

Date: 2 December 2015
 Opposition: Southampton
 Competition: League Cup

Times	Telegraph	Daily Echo
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2 December
 2015

THE TIMES

Sublime Liverpool crush Koeman

The one type of pain Jurgen Klopp failed to mention in his withering assessment of Daniel Sturridge's fragility last week was the suffering that he can inflict on others.

The England striker has not forgotten his qualities however, and responded to his manager's put-down in the best possible manner. The returning striker scored twice to share top billing with Divock Origi, who claimed a hat-trick, against Ronald Koeman's Southampton as Liverpool came from behind to reach the semi-finals courtesy of their biggest win of the season. There was far more than Sturridge to admire in Liverpool's ruthless and relentless performance, but his clinical finishing set the tone for a display in which they had seven shots and scored six goals. The 26-year-old scored with either foot in the space of four first-half minutes before contributing to their decisive third before the interval, providing a reminder of his enduring quality to the watching Roy Hodgson, not that it was required.

Hodgson's belief in Sturridge seems more robust than the player's body, as throughout the nine different injuries he has suffered over the past two years the England manager's faith never wavered. This visit to the south coast represented a welcome vindication for Hodgson's steadfastness, as a day that began with him contemplating life without his assistant coach ended with him being reacquainted with a match-winning striker.

The clinical quality of Sturridge's finishing after an indifferent start to the game would have been special for any forward but, coming from a player making his first start for two months, his goals were little short of extraordinary. He had contributed next to nothing to a game in which Liverpool had been distinctly second best until he was presented with a sight of goal by an excellent ball over the top from Joe Allen in the 26th minute, and even then he initially made a mess of his opportunity. The chance appeared to have gone as Sturridge lingered in possession but, having been closed down by Steven Caulker, he moved the ball to his left before unleashing a powerful shot to beat Maarten Stekelenburg.

Sturridge's second goal four minutes later was even better as he ran on to an exquisite ball struck with the outside of his right foot by Emre Can, whose assured passing alongside Allen and Lucas Leiva was instrumental to Liverpool's recovery from a sloppy start. On this occasion, Sturridge timed his run beautifully to beat Southampton's offside trap and score with a right-foot finish.

An evening that Sturridge could have scripted himself also came complete with the requisite injury scare, as nine minutes before half-time he was flat out on the pitch feeling his heel, one of eight areas of his lower body that have given him problems over the past couple of years. A quick fiddle with his boots appeared to do the work of several physiotherapists, however, and on the stroke of half-time he had a hand in Liverpool's third goal, or more accurately a head.

Adam Lallana will have been delighted to play his part -- having been booed from the outset on his return to his former club -- and after Sturridge had challenged for the ball from a Lallana corner, the ball fell to Alberto Moreno whose left-foot shot from the edge of the area took a deflection off Origi, who claimed the goal. Southampton battled on manfully at the start of the second half, but other than one shot from Graziano Pelle never came close to replicating the intensity that enabled them to take the lead after 39 seconds through a header by Sadio Mane. During that opening period Liverpool's players had looked as if they could not press a shirt, never mind the opposition, as Connor Randall and Moreno gave Dusan Tadic and Mane far too much space, but after equalising they never relented.

Klopp was sufficiently confident of victory to remove Sturridge in the 59th minute, yet his team-mates continued to hunt for goals, which duly arrived. Having been overshadowed by Sturridge, Origi took advantage of his absence by scoring twice, a powerful finish from the edge of the area from Jordon Ibe's through-ball and a closerange header from a cross provided by Brad Smith, a substitute.

In between those two goals, Ibe went from creator to predator by arriving late in the six-yard box to tap in Moreno's left-wing cross, adding more gloss to Liverpool's most complete performance since their unlikely 2013/14 title challenge. It is surely too late for a reprise this season but, playing like this, other trophies should not be beyond them.

Southampton (4-2-3-1): M Stekelenburg 5 -- C Soares 4, S Caulker 5, V van Dijk 4, R Bertrand 5 -- V Wanyama 4, J Clasie 4 (sub: J Ward-Prowse, 64min 5) -- S Mane 6, S Davis 5 (sub: O Romeu, 77), D Tadic 6 -- G Pelle 5 (sub: S Long, 64 4). Substitutes not used: P Gazzaniga, M Yoshida, C Martina, Juanmi. Liverpool (4-3-2-1): A Bogdan 6 -- C Randall 5, M Skrtel 6, D Lovren 6, A Moreno 7 (sub: B Smith, 77) -- J Allen 7 (sub: J Henderson, 74), L Leiva 6, E Can 7 -- A Lallana 6, D Sturridge 8 (sub: J Ibe, 59 7) -- D Origi 7. Substitutes not used: S Mignolet, J Milner, C Benteke, R Firmino. Booked: Randall.

Referee: R Madeley.

the guardian

Liverpool League Cup rout of Southampton capped by Divock Origi treble
 It has taken Jürgen Klopp less than eight weeks to restore all the verve that, only two seasons ago, almost propelled Liverpool to the Premier League title. This was a showcasing of Southampton, a display of counterattacking football so ruthless that it was hard not to feel for Ronald Koeman, shoulders hunched as he slumped on the sidelines, while the visitors plundered mercilessly.

