

Date: 26 November 2015
 Opposition: Girondins Bordeaux
 Competition: Europa League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
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26 November
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THE TIMES

Benteke brilliance seals a knockout place for Liverpool

Liverpool 2
 Milner 38(pen), Benteke 45
 Bordeaux 1
 Saivet 33

Having been signed because Liverpool could no longer rely on the fitness of Daniel Sturridge, Christian Benteke made light of his fellow striker's latest injury absence by firing Liverpool into the last 32 of the Europa League.

The misfortune of one forward proved to be an opportunity for another and it was one that Benteke took to give Jurgen Klopp's revolution added momentum.

The victory, which came after a penalty from James Milner and Benteke's fifth goal of the season allowed Liverpool to overturn Henri Saivet's opener for Bordeaux and allowed Klopp's team to move to the top of Group B.

Liverpool need only one point from their final fixture away to Sion in two weeks' time to ensure that they go through to the knockout stage of the competition as group winners.

Klopp's ability to improve players has become increasingly evident in recent games but there are some things that remain beyond him, none more so than Sturridge's ability to play matches -- a foot problem preventing the forward from featuring against Bordeaux. As predictable as Sturridge's latest absence was, at least Liverpool are no longer as affected by his unavailability as they once were. Those who did take to the field were charged with making Anfield a more formidable place for the opponents to play but that challenge could have been made more onerous after 13 minutes when Simon Mignolet's first aberration of the night gave Bordeaux an opportunity that they failed to take.

The goalkeeper opted to head a bouncing ball on the edge of his own penalty area but his execution was poor and his blushes were only spared by Kolo Toure blocking Clement Chantome's shot.

Benteke then volleyed wide from Milner's searching through ball before the forward's Belgium international team-mate made his next serious error and this time there was no reprieve. Mignolet's kicking has been a problem ever since he arrived at Anfield and his reluctance to clear his lines cost Liverpool again when he held on to the ball for 21 seconds, considerably longer than the six seconds allowed, and was duly penalised by Alon Yefet, the referee.

From the resultant free kick, Jaroslav Plasil tapped the ball to Saivet who beat Mignolet, sending an unerring shot into the top right hand corner. Liverpool's search for an immediate response was given a helping hand just four minutes later when Ludovic upended Benteke as he attempted to reach Milner's cross. Yefet awarded a penalty and although Klopp turned his back while it was taken, Milner kept his composure to score past Cedric Carrasso.

Benteke had been frequently involved throughout the first half without looking particularly sharp but he provided a wonderful demonstration of what he is capable of on the stroke of half-time with a goal of stunning quality. After bringing down Nathaniel Clyne's cross, the forward spun away from his marker and smashed the ball past Carrasso. It had not been easy, but Liverpool finally had Bordeaux where they wanted them.

Liverpool should have ended the game as a contest within the first ten minutes of the second half but they lacked the ruthless edge needed to turn a testing encounter into a straightforward one.

Benteke and Jordan Ibe missed the best opportunities, the former firing into the Kop after good build up play from Joe Allen and Roberto Firmino, while the latter shot too close to Carrasso when clean through and the goalkeeper saved with his legs.

In between, Benteke had a goal disallowed for a push on Sane having seen an earlier strike ruled out for offside. Having failed to turn their dominance into a clearer advantage, Liverpool's play became more nervous, although there was no great exodus of supporters as the game wore on as their fans heeded Klopp's appeal to support their team until the final whistle.

Their backing was tested, though, and none more so than in the final five minutes when Nicolas Maurice-Belay, the substitute, wasted a glaring opportunity to equalise when he hoofed a shot over the crossbar.

The game remained in the balance going into stoppage time and it took a plunging save from Mignolet to prevent Saivet from scoring a second free kick. In doing so, the goalkeeper made some amends for his earlier failings and helped Liverpool scrape over the line.

Liverpool (4-3-2-1): S Mignolet -- N Clyne, K Toure, D Lovren, A Moreno -- J Milner, L Leiva, J Allen (sub: E Can, 67min)-- J Ibe (sub: D Origi, 90+2), R Firmino (sub: A Lallana, 74) -- C Benteke. Substitutes not used: A Bogdan, C Brannagan, M Skrtel, C Randall. Booked: Leiva, Ibe, Benteke.

Bordeaux (4-1-4-1): C Carrasso -- A Poko, L Sane, C Yambere, D Contento -- H Saivet -- D Rolan, C Chantome, J Plasil (sub: A Ounas, 84), Jussie (sub: N Maurice-Belay, 76)-- E Crivelli (sub: C Diabate, 67). Substitutes not used: J Prior, A Traore, F Guilbert, M Poundje. Booked: Sane, Contento.

