutinho, whose shot was blocked. The ball fell to Henderson who drove home a shot that was delivered low and hard. It travelled perhaps a foot off the ground and curled away from Heaton into the net beneath the Kop, who soon afterwards began singing to wish Kenny Dalglish a happy 64th birthday.



That was just Jor-dropping; HERO HENDO IS WORTHY HEIR TO STEVIE G THE talk since Christmas has benn over indentity of Steven Gerrard's successor - but Jordan Henderson is rapidly making the subject academic.

Liverpool's stand-in skipper produced a performance last night that bore all the glorious hallmarks his team-mate and mentor in his prime, as he inspired his side another impressive victory.

Henderson scored one fine goal and provided a delicious assist to see off a determined, organised and robust Burnley side, who provided the Reds with a proper examination in the exciting race for a Champions League place.

England midfielder Henderson though, was too much for the relegation-haunted side.

His display suggests the Anfield club have the perfect replacement when their captain and legend leaves at the end of the season.

It was pure Gerrard at his compelling best, a fine opening goal to settle nerves with a vicious, unstoppable shot from the edge the box.

Then an exquisite delivery to carve out the second, and kill off stubborn opponents.

Many Reds fans have worried if their talisman is replaceable at all after he moves to the States, but they seem to be dwelling on the subject far less these days, because of the form of the new captain.

His assist in the 51st minute for Daniel Sturridge, who confirmed he is back to his dangerous best he is back to his dangerous best after a return from injury, was a glorious case in point.

The cross from the right was delivered with the weight and precision Gerrard is famed for.

Brendan Rodgers will be relieved, not just because it extends Liverpool's unbeaten league run to 12 and keeps the Champions League aim firmly on course. It also means he doesn't have to spend a long summer on an impossible search, as Henderson is clearly his man.

Liverpool's scorers against Manchester City at the weekend combined to fashion the 29th-minute breakthrough.

Philippe Coutinho's fierce shot was charged down, only to fall invitingly to Henderson, who unleashed a ferocious strike to beat the impressive Tom Heaton. d.maddock@trinitymirror.com

match stats 63% POSSESSION 37% 8 SHOTS ON TARGET 1 7 SHOTS OFF TARGET 4 6 CORNERS 5 0 OFFSIDE 1 8 FOULS 14 0 0 CARDS 1 0 LIVERPOOL: Mignolet 7, Can 6, Skrtel 6, Lovren 6, Sterling 7 (Lambert 90), Henderson 8, Allen 7, Moreno 6 (Toure 73), Coutinho 6, Sturridge 7 course.

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LIVERPOOL: Mignolet 7, Can 6, Skrtel 6, Lovren 6, Sterling 7 (Lambert 90), Henderson 8, Allen 7, Moreno 6 (Toure 73), Coutinho 6, Sturridge 7 (Johnson 83), Lallana 6 BURNLEY: Heaton 7, Trippier 6, Keane 7, Shackell 6, Mee 6, Boyd 6, Arfield 6, Jones 6, Kightly 6 (Wallace 52, 5), Barnes 6 (Vokes 66, 5), Ings 7 (Jutkiewicz 90) REF: Lee Mason ATT: 44,717 MATCH STATS 63% POSSESSION 37% 8 SHOTS ON TARGET 1 7 SHOTS OFF TARGET 4 6 CORNERS 5 0 OFFSIDE 1 8 FOULS 14 0 0 CARDS 1 0

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Stunning Jordan Henderson strike helps Reds maintain Champions League push

Jordan Henderson smashed another stunning goal as Liverpool maintained their chase for Champions League qualification with comfortable victory.

Three days after his thumping opener in the win against Manchester City, Henderson notched another similarly impressive first-half effort to send the Reds on their way to a 2-0 triumph over struggling Burnley at Anfield.

The skipper then turned provider after the interval with the cross from which Daniel Sturridge headed the second goal for Brendan Rodgers' side.

Liverpool have now nine of their last 11 Premier League games to keep pace with Arsenal, Manchester United, Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur – who all won – in the race for a top-four berth.

And after the exertions of Sunday, the Reds were grateful for a routine home triumph.

Rodgers saw little need to overly tinker with his side, with the only change seeing Sturridge restored to the centre-forward role with Lazar Markovic dropping to the bench.

It meant Raheem Sterling switched to a right wing-back role, and he was involved in a flowing move direct from the kick-off that almost resulted in the opening goal after just 24 seconds.

