

Date: 23 August 2016
 Opposition: Burton Albion
 Competition: League Cup

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Burton Mail

23 August 2016

THE TIMES

Klopp's selection policy rewarded with five-star rout

Burton Albion 0 Liverpool 5 Origi 15, Firmino 22, Naylor (og) 61, Sturridge 78, 83 Jurgen Klopp's insistence that the second round of the EFL Cup was to be taken seriously was reflected in his team selection and acted upon emphatically by his players. If the 2-0 Premier League defeat by Burnley on Saturday affected Liverpool it was only positively, as they responded to that early-season setback with a 5-0 victory over Burton Albion, their biggest win since February. This was not a night when a slip-up ever seemed on the cards. The cosy Pirelli Stadium offered home comforts for Liverpool in the form of a bowling green pitch and Burton, a team built according to the purist principles of Nigel Clough, their manager, played the kind of expansive passing game that played into their opponents' hands. Being drawn away to lower division opposition can sometimes drag Premier League teams down a level or two, but on this occasion there was far too much in Liverpool's favour for that to happen.

If Clough stuck to his principles in the belief that it will serve Burton well in the long term, so too did Klopp, who picked what some would argue is his strongest available team and was rewarded with a performance and a result that justified his decision not to rotate. Having lacked fluency and attacking verve away to Burnley, Liverpool's comprehensive victory was founded on those very qualities as a capacity crowd looked on in admiration of the pace of Sadio Mané, the thrust of Divock Origi and the guile of Roberto Firmino before a late cameo from Daniel Sturridge stole the show. Mané did not get his name on the scoresheet -- Sturridge struck twice after coming off the bench, Origi and Firmino scored a goal apiece and Tom Naylor scored an unfortunate own goal -- but he was the star attraction. From the early stages, when he identified the weaknesses down the right side of Burton's three-man defence to lay on Origi's opener, to the final minutes, when he set up Sturridge for his second goal, the former Southampton player was the main difference between the two sides. If Liverpool looked one-dimensional and short of ideas without Mané at Turf Moor, they were transformed by his presence on the banks of the Trent.

"I really like this player but I don't like to talk about him too much after only two games," Klopp said. "It's not as if we have to pat ourselves on the back every day for signing him." It may be too early for such self-congratulation but Liverpool can at least enjoy the promise of what Mané brings. With him in their ranks, they have the ability to open up the kind of massed defences that had thwarted them three days earlier. The potential for Mané to be a gamechanger is there for all to see. "We couldn't get close to them but there are many teams in the Premier League who can't get close to them either," Clough said. "We conceded five but they put four past Arsenal last week." The rout began after 15 minutes, when Mané ghosted past Damien McCrory in the penalty area before squaring for Origi to set up his team-mate for a clever backheel. There was more than enough time for Burton to get back into the game but already it seemed a long way back and that feeling intensified as Liverpool doubled their lead only seven minutes later. 8 Number Daniel scored in seven games Again, the Merseyside club made the most of space down Burton's right flank as the overlapping Nathaniel Clyne picked out Firmino with a cross and the Brazil playmaker was able to beat Stephen Bywater with a well-placed header having had a previous attempt saved by the Burton goalkeeper. Liverpool were not quite on easy street and Burton's endeavour Sturridge has his past Cup ensured that the tie was never anything less than competitive, but the pressure was off and they were able to spend the rest of the first half playing within themselves in the knowledge that the job was all but done. Burton's best hope of getting back into the game lay in making an impact at the start of the second half but that proved beyond them as Liverpool's grip remained tight and it turned into a stranglehold after an hour when the visitors went 3-0 up. Joel Matip's flicked header from James Milner's inswinging corner left Naylor facing his own goal and, under pressure from Origi, the defender deflected the ball into it with his hip. It was an unfortunate way for Burton to concede but there was nothing undeserved about Liverpool's advantage. Klopp then sent on Sturridge and Georginio Wijnaldum for Adam Lallana and Firmino as he looked for more goals and his ambition was rewarded when Sturridge scored his first of the season from close range. Again Milner was involved, advancing into the penalty area and fizzing a low cross to the back post, where Sturridge arrived with perfect timing to slot into an empty net. The England striker then completed the scoring -- and Burton's misery -- with a powerful drive from Mané's cutback as Liverpool ended a one-sided tie with a flourish.