Referee: A Yefet (Israel). Group B P W D L F AGDPts Liverpool (Q) 52306 429 Sion 52215 508 Rubin Kazan 51224 405 Bordeaux 50323 5-23

the guardian

Christian Benteke blasts Liverpool past Bordeaux and into knockout stage
 Christian Benteke brought Liverpool a place in the last 32 of the Europa League and Jürgen Klopp reassurance with an exquisite winner against Bordeaux. A reminder of the £32.5m striker's predatory quality proved timely for the Liverpool manager with Daniel Sturridge returning to the treatment table yet again.

The Belgium international has endured a fitful start to his Anfield career but his fifth goal for the club, following James Milner's disputed penalty, secured qualification with a game to spare. Liverpool will finish top of Group B with a point against Sion in the finale.

It was far from the intense, dazzling destruction of Manchester City on Saturday but the display delivered a fifth win in six matches for Klopp and an opportunity to rest key players in Switzerland in a fortnight.

"It was difficult at times but you have to win the tough games and this was a tough game. It was a cool night," said the Liverpool manager. It was for his team, their confidence and for Benteke, but not for Sturridge.

With embarrassing inevitability, the England international's designs on a first appearance under Klopp were postponed by a fresh injury problem. The Liverpool striker had trained for over a week following his recovery from a knee injury but complained of a sore foot shortly before kick off.

Sturridge was sent for a scan while Liverpool played on without him, as they have done for 72 of their 144 games since the 26-year-old joined the club from Chelsea in January 2013. A truly abysmal record. "I don't know too much about the situation," said Klopp. "We'll have to wait."

Sturridge missed a dominant display, albeit from the referee Alon Yefet. The Israel official was instrumental in the first two goals to leave his fourth official, Dvir Shimon, on the receiving end of an ear-bashing from Klopp and the Bordeaux coach Willy Sagnol. In response, Shimon could have replied that Yefet had merely applied the letter of the law.

Simon Mignolet served notice of an alarming performance when he almost gifted the visitors an early breakthrough. The Liverpool goalkeeper sprinted out of his area to prevent Diego Rolán latching on to Joe Allen's poor backpass and headed the ball to the Bordeaux midfielder Clément Chantôme.

The Belgium goalkeeper was indebted to Kolo Touré for blocking Chantôme's first-time shot towards an empty goal. Liverpool came into the contest gradually, Benteke steering the first chance wide from Milner's through ball and being penalised for offside when he converted Jordan Ibe's measured pass. Too many lax touches in the final third, from Benteke and Roberto Firmino especially, undermined the home side's attempts to establish control and they fell behind in bizarre circumstances.

Yefet penalised Mignolet for the often overlooked rule of holding the ball for longer than six seconds. To his credit, the goalkeeper managed 22 seconds before the referee blew.

As Klopp turned in disbelief to the fourth official, Jaroslav Plasil rolled the indirect free-kick to Henri Saivet and Bordeaux's defensive midfielder swept a fine finish over the Liverpool wall and into the top corner. Mignolet looked suitably sheepish. "I'm a long time in the business and never had a time-play against a team who are dominating possession, so I don't understand," said a bemused Klopp.

Moments later it was the French team's turn to bemoan Yefet's officiousness, a good trait in a referee. Benteke went down easily under a nudge from Ludovic Sané as they attacked Milner's cross and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot and booking the incredulous defender. Milner sent Cédric Carrasso the wrong way from 12 yards with Klopp looking at the crowd rather than his penalty taker.

There was no controversy over the goal that gave Liverpool victory with the final kick of the first half. Nathaniel Clyne broke down the right and found the Belgium striker lurking on the edge of the area. With one touch he controlled the cross and took Sané out of the equation, with a second he snapped a superb finish inside Carrasso's left-hand post from 18 yards.

Yefet continued to enrage both camps after the interval, disallowing another Benteke goal for an alleged push on a defender, booking Ibe for a shoulder charge and denying Bordeaux a penalty when Saivet's corner struck the Liverpool centre-forward's raised hand. The visitors pushed for a late equaliser but in vain. Klopp's team march on.

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The Mail

SMASH HIT CHRISTIAN! Benteke blast puts Reds through
 IT wasn't an evening that will live long in the memory. The Anfield atmosphere did not crackle and the play, at times, was chaotic.

Ultimately, none of that mattered to Jurgen Klopp. His first mission in charge of Liverpool has been accomplished and progress to the Europa League's last 32 has been secured, but how he must crave the day when a game at Anfield is contested without nerves fraying.

James Milner's penalty and a thumping strike from Christian Benteke were enough to see off Bordeaux, who had led through Henri Saviet's free-kick, and so long as Liverpool avoid defeat in Sion they will win Group B. But this was proof that Liverpool have a long way to go under Klopp. They should have been able to stroll through this contest but, instead, their inability to take chances saw them inch home.

A marker was set down at the Etihad for what Liverpool have the potential to become under Klopp fast, thrilling and deadly and there was anticipation of a similarly rapid start to blitz Bordeaux.