Their first six shots on target yielded reward to subject the hosts to their worst home defeat in 56 years. A quarter-final eagerly anticipated on the south coast ended as a rout. Daniel Sturridge, on his first start under the new manager, converted two slickly constructed chances just before the half-hour. Divock Origi, the Belgian who had arrived here straining to impress while he remained without a Liverpool goal to his name, helped himself to a hat-trick. Jordon Ibe also struck while Adam Lallana, heckled throughout, enjoyed his most productive and effective game at the tip of the visitors' diamond.

Klopp talked himself through the splendour of his team's attacking display after the match as if desperate to relive their dominance, a smile plastered across his face as, blow by blow, he recalled each incisive move that had cut the Saints to shreds. "We may have to wait a long time to enjoy a football match again as much as we did tonight," he warned. The German could only chuckle to himself as he relayed the "perfect" pass from Emre Can for Sturridge's second, or the "super goals" that illuminated the last half-hour when Koeman had gone for broke and poured all his attacking resources on to the pitch.

Stoke City await in the two-legged semi-finals. "Whose idea was this?" asked Klopp, his complaint about the fixture logjam more than the identity of the opponents. That is about as dissonant as he is at present. He actually had the gall to bemoan his side's start, when Dusan Tadic had embarrassed Connor Randall on his second Liverpool appearance and Ryan Bertrand appeared at the winger's side to supply Sadio Mané with the opener after barely 41 seconds. Yet that was a blip. A rare moment of Southampton joy. Once Liverpool had mustered some rhythm of their own, they were irrepressible.

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Sturridge made the initial mark. The England striker, watched by Roy Hodgson in the stands, had appeared laboured at first, ring-rusty and marginally off the pace on his first start since early October, yet he was merely adjusting his radar and, such was the high quality of the delivery, any forward might have thrived. Joe Allen supplied his first with an exquisite pass from the right for Sturridge to collect in the centre. A heavy first touch appeared to take him too wide but he recovered his poise to tease space from a hesitant Steven Caulker. The finish, skimmed left-footed across Maarten Stekelenburg and into the far corner, was a study in accuracy.

His would be a first-half double, though Can's involvement in the second should not go underestimated. Lallana did well to claim possession of an awkwardly bouncing ball and laid off for the German at his side. Jordy Clasie, a snarler of a midfielder, darted in to intercept, only for Can to turn inside with ease and clip a sumptuous diagonal pass with the outside of his right boot beyond Caulker and Cédric. Sturridge, drifting untracked through the defenders, finished first-time, guiding the ball instinctively through Stekelenburg's legs. "I said to him after the game, 'Now I know what everybody is talking about,'" said Klopp of his striker.

Ronald Koeman falls off Wembley springboard in humiliating fashion
 David Hytner at St Mary's Stadium

Read more

There was to be no Southampton revival from then on in. Everything that followed was brutal. Origi's movement had been impressive already, his manager having attempted to simplify his style -- "He has wanted to show everything in the short times he's played," said Klopp -- to eke more from the 20-year-old Belgian. It was his faint touch at the near post which turned Alberto Moreno's crunched attempt beyond Stekelenburg for a first goal for his new club. His second was far more emphatic, a shot thumped from just inside the area and high beyond the Dutch goalkeeper's grasp from Ibe's slid pass.

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By the time he nodded in the substitute Brad Smith's fine centre to complete a first hat-trick since Lille hammered Rennes in March, Southampton had long since wilted. "Everyone wanted Divock before Liverpool bought him but he has to be patient," added Klopp. "He kept everything simple: easy passes, finishes, movement. Even he did get some good deliveries ..." Ibe's accurate finish from Moreno's centre had been sandwiched almost unnoticed between the striker's celebrations.

This was that kind of occasion when the majesty of Liverpool's counterattacking took the breath away. The only real save Stekelenburg mustered denied Can in stoppage time. Now Klopp, still publicly wary of what awaits at Newcastle United on Sunday, will go into the new year with his team's conviction fuelled by thoughts of Wembley. The standard set at Manchester City late last month has been maintained. When they play like this, his team appear untouchable.

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The Mail

IT'S DAN-TASTIC FOR KLOPP; Sturridge returns to start the party before Origi hits hat-trick for swaggering Liverpool

THERE are times when teams play with such confidence, such swagger, that they appear to be capable of anything. Liverpool are back.

Divock Origi scored a hat-trick, his first goals for the club, on a night when every time a Liverpool player touched the ball inside the penalty area it seemed to end up in the back of Maarten Stekelenburg's net.

Daniel Sturridge, making his first start since the Merseyside derby on October 4, scored twice and substitute Jordon Ibe endeared himself to the travelling fans with a belter. It was easy to be transfixed.

With the exception of 'that **** result against Crystal Palace', Liverpool's manager Jurgen Klopp has transformed this club in the space of 47 remarkable days.

They will play Stoke City over two legs in the Capital One Cup semifinal, they have booked their place in the last 32 of the Europa League after beating Bordeaux and they are four points off fourth in the Barclays Premier League. What could possibly go wrong? The next stop for Klopp on this magical mystery tour is St James' Park on Sunday and Newcastle manager Steve McClaren must, quite frankly, be terrified.

Southampton were pulverised, put in their place by a team who suddenly have a ruthless streak, an edge about them that suggests they will be hard to beat from here.

Ronald Koeman will be traumatised by this experience because his Southampton team had been given a goal start when Sadio Mane put them in front after just 41 seconds.

