

Date: 17 April 2016
 Opposition: Bournemouth
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Daily Echo

17 April 2016

THE TIMES

Sturridge shows value for Euros

Bournemouth 1
 King 90

Liverpool 2

Firmino 41, Sturridge 45

Referee: M Jones Attendance: 11,386

There is a perception that Daniel Sturridge is a pampered centre forward with a semi-permanent sicknote and a limbo-low pain threshold. A few more performances like this virtuoso effort and he may turn his own doubters into believers.

Bournemouth must have been wide-eyed and hopeful at seeing a Liverpool side featuring ten changes from the Miracle of Thursday Night. These included a debut for Danny Ward, the goalkeeper, and first league starts for the defenders, Connor Randall and Brad Smith. There was also a local lad in the centre of midfield, Kevin Stewart, and it looked like a match downgraded to meat in a Borussia Dortmund-Merseyside derby sandwich. In the end it was surprisingly comfortable as an England striker stated his case with eye-catching clarity and Ward, who has played in the Europa League for Aberdeen this season, pulled off a tremendous save from Lewis Grabban that might have been dubbed match-winning too.

Perhaps that is why Jurgen Klopp was so irked by the post-match focus being on Sturridge. It was, however, a tetchy-feely display from the maverick Liverpool guru. He was gracious enough to slap Callum Wilson on the back when Bournemouth's frontline striker entered the fray late on to mark his first home appearance since September. However, he seemed far less keen on singling out a striker who has spent much of the season in and out of the Anfield treatment room and who Klopp memorably suggested needed to know what real pain was.

Sturridge unquestionably has the talent to put him on the plane to Euro 2016. The question is, would it be fool-hardy to take a player so lacking in hardiness?

Perhaps things are changing. This was the first time Sturridge had started four successive league games for two years. If he sees out the season then who knows what that might do for him.

He made the first goal with a clever back-heeled shot that Artur Boruc could only palm to Roberto Firmino, and then scored the second with a towering header from a Jordan Ibe free kick. In addition, he hit the woodwork twice, once with an exquisite, if illjudged, chip over the advancing Boruc, and then with a bellicose shot after neat control in the area. His confidence was shown when he tried to lob Boruc from his own half.

This was Bournemouth on one of their off days. Having made it to safe ground ahead of most people's schedule, they could be forgiven for being demob happy. That is not Eddie Howe's way, though, and to their credit they kept going. Ward made his save, Smith cleared off the line from Wilson and then Josh King's low drive in the 93rd minute gave them a nano-sniff of a point.

In truth, this game was drifting towards the break. It began with a tribute to the 96 who died at Hillsborough 27 years ago. Tommy Elphick, the Bournemouth captain and Liverpool fan, laid a wreath in front of the visiting support. Sturridge had the first shot in anger and the last word. Joe Allen, increasingly hirsute as he tries to morph into Andrea Pirlo, sent a Pirlo-esque chip to Sturridge inside the box. Steve Cook's challenge saw the ball cannon against Sturridge and Boruc bundled it behind. Although Andrew Surman kept Bournemouth ticking over, they created little in the first half.

Liverpool stifled Matt Ritchie and you realised just how much Bournemouth have missed Wilson.

It was Liverpool's week. Dortmund rolled back the years to Istanbul and beyond to David Fairclough. Sturridge will hope this will also take Roy Hodgson back to remembering what he can do. Jamie Vardy, Harry Kane and Wayne Rooney are assured places at Euro 2016. Then there is Raheem Sterling, Hodgson favourite Danny Wellbeck and the late run of Marcus Rashford. Sturridge has played 58 minutes for England in 19 months. He may be making his case at the right time.

RATINGS

Bournemouth (4-2-3-1): A Boruc 5 -- S Francis 6, S Cook 6, T Elphick 6, C Daniels 6 - D Gosling 5, A Surman 7 -- M Gradel 5 (sub: M Pugh, 59min 6), J Stanislas 5 (sub: L Grabban, 46 6), M Ritchie 6 (sub: C Wilson, 77) -- J King 7. Substitutes not used: A Federici, S MacDonald, R Wiggins.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1) D Ward 7 -- B Smith 7, L Leiva 6, K Toure 5 (sub: M Sakho, 67 6), C Randall 6 -- J Allen 6, K Stewart 6 -- S Ojo 6, R Firmino 6 (sub: D Origi, 77), J Ibe 7 (sub: A Lallana, 77) -- D Sturridge 8. Substitutes not used: S Mignolet, J Milner, P Coutinho, J Flanagan.

the guardian

Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge climbs high to secure win at Bournemouth
 If questions remain over Daniel Sturridge and his place in England's squad for the European Championship finals in June, the striker is doing a good job of answering them. He scored one and played a key role in the other as Liverpool, showing 10 changes from the side that won so famously against Borussia Dortmund on Thursday, tempered Bournemouth's hopes of ending their debut Premier League season in the top half.

Roberto Firmino, who struck the opener four minutes before half-time, was the only starter from their stunning comeback against Jürgen Klopp's former team in midweek. Instead the German put plenty of faith in his young players to earn a third win in eight days.