"We were much sharper around the box, though there were still a few moments when we could have been sharper," Klopp said. "We need to have better quality with the final pass, and today was better, we were where we needed to be in the box, the boys were in the box for the first two goals. We had to use the defeat at Burnley to improve and we did. So all is good."

Burton Albion (3-5-2): S Bywater -- T Naylor, K McFadzean, D McCrory -- L Akins (sub: M Harness, 65min), L Williamson, H Choudhury, J Irvine (sub: M Palmer, 46), L Dyer (sub: B Fox, 65)-- S Beavon, C Butcher.

Substitutes not used: J McLaughlin, B Turner, C O'Grady, R Delaney. Booked: Williamson, Choudhury.

Liverpool (4-1-2-2-1): S Mignolet -- N Clyne, D Lovren, J Matip, J Milner -- E Can (sub: K Stewart, 71) -- A Lallana (sub: G Wijnaldum, 64), J Henderson -- S Mané, R Firmino (sub: D Sturridge, 64) -- D Origi. Substitutes not used: A Manninger, R Klavan, A Moreno, D Ings. Referee: S Hooper.

the guardian

Liverpool rout Burton with Daniel Sturridge double icing the cake

It will take more than a victory against Burton Albion to provide evidence that Liverpool are back on the right path after their sobering defeat at Burnley on Saturday but Jürgen Klopp's side did all that was asked of them on a night when the chasm in class was every bit as wide as the scoreline suggests. Klopp's team selection underlined how seriously he was treating this match and, in truth, their progress to the third round of the League Cup was a formality before the midway point of the first half. Courtesy of goals from Divock Origi and Roberto Firmino, Liverpool were 2-0 ahead after 22 minutes and it already felt like an exercise in damage limitation for the Championship club.

Nigel Clough, who made five changes to his starting XI, may well have had one eye on the visit of their neighbours Derby County on Friday in another landmark game for a football club who have come so far in such a short time. Klopp, however, was thinking only of returning to winning ways and his players had no intention of disappointing him.

On a balmy evening in Staffordshire, Sadio Mané was the pick of the bunch. The £34m summer signing from Southampton had a hand in four of Liverpool's five goals and set up three. Returning to the starting lineup after missing the Burnley match with a shoulder injury, the Senegalese was a constant threat as he wreaked havoc with his searing pace. At times he was almost unplayable.

Daniel Sturridge, who was introduced from the bench in the second half, gratefully dispatched one of Mané's assists to register his second goal in the space of six minutes in a rewarding late cameo. Tom Naylor had earlier put through his own net, just after the hour mark, to extinguish any faint hopes that Burton may have had of getting back into a game that Liverpool controlled from start to finish. For Klopp it was exactly the response he wanted. "We had to use the defeat at Burnley to improve and we did. So all good," Klopp said. "We were much sharper around the box, though there were still a few moments when we could have been sharper. We need to have better quality with the final pass, and today was better -- we were where we needed to be in the box."

As for Mané's performance, Klopp gave the impression that he is seeing only what he expected. "I really like this player but I don't like to talk too much after only two games for him," the Liverpool manager said. "It's not that we have to pat ourselves on the back every day at signing him."

The only slight worry for Liverpool was the sight of Emre Can, who was making his first start of the season, limping off with an ankle problem. Klopp confirmed that it was the same ankle that Can was struggling with last season but also made it clear that he did not believe the injury was serious.

Can was one of four changes to a strong Liverpool side, with Mané and Origi also coming into the starting XI and Joel Matip making his competitive debut for the club. Matip partnered Dejan Lovren at centre-half and this was a gentle introduction to English football for the Cameroonian international.

Dominating possession from the outset, Liverpool's slick passing and fluid movement was too much for Burton and it was no surprise when Origi opened the scoring in the 15th minute. Mané was the architect, his terrific burst of speed on the right bamboozling Damien McCrory and creating the space to slide a low cross that Origi, with a back-heel flick, turned in from a yard out.

The last thing that Liverpool needed was a helping hand but Stephen Bywater, the Burton goalkeeper, gave them one with a wayward throw that Mané intercepted. Nathaniel Clyne galloped forward on the right, Mané released him and the full-back's inch-perfect cross picked out Firmino, who had the relatively straightforward task of heading past Bywater from six yards.