The beauty of this Liverpool team, as they become more and more accustomed to the habits of their German coach, is that there is never a hint of panic. His team responded, emphatically as it happens, with a commanding and compelling display. Obviously he was not best pleased when his left back Alberto Moreno was outmuscled and outjumped by Mane at the far post as he rose to meet Ryan Bertrand's cross in the opening minute.

Klopp had made six changes to the team that had beaten Swansea City on Sunday, shuffling the pack because of the club's heavy fixture schedule. Starting with Sturridge had been a big surprise. The Liverpool forward scored twice, changing the course of the game with two brilliant finishes in front of England's head coach Roy Hodgson. Sturridge was a joy to watch, he really was.

He equalised, after taking a heavy touch, in the 24th minute, but there was more than enough about him to wriggle free of the dreadful Steven Caulker and beat Stekelenburg with a fine finish.

His next was another classy effort, reading the raking pass of Emre Can to steer his cushioned side-foot volley, this time with his right foot, beyond the Southampton goalkeeper.

'It was a good decision, as was the one to start Divock,' joked Klopp.

'Maybe Sturridge can be even better than two years ago why don't you write that?' Fair enough because, remarkably, the forward has now scored more goals in domestic competition this season than Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney. Ouch.

This was Liverpool's night, giving the impression that they could score at will when Moreno's drilled effort from the outside of the area was deflected beyond Stekelenburg by Origi's clever intervention.

Koeman took complete responsibility for what happened next, playing three at the back in an attempt to swing this quarter-final tie in their favour. It was never going to happen.

Adam Lallana's performance here will be largely forgotten because of the impact of Sturridge and Origi, but he pretty much ran the game from his position just off the front two. This was the Lallana of old, the one that Southampton supporters had adored when they used to sing that ditty about him being better than Lionel Messi. Lallana had a ball out there.

BY the time Sturridge was substituted, to a standing ovation from Liverpool's travelling fans, and replaced with Ibe after 59 minutes, they were ready for more. Ibe's impact was instant, setting Origi free to score his second after a twisting run, a neat feint and lovely switch in to the feet of the Liverpool forward.

Ibe got one of his own, scoring Liverpool's fifth when he arrived on the edge of the penalty box when Moreno's clipped pass across the area fell into his path.

There was just time for one more, Origi completing his hat-trick after he met substitute Brad Smith's cross from the left to head beyond the hapless figure of Stekelenburg.

There is an aura about this Liverpool team again, a menacing air about them as they chase honours at home and in Europe.

With Klopp in control, they are certainly on to something special.

The Daily Telegraph

Sturridge's dazzling return shocks Southampton

Southampton 1 Mane 1

Liverpool 6 Sturridge 25, 29; Origi 45, 68, 86; Ibe 73

Att: 31,592

This time it was Daniel Sturridge inflicting pain. And Southampton who felt it. The striker's two brilliant first-half goals turned this League Cup quarter-final around and helped earn Liverpool a place in the last four.

Already Jurgen Klopp senses the silverware but beyond that there will be delight at the way Sturridge inspired such a resurgence on his comeback, which lasted just under an hour and included a devastating spell of two goals in under five minutes.

This was the striker's first start under Klopp, who had suggested that Sturridge and the club needed to manage the player's pain. This was serious pain for Southampton.

There was also a hat-trick for Divock Origi, his first goals for Liverpool, as Klopp's side - and now they really look like Klopp's side - produced another impressive, highenergy performance, to which the Saints succumbed.

Not that it had started that way after Klopp had breezily brushed off the fact that he made six changes to his team. Inside a minute - 39 seconds to be precise - he may have wished he had made seven.

Southampton scored and there was no doubt that Alberto Moreno, one of the five who also started against Swansea City on Sunday, was culpable as he simply allowed Sadio Mane to run across him to meet a centre from Ryan Bertrand after the full-back had been teed up by Dusan Tadic down the Liverpool right. Mane rose and planted a powerful close-range header beyond Adam Bogdan. Simple as that.

Soon afterwards Mane met another cross, this time from Tadic, with Joe Allen failing to track him. The header was held by Bogdan. It was clear that another one of the Liverpool changes in Connor Randall - at right-back for Nathaniel Clyne - was quickly being exposed, with Tadic running at the 20-year-old, who blocked him off, earning an early caution.

A shot by Steven Davis sailed over and a header from Dejan Lovren - like Adam Lallana booed on his return to his former club - drifted wide from a corner as the early goal increased the pace even further. Finally Liverpool got a run, with Origi breaking, only for his low cross to run behind Sturridge.

Yes, Sturridge. The striker had not started a game since Brendan Rodgers's last game, the Merseyside derby in early October.

The watching Roy Hodgson will have been delighted by what he then witnessed as Sturridge latched on to a long ball from Allen, taking it away from Steven Caulker, who backed off, checked and then struck a low left-foot shot back across Maarten Stekelenburg and into the net. In those few seconds there was what Liverpool and England have missed; compelling evidence of a high-class striker.

He was not finished. Liverpool won back possession, with Lallana pressing high, and he slipped a short pass to Emre Can, who struck a brilliant angled ball over the Southampton defence for Sturridge to run on to. The striker waited for the ball to bounce in front of him and then guided it beyond the stranded Stekelenburg with the calmest of finishes.