Sturridge, however, was undeniably the story. After another campaign troubled by muscle problems, he suddenly looks sharp. He gave Tommy Elphick and Steve Cook a torrid time here, scoring his sixth league goal in only his eighth start. This was his fourth consecutive league start, moreover – the first time that has happened in two years.

Klopp was not too interested in speaking about the game's best player, though, reacting in an unusually prickly manner to questions about his performance. The manager did say Sturridge "was very good, he's a brilliant player", but was more interested in basking in the glory of giving three players winning league debuts.

"This is a game with 11 players," he said when asked to assess the striker's performance. "Each player had an influence. I understand this as a team game. I enjoyed the game of Daniel Sturridge today because he's a great player."

Danny Ward notably impressed in goal on his full debut only to lose his clean sheet in added time when Joshua King halved the deficit and ensured a frantic final minute, while Connor Randall and Brad Smith completed 90 minutes in the full-back positions.

Higher up the pitch Kevin Stewart looked assured in a holding midfield role; Sheyi Ojo showed flashes of danger in the first half; and Jordan Ibe played a part in both goals.

"I said to the boys before the game that we would have absolutely no chance with the same team against Bournemouth," Klopp said. "That's why we changed a lot of times." He is likely to rotate heavily again for Wednesday's Merseyside derby.

The game took quite a while to get going, though. A couple of half-chances aside, the bulk of the opening 40 minutes of action took place in a congested midfield. Perhaps the much-changed visitors just needed time to gel. When they did they required only five minutes to score the decisive goals, though Bournemouth might question their own feeble defending for both.

Eddie Howe, their manager, said a slow start proved costly despite a good second-half battle. "It was a difficult first half, we didn't play well at all," he said, and did not think they deserved a point. "I wouldn't say so. I thought the game got away from us in the first half. We didn't do enough and we conceded two soft goals." Certainly the marking was off for the opener. Firmino had started the move on the right, working the ball left from where Ibe played a low cross to Sturridge. He drew four Bournemouth players but still managed to backheel goalwards. Artur Boruc, at full stretch, got a hand to it but Firmino, left completely untracked after feeding Ibe, instinctively darted towards the back post. He tapped in from close range.

Bournemouth may also be disappointed at their inability to get close to Sturridge for the second goal in added time. Ibe's lofted free-kick, after he was fouled by Matt Ritchie, was met by Sturridge, who climbed above Elphick too easily before planting a clinical header into the bottom-left corner.

In search of a third to kill off any chance of a fightback, Firmino zipped a left-foot half-volley wide two minutes after the interval, while an audacious lob from Sturridge, after a delightful through-ball from Joe Allen, beat an onrushing Boruc but bounced narrowly wide.

The Cherries were denied a route back into the game in the 61st minute when Mike Jones failed to penalise Kolo Touré for a blatant handball when under pressure from Lewis Grabban. Callum Wilson's home return – having been introduced in the final moments at Aston Villa last week following seven months out with a knee injury – buoyed the home side but a fine save from Ward after a Grabban header kept the two-goal buffer entering the final 10 minutes.

Bournemouth did drag one back in added time when King pulled down a long ball from Andrew Surman before firing low past Ward. Immediately after the restart the hosts piled forward and Cook almost grabbed an unlikely equaliser when directing a Marc Pugh cross on to the roof of the net.

Man of the match Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool)

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The Mail

Klopp throws strop as Sturridge shines

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THE old boys stunned Dortmund and the kids clattered Bournemouth. It's been quite a week for Jurgen Klopp, who was able to rotate his squad to an absurd extreme yesterday yet still found himself in the hunt for a top-four finish.

With so much to be pleased about, how strange, then, to see his mood change in response to quite reasonable questioning about Daniel Sturridge, a brilliant striker on a mission to make up for lost time.

He helped make the first goal for Roberto Firmino and scored the second with an exceptional header, making it nine strikes in 14 starts in all competitions this season.

But those numbers say nothing of the dribbles, the turns, the shot against the crossbar and the many other hints here that maybe, just maybe, the England forward is clear of ailments and able to be a regular terror to defences.

The great mystery, of course, is whether he can sustain his fitness in the long term; another curiosity surrounds Klopp, who was less than impressed that the first question of his post-match briefing was about Sturridge (below). When asked about the striker's display, Klopp said: 'That's interesting. We have a football game and you want to talk about one player at the first moment. That's not the role I like. He was very good, but if you are not interested in the game'

Klopp was oddly irritated, grumbling away for a couple of minutes, even though there could be no denying that Sturridge, supported by Jordon Ibe, was the key performer in this match.

Sturridge, at 26, was among the elder statesmen in an overhauled team, with 10 changes made to the side that stunned Borussia Dortmund on Thursday.

Klopp argued that exhaustion necessitated such a selection, but it was a surprise nonetheless to see him pick an XI with 64 league starts between them this season and squad numbers totalling 349.