'It should act as an indicator for what we can achieve by working together,' Klopp wrote in his programme notes. 'Belief is important and I hope we can show that in future performances.' Things did not materialise that way at first.

If Liverpool were assured in Manchester, this was more huff and puff. Only once in the opening 20 minutes did they threaten Bordeaux's goal and even that wasn't a close shave, Roberto Firmino scuffing his shot horribly wide. What's more, Bordeaux were strong. They almost took the lead in the 12th minute following a bizarre mix-up between Simon Mignolet and Kolo Toure that led to Saviet pouncing. Only Toure's quick reactions thwarted the striker.

Yet something even more unusual was to follow. In the 32nd minute Mignolet gathered a ball and held on to it, then held on some more, before referee Alon Yefet penalised the Belgian. Mignolet had been holding the ball for 22 seconds. Yefet awarded an indirect freekick inside the area and Bordeaux took full advantage, Jaroslav Plasil touching the ball to Saviet, whose wonderful shot arced over Liverpool's wall and raced into the net. Klopp, predictably, fired a broadside at Yefet but that incident had barely registered before Liverpool were level. If they were cursing the referee before, they had reason to thank him now for a generous penalty award after Benteke had fallen under Ludovic Sane's challenge.

Spinning on his heels as Bordeaux manager Willy Sagnol rushed to berate the fourth official, Klopp looked distinctly sheepish. He refused to look as Milner lined up the penalty, watching the crowd's reaction to see whether the spotkick had been converted. Their roar prompted a big smile.

Parity at the interval would have been acceptable but, in stoppage time, Liverpool took the lead with a moment of skill out of keeping with what had gone before. Benteke majestically controlled a cross from Nathaniel Clyne with his right foot before thrashing a half-volley past Cedric Carrasso.

It was a glorious strike and changed the mood completely, Klopp and his players heading down the tunnel with a spring in their step. They re-emerged intent on taking the game out of Bordeaux's reach and could have scored three times in the opening 10 minutes of the second half.

First Benteke slashed a cutback from Joe Allen over the bar, then he had a goal disallowed for pushing Sane in the back as he raced on to a cross from Milner.

Finally, Ibe shot straight at Carrasso after he had scampered clear.

Ibe should have scored and Klopp's clear frustration confirmed the fact. Liverpool have not been finishing teams off at Anfield and here was a chance missed to stretch away from Bordeaux.

While the advantage was only 1-0, Liverpool were never comfortable.

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp can barely look as Liverpool labour to stay in European hunt
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 Liverpool 2

Milner 38 pen, Benteke 45

Bordeaux 1

Saivet 33

Jurgen Klopp said he wants Liverpool fans to crave every second of his team's performances, but it was he who could not bear to watch the critical moment of the Europa League win over Bordeaux.

When James Milner strode forward to take the 37th-minute penalty equaliser, Klopp's gaze was fixed elsewhere, monitoring the response of supporters and hoping to celebrate an equaliser.

They duly obliged, ensuring Simon Mignolet's earlier error was corrected before Christian Benteke secured the win to ensure Merseyside European interest is extended into the New Year.

Liverpool's keeper will be most relieved having been culpable when Henri Saivet put the French side ahead, while Benteke's inconsistent evening will be forgiven thanks to the class of his winning goal in first half injury-time.

There was none of the majesty or composure of Liverpool's performance against Manchester City at the weekend, but Klopp will be relieved to secure his second home win since taking charge knowing there are vast improvements to be made. Sion's defeat in Kuzan meant a victory would not only guarantee qualification, but also put Liverpool top of the group ahead of the final game. Such was Liverpool's erratic home form, however, that little was being taken for granted. Repeating the fluency so eye-catching at the Etihad last weekend proved problematic in the early stages. Philippe Coutinho's absence through injury, and Adam Lallana starting on the bench seemed to have an especially detrimental impact on Firmino as he readjusted to new attacking partners. Having excelled as a striker at the weekend, the Brazilian's pairing with Benteke was not so flawless. Twice the Brazilian squandered good positions as Liverpool sought momentum.

It reflected a broader initial hesitancy which was best summed up by their goalkeeper, who gifted Bordeaux the lead. When Mignolet held on to the ball for 22 seconds, Israeli referee Alon Yefet legitimately awarded an indirect free-kick in the penalty area. Jaroslav Plasil nudged the ball sideways to Henri Saivet, who picked out the top corner with the aid of a deflection.

Klopp took his frustration to the fourth official, but the lack of protest on the Kop demonstrated how often they had seen such goalkeeping uncertainty punished. If that incident was contentious, Bordeaux had more cause for complaint when Liverpool equalised five minutes later. There was barely an appeal as Benteke fell under the challenge of Ludovic Sane, but the referee pointed to the spot. James Milner converted, although Klopp elected not to watch.