Stung, Southampton tried to respond and appealed for a penalty when Tadic tried to lift the ball past Randall, who seemed to lean into it with his arm. Referee Robert Madley was unmoved.

The frustration of the home fans rose. Then they were stunned. Liverpool won a corner. It was halfcleared by Virgil van Dijk, but the ball ran to Moreno, who struck a crisp, first-time shot that Origi deftly flicked past Stekelenburg. What did Southampton have left? A chance dropped to Graziano Pelle, finally in behind Martin Skrtel, but he sacrificed power for accuracy and Bogdan easily held his shot. They were struggling to gain momentum, although Mane was given a glimpse of goal after an incisive pass from Cedric Soares, but his shot on the run was blocked by the covering Lovren.

Liverpool also continued to threaten, with Lallana turning sharply and running at goal but slicing his shot wide before Klopp withdrew Sturridge, to whom he had already spoken about how long he would remain on the pitch.

His absence was not felt - his replacement, Jordon Ibe, created the opportunity from which Origi killed the contest. Ibe ran inside and slid a pass, again Caulker stood off, but even so Origi had much to do - and then proceeded to do it as he hammered a fierce right-foot shot that flew past Stekelenburg.

Still Liverpool were not finished.

Ibe chested down Moreno's cross and, as Van Dijk was slow to react, drilled a low right-foot shot just inside the post. Finally it did end with Origi claiming his third as he headed home substitute Brad Smith's cross. Devastating.

Southampton (4-2-3-1) Stekelenburg; Soares (Ward-Prowse 63), Van Dijk, Caulker, Bertrand; Clasic (Long 63), Wanyama; Tadic, Davis (Romeu 77), Mane; Pelle. Subs not used Gazzaniga (g), Yoshida, Martina, Juanmi. Liverpool (4-3-1-2) Bogdan; Randall, Lovren, Skrtel, Moreno (Smith 77); Allen (Henderson 74), Lucas, Can, Lallana; Origi, Sturridge (Ibe 59). Subs not used Mignolet (g), Milner, Benteke, Firmino. Booked Randall, Can.

Referee Robert Madley (West Yorkshire)

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Sturridge and Origi share the goals for rampant Liverpool

Who could have expected Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool to be this good, this quickly? His revitalised side stormed into the semi-finals of the Capital One Cup last night with a display of ferocious intensity and quality, beating a shell-shocked and unresponsive Southampton side 6-1.

This was Liverpool's fourth straight win and their seventh in eight games. If it did not feel quite as impressive as the 4-1 win at Manchester City 12 days ago, that is only because of the differing levels of the opposition. Liverpool, it must be said, were not at their strongest yesterday either, using none of Roberto Firmino, Philippe Coutinho, Christian Benteke or James Milner.

What Liverpool did have though was Daniel Sturridge, making his first start for two months and his first under the new regime at Anfield. He turned the game with two brilliant finishes within four first-half minutes, finishes which show that he is still the best Liverpool have got, if they can just keep him fit.

Liverpool were so far ahead that Klopp withdrew Sturridge after just 59 minutes. That was when Divock Origi took over. He had never scored for Liverpool before last night, and has rarely looked as if he would, but he scored two emphatic second-half goals, completing a hat-trick which started when he got a slight touch on Alberto Moreno's shot just before the break. Origi, like many Liverpool players, has been transformed by Klopp.

The surprising thing, given how the first half panned out, was how it started. Long before Sturridge took over, Southampton had threatened to seize control of the evening. Ronald Koeman's side, aiming to reach their first semi-final for 12 years, started in a hurry. They were ahead after 41 seconds.

Connor Randall, in just his second Liverpool appearance, looked no match for Dusan Tadic out on the left wing. Tadic tricked his way into space and laid the ball back to Ryan Bertrand. His cross caught Moreno, the Liverpool left-back, sleeping at the far post and Sadio Man[c] darted in to head home.

Saints should have doubled their lead five minutes later by the same route. Tadic crossed from the left, Victor Wanyama stormed in but headed straight at Adam Bogdan. Southampton would regret that miss.

Without the continuity of Coutinho, Firmino and Milner, Liverpool were taking their time to get their bearings. Sturridge and Origi is not a familiar strike pairing, and not every pass matched every run.

But when Klopp's Liverpool click they look gloriously instinctive. When Sturridge is sharp he scores goals few others can. And he scored twice in four minutes to take the game away from Southampton.

The equaliser came when Joe Allen swept a perfect, first-time, diagonal pass to Sturridge, running wide of Steven Caulker. Sturridge's first touch took the ball too wide, but he paused, beat Caulker with a stepover and then arrowed a left-footed shot into the far bottom corner.

The next goal was even better. Emre Can robbed Jordi Clasie in midfield and shuffled the ball away from him. Then, with the outside of his right boot, he dropped a curling pass over the top of Caulker's head, right on to Sturridge's run. Sturridge finished before Maarten Stekelenburg realised what had happened. Those goals changed the game and Saints could not even get to half-time with a one-goal deficit. When they failed to clear a corner in added time, Moreno smacked it back on the half-volley and into the near bottom corner of the net, via the faintest of touches from Origi. Suddenly everything was going right.

Southampton needed to start the second half quickly and, while they raised the tempo, they could not match Liverpool for quality. Saints could find Graziano Pelle with long balls but none of their territory turned into real chances. Pelle found Man[c] with one sharp through ball but Dejan Lovren, barracked by the home crowd throughout, moved across to block.