The occasion had always promised goals. Burton's opening four Championship matches had yielded 18 in total -- nine at each end -- providing a measure of the open, attacking football that Clough likes his teams to play. For a long period, though, it was one-way traffic here and it was something of a surprise that Liverpool had to wait until the 62nd minute for a third goal, when Matip's header was turned in by Naylor.

Sturridge, on for Firmino, made it 4-0 when he tapped in Milner's low centre and the England striker completed the rout with a well-struck shot after more fine work from Mané. "We couldn't get close to them," said Clough, the Burton manager. "It was a great learning experience for my side. They saw what is required at that level."

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The Mail

Divock Origi, Roberto Firmino and Daniel Sturridge find the back of the net as Reds ease into EFL Cup third round

The game was barely a quarter old but already it had been won. Jurgen Klopp, however, was in no mood to celebrate, as James Milner soon discovered.

As Liverpool's players trotted back to their own half, with Roberto Firmino having given them a two-goal advantage at Burton, Milner came to the touchline to get a drink. Klopp rose from his dugout to hand his vice-captain a bottle but it came with a message: tell them to keep going. Klopp could not have wished for a more comfortable night, with Liverpool sauntering into the EFL Cup third round, but their manager's intensity did not drop for a moment. This was a night when he wanted to see if lessons had been learned.

He was aghast Liverpool failed to turn 81 per cent possession at Burnley into three points on Saturday and was just as aware this tie was being viewed as a potential giant-killing, so there was relief that Divock Origi, Firmino, an own goal from Tom Naylor and a double from Daniel Sturridge turned the spotlight elsewhere. There was also a blistering performance from Sadio Mane, the £30million man who was so badly missed at Turf Moor, that Burton's defenders could not handle; his three assists and a hand in a fourth goal was a just reward for his jet-heeled efforts down the right. All the while, though, you could not help but feel Klopp wanted more. He wants Liverpool to become the most potent team in the country, a side that can score goals at will and a chance to engage in target practice was not to be missed. 'We were much sharper around the box but there were moments when we could have been sharper still,' said Klopp. 'We had to use the defeat at Burnley to improve and we did.'

Klopp left no stone unturned in his preparation for this assignment. Liverpool's squad spent the night before at St George's Park and then used the pitches at the national training centre for a rigorous warm up session on the morning of the game. You could see his intentions in the team that he named. The line-up he sent out cost £162million to assemble – to give that context, Burton's stadium only cost £7.2million to construct – and it could be argued there will be a point in this campaign when this XI is regarded as Liverpool's strongest.

It took them a couple of minutes to warm up as Burton attempted to make things difficult – one awkward back pass from Dejan Lovren led to Simon Mignolet slicing a clearance out of play – but an opportunity to get the home fans out of their seats did not arrive.

Soon enough Burton couldn't even get the ball off Liverpool, never mind get near their penalty area. With the pitch exemplary – what else would expect for a team managed by a Clough? – Liverpool began to zip the ball around in triangles, the speed of their passing leaving the hosts dizzy.

Chances flowed and everyone could sense what was coming. Sure enough, in the 15th minute, the breakthrough arrived. It was a fine goal, too, with Mane showing a lightening change of gear to dart past Damien McCrory and cross for Origi, who nonchalantly beat Bywater with a back heel. 'I like this player,' Klopp said of Mane. 'But I don't like to talk about him too much after two games. We don't have to pat ourselves on the back every day that we signed him.'

The locals had been dreaming of a famous upset, but that goal was a brutal dose of realism. Everyone in the stadium knew a difficult task had effectively become impossible and the next time Liverpool attacked, all doubt was eliminated. So, too, were Burton. 'As soon as I saw their result against Burnley, we expected them to come out with a strong line up,' said Burton manager Nigel Clough. 'We couldn't get close to them.'

Admittedly, a dreadful error by Bywater set them on their way – his throw went straight to Mane, who was standing in space on the halfway line – but in the blink of an eye, the ball had ended up in the back of his net, Mane freeing Nathaniel Clyne, who crossed for Firmino to plant a header.

Job done, then, but Klopp was not about to let his players relax and the fact he went down the tunnel at the interval with a poker face, with Liverpool having failed to add to their advantage, said everything about his frame of mind.