The ball was moved quickly between Sturridge, Sterling and Adam Lallana before arriving at the feet of Sturridge 12 yards out but Burnley goalkeeper Tom Heaton saved brilliantly down to his left.

Soon after, Henderson headed a corner over, but the tempo of Liverpool's game soon faded as the visitors, pressing high and showing great energy to retreat behind the ball when not in possession, took the game to the Reds.

The chances, though, continued to fall to Rodgers' side.

Midway through the half, neat trickery down the right allowed Sterling to progress into the area and, from his cutback, Henderson struck a low shot Heaton was again equal to.

Moments later, an Emre Can effort from range took a touch off Henderson and, in trying to direct the looping ball back to his goalkeeper, Burnley centre-back Michael Keane instead nodded to Sturridge whose instant reaction effort was straight at Heaton.

Liverpool's growing momentum led to a truly spectacular opener on 29 minutes. After Philippe Coutinho's drive was blocked, the ball bounced invitingly into the path of Henderson 20 yards out to smash a screaming drive that gave Heaton no chance.

Coutinho was then inches away from replicating his stunning winner against City, and shortly before half-time sent Sturridge clear with a slide-rule pass only for the striker to sidefoot at Heaton's legs.

In first-half stoppage time, Simon Mignolet was called into his first real action by clutching an Ashley Barnes header from Kieran Trippier's driven free-kick delivery. But Liverpool doubled their advantage six minutes into the second half, with Henderson this time the provider.

After clever possession by Lallana to hold up play, the skipper swept a cross over from the right where Sturridge, ghosting between two defenders, headed in at the far post.

Undeterred, Burnley kept plugging away. Barnes dragged a first-time shot wide but the game was up long before the final whistle as the Reds eased down the gears.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-2-1): Mignolet; Can, Skrtel, Lovren; Sterling (Lambert 90), Henderson, Allen, Moreno (Toure 72); Lallana, Coutinho; Sturridge (Johnson 83). Subs: Ward, Balotelli, Williams, Markovic.

BURNLEY (4-4-2): Heaton; Trippier, Keane, Shackell, Mee; Boyd, Arfield, Jones, Kightly (Wallace 53); Barnes (Vokes 66), Ings (Jutkiewicz 90). Subs: Gilks, Duff, Reid, Ward. BOOKING: Mee (foul).

REFEREE: Lee Mason.

ATT: 44,717.



BURNLEY players and staff have insisted all season that there is no pressure on them when they go to some of the Premier League's most iconic grounds to play the division's toughest teams.

But points are now becoming imperative in the battle to survive for a second season in the Premier League, and the spirit of adventure that this team usually displays on the big occasions was lacking at Anfield.

Having not made the most of their home games against teams in the bottom half of the table, the Clarets now need to find a way of taking points from a tough run of fixtures, but that proved beyond them against the league's in-form side.

For almost half an hour Burnley looked well organised as they got men behind the ball, but once Jordan Henderson had opened the scoring they struggled to impose themselves going forward.

The fight for points doesn't get any easier, with Manchester City next at Turf Moor a week on Saturday as Burnley enter the final 10 games of the campaign knowing they probably need to find at least another 12 points to stand a chance of staying up.

That looks unlikely at the moment, but the run-in does give them a chance and if they can remain in touch until then they could yet find a way to secure a second season in the top flight.

Danny Ings has been heavily linked with a summer switch to Liverpool, with the Reds having a bid rejected for him in January, but the 22-year-old struggled to light up Anfield like he did Old Trafford back in February.

It was his opposite number Daniel Sturridge who ended the game with a goal, and the England international called Tom Heaton into action inside the first 30 seconds.

An intricate move involving Raheem Sterling, Sturridge and Adam Lallana ended with Sturridge's 12-yard shot being turned round the post sharply by Burnley's goalkeeper.

In the fourth minute Jason Shackell sliced a low Philippe Coutinho cross over his own bar, and Henderson headed the set-piece over.

After the early flurry of activity Burnley did well to settle the game down, with Ashley Barnes having a shot blocked by Emre Can at the other end.

Heaton was forced into a low save from Henderson's 20-yard effort midway through the half, before the goalkeeper managed to beat Sturridge to Michael Keane's header back.