Looking for answers, Koeman switched briefly to 3-4-3, and then, with James Ward-Prowse and Shane Long coming off the bench, 3-3-3-1. Klopp had just withdrawn Sturridge for Jordon Ibe on the hour, embracing his star striker as he came off, and changed to a rather seasonal 4-3-2-1 "Christmas tree" formation. That was the change that worked best, leading Origi to score the goal that settled the game soon afterwards. Ibe had drifted into the pocket of inside-right space, away from any possible marker. He played a perfect pass through to Origi, whose run exploited the uneven line of Saints' new back three. Through on goal, Origi thundered his shot in off the underside of the crossbar. If there was some doubt about whether Origi scored the third goal, there was none about the fourth.

Liverpool were rampant and Southampton were beaten. With their first attack after the fourth goal, Liverpool scored a fifth. Origi laid the ball to Moreno, on the left wing, who faced no resistance at all to cross from the left. Ibe chested it down on the edge of the box, and hit a rasping shot into the bottom right-hand corner. Liverpool took it easy for the next 13 minutes but there was one goal left to come. Substitute Brad Smith ran down the left wing, making a mockery of Saints' system, before crossing into the box. Origi ran in behind Wanyama, playing as a very nominal centre-back, and headed in the sixth.



BACK IN BLACK! Sturridge hits two in first Klopp start then Origi goes one better

DANIEL STURRIDGE and Divock Origi proved a devastating double act as Liverpool ran riot at St Mary's.

Sturridge marked his first start under Jurgen Klopp with two goals before Origi added a hat-trick and Jordon Ibe got on the scoresheet too.

Klopp has endured some satisfying nights in his brief 11-game reign as Liverpool boss, most notably the wins at Chelsea and Manchester City, and this was yet another.

Liverpool produced a stunning response to falling behind to Sadio Mane's opener after just 41 seconds as they hit Saints for six to reach the Capital One Cup last four.

And little would have delighted Klopp more than Sturridge's return to action and the scoresheet. When he plays like he did in his 58 minutes on the pitch it is easy to see why Liverpool haven't given up on him. A lesser player with his injury record might have been discarded a long time ago.

But Sturridge is a class act when his body allows him to be and produced two more reminders of his ability with his four-minute first-half brace that kick-started the comeback.

Sturridge's start was the headline news in a Liverpool team featuring six changes while Southampton made five, though still fielded their strongest available side in the absence of injured skipper Jose Fonte.

Ronald Koeman's pre-match pleas to the home fans to lay off the boos for Liverpool's former Saints stars fell on deaf ears.

They had only just finished showering Dejan Lovren with their opening barrage of abuse before they had a goal to cheer after 41 seconds.

Dusan Tadic and Ryan Bertrand combined down the left for the latter to swing over a cross which Mane nodded in at the back post.

Southampton's lead could easily have been 3-0 inside 10 minutes. Victor Wanyama headed a Tadic cross from the left straight at Adam Bogdan before Steven Davis curled over from the edge of the box.

But, rather than rack up the sort of lead their early dominance deserved, Southampton found themselves behind by the halfhour when Sturridge turned the tie on its head.

Joe Allen teed up his first goal with a delightful curling ball over the top of Southampton's defence.

The chance looked to have gone when Sturridge let the ball run across him and away from goal but Steven Caulker gave him far too much time and space and Sturridge shifted the ball to his left with a step-over and smashed it into the bottom corner. Emre Can teed up his second in the 29th minute with a ball even more audacious than Allen's, bent into Sturridge's path with the outside of his foot.

Again Caulker - rusty on his first start for over a month - was all at sea and he let Can's pass sail over his head to Sturridge who swept it effortlessly past Maarten Stekelenburg.

And where Southampton failed, Liverpool succeeded by turning their dominance into a two-goal lead just before half-time.

Adam Lallana, who also got dogs' abuse from the same fans who used to worship him, swept over a corner that drifted all the way out to Alberto Moreno.

The Spaniard's first-time shot was going in even before Origi got a little nick on it to open his account for Liverpool.

Southampton needed halftime and seemed to have regained their composure after the break. But it was Liverpool who struck next to put the game to bed in the 68th minute.

Ibe, who came on for Sturridge, drove in off the right wing and slipped the ball through to Origi who did the rest with a thumping finish.

Ibe then produced one of his own from Moreno's cross to make it 5-1 before Origi sealed Liverpool's wonderful victory by heading home number six for his hat-trick. Under Klopp, Liverpool have scored three at Chelsea, four at Manchester City, and now six at Southampton - pity poor Newcastle who host the Reds this Sunday.