'We gave them a little reminder at half-time,' was the German's succinct appraisal. He showed little flickering of emotion after the break but the result was never in doubt. Naylor was in the wrong place when Joel Matip's header was skidding towards goal and then Sturridge arrived late twice at the far post to smash in two Mane crosses to apply the gloss. Yet, on the touchline, Klopp remained unmoved. 'It was much better,' said Klopp before adding a warning. 'We still need to improve. A lot.'

MATCH FACTS

Burton: Bywater, McFadzean, Williamson, Beavon, Akins (Harness 65), Dyer (Fox 65), Butcher, McCrory, Naylor, Choudhury, Irvine (Palmer 46)

Subs not used: McLaughlin, Turner, O'Grady, Delaney

Booked: Choudhury, Williamson

Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Lovren, Matip, Milner, Henderson, Can (Stewart 71), Lallana (Wijnaldum 64), Firmino (Sturridge 64), Mane, Origi

Subs not used: Manninger, Klavan, Moreno, Ings

Goals: Origi 15, Firmino 22, Naylor og 61, Sturridge 78, 83

Referee: Simon Hooper (Wiltshire)

Attendance: 6,450

The Daily Telegraph

Sadio Mane inspires rampant Reds to dominant win

Sadio Mané is already proving he can be the main man for Liverpool. Mané has made a stunning impact for Jürgen Klopp and his brilliant display enabled Liverpool to complete a comprehensive victory and blow away the negativity from last weekend.

The £30 million summer signing was influential throughout this canter and already appears indispensable, after missing Saturday's 2-0 defeat at Burnley with a shoulder injury.

Burton Albion were broken by Klopp's vast armoury of attacking options, with Divock Origi, Roberto Firmino and Daniel Sturridge all scoring in a rout at the Pirelli Stadium. Sturridge claimed an excellent fifth, his second goal, but it was Mané who had the travelling Liverpool supporters saluting a new hero.

"I really like this player, but I don't like to talk too much after only two games for him. It's not that we have to pat ourselves on the back every day at signing him," said Klopp.

The only worry for the manager from a hugely satisfying evening was the departure of Emre Can, who hobbled off with an ankle injury. "It was possible an [upset] could have [happened], so we were really serious. We were very professional and we did our job, so it was good," Klopp added.

Klopp is yet to suffer a giantkilling in English football since his appointment last October and Liverpool were chomping on cigars almost from the start. Nigel Clough famously guided Burton to a goalless draw against Manchester United 10 years ago yet a goal was inevitable here after a menacing start from the visitors.

Stephen Bywater, the Burton goalkeeper, had frustrated both Origi and Firmino in the opening 11 minutes but could do little to prevent the goal on the quarter-hour mark. It owed much to a brilliant turn of pace from Mané, who easily eluded the Burton defence inside the penalty area to tee up Origi, who cleverly back-heeled the ball over the line from two yards out.

Burton were struggling to get out of their own half and Liverpool extended their lead in the 22nd minute when Firmino nodded in Nathaniel Clyne's cross, following a poor throw from Bywater.

Burton did show signs of improvement but Liverpool effectively killed off any hopes of a defiant comeback just after the hour with a third. James Milner's cross from the left was awkward to defend and Tom Naylor, attempting to clear, only succeeded in diverting the ball into his own net.

Klopp was in ruthless mood, introducing Sturridge and Georginio Wijnaldum for the final 25 minutes. Sturridge claimed the fourth from close range and, in the final stages, it was damage limitation for the Championship hosts.

Another rapid burst from Mané created space for Sturridge to fire in a fifth and that £30 million suddenly looks a bargain buy in these times of exorbitant fees.

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Jurgen Klopp not surprised by Sadio Mane hitting the ground running for Anfield club

Sadio Mane's early-season form is no surprise to Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp. Mane, signed from Southampton this summer for a reported £30million fee, followed up his impressive goal scoring debut for the Reds in the Premier League victory at Arsenal with another superb performance on his return to the team against Burton in the EFL Cup.

The Senegal international was sorely missed at the weekend as a shoulder injury ruled him out of the defeat at Burnley, where Klopp's team were laboured in their build-up and careless and wasteful in possession.