It was Henderson who broke the deadlock just before the half hour. Coutinho's run inside ended with his shot from the edge of the area being blocked by Shackell, but Henderson rifled home the rebound from 20 yards on the half-volley.

It was almost two a couple of minutes before the break with Coutinho's through ball sending Sturridge in on goal, only for Heaton to save with his legs.

It took six second half minutes for the second to arrive, with Henderson's cross to the back post headed home by Sturridge, who had found space in between Keane and Kieran Trippier.

It was clever moment from an international striker, but it was also a run that you expect at this level, and the Clarets' failure to deal with it explains why they've now conceded 17 headed goals this season.

Burnley desperately searched for a way back into the game, and penalty appeals for a pull on Ings were waved away, before Barnes flashed a shot just wide of the near post from inside the area.

Liverpool were happy to try and hold on to what they had for the final half hour.

Chances were falling the Reds' way less regularly, with Lallana seeing a shot blocked by Shackell, before Sterling fired save at Heaton after a run into the box.

Burnley tried to find a way through but Simon Mignolet remained relatively untroubled, and the Clarets' blank in front of goal means the last time they scored a league goal against Liverpool was March 1975.

Over the course of the final 10 games we will see if they will get a chance to end that record next season.

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Jordan Henderson continued his good form as Liverpool captain as he scored and set up another in a comfortable win over strugglers Burnley at Anfield. Standing in for injured skipper Steven Gerrard, Henderson smashed in a 20-yard shot to give Liverpool the lead.

The 24-year-old then crossed for Daniel Sturridge to head in on his return to the starting line-up.

Liverpool move back above Southampton into fifth, two points behind fourth-placed Manchester United.

The win was further evidence that Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers has restored an attacking verve to his team as they pursue a place in next season's Champions League.

And they extended their unbeaten run to 12 games, winning seven out of their last eight in the league.

Burnley struggled to cope with Liverpool's movement throughout the game, with Sturridge making an impression from the start. Only several fine saves from goalkeeper Tom Heaton limited the score to 1-0 at the break.

The defeat means Sean Dyche's side have only won one of their last 12 league games, and although they have earned points at Chelsea and Manchester City this season, they did not come close to upsetting Liverpool's flow.

The Clarets remain three points from safety but can take small consolation from the fact the other sides in the relegation zone also both lost.

After only featuring as a substitute against Manchester City, Sturridge showed he meant business after 30 seconds when he combined cleverly with Raheem Sterling and Adam Lallana to draw a decent stop from Heaton.

The Burnley goalkeeper also did well to deny Henderson, but it was merely a portent of what was to come.

After further Liverpool pressure, Philippe Coutinho weaved into the box and when his shot was blocked, Henderson drove in the rebound.

Dyche named an unchanged side for the fourth successive game after declaring his side were one of the fittest in the league.

But they spent large parts of the game defending and only had an easily saved Ashley Barnes header in the first half to show for their efforts.

Danny Ings, reportedly a Liverpool summer target, had a relatively quiet evening, although he did claim he was fouled in the penalty area by Henderson as he shaped to shoot.

With only a goal between the two sides, Dyche's men still had a chance going into the second half but Sturridge's first league goal since the final day of January effectively eliminated that possibility.

Henderson turned provider this time, collecting the ball and delivering a wonderful, floated cross to the back post where Sturridge nodded in.

Liverpool saw out the match in relative comfort while Burnley's imminent challenges do not get much easier - they face Manchester City, Southampton, Tottenham and Arsenal in their next four games as they try to lift themselves out of trouble.

Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers on Jordan Henderson: "It is a great strike for his goal and the feed into Daniel Sturridge for the second is great too. He is up there with the top assist makers in the league, he has very good technique. He is developing well as a player, he still has work to go but he knows that. It's great to see."

Burnley boss Sean Dyche: "First half, I thought Liverpool were excellent, they had a real control of the game and had a some real good chances, and showed why they have been winning plaudits. Second half we levelled it out, we didn't do enough to win it but we had our moments."

"We didn't start as we normally do and they are the form side in the league. They have moved a long way since we played them on Boxing Day and they have found clarity to their performances, that's quite obvious."