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Sturridge patience & Klopp gamble pay off while Origi answers doubters
 Origi and Ibe show that potential is limitless
 Admit it, you had your doubts about Divock Origi, didn't you? You wondered about his touch, his movement, his quality.
 It's okay, we all did. But the Belgian delivered the most sensational of ripostes here with a performance that will live long in the memory.
 Jurgen Klopp rates this lad. He spoke openly about that. This was why.
 Origi showed he is listening, he showed he is capable of making intelligent runs, of holding off defenders and, as the game wore on, of getting into goalscoring positions and finishing.
 His first goal was a poacher's effort, a tad fortunate maybe. His second and third were superb, a brilliant drive and a nice header. Perfect hat-trick, thank you very much.
 With Jordon Ibe, just 19 for now, coming off the bench to show that he too is developing a decisive touch in the final third, Liverpool have two forward players of real promise. Such potential really is exciting. Just ask Jurgen.
 That's why you stay patient with Daniel Sturridge
 We've all seen it, the frustration among Liverpool fans with their No 1 goalscorer. As the injuries piled up, so too did the questions. Some wondered, openly and privately, whether the Reds might just be better moving on from their talented but fragile talisman.
 Nights like this show why they just cannot afford to give up on him, though. Given his first start since September, Sturridge was rusty initially, but sprung to life in spectacular fashion after 25 minutes.
 Two finishes - one off his left, one off his right - of unerring class and confidence, and movement that stretches, unsettles and breaches defences.
 That's four goals in four starts for the England man this season, 46 in 73 as a Liverpool player.
 How can you give up on that?
 He has to stay fit, of course. That goes without saying. But if he does, then Liverpool have one of the top two finishers in the Premier League leading their line.
 The only trouble is the size of that "if".
 Klopp's gamble pays off handsomely
 "Freshness was key to the selection," said Klopp of his starting line-up pre-match. And within a minute or so of the game starting, it looked like he might have some explaining to do. His side looked lethargic, startled and ill-at-ease.
 They did, however, recover superbly, regaining their composure, working out their own system and that of the opposition and remembering that their big strengths lie in attack.
 Liverpool were devastating. Once more, away from home, they countered in stunning fashion, committing men forward and getting their reward. They turned the game round before half-time and twisted the knife after the break. This was some performance.
 They'll take some stopping in this mood.
 And maybe they'd prefer the second leg of the semi-final to be away from home too...
 Lallana gets some stick, and then gets some love
 For someone who made more than 250 appearances in a Southampton shirt, captaining the club with distinction, Adam Lallana isn't too popular around these parts.
 The former Saint was booed and jeered by the fans that once idolised him. Maybe love really does hurt.
 Lallana has not, if truth be told, won over the majority of Liverpool supporters since his move to Anfield, but they leapt to his defence here in touching fashion. Little wonder. Nothing wins football fans over like hard work, and yet again the England man ran himself into the ground for his team. He was clever, he was committed, and he earned his ovation from the travelling Reds.
 Maybe, just maybe, he reminded the home fans why they used to love him, too.
 Randall keeps his head when it might have been lost
 Having described his Liverpool debut, against Bournemouth in the last round, as a dream, the 20-year-old could have been forgiven for wondering if his second appearance was about to descend into a nightmare.
 The right-back was troubled badly early on as Southampton, through Ryan Bertrand and Dusan Tadic, exploited a lack of protection in front of the rookie.
 Randall was helpless as Bertrand created the opener for Mane inside a minute, and booked for bringing down Tadic soon after.
 A long night looked in store for the Maghull lad at that stage but, like the rest of his team, he held his nerve well. He stayed on his feet, stuck to his task and continued to try and play.
 He'll have easier nights in his professional career, sure, but you learn from the good and the bad, and he'll have taken plenty from this experience, you can bet.

Southern Daily Echo

Saints conceded six goals at home for the first time in more than 20 years as Liverpool cruised into the semi-finals of the Capital One Cup with a 6-1 romp at St Mary's.
 Not since losing 6-2 to Tottenham in March 1995 had Saints let in six on their own patch, but this was another miserable League Cup quarter-final for Ronald Koeman.
 Daniel Sturridge repented to manager Jurgen Klopp's subtle suggestions that he needed to consider playing even if not 100 per cent fit, the striker demonstrated masterful finishing ability with two elegant goals to put his team in control after Sadio Mane had headed Southampton into a first-minute lead.
 With a hat-trick from Divock Origi - his first goals for the club - and a further finish from substitute Jordon Ibe, Klopp's team secured their place in the competition's final four and moved the manager ever nearer his first major trophy at the club.
 Klopp is just two months into his reign after succeeding Brendan Rodgers who failed to win silverware in over three years.
 Having featured as a substitute in Sunday's 1-0 win at Swansea, Sturridge returned to Liverpool's starting XI for the first time since the 1-1 draw at Everton on October 4, which proved to be Rodgers' last game as manager.
 He started alongside Adam Lallana and Origi in a front three, but it was right-back Connor Randall, making his second senior appearance, who threatened to overshadow the striker's return for entirely the wrong reasons.
 In struggling to prevent Ryan Bertrand's left-wing cross in the opening minute, Randall set the tone for Liverpool's sluggish early defending which very nearly cost them defeat. Bertrand's cross found Mane, and under little pressure the forward headed into the bottom right corner beyond deputy goalkeeper Adam Bogdan.
 Randall was almost immediately again under pressure, this time when Dusan Tadic found the space to cross for Victor Wanyama, but despite having similar time and space to Mane from in front of goal, the midfielder headed at Bogdan who made a routine save.
 Sturridge had looked worryingly short of confidence with his first touches, when he conceded possession and appeared reluctant to over-extend his fragile physique. With his next, however, he scored Liverpool's equalising goal, and not only showed why he is their most important player in the pursuit of winning the Capital One Cup and finishing in the Premier League's top four, but also why it is so important he remains fit for England at Euro 2016.
 Joe Allen played the striker into the penalty area with a pass from midfield in the 25th minute, and after hesitating he showed exceptional composure to calmly place the ball across the face of goal and into the bottom right corner beyond Maarten Stekelenburg.
 His second goal, four minutes later, was even more impressive. Emre Can showed vision to send the ball into the box with the outside of his boot, and Sturridge lost Cedric before putting Liverpool 2-1 up with a classy first-time shot.
 When Moreno's powerful shot, from the edge of the area following Lallana's cleared corner, was deflected in by Origi in the 45th minute, Liverpool's progress into the semi-finals already began to feel secure.
 Klopp appeared to feel similarly when, as a precaution, he replaced Sturridge with Ibe in the 59th minute, and had he any remaining doubt it would have vanished only nine minutes later when Origi extended their lead.
 When Allen found Ibe, the forward played Origi in with a slide-rule ball into the box, and the now-confident Belgian powerfully struck his team's fourth into the roof of the net.
 Eighteen minutes remained when Ibe, following a left-wing cross from Moreno, sent an equally powerful shot into the back of the net from just inside the area after chesting the ball to control, and even then Klopp's resurgent team had the time and desire to score again.
 Substitute Brad Smith crossed, again from the left, deep into the penalty area towards Origi, and the striker routinely headed in to secure Liverpool's sixth, and his treble.