With the tension eased Benteke - who had struggled for 45 minutes - demonstrated his finishing prowess in first-half injury time. Clyne crossed and Benteke controlled and smashed past Cedric Carrasso from the edge of the area. There was more purpose and directness from the home side in the moments after the interval and Benteke thought he added his second on 53 minutes. He tapped in from Milner's cross only to be told he had pushed Sane. It seemed harsh.

Ibe then forced Carrasso into a save from a tight angle as the match opened up, Bordeaux risking more in attack and leaving gaps at the back. Klopp sought more security when he sent on Emre Can for Joe Allen for the final 25 minutes. Lallana also replaced Firmino as the anxiety started to return, Liverpool's lack of authority on their own turf still evident.

Bordeaux started to dominate possession without forcing Mignolet into consistent action, though he had to push away Saivet freekick in injury time as Liverpool ensured next month's trip to Sion is now a fight for top spot. Liverpool (4-3-3) Mignolet; Clyne, Toure, Lovren, Moreno; Milner, Lucas, Allen (Can 67); Ibe (Orig 90), Benteke, Firmino (Lallan 74). Subs not used Bogdan, Brannagan, Skrtel, Randall. Booked Lucas, Ibe, Benteke. Bordeaux (4-4-2) Carrasso; Poko, Sane, Yambere, Contento; Plasil (Ounas 84), Chantome, Saivet, Rolan; Crivelli (Diabate 67), Jussie (Maurice-Belay 76). Subs not used Prior, Traore, Guilbert, Poundje. Booked Sane, Contento.

Referee A Yefet (Israel).
 Kop faithful keep up their flag boycott The Kop remained a flag-free zone last night as Liverpool fans kept up their boycott on flying banners.
 They were protesting about the banning of a supporter following a row last season when one fan complained that another's flag was blocking his view. No banners appeared at Liverpool's last home league game against Crystal Palace. A supporters' group was due to hold a meeting with the club this week but it was called off when only a safety officer was put forward to attend. The boycott stayed last night.

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Sturridge's latest injury blow mars Liverpool progress

It was perhaps right that against French opposition an old philosopher's saying from the same land proved relevant.

The more things change, the more they stay the same, Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr claimed; and in more ways than just one for Liverpool here, that was the case.

Their change under Jrgen Klopp has been radical and though this meeting with a team currently 13th in Ligue 1 was not without its inconveniences, by qualifying from the Europa League's group stages with a game to spare, it suggests Liverpool are becoming streetwise against continental opposition once more.

And yet, the evening was marred by the news delivered one hour before kick-off that Daniel Sturridge is injured again: his damaged foot, different to the swollen knee that has ruled him out of action since the change of management at Anfield last month, acting as a reminder that expecting his presence is akin to trusting a sandcastle to resist the next tide.

Klopp used his programme notes to reiterate his determination that Liverpool, "should play their best football at home". Yet this was not another Manchester City, where the opponent was pulped in the first half an hour to a point where it seemed to concede defeat.

Liverpool are not the only club which turns to the 1980s as a benchmark decade, when success defined standards. It was also the period when Bordeaux dominated French football with Jean Tigana and Alain Giresse providing enough panache and power in midfield to secure three championships.

Those memories are now sepia tinted and Bordeaux are currently further away from where they would like to be than even Liverpool, winning just one away match this season, at Larnaca in August.

Maybe Liverpool were over-confident and subsequently, not quite focused enough. The criticism could certainly be laid at goalkeeper Simon Mignolet whose hesitation on the edge of his box would have led to the game's opening goal had it not been for Kolo Tour[c] defending a shot using his back.

Mignolet was not paying enough attention when he held the ball for 22 seconds, causing the referee Alon Yefet to blow for an indirect free-kick in the penalty area that Henri Saivet scored from, directing an outstanding arcing shot over the Liverpool wall.

Liverpool had not been awarded a penalty for 22 games and their first in the post-Steven Gerrard era arrived when Bordeaux captain Ludovic San[c] reacted to Christian Benteke's run by terminating it with an arm across the throat. James Milner was able to convert confidently, low to C[c]dric Carasso's left, having sent the goalkeeper the wrong way. They were ahead by the break, Benteke turning and firing past Carasso before the goalkeeper could prepare.

With Milner and Jordon Ibe switching wings regularly, the ruse was too much for Bordeaux's defence and Liverpool's lead should have been added to; Benteke having one ruled out for a foul on his marker, San[c].



BIG BEN'S ON BORD; Striker proves he can play huge part in Klopp's Anfield revolution

PHASE one for Jurgen Klopp is complete...even if Simon Mignolet did his best to sabotage it.

When the German arrived at Anfield he explained his first objective was to put the Europa League to bed as quickly as possible, so he could concentrate on the top four.