Date: 4 March 2015
 Opposition: Burnley
 Competition: League

Times	Independent	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Lancs Telegraph
Telegraph	Mail	BBC

4 March 2015



90:00 +3:48 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 2, Burnley 0.
 90:00 +3:33 Attempt missed. Ross Wallace (Burnley left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses the top right corner from a direct free kick.
 90:00 +2:49 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool).
 90:00 +2:49 Scott Arfield (Burnley wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 90:00 +1:25 Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Glen Johnson.
 89:54 Substitution Burnley. Lukas Jutkiewicz replaces Danny Ings because of an injury.
 89:26 Substitution Liverpool. Rickie Lambert replaces Raheem Sterling.
 84:01 Booking Ben Mee (Burnley is shown the yellow card for a bad foul).
 83:57 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 83:57 Foul by Ben Mee (Burnley).
 83:00 Substitution Liverpool. Glen Johnson replaces Daniel Sturridge.
 81:19 Attempt blocked. David Jones (Burnley left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.
 80:48 Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
 79:12 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jason Shackell.
 79:00 Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.
 77:55 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 77:55 Foul by Jason Shackell (Burnley).
 76:15 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 72:10 Substitution Liverpool. Kolo Touré replaces Alberto Moreno.
 71:48 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 71:48 Foul by Scott Arfield (Burnley).
 68:55 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 68:55 Foul by Ben Mee (Burnley).
 68:10 Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 66:37 Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
 65:40 Substitution Burnley. Sam Vokes replaces Ashley Barnes.
 63:31 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Emre Can.
 61:32 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool).
 61:32 Ross Wallace (Burnley wins a free kick on the right wing.
 60:52 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is high and wide to the left.
 59:54 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 59:54 Foul by Ashley Barnes (Burnley).
 59:05 Attempt missed. Ashley Barnes (Burnley right footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses to the left.
 57:57 Attempt blocked. George Boyd (Burnley left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Danny Ings.
 57:05 Attempt blocked. Danny Ings (Burnley left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Kieran Trippier.
 53:42 Offside, Burnley. Tom Heaton tries a through ball, but Ashley Barnes is caught offside.
 52:25 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jason Shackell.
 51:30 Substitution Burnley. Ross Wallace replaces Michael Kightly.
 50:38 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 2, Burnley 0. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 49:24 Foul by Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool).
 49:24 Kieran Trippier (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 48:59 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 48:43 Delay in match Simon Mignolet (Liverpool because of an injury).
 48:43 Delay in match Ashley Barnes (Burnley because of an injury).
 47:31 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Emre Can.
 46:14 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 46:14 Foul by Danny Ings (Burnley).
 45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Burnley 0.
 45:00 +1:06 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Burnley 0.
 45:00 +0:12 Attempt saved. Ashley Barnes (Burnley header from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Kieran Trippier.
 44:33 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
 44:33 Danny Ings (Burnley wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 43:51 Attempt missed. Joe Allen (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 42:38 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 42:38 Foul by Jason Shackell (Burnley).
 41:47 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.
 39:28 Foul by Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool).
 39:28 Ben Mee (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 39:25 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 38:03 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 38:03 Foul by Ashley Barnes (Burnley).
 30:52 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 30:46 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 28:02 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 1, Burnley 0. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box to the bottom right corner.
 27:57 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre

of the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 25:58 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 25:58 Foul by David Jones (Burnley).
 25:33 Martin Skrtel (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 25:33 Dangerous play by Ashley Barnes (Burnley).
 23:48 Attempt blocked. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 23:42 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Joe Allen with a cross.
 23:10 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tom Heaton.
 23:04 Attempt saved. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
 21:21 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
 21:21 Ben Mee (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 18:43 Attempt missed. Scott Arfield (Burnley left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Michael Kightly.
 17:55 Attempt missed. Ben Mee (Burnley header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Kieran Trippier with a cross following a corner.
 17:23 Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Raheem Sterling.
 17:11 Attempt blocked. Ashley Barnes (Burnley left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 15:02 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 15:02 Foul by Michael Kightly (Burnley).
 14:09 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 14:09 Foul by Michael Kightly (Burnley).
 13:37 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool).
 13:37 Ashley Barnes (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 12:39 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 12:39 Ashley Barnes (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 11:51 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Kieran Trippier.
 11:31 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 11:31 Foul by Michael Kightly (Burnley).
 9:52 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right following a set piece situation.
 9:25 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 9:25 Foul by George Boyd (Burnley).
 4:35 Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 3:43 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.
 3:15 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jason Shackell.
 0:29 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tom Heaton.
 0:26 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 0:00 First Half begins.
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up