At the Pirelli Stadium Mane made a difference from the very beginning, laying on early chances for Divock Origi and Adam Lallana before setting up Origi for the opening goal after quarter of an hour.

Mane was also involved in both of Daniel Sturridge's late goals as Liverpool eased into the third round with a 5-0 win over their Championship opponents.

Klopp said: "I really like this player, but I don't like to talk too much after only two games for him.

"We knew of his qualities and how they fit our style, which is why we brought him here.

"It's not that we have to pat ourselves on the back every day at signing him."

Meanwhile, Klopp refused to be drawn on reports that Liverpool are open to loan offers for defender Mamadou Sakho.

The 26-year-old France international is short of fitness following a turbulent summer which saw him miss the European Championships after he was accused, and subsequently cleared, by UEFA of failing a drugs test before being sent home from Liverpool's pre-season tour of America for repeatedly breaking club rules.

Asked if Sakho could be loaned out in order to play matches and build up his fitness, Klopp said: "I am happy that I don't talk in situations like this about things like this.

"Everybody who needs to know and be informed about this is informed about this and there are no secrets with the important people, I would say. I have nothing more to say about this at the moment."

Burton boss Nigel Clough, a former Liverpool striker, said in the build up to the game that the size of the task facing his side side was enormous - and so it proved to be.

He said: "You saw the gulf in quality. We are just trying to get used to the Championship for the first time, so to play a team who I think can go close to challenging for the Premier League title, certainly the top four, was too much for us.

"We couldn't get close to them, but there are many teams in the Premier League who can't get close to them either. We conceded five, but they put four past Arsenal last week.

"The team they put out could pretty much turn it on at will - the pace, the power, the movement. They brought on £50million worth of subs - that's just beyond us.

"It was a great learning experience for my side - they got a real close up look at some quality opposition, and they saw what is required at that level."



REDS ARE UP FOR THE KLOPP

Burton Albion 0
 Liverpool 5

AFTER the famine, comes the feast.

Liverpool devoured poor Burton, their goal-shy strikers from the weekend gorging on the appetising fare on offer here.

In doing so, they left manager Jurgen Klopp with a problem far more palatable than the one he endured after the crushing defeat at Burnley, which left him wondering which Reds team was likely to turn up on the banks of the Trent.

The answer was one in which three of his strikers scored, and the fourth - the returning Sadio Mane - produced a man-of-the-match performance which orchestrated this thrashing.

Klopp said: "I really like this player, but I don't like to talk too much after only two games for him. It's not that we have to pat ourselves on the back every day at signing him."

He should pat himself on the back too, for the decision to axe Daniel Sturridge after he disappointed at Turf Moor, which prompted a fine display from his two starters Divock Origi and Roberto Firmino - and a fierce response from the Englishman.

Sturridge came off the bench to score twice within five minutes near the end as the visitors showed they do have quality up front.

If Sturridge seemed a man on a mission when he finished off the game, then it was Origi who turned the tie with a clever back-heel finish in the opening 15 minutes, after Mane skinned his marker.

Origi leads the line with gusto, but Sturridge has class, and it left Klopp admitting he has the sort of headache he does not mind. "Origi and Sturridge both performed, yes . . . and Roberto eh," he said.

"Of course I have to make decisions between players, but the most important job I have to do is to find the balance and the right solutions.

"The job the players have to do is to be in the best shape they can be. I think it's clear what both strikers have to do - and then in the end hopefully it's a very difficult decision to choose between them."

If both strikers made a case, it was Mane who was emphatic in showing how much he was missed in the last game. He wasted one chance when set up by Firmino, but then created more for Origi and Adam Lallana, before sending Nathaniel Clyne galloping down the right to cross for Firmino to score before the break.

In providing pace and unpredictability, he was outstanding, leaving Burton shell-shocked and eventually out for the count, as Origi hassled Tom Naylor into conceding an own goal from Emre Can's flick soon after the break, before Sturridge took over.

Playing in his preferred role down the middle, he ghosted onto crosses from first James Milner and then Mane, to leave Klopp beaming and Brewers boss Nigel Clough admitting it was a bit of a lesson.

"We couldn't get close to them, but there are many teams in the Premier League who can't get close to them either," said Clough. "We conceded five, but they put four past Arsenal last week.

"It was a great learning experience for my side - they got a real close up look at some quality opposition, and they saw what is required at that level."