There were three debutants in that group -- keeper Danny Ward was the pick of the bunch -- and it is tempting to wonder if the Europa League campaign will now take precedence, even if the Premier League top four is still obtainable for Liverpool. Klopp said: 'I had to pick these players because we had no other chance to win. Sometimes rotation is for resting players for another tournament, but this is not the case here. Always the most important tournament will be the Premier League.'

'We only rotated because we wanted to win the game. We have two more Premier League games before the next Europa League so we don't even think about the Europa League yet.'

Initially, the experiment looked like it might backfire here. Steve Cook was left free to head over inside six minutes after a Simon Francis delivery and moments later a free-kick from Matt Ritchie was able to reach Tommy Elphick, 10 yards out and untroubled by markers. His header went straight to Danny Ward.

As Klopp has frequently admitted, work needs to be done to tighten the organisation of that rear unit. But in an attacking sense, his side were impressive. Liverpool's two first-half goals were impressive in different ways. The first, scored after 41 minutes, owed a little something to ingenuity with Sturridge taking a pass from Ibe with his back to Andrew Surman and proceeding to heel a shot of decent power at Artur Boruc. The keeper did well to save and Firmino, the only starter from the midweek win, tucked in the rebound.

The second, scored in stoppage time, was simply a brilliant header. Ibe delivered the cross from the left and Sturridge, 12 yards out, outjumped Elphick and steered his header to the corner. Tellingly, this was the first time in two years he has managed four straight league starts, so there is hope of more to come.

Either side of Liverpool's strikes, Bournemouth had numerous shouts for penalties ignored, most notably when Kolo Toure handled in the second half. No luck, no points and no great complaints from manager Eddie Howe, whose side got back in the game with a late goal from Josh King but ultimately deserved to lose.

Howe said: 'We had three in total (appeals for penalties) and the referee has made his call. They were difficult ones but two hit the arm and the second (against Toure) was probably (a penalty).'

Liverpool's victory might have been even more emphatic, with Sturridge rattling the bar late on.

Klopp said 'nobody is un-droppable' but did say Sturridge was a 'brilliant player'. Lofty praise on a day when it occasionally seemed none would be forthcoming.

The Daily Telegraph

Sturridge's timely strike leads Liverpool's young guns to impressive win
 It has been quite the week for Liverpool. The 27th anniversary of Hillsborough and the final memorial service to be held at Anfield took place on Wednesday and a day later they staged a historic, emotionally intense comeback to beat Borussia Dortmund and reach the last four of the Europa League.

That meant a trip to Bournemouth, three days before the Merseyside derby, was never likely to be a priority. And so it proved.

Only Daniel Sturridge survived in Jurgen Klopp's line-up for the trip to the south coast and the average age of the team was just 24. But Liverpool have lost just two of their last 14 games and confidence seems to have an alchemy of its own as his young players did the German proud. "I said after Thursday that we have absolutely no chance against Bournemouth with the same line-up," said Klopp of his selection. "The exciting thing for a manager is to give the boys [Daniel Ward, Brad Smith and Connor Randall] their first Premier League game."

First-half goals from two of the Reds' more experienced players, Roberto Firmino and Sturridge, put the visitors firmly in control against Eddie Howe's side. It was a timely reminder from Sturridge to both Klopp and Roy Hodgson, the England manager, and he might have had a hat-trick after twice striking the woodwork in the second half. With nine goals in 14 starts this season, there is little doubting his quality when fit.

"He's a brilliant player, he was very good. I really enjoyed the performance of Daniel Sturridge," said Klopp, who preferred Divock Origi against his former club on Thursday. "Nobody is undroppable. I decide as a manager if we play with one, two, three or four strikers but he's in a really good shape, mentally and physically."

But this has been a memorable week for Bournemouth too. Reaching 40 points, long regarded as the sure mark of Premier League survival, was hailed by captain Tommy Elphick as "the biggest achievement in the club's history" after the previous Saturday's victory at Aston Villa.

"I think I'd agree with those sentiments from Tommy," said Howe. "It probably has been our biggest achievement to date."

Bournemouth's history is one that has never included victory over Liverpool, a statistic that they were not able to change despite Klopp's rotations. Sensing their opportunity to do so, Bournemouth were sharp from the outset with Lucas, a makeshift centre-back, being kept busy by Joshua King. But Klopp's youngsters were keen to make their own impression. Sheyi Ojo and Jordon Ibe were bright on the flanks and Ojo's weaving run culminated in forcing a good low save from Artur Boruc.

Liverpool went in front four minutes before the break. Ibe ran at Simon Francis before finding Sturridge, who back-heeled brilliantly to force a low save from Boruc from which Firmino touched home the rebound.

Sturridge, impressive as the lone striker, added a second in the last seconds of the half, heading in beautifully from Ibe's free-kick to put his team in full control. Liverpool started the second half as they had ended the first and Sturridge wasted a glorious chance to put them further in front after Joe Allen robbed Dan Gosling and put him clean through, only for the England striker to dink his effort against the outside of a post.