Date: 2 December 2015
 Opposition: Southampton
 Competition: League Cup

Times	Telegraph	Daily Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

2 December
 2015



Daniel Sturridge marked his return to Liverpool's starting line-up by scoring twice and Divock Origi netted a hat-trick as Jurgen Klopp's side thrashed Southampton to set up a League Cup semi-final tie against Stoke.

Sadio Mane gave Southampton the lead inside the first minute but Sturridge struck twice in four minutes midway through the first half to put Liverpool in command. Origi deflected in Alberto Moreno's shot right on the interval - his first goal for Liverpool - and there was no way back for Southampton as they ended up well beaten and outclassed. The young Belgian hammered home a spectacular fourth before substitute Jordan Ibe, on for Sturridge just before the hour, drove home a fine finish and Origi glanced home a header for his third and Liverpool's sixth to complete the rout.

Man of the match Sturridge so crucial. If only...

The manner in which Sturridge turned this tie on its head in the 24th minute was the perfect example of what he gives to Liverpool - when he is available.

The Reds had spent the early stages on the retreat and were trailing to Mane's first-minute goal when a display of Sturridge's natural finishing shifted the emphasis of the game decisively. He initially looked to have lost control but took advantage of Steven Caulker standing off to show fast feet and send a superb finish flying across Saints keeper Maarten Stekelenburg. The striker was at it again two minutes later, showing natural movement and an instinctive finish from Emre Can's perfectly weighted pass. Sturridge's repeated injury absences with a variety of ailments have been a constant narrative of his Liverpool story and did much damage to Brendan Rodgers' attempt to revive the side following the title near miss and departure of Luis Suarez in summer 2014.

His two goals here on his fifth appearance of the season left the 26-year-old with hugely impressive goalscoring statistics given his limited appearances in recent times. Sturridge has scored 44 times in 73 appearances for Liverpool, 39 of them from 59 starts, and has six in his last five League Cup games. The figures build a monument to his importance. The biggest question of all is whether the England striker will ever be fit enough for long enough to deliver fully on his rich talent.

Klopp's man-management masterclass

Sturridge's successful return may just have been helped by a masterstroke of man-management from Klopp - who delivered a less-than-gentle jolt in the striker's direction. When Sturridge pulled out of last week's Europa League tie against Bordeaux at the last minute with a foot injury, Klopp was inevitably quizzed about his absence. He said: "Your body has to learn to adapt to new intensities of training and in this time you have to learn what is serious pain and what is only pain." It was a statement of what Klopp will be demanding. If you are not prepared to play through pain, you are no use to a coach whose trademark is the intensity and fitness of his teams. It may be just what Sturridge needs - and if the Klopp approach works both Liverpool and England will be the beneficiaries. He has worked on other players too, encouraging Adam Lallana to believe he can recreate the form he showed under Mauricio Pochettino at Southampton, with the styles demanded by both managers similar.

Klopp works magic on Origi

And what about Origi? The 20-year-old looked a lost soul in his early performances under Rodgers but Klopp immediately worked on the striker's confidence, revealing how he wanted him to sign for Borussia Dortmund and after his first game in charge saying: "We will have a lot of fun with this player."

Fun it was on Wednesday as he turned in Moreno's shot for Liverpool's third, struck a savage rising shot for the fourth and glanced home a late header to complete his hat-trick. Under Rodgers, the powerful youngster appeared to have no focus, wandering anywhere but into positions where he could do serious damage - not a bit of it here. Klopp has shown his faith in Origi and was royally rewarded with a display of raw power and fine finishing.

After Sturridge's opening two goals the question was could Klopp devise a formula where he could fit in alongside £32m Christian Benteke.

As the game wore on and Origi grew in influence, the debate switched to how Klopp might utilise all three in the weeks ahead - a triumvirate of power, pace and goalscoring talent.

The stats you need to know

Divock Origi had not scored in any of his 13 appearances for club or country this season prior to this match Sadio Mane's goal after 39 seconds was the quickest in the competition this season Southampton have conceded six goals in a home match for the first time since March 1995 (6-2 against Tottenham in the FA Cup) Liverpool scored with six of their seven efforts on target in this match

What next?