And he has done that with a game to spare, as the Reds overcame a shocking start against Bordeaux - and an inexplicable mistake from their keeper - to reach the knock-out stage in February.

Given they had just three points from their first three games in Group B, that is an impressive for the new manager and, coming on the back of the annihilation of Manchester City, suggests he is already well ahead of schedule.

It was Christian Benteke he had to thank for this victory (and no doubt Mignolet offered words of gratitude too), the big striker returning to the starting line-up in impressive fashion.

The big Belgian earned a fortunate penalty which levelled the scores before converting a fine winner.

For all his impact on this game, though, it was his countryman from Belgium who was the focus of the night. Mignolet, who's had went into meltdown.

He appeared to check his rational thought in at the dressingroom door before coming onto the pitch here, as he committed two incredible mistakes on an error-strewn evening, not helped by some eccentric refereeing.

It was a controversial night that bordered on the bizarre, with Daniel Sturridge setting the tone by going to the team hotel for pre-match preparations only to skulk off for a scan on a freshly injured foot.

That was nothing, though, compared to Mignolet's performance and the confusion - and derision - it sparked when he was penalised under a rule that is rarely implemented.

The Belgian hinted at what was to follow as early as the 13th minute when he waited to collect a high ball on the edge of the box and inexplicably chose to head to Kolo Toure...only to tee up Bordeaux's Clement Chantome.

It took Toure to rescue him with a fine block.

But there was to be no blushes spared for Mignolet on 33 minutes when he caught the ball in his box, and for some reason held on to it. And held onto it. And held onto it.

For about 20 seconds.

Under Law 12, an indirect freekick should be awarded if a keeper, inside his own penalty area, controls the ball with his hands for more than six seconds. Never mind refs don't bother with that law any more, this one did, and Bordeaux had a free-kick 14 yards out.

It was cleverly converted too, by Henri Saivet, who curled the ball delightfully over the massed wall, to punish Mignolet for his error.

If that stunned the Reds crowd, then the French visitors were then treated to another refereeing decision from the Israeli official Alon Yefet that defied sense.

When James Milner hit a cross from the left it was clearly floating harmlessly over Benteke into keeper Cedric Carrasso's arms, but the ref spotted a push on the big striker that wasn't there and awarded Liverpool a penalty.

Milner converted the spot kick for his second Liverpool goal.

It was Nathaniel Clyne who set up the winner that put Liverpool through.

The full-back sprinted down the right on the stroke of half time before crossing to Benteke, who took one touch and then smashed a wonderful right-foot shot into the corner to seal the points.

Mignolet later defended himself: "I held onto it too long but these things can happen in any game and Christian got me out of trouble. We qualified and that's the main thing," he said.

Matchwinner Benteke said it was a definite penalty although the French team will have an altogether different view.

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Reds take step in the right direction in search for home comforts
THE search for a cure for Liverpool's home sickness goes on – but at least this was a nervy step in the right direction.

Jurgen Klopp's side secured their passage to the last 32 of the Europa League with an unconvincing and scrappy triumph over Bordeaux.

The Reds never came close to hitting the heights they reached in the rout of Manchester City but they did just enough to guarantee that Anfield will host European football in the new year.

Victory moved them to the summit of Group B following FC Sion's defeat away to Rubin Kazan and a point in Switzerland next month will ensure they stay there. However, Klopp's mission to turn Anfield into an arena where opposing teams fear to tread clearly remains a work in progress.

The wait for Liverpool to play at home with the kind of swagger that has lit up Stamford Bridge and the Etihad since the German coach's appointment goes on.

Yet again Liverpool got a bout of the jitters in L4. Yet again they made life difficult for themselves as they guffed the opposition a cheap goal and then having got themselves in front they failed to be ruthless.

No fewer than 18 different visiting teams have left with something for their troubles since the start of last season and during an increasingly frenetic finale Bordeaux came close to adding themselves to that list.

Simon Mignolet was the most relieved man inside Anfield as his bizarre lapse of judgement, which led to Henri Saivet's opener, didn't prove costly.

James Milner's penalty quickly restored parity and Christian Benteke rifled home in stunning fashion what proved to be the winner in first-half stoppage time.

It was a tale of two strikers – one who showcased what he has to offer Klopp and the other whose absence only added to the uncertainty over his prospects.

This was the night when Daniel Sturridge was supposed to make his comeback having sat out the opening eight matches of Klopp's reign with a swollen knee. But just hours before kick-off the England striker cried off after complaining of pain in his foot and was sent for a scan.

There is no doubting Sturridge's quality but his mentality remains a source of great discussion.

When Luis Suarez left Liverpool 18 months ago, Sturridge spoke about stepping out of the Uruguayan's shadow and becoming the focal point of the club's attack. It hasn't happened. It's a startling statistic that since Suarez headed for Barcelona, Sturridge has started just 15 of the Reds' 78 fixtures. How can Klopp build a team around someone who spends so much time on the treatment table?