Mike Jones waved away penalty appeals when Kolo Toure appeared to handle before King shot fiercely from a tight angle as Howe's side soured away back. "It was a diffi-cult one but the referee's made his call," said Howe. "Credit to the players, the second-half performance was better." The future looks bright for Klopp if this display is anything to go by and none of his fringe players did themselves any harm here, showing industry and composure in equal measure. Always a threat, they came close to a third as Sturridge rattled a shot against the stanchion with eight minutes remaining.

But Bournemouth never gave up and were able to find a goal for their efforts. It came as King lashed a loose ball into the bottom left corner, before Steve Cook almost found an equaliser at the death as he headed Marc Pugh's cross onto the roof of the net.

"We had a lot of moments when we could have scored more," said Klopp. "They scored the goal but I think we deserved the win."

Liverpool became the first team to win away in the Premier League at 50 different grounds and are full of confidence as they await the visit of Everton on Wednesday evening when a vastly different XI are expected to start at Anfield. Klopp has used 31 players this season, more than any other Premier League manager, but denied that he was prioritising the Europa League with his selections.

"The most important tournament is, and always will be, the Premier League," he said.

The kids are all right Klopp trusts in youth
 Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp fielded his youngest side of the season yesterday - and the average age would have been even lower but for Kolo Toure, 35, in defence.

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Sturridge provides Klopp with timely reminder

Daniel Sturridge reinforced his claims to be part of Liverpool's long-term future under Jurgen Klopp, providing the assist for Robert Firmino's opening goal before adding the second as Klopp's side followed Thursday's triumph over Borussia Dortmund with the win that moved them up to seventh in the Premier League. Sturridge's injury problems have been such that the striker was starting a fourth successive Premier League game for the first time in two years. His subsequent contribution in a Liverpool side given a major overhaul by Jurgen Klopp suggested the forward may be finally closing in on a return to full fitness after his future at Anfield had been called into question.

As well as providing the piece of improvisation that set up Firmino for the opening goal, Sturridge finished cleanly for the second and should have added a third goal early in the second half after being sent clear on Artur Boruc's goal which provided the visitors with the cushion they needed following Joshua King's added time reply. Without Sturridge's efforts, it's possible Klopp would have had cause to regret making ten changes from the side that triumphed over Dortmund in such dramatic circumstances.

Only Firmino started both games with the Liverpool manager handing a debut to Danny Ward, the young Wales goalkeeper, and naming youngsters Connor Randall, Brad Smith, Kevin Stewart and Sheyi Ojo in his starting eleven.

The changes were understandable given the intensity of Thursday's game, but with Bournemouth full of confidence after recording four victories in their previous six games, it was perhaps inevitable the home side made the more convincing start with home centrebacks Steve Cook and Tommy Elphick both failing to make more of headed chances.

The Liverpool defence, well marshalled by Lucas Leiva, held firm and Klopp's side grew into the game with Joe Allen becoming increasingly influential in midfield. Allen's 26th minute chip brought Sturridge into the game for the first time with the forward denied by Artur Boruc's smart reactions. The Bournemouth keeper was caught out five minutes before half time, however, when Sturridge's back-heel forced Boruc into a fulllength save and Firmino was on hand to follow up and finish from close range.

Sturridge then doubled the lead in first half added time when he was allowed to rise unhindered and meet Jordan Ibe's free-kick before sending a header inside Boruc's righthand post. Having seen his defenders make cause problems in the Liverpool box, Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe was frustrated to see them unable to deal with Ibe's dead-ball.

The game should have been over six minutes into the second half when Allen again found Sturridge, this time sending the forward clear on Boruc's goal. Sturridge went for the eye-catching chip and was left frustrated as his effort drifted narrowly wide.

The miss would not prove costly as Ward produced a number of fine saves to deny Bournemouth until King finally replied in added time.



DANNY.. WILL IT? Sturridge masters Cherries with a brilliant display but can he stay in Roy's plans?

BOURNEMOUTH 1

King 90

LIVERPOOL 2

Firmino 41 Sturridge 45

DARREN LEWIS saw a classy display from a forgotten man

JURGEN KLOPP may not see him as Liverpool's future, but Daniel Sturridge is refusing to go quietly.

In fact, the England striker delivered a timely message to both the German and national coach Roy Hodgson with a virtuoso display.

Klopp initially bristled at questions about Sturridge's man-of-the-match performance. Yet scoring has been a problem for Liverpool since they almost won the title in 2013-4.

In Sturridge and Divock Origi, Liverpool again have forwards to inspire optimism.

On the back of Klopp's refusal last week to give Sturridge any assurance that he is still Liverpool's No.1 striker it is all looking very ominous. That said, Sturridge served a warning that any decision to sell him - or not pick him for the Euros - could return to haunt both Klopp and Hodgson.

Because on his day there is no better English finisher.

Sturridge may have had too few of those days in a Liverpool shirt due to his horrendous luck with injuries, but he is clearly motivated to make up for lost time. Hodgson was at Leicester yesterday to see Jamie Vardy score his 22nd goal of a sensational campaign.

But when he sees highlights of this match he will know he has a huge conundrum as he tries to decide which strikers to take to France this summer.