Southampton host bottom side Aston Villa in the Premier League on Saturday (15:00 GMT), while Liverpool travel to second-bottom Newcastle on Sunday (16:00 GMT).

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Full time Match ends, Southampton 1, Liverpool 6.
 90:00+2:03 Full time Second Half ends, Southampton 1, Liverpool 6.
 90:00+0:57 Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner.
 90:00 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).
 90:00 Shane Long (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 87:09 Foul by Connor Randall (Liverpool).
 87:09 Virgil van Dijk (Southampton wins a free kick on the left wing.
 85:37 Goal scored Goal!Goal! Southampton 1, Liverpool 6. Divock Origi (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Brad Smith with a cross.
 84:53 Attempt blocked. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.
 82:47 Attempt missed. Shane Long (Southampton right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left.
 82:46 Attempt blocked. Shane Long (Southampton left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Ward-Prowse with a headed pass.
 79:34 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 78:54 Delay in match Jordan Ibe (Liverpool because of an injury.
 78:39 Jordan Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 78:39 Foul by Virgil van Dijk (Southampton).
 78:18 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 78:18 Foul by Graziano Pellè (Southampton).
 77:21 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 77:21 Foul by Shane Long (Southampton).
 76:49 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Southampton. Oriol Romeu replaces Steven Davis.
 76:29 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Brad Smith replaces Alberto Moreno.
 73:27 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson replaces Joe Allen.
 72:04 Goal scored Goal!Goal! Southampton 1, Liverpool 5. Jordan Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
 67:57 Goal scored Goal!Goal! Southampton 1, Liverpool 4. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box to the top right corner. Assisted by Jordan Ibe with a through ball.
 65:44 Attempt blocked. Virgil van Dijk (Southampton right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 64:40 Booking Emre Can (Liverpool is shown the yellow card).
 64:29 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).
 64:29 Sadio Mané (Southampton wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 63:28 Attempt missed. Shane Long (Southampton header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Dusan Tadic with a cross.
 62:49 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Southampton. James Ward-Prowse replaces Cédric Soares.
 62:45 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Southampton. Shane Long replaces Jordy Clasie.
 60:38 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 60:38 Foul by Steven Davis (Southampton).
 59:10 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cédric Soares.
 58:27 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Jordan Ibe replaces Daniel Sturridge.
 56:16 Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Southampton right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Graziano Pellè.
 54:23 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Emre Can.
 53:11 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 53:11 Foul by Virgil van Dijk (Southampton).
 52:08 Offside, Southampton. Steven Davis tries a through ball, but Ryan Bertrand is caught offside.
 51:28 Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Southampton left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Graziano Pellè.
 49:46 Attempt saved. Graziano Pellè (Southampton left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Dusan Tadic.
 47:34 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 47:34 Foul by Graziano Pellè (Southampton).
 45:52 Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Emre Can.
 45:00 Second Half begins Southampton 1, Liverpool 3.
 45:00+2:42 Half time First Half ends, Southampton 1, Liverpool 3.
 44:53 Goal scored Goal!Goal! Southampton 1, Liverpool 3. Divock Origi (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Alberto Moreno following a corner.
 44:52 Attempt blocked. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 44:21 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.
 44:20 Attempt blocked. Connor Randall (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.
 43:01 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left from a direct free kick.
 41:46 Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 41:46 Foul by Cédric Soares (Southampton).
 39:55 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 39:36 Delay in match Alberto Moreno (Liverpool because of an injury.
 38:26 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

38:26 Dusan Tadic (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 35:01 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 35:01 Steven Davis (Southampton wins a free kick on the left wing.
 34:10 Offside, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge tries a through ball, but Adam Lallana is caught offside.
 32:17 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 32:17 Foul by Victor Wanyama (Southampton).
 31:22 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.
 28:36 Goal scored Goal!Goal! Southampton 1, Liverpool 2. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Emre Can with a through ball.
 26:26 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).
 26:26 Graziano Pellè (Southampton wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 24:53 Goal scored Goal!Goal! Southampton 1, Liverpool 1. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Joe Allen.
 18:29 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 18:29 Foul by Sadio Mané (Southampton).
 17:40 Attempt blocked. Dusan Tadic (Southampton right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.
 13:07 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 13:07 Foul by Sadio Mané (Southampton).
 12:43 Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Southampton right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Graziano Pellè with a headed pass.
 12:08 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool).
 12:08 Sadio Mané (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 10:47 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.
 9:47 Attempt missed. Divock Origi (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross following a corner.
 9:22 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.
 8:28 Attempt missed. Steven Davis (Southampton right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right following a set piece situation.
 7:40 Booking Connor Randall (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 7:30 Foul by Connor Randall (Liverpool).
 7:30 Dusan Tadic (Southampton wins a free kick on the left wing.
 4:49 Attempt saved. Victor Wanyama (Southampton header from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Dusan Tadic with a cross.
 4:11 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 3:41 Delay in match Victor Wanyama (Southampton because of an injury.
 2:53 Victor Wanyama (Southampton wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 2:53 Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool).
 2:05 Foul by Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool).
 2:05 Jordy Clasie (Southampton wins a free kick on the right wing.
 0:39 Goal scored Goal!Goal! Southampton 1, Liverpool 0. Sadio Mané (Southampton header from very close range to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Ryan Bertrand with a cross.
 0:00 First Half begins.
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.