The manager could at least console himself with the performance of Benteke, who won the penalty, bagged his fifth goal in nine starts and had two further efforts chalked off on his return to the sude as he showed why Liverpool shelled out £32.5million to sign him.

Klopp made four changes following the thrashing of City but two of them were enforced with Philippe Coutinho sidelined by a hamstring problem and Martin Skrtel only named among the subs having been hampered by a virus.

Benteke led the line and Kolo Toure came into the back four with Joe Allen and Jordan Ibe replacing Emre Can and Adam Lallana.

Liverpool started well enough as the midfield double act of Allen and Lucas Leiva snapped into tackles.

Bordeaux struggled to deal with the clever movement of Roberto Firmino, who burst clear but scuffed tamely.

The Reds' early momentum was wrecked by a succession of careless errors. They created problems for themselves and Bordeaux grew in belief.

Man of the match: Christian Benteke. Produced the match-winning piece of quality and caused Bordeaux problems all night.

There was a let-off when Mignolet rushed out only to nod weakly straight to Clement Chantome. Toure was alert to the danger and with the net gaping he made a crucial block.

When Milner provided a fine delivery from the right, Benteke chested down menacingly but volleyed well wide.

Ibe had showcased in Kazan three weeks earlier that he has got his mojo back after a worrying slump and the teenager's influence on proceedings grew. After one surging run, Ibe delivered an inch-perfect pass for Benteke, who finished with aplomb but had strayed offside.

The contest truly came to life after Mignolet's embarrassing blunder just past the half hour mark. As referee Alon Yefet waited for the keeper to pump the ball upfield, Mignolet continued cradling it in his hands like he couldn't bear to say goodbye.

The Israeli official waited and waited before deciding enough was enough.

The six-second rule for keepers is rarely enforced but then again few break it so emphatically – he had held it for 22 seconds.

Predictably, the lapse was punished as Jaroslav Plasil touched the free-kick off to Saivet, who smashed home from 16 yards.

Liverpool were back on level terms within five minutes. Ludovic Sane pulled down Benteke and Milner tucked away the resulting spot-kick. It was the Reds' first penalty for 23 games dating back to QPR's visit back in May.

Suddenly, Klopp's men were energised and in first-half stoppage time they led. Nathaniel Clyne's centre picked out Benteke, whose first touch took him into space and he hampered an unstoppable right-footer beyond Cedric Carrasso. It was a finish of true class.

Having established a position of control, Liverpool turned the screw in the second half but failed to wrap up the points.

Allen, who was making just his sixth start of the season, caught the eye as he put in a tireless shift – as well as repeatedly winning possession he was a creative force.

First, the Welshman linked up with Firmino only for Benteke to lash high into the Kop. Then Allen released Milner, whose cross was tucked away by Benteke only for Yefet to penalise him for a shove.

Ibe also spurned a gilt-edged chance as Bordeaux somehow remained in contention.

Liverpool lost their way and as it became increasingly stretched there were moments of real concern.

Benteke survived a handball shout inside his own box before Klopp introduced Can for the tiring Allen, whose efforts were recognised by a warm ovation.

Klopp couldn't hide his displeasure on the touchline as the Reds limped rather than cruised towards the end.

Toure came to the rescue again to deflect over a strike from substitute Maurice-Belay before Mignolet thwarted Saivet. It wasn't pretty but they got the job done.



Ligue Europa : les Girondins éliminés par Liverpool
ne défaite logique (2-1) de Bordeaux, qui avait pourtant ouvert le score jeudi à Anfield, précipite l'élimination des Girondins et la qualification de Liverpool. Les Reds, emmenés par un énorme Benteke qui a rincé la défense, prennent même la tête de la poule avec 9 points, un de plus que Sion battu sur la pelouse du Rubin Kazan (2-0) tandis que, très loin derrière avec trois petites unités et toujours aucune victoire, les joueurs de Willy Sagnol ferment désormais la marche.

Lucarne de Saivet

Bordeaux peut sûrement s'en vouloir de ne pas être arrivé à la pause avec son but d'avance car, alors qu'il était déjà limité avant, il a ensuite dû attendre une frappe de Maurice-Belay (84e) pour finir sur une note moins négative.

Une bétise du gardien de Liverpool Mignolet, qui s'était permis de garder une vingtaine de secondes le ballon dans ses mains, avait au préalable offert un coup franc indirect dans la surface. Et Saivet, dangereux sur coup de pied arrêté, ne s'était pas gêné pour l'envoyer en lucarne, inscrivant au passage son 1er but européen (33e).

Trop d'erreurs techniques

Dominatrice mais tenue à distance, l'équipe de Jürgen Klopp a alors lâché Benteke dans la mêlée et le robuste attaquant belge a fait du dégât au milieu de Sané et Yamberé.