Vardy, Harry Kane, Wayne Rooney and Danny Welbeck are virtual certainties. It will be a huge surprise if Sturridge does not join them now he is fit and firing. He was among 10 changes - including ac in Liverpool debut for keeper Danny Ward and Premier League debuts for Connor Randall and Brad Smith.

Yet far from feeling slighted, Sturridge showed an impressive attitude from the start. Bournemouth, despite their honest endeavour, simply could not cope.

What a week this has been for Liverpool. A resounding win last week against Stoke, that epic Europa League victory against Dortmund, the emotion of that final Hillsborough memorial service and now this.

Four minutes before the break Sturridge's back-heel was saved by Artur Boruc and Roberto Firmino (left) pounced, unmarked, at the back post to open the scoring.

Sturridge increased the advantage on the stroke of half-time when he headed Jordan Ibe's freekick into the bottom corner.

He should have made it 3-0 eight minutes after the break when he chipped Boruc from close range. But as Sturridge wheeled away to celebrate - with the keeper beaten - the ball hit a post and rebounded to safety.

Sturridge tried again with a sublime effort with seven minutes remaining - only to be frustrated once again by the post.

Liverpool had established by then that they were by far the superior side - even though Bournemouth should have two penalties. The first was when Lucas handled in the first half under pressure from Josh King.

The second was just after the hour when Kolo Toure also handled inside the box. King's late goal was no consolation to boss Eddie Howe, who expressed frustration at being denied both penalty shouts. But he admitted his side were undone by a quality performance.

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Sturridge has his mojo back as Reds cruise to victory

Kopites will hope that history is repeating itself. The last time that Daniel Sturridge had another Liverpool striker driving him on he produced the finest spell of a stop-start career. In the title challenging campaign of 2013/14 it was Luis Suarez he was jostling for position with as the England international plundered 24 goals and established himself as one of Europe's most lethal marksmen. Two years on it's the exciting emergence of Divock Origi which has coincided with Sturridge getting his mojo back. Sturridge's response to Origi being picked to start both legs of the Europa League quarter-final with Borussia Dortmund ahead of him has been emphatic. Outstanding in the rout of Stoke, he followed that up by coming off the bench to make a telling contribution in the miraculous fightback against Dortmund. If what transpired at Anfield on Thursday night was a truly momentous team effort, there was no doubt who was the star of the show at the Vitality Stadium on Sunday afternoon. Sturridge lit up what for most of a lifeless first half was a classic case of after the Lord Mayor's show.

He provided the injection of class required to ensure that momentum was maintained on the back of the club's European heroics.

It was his improvised backheel which led to Roberto Firmino tucking away his 10 goal of the season after Artur Boruc had parried. Sturridge then wrapped up the points on the stroke of half-time with a towering header and caused Bournemouth's backline so many problems that in truth he should have walked away clutching the matchball. The sight of him trying his luck from inside his own half underlined the confidence of a man back to operating at the peak of his powers. He looks fitter than at any point in the past two years and clearly isn't content to play second fiddle to anyone. Sturridge will be looking to score his 50 goal for the Reds in Wednesday night's Merseyside derby at Anfield. Considering he's only made 86 appearances, that's some strike-rate. It's an embarrassment of riches for Jurgen Klopp as he ponders how best to utilise the talents of Origi, Sturridge and Firmino against Everton. The Reds may have left it too late to force their into the frame for a top-four finish but it's no wonder that Kopites believe that European glory is within their reach when you consider the attacking armoury they now boast. That potency is coupled with an organisation and a spirit which has enabled Klopp's Liverpool to finally achieve some consistency. Since the second-half debacle at Southampton a month ago, they have drawn with title-chasing Tottenham, stunned Borussia Dortmund and swept Stoke and Bournemouth aside.

'Allen maintains outstanding form'

Despite Klopp making 10 changes, they were rarely troubled by a Cherries side already thinking about the beach having retained their top-flight status. Sturridge aside, there were plenty of other positives to occupy Klopp's thoughts during the short flight home from Dorset. Joe Allen maintained his outstanding form with another tireless display in the middle of the park. Time and time again the Welshman sensed danger, broke up play and put Liverpool back on the front foot. Having been rocked by the loss of both Jordan Henderson and Emre Can to injury, there is a big responsibility on Allen's shoulders during the run-in. But he's clearly relishing the opportunity after a season of frustration and this was another eye-catching shift. Klopp insists that talks over Allen's future must wait until the summer with the £15million man about to enter the final year of his current deal. What's clear is that if Liverpool don't want him there will be a queue of clubs ready to take him off their hands. This was also a big afternoon for keeper Danny Ward, who shone on his long-awaited Reds debut. It was the chance he had craved since he was recalled from a successful loan spell at Aberdeen in January. Josh King's stoppage-time consolation denied him a clean sheet but the 22-year-old could hold his head high. There was no sign of nerves as he commanded his penalty box and pulled off a couple of fine saves. Simon Mignolet, who was rested, will inevitably return to face Everton but Ward has served notice that Liverpool have genuine competition for that jersey.

Rookies endure mixed afternoon

There were contrasting fortunes for the other rookies. Connor Randall, who was preferred to Jon Flanagan at right-back, was rock-solid on his Premier League bow. Fellow Academy graduate Brad Smith, who made his first league start on the other flank, endured a more difficult afternoon. The same went for Kevin Stewart, who wasn't able to hit the heights he reached against Stoke seven days earlier. Sheyi Ojo once again produced flashes of his exciting talent. The teenage winger is raw but the potential is clearly there for Klopp to mould into something special. One lovely piece of skill from Ojo left Charlie Daniels and Max Gradel bewitched before his low drive was blocked. Jordan Ibe was another who made a welcome step forward. It's been an underwhelming campaign for the 20-year-old, who was tipped to fill Raheem Sterling's boots last summer. Ibe has regressed and didn't even make the bench against Stoke or Borussia Dortmund. This was his first league start since the win at Norwich in January and he grew into it – playing a part in both goals. Ibe picked out Sturridge in the build up to the opener and then delivered the pinpoint free-kick for Sturridge to make it 2-0. In the second half Liverpool should have extended their lead. Firmino fired wide after Boruc flapped before Sturridge's exquisite dink struck the post.

Lucas shows his versatility

Bournemouth briefly rallied but stand-in Reds captain Lucas Leiva, who along with Tommy Elphick laid a wreath in memory of the 96 before kick-off, led by example. This was Lucas' first start since he hurt his thigh in the League Cup final and again he showed his versatility at centre-back. Twice, Ward denied King before he brilliantly clawed behind Grabban's header. Liverpool always looked a threat on the counter and Sturridge hammered against the angle of post and bar. King pulled one back late on but the Reds were worthy winners. The bandwagon rolls on.

MATCH FACTS

Bournemouth: Boruc, Francis, Elphick, Cook, Daniels, Ritchie (Wilson 76), Gosling, Surman, Stanislas (Grabban 45), Gradel (Pugh 59), King

Not used: Federici, MacDonald, Wiggins, O'Kane.

Liverpool: Ward, Randall, Toure (Sakho 67), Lucas, Smith, Allen, Stewart, Ojo, Firmino (Origi 75), Ibe (Lallana 78), Sturridge.

Not used: Mignolet, Milner, Coutinho, Flanagan.

Referee: Mike Jones **Attendance:** 11,386 **Goals:** Firmino 41, Sturridge 45, King 90. **Bookings:** none

Man of the match: Daniel Sturridge. A class above anyone else on the pitch.



Reds ruin the party thanks to first-half double

GOALS from Roberto Firmino and Daniel Sturridge delayed the party at Vitality Stadium as Cherries were forced to wait to celebrate staying in the Premier League. Victory over a much-changed Liverpool team would have ensured Cherries' top-flight status but it all went to pot towards the end of the first half when the visitors netted twice. It left Eddie Howe's team with a mountain to climb in the second half and, although Joshua King halved the deficit in added time, they were unable to find a late leveller.

Firmino tapped home from inside the six-yard box to open the scoring after 41 minutes before Sturridge doubled the visitors' lead in first-half stoppage time.

Junior Stanislas was recalled to the Cherries starting line-up as boss Howe made one change for the visit of the Europa League semi-finalists.

Stanislas, sidelined since tearing his hamstring at Watford at the end of February, replaced Lewis Grabban, who was named on the bench.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp made 10 changes following their dramatic victory over Borussia Dortmund at Anfield on Thursday with Firmino the only starter.

Ahead of kick-off, rival captains Tommy Elphick and Lucas Leiva laid a wreath in front of the Liverpool supporters to mark the 27-year anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. Liverpool went close to drawing first blood inside the opening two minutes but Cherries were thankful to a smart save from goalkeeper Artur Boruc.

After Andrew Surman's pass had ricocheted off Firmino and fallen invitingly to Daniel Sturridge, his left-foot strike was snaffled low down by Boruc. Steve Cook climbed at the far post to meet a Simon Francis's centre after six minutes but his header cleared the crossbar by some distance.

Cherries' appeals for a penalty fell on deaf ears after Joshua King had gone to ground under a challenge from Leiva before Matt Ritchie's shot flashed past the upright. Elphick's glancing header from a Ritchie free-kick was comfortably pounced by Liverpool's debutant goalkeeper Danny Ward after 20 minutes.

Cook stood tall to block shots from Sheyi Ojo and Randall before Boruc saved from Randall after the young defender had seized on the loose ball.

Boruc made a reaction save to keep out an effort from Sturridge which the striker knew little about after the ball had been kicked on to his knees by Cook's intended challenge. Firmino broke the deadlock four minutes before half-time when he tucked home the loose ball from close range after Boruc had parried a cheeky back-heel from Sturridge. Cherries had a loud penalty appeal turned down after Leiva had handled before Sturridge compounded their woes when he doubled Liverpool's lead in first-half stoppage time.