Après avoir provoqué le penalty de l'égalisation, transformé par Milner (38e), il a lui-même donné l'avantage en faisant place nette autour de lui avant de frapper puissamment en pivot (45e).

Globalement, le 13e de L1, logiquement tombé contre meilleur que lui, a quand même simplifié la tâche de Liverpool en jouant longtemps trop mollement. De trop nombreuses fautes techniques l'ont également empêché de conserver le ballon pour le remonter et proposer des mouvements intéressants malgré l'activité stérile de Chantôme au milieu.

Date: 26 November 2015
 Opposition: Girondins Bordeaux
 Competition: Europa League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Sudouest

26 November
2015



Liverpool reached the last 32 of the Europa League with one game to spare after coming from behind to beat Bordeaux and go top of Group B.

Henri Saivet fired Bordeaux ahead from 16 yards after keeper Simon Mignolet conceded a needless free-kick for holding on to the ball for 20 seconds - the maximum time allowed is six.

Liverpool levelled through James Milner's penalty after Christian Benteke was fouled by Ludovic Sane.

Benteke's fine finish secured victory.

The Belgium striker beat keeper Cedric Carrasso from 16 yards with a sublime shot on the turn after controlling Nathaniel Clyne's cross.

With one round of group games remaining, Liverpool, whose final match is against second-placed FC Sion in Switzerland on 10 December, are guaranteed a top-two finish.

Bordeaux, bottom of the group and without a win, cannot progress.

Six-second rule

Liverpool had to do it the hard way, Bordeaux taking the lead after Mignolet was rightly penalised by referee Alon Yefet from Israel.

According to Fifa's laws of the game, an indirect free-kick is awarded if a goalkeeper controls the ball with his hands for more than six seconds before releasing it from his possession.

The Belgian held on to the ball for more than three times that, prompting the referee to award the set-play that resulted in a goal.

It was a wonderful finish by Saviet, the Senegal international curling home, despite a seven-man Liverpool wall across the six-yard line, after the ball was touched to him by Jaroslav Plasil.

Busy night for Benteke

Even before a ball had been kicked, Liverpool's night had got off to a bad start with the news striker Daniel Sturridge had suffered another injury.

Yet that setback was cushioned by an energetic performance from Benteke which included two disallowed goals, winning the penalty for the equaliser before scoring the decisive goal.

The £32.5m signing from Aston Villa in July had already had an effort ruled out for offside when he was bundled over inside the area by Sane, who was booked, just four minutes after the visitors had taken the lead.

Benteke's winner and fifth goal for the club was worthy of settling any match, the 24-year-old lashing home from just inside the area after wonderful control from Clyne's fine cross.

This was a highly encouraging performance from the powerful striker which suggests he could be a key player this season.

Man of the match - Christian Benteke

Unsurprisingly, Christian Benteke takes the honours for his all-action performance which Bordeaux's defenders struggled to deal with. The timing of his goal, on the stroke of half-time, lifted the atmosphere after Simon Mignolet's mistake.

What they said

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "It was an important night for the whole team because we are in the next round. A few weeks ago we were with three points and now we have nine.

"I don't know [about Daniel Sturridge's injury]. We have to wait for some things, it's a fight again, we have to be prepared and we will be prepared.

"The atmosphere tonight was great and we really enjoyed it."

What next?

Liverpool have two Premier League games, as well as a League Cup quarter-final, before their sixth and final Group B game away to FC Sion on 10 December.

They host Swansea City on Sunday before playing Southampton away on 2 December for a semi-final place in the Capital One Cup.

The Reds then visit Newcastle in the league on 6 December ahead of the trip to Switzerland to play Sion.