The England striker rose highest in the box to meet Jordon Ibe's free-kick with a well-directed header, Sturridge squeezing the ball inside the post and out of Boruc's reach. Cherries had a let-off at the start of the second half when Sturridge, sent clear by Joe Allen's clever pass, lofted his effort over Boruc, only to see the ball hit the base of the post. Kolo Toure angered Cherries supporters when he feigned injury hoping the hosts would throw the ball back to Liverpool, only to jump to his feet after they did not. Toure was again the centre of attention when his handball inside the penalty area also went unpunished by referee Mike Jones midway through the second half.

Ward saved with his knees after King had created space and tried his luck, the Norwegian unfortunate not to halve the deficit in the 65th minute.

The young goalkeeper made an excellent save to keep out Grabban's header eight minutes from time before Sturridge rattled the crossbar with a thunderous drive. Another penalty claim for handball against Brad Smith fell on deaf ears in the closing stages before Sturridge went close to adding a third but fired over after bursting through. Callum Wilson's header was cleared off the line before King rifled home to reduce the arrears deep into stoppage time.

And Cherries were denied a dramatic late leveller when Cook's header from a Marc Pugh cross flew narrowly over the crossbar.

Cherries: Boruc, Francis, Cook, Elphick, Daniels, Ritchie (Wilson, 76), Surman, Gosling, Gradel (Pugh, 59), Stanislas (Grabban, h-t), King.

Unused subs: MacDonald, Wiggins, O'Kane, Federici (g/k).

Date: 17 April 2016
 Opposition: Bournemouth
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Daily Echo

17 April 2016

Liverpool: Ward, Randall, Toure (Sakho, 67), Leiva, Smith, Ibe (Lallana, 77), Allen, Stewart, Ojo, Firmino (Origi, 75), Sturridge.
 Unused subs: Milner, Coutinho, Flanagan, Mignolet (g/k).
 Referee: Mike Jones (Cheshire).
 Attendance: 11,386 (including 1,412 Liverpool supporters).



An experimental Liverpool side won at Bournemouth to record a third consecutive victory in all competitions. Roberto Firmino's rebound and Daniel Sturridge's header gave the visitors a commanding 2-0 lead at half-time. Bournemouth rallied after the break but Joshua King's stoppage-time strike came too late for a comeback. The result lifts Liverpool up to eighth place in the Premier League table, while the Cherries remain 13th. Liverpool made 10 changes from Thursday's momentous Europa League win over Borussia Dortmund as manager Jurgen Klopp named an inexperienced side. The fringe players repaid the German's faith with an accomplished performance which preserved their record of having never lost against Bournemouth. Klopp's faith in youth Liverpool still have a slim hope of finishing in the top four but winning the Europa League is their likeliest route to Champions League qualification - and Klopp's selection suggested he agrees. Wales goalkeeper Danny Ward made his club debut and young defender Connor Randall was given a first Premier League start. Jordon Ibe and his fellow winger, the less experienced Sheyi Ojo, shone as the Reds' youngsters seized control of the first half. However, it was two established first-team players who made the most telling contributions. Top scorer Firmino opened the scoring from a rebound after Artur Boruc had saved Sturridge's audacious backheel, before the England striker headed in Ibe's free-kick just before half-time.

Cure for a hangover
 A European hangover is an ailment which has undermined Liverpool's Premier League campaign. Their victory against Stoke on 10 April was only the second time in eight attempts that Klopp's side had won after a Europa League fixture this season. However, this mature display suggests the Reds are capable of finishing the campaign strongly on both fronts. With six games left in the Premier League, Klopp now faces a balancing act between Liverpool's domestic commitments and a Europa League semi-final against Villarreal.

Bournemouth under the radar
 Given Leicester's extraordinary title challenge, Bournemouth's first Premier League campaign has somewhat passed under the radar. A run of four wins from their previous six games had Eddie Howe's side targeting a top-half finish, though this defeat is a setback to those hopes. Bournemouth were competitive throughout against Liverpool, testing Ward on numerous occasions in the second half. Their perseverance was rewarded with King's low strike in added time, even if the goal was ultimately in vain.

Man of the match - Jordon Ibe
What they said
 Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told BBC Sport: "They've never played together. They could have defended better, played a bit more football in the first half - but it was really, really good."
 "Danny Ward was brilliant. Let the self-confidence grow of goalkeepers, they're normal human beings."
 Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe: "The goal came too late for us. We felt in the second half had we got that goal earlier it would have made an interesting end to the game."
 "We were missing that spark, especially in the first half. You have to give Liverpool credit."

Stats you need to know
 Liverpool have now won away at 50 different grounds in the Premier League, more than any other side. Roberto Firmino has been involved in 12 goals in his past 11 Premier League games (8 goals, 4 assists). Daniel Sturridge has scored in each of his past three away league games. Joshua King has scored four goals in his past six Premier League games for Bournemouth. The Reds have scored at least twice in five of their past six league games away from home, failing to score in the other.

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17 April 2016



Match ends, Bournemouth 1, Liverpool 2.

90'+5' Second Half ends, Bournemouth 1, Liverpool 2.

90'+4' Attempt missed. Steve Cook (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Marc Pugh with a cross.

90'+4' Callum Wilson (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the attacking half.

90'+4' Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool).

90'+3' Goal! Bournemouth 1, Liverpool 2. Joshua King (Bournemouth right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Andrew Surman.

90'+3' Attempt blocked. Callum Wilson (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box is blocked.

90'+3' Attempt missed. Steve Cook (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Charlie Daniels with a cross following a corner.

90'+3' Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.

90'+1' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Artur Boruc.

90'+1' Attempt blocked. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Sheyi Ojo.

88' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

86' Callum Wilson (Bournemouth wins a free kick on the left wing.

86' Foul by Connor Randall (Liverpool).

85' Attempt blocked. Joshua King (Bournemouth right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Andrew Surman.

85' Joshua King (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the attacking half.

85' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool).

83' Foul by Dan Gosling (Bournemouth).

83' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

83' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool hits the left post with a left footed shot from the left side of the box. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

82' Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Danny Ward.

82' Attempt saved. Lewis Grabban (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Simon Francis with a cross.

81' Attempt blocked. Lewis Grabban (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Dan Gosling.

78' Attempt blocked. Lewis Grabban (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

78' Attempt blocked. Joshua King (Bournemouth right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Charlie Daniels with a cross.

78' Substitution, Liverpool. Adam Lallana replaces Jordon Ibe.

77' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

77' Substitution, Bournemouth. Callum Wilson replaces Matt Ritchie.

76' Delay in match Jordon Ibe (Liverpool because of an injury.

75' Substitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Roberto Firmino.

75' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from more than 35 yards misses to the left. Assisted by Jordon Ibe.

69' Attempt missed. Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box is close, but misses the top left corner. Assisted by Simon Francis with a cross.

68' Attempt blocked. Joshua King (Bournemouth right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Artur Boruc.

67' Substitution, Liverpool. Mamadou Sakho replaces Kolo Touré.

67' Foul by Joshua King (Bournemouth).

67' Kevin Stewart (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

65' Attempt saved. Joshua King (Bournemouth left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Marc Pugh.

63' Offside, Liverpool. Joe Allen tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

62' Offside, Bournemouth. Simon Francis tries a through ball, but Steve Cook is caught offside.

61' Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Kevin Stewart.

61' Marc Pugh (Bournemouth wins a free kick on the left wing.

61' Foul by Sheyi Ojo (Liverpool).

59' Substitution, Bournemouth. Marc Pugh replaces Max Gradel.

59' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

58' Foul by Max Gradel (Bournemouth).

58' Sheyi Ojo (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

55' Attempt missed. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Joe Allen.

53' Offside, Bournemouth. Steve Cook tries a through ball, but Max Gradel is caught offside.

53' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool hits the right post with a left footed shot from the centre of the box. Assisted by Joe Allen.

47' Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth wins a free kick on the right wing.

47' Foul by Brad Smith (Liverpool).

47' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left following a corner.

46' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Artur Boruc.

46' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Simon Francis.

Second Half begins Bournemouth 0, Liverpool 2.

45' Substitution, Bournemouth. Lewis Grabban replaces Junior Stanislas.

45'+4' First Half ends, Bournemouth 0, Liverpool 2.

45'+2' Goal! Bournemouth 0, Liverpool 2. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Jordon Ibe following a set piece situation.

45'+2' Foul by Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth).

45'+2' Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

45' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

44' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

43' Delay in match Brad Smith (Liverpool because of an injury.

42' Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Brad Smith.

42' Attempt blocked. Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Joshua King.

41' Goal! Bournemouth 0, Liverpool 1. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from very close range to the top right corner.

41' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Jordon Ibe.

37' Attempt blocked. Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Joshua King.

35' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

34' Delay in match Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth because of an injury.

33' Attempt blocked. Junior Stanislas (Bournemouth right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Joshua King.

31' Dan Gosling (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

31' Foul by Kevin Stewart (Liverpool).

27' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Artur Boruc.

27' Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

24' Attempt saved. Connor Randall (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner.

24' Attempt blocked. Connor Randall (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Sheyi Ojo.

24' Attempt blocked. Sheyi Ojo (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordon Ibe.

23' Foul by Max Gradel (Bournemouth).

23' Kevin Stewart (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

21' Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

20' Attempt saved. Tommy Elphick (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Matt Ritchie with a cross.

19' Joshua King (Bournemouth wins a free kick on the right wing.

19' Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).

16' Foul by Dan Gosling (Bournemouth).

16' Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

14' Foul by Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth).

14' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

13' Attempt missed. Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Dan Gosling.

12' Dan Gosling (Bournemouth wins a free kick on the right wing.

12' Foul by Kevin Stewart (Liverpool).

11' Foul by Max Gradel (Bournemouth).

11' Kevin Stewart (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

10' Offside, Liverpool. Kolo Touré tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

7' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right.

6' Attempt missed. Steve Cook (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Simon Francis with a cross following a corner.

6' Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Brad Smith.

4' Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

4' Foul by Dan Gosling (Bournemouth).

3' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jordon Ibe.

2' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

1' Max Gradel (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

1' Foul by Connor Randall (Liverpool).

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up.