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Full time Match ends, Liverpool 2, Bordeaux 1.
 90:00+3:57 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 2, Bordeaux 1.
 90:00+3:32 Attempt missed. Cédric Yambéré (Bordeaux right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a set piece situation.
 90:00+3:11 Clément Chantôme (Bordeaux wins a free kick on the left wing.
 90:00+3:11 Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool.
 90:00+2:21 Cédric Yambéré (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 90:00+2:21 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 90:00+1:45 Attempt missed. Diego Contento (Bordeaux left footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left.
 90:00+1:29 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Jordon Ibe.
 90:00+0:30 Attempt saved. Henri Saivet (Bordeaux right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner.
 89:32 Diego Rolan (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 89:32 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
 88:31 Diego Contento (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 88:31 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.
 87:56 Clément Chantôme (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 87:56 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 87:34 Booking Diego Contento (Bordeaux is shown the yellow card.
 86:09 Foul by Clément Chantôme (Bordeaux.
 86:09 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 84:52 Booking Christian Benteke (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 84:45 Lamine Sané (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 84:45 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 83:45 Substitution Substitution, Bordeaux. Adam Ounas replaces Jaroslav Plasil.
 83:20 Corner, Bordeaux. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
 81:55 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 81:55 Foul by Cédric Yambéré (Bordeaux.
 75:36 Substitution Substitution, Bordeaux. Nicolas Maurice-Belay replaces Jussie.
 75:17 Attempt missed. Henri Saivet (Bordeaux right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jussie.
 74:19 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Lamine Sané.
 73:17 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Adam Lallana replaces Roberto Firmino.
 72:39 Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Emre Can.
 68:15 Attempt missed. Diego Contento (Bordeaux left footed shot from the left side of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Diego Rolan.
 67:39 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 67:39 Henri Saivet (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 66:56 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Emre Can replaces Joe Allen.
 66:04 Substitution Substitution, Bordeaux. Cheick Diabaté replaces Enzo Crivelli.
 64:11 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 64:11 Foul by Clément Chantôme (Bordeaux.
 62:13 Kolo Touré (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 62:13 Foul by Enzo Crivelli (Bordeaux.
 61:32 Booking Jordon Ibe (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.
 61:21 Foul by Jordon Ibe (Liverpool.
 61:21 Jussie (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 59:30 Booking Lucas Leiva (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 59:24 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
 59:24 Jaroslav Plasil (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 59:15 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.
 59:15 Clément Chantôme (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 58:45 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.
 58:45 Clément Chantôme (Bordeaux wins a free kick on the left wing.
 57:14 Corner, Bordeaux. Conceded by Christian Benteke.
 56:46 Corner, Bordeaux. Conceded by Christian Benteke.
 56:39 Attempt blocked. Jaroslav Plasil (Bordeaux right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked.
 56:37 Attempt blocked. Jussie (Bordeaux header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Henri Saivet with a cross.
 56:00 Corner, Bordeaux. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
 55:30 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
 55:30 Henri Saivet (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 54:58 Attempt saved. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a headed pass.
 53:14 Attempt saved. Joe Allen (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Christian Benteke.
 52:34 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 52:34 Lamine Sané (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 49:47 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 48:32 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 48:32 Foul by Diego Contento (Bordeaux.
 46:59 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 46:59 Foul by Andre Biyogo Poko (Bordeaux.
 46:30 Attempt blocked. Henri Saivet (Bordeaux right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jussie.
 45:40 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

45:40 Andre Biyogo Poko (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 2, Bordeaux 1.
 45:00+1:28 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 2, Bordeaux 1.
 45:00+0:31 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 2, Bordeaux 1. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.
 44:51 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Henri Saivet.
 42:13 Corner, Bordeaux. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
 40:11 Attempt missed. Lamine Sané (Bordeaux header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Henri Saivet with a cross following a set piece situation.
 39:40 Foul by Jordon Ibe (Liverpool.
 39:40 Clément Chantôme (Bordeaux wins a free kick on the left wing.
 38:10 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
 38:10 Jussie (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 37:16 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 1, Bordeaux 1. James Milner (Liverpool converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom right corner.
 36:27 Booking Lamine Sané (Bordeaux is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 36:22 Penalty Liverpool. Christian Benteke draws a foul in the penalty area.
 36:22 Penalty conceded by Lamine Sané (Bordeaux after a foul in the penalty area.
 35:13 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Andre Biyogo Poko.
 34:26 Attempt blocked. Joe Allen (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Benteke with a headed pass.
 32:28 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 0, Bordeaux 1. Henri Saivet (Bordeaux right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Jaroslav Plasil following a set piece situation.
 31:10 6-second violation by Simon Mignolet (Liverpool.
 31:10 (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 29:35 Offside, Bordeaux. Cédric Carrasso tries a through ball, but Clément Chantôme is caught offside.
 29:01 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 29:01 Lamine Sané (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 28:18 Offside, Liverpool. Jordon Ibe tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.
 27:18 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.
 27:18 Jaroslav Plasil (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 26:22 Attempt missed. Kolo Touré (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.
 23:50 Attempt missed. Joe Allen (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by James Milner.
 22:53 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.
 22:53 Jussie (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 21:19 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by James Milner.
 20:14 Attempt missed. Henri Saivet (Bordeaux right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right following a set piece situation.
 20:13 Attempt blocked. Henri Saivet (Bordeaux right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 19:20 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 19:20 Foul by Enzo Crivelli (Bordeaux.
 12:09 Attempt blocked. Clément Chantôme (Bordeaux left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 11:39 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.
 11:39 Jaroslav Plasil (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 6:26 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 6:26 Diego Contento (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 5:50 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Andre Biyogo Poko.
 5:00 Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Simon Mignolet.
 4:16 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Henri Saivet.
 1:54 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 1:54 Foul by Enzo Crivelli (Bordeaux.
 1:32 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 1:32 Lamine Sané (Bordeaux wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 0:00 First Half begins.
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.