BURTON: Bywater 6, Naylor 5, McFadzean McCrory 5, Choudhury 5, Akins 6 (Harness 65, 5), Williamson 6, Irvine 5 (Palmer 46, 5), Dyer 5 (Fox 65, 5), Beavon 6, Butcher 6

LIVERPOOL: Mignolet 6, Clyne 7, Lovren 6, Matip 6, Milner 7, Henderson 7, Can 7 (Stewart 68, 6), Lallana 7 (Wijnaldum 64, 6), Firmino 7 (Sturridge 64, 6), Origi 8, MOTM Mane 8.

REFEREE: Simon Hooper ATT: 6,450

MATCH STATS 41% POSSESSION 59% SHOTS ON TARGET 8 SHOTS OFF TARGET 6 CORNERS 3 OFFSIDE 5 FOULS 7 0 CARDS 0 0

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Sturridge at the double in Reds romp

Substitute Daniel Sturridge scored twice as Liverpool marched into the third round of the EFL Cup with a 5-0 thrashing of Burton Albion. The Reds delivered the perfect response to last weekend's shock league defeat to Burnley as they dominated throughout against the Championship outfit. The only concern for Jurgen Klopp was the fact that Divock Origi limped off late on as Liverpool finished with 10 men.

Origi had opened the scoring with Roberto Firmino adding a second before half-time. Tom Naylor's own goal put the tie beyond doubt before Sturridge took centre stage.

Klopp took no chances with his starting XI. The team sheet laid bare both the importance of the competition to the Reds this season and the manager's burning desire to get back to winning ways.

Origi and Firmino had both tested Stephen Bywater prior to the breakthrough arriving on 15 minutes.

Sadio Mane, back fit after a shoulder injury, was the creator as he carried on where he had left off at the Emirates on the opening weekend of the campaign. Mane has the turn of pace and the skill required to create something out of nothing and he did it with aplomb as he burst past Damien McCrory and squared for Origi to flick home his first goal of the season.

Midway through the first half it was 2-0. Bywater's poor throw was pounced on by Mane, who fed Nathaniel Clyne down the right flank. The full-back's delivery was pin-point and Firmino gleefully nodded past the keeper.

Liverpool were impressive but they were given a helping hand by the respect Burton gave them.

Just past the hour mark Liverpool added a third and it came from the most unlikely of routes.

Milner whipped in the corner, Can flicked on and Naylor inadvertently directed it into his own net.

There was no let up from Klopp. He sought fresh legs with Gini Wijnaldum and Sturridge on for Lallana and Firmino.

Sturridge looked like a man with a point to prove after being consigned to bench duty and he did it emphatically.

His first was a gift as he tucked away Milner's low cross at the far post.

But his second was classy as Mane picked him out and he drilled into the bottom corner to complete the rout.



Jurgen Klopp's Reds too good for Brewers in EFL Cup

The first game in Burton Albion's historic week ended in a crushing 5-0 defeat - but Burton Albion will not concern themselves too much with the result against a powerful, well-drilled and rampant Liverpool side. The Brewers may be out of the EFL Cup but they have their eyes on a Championship prize this season - remaining in the second tier of English football is their aim and Nigel Clough admitted afterwards that, in his eyes, the result mattered little here. What matters more is the result when Albion face Derby County on Friday. Albion made five changes from the weekend's 2-2 draw at Blackburn Rovers, with manager Clough - himself a former Reds player - keeping one eye on Friday's historic Championship clash with the Rams at the Pirelli. The most notable withdrawal was keeper Jon McLaughlin, named on the bench, with experienced stopper Bywater given his Albion debut between the sticks, behind a back three of Kyle McFadzean, Damien McCrory - playing in a slightly different centre-half berth - and Tom Naylor. Out went Ben Turner and John Mousinho. Lucas Akins and Lloyd Dyer continued in the wing-back roles with Jackson Irvine also retaining his starting place in central midfield. Lee Williamson came into the side with Hamza Choudhury replacing Matt Palmer in the middle, behind a front two of Stuart Beavon and Calum Butcher, the latter coming in for Chris O'Grady. Jurgen Klopp promised to take the EFL Cup - and the Brewers - seriously on Tuesday night ahead of the game and

certainly delivered on his promise, naming effectively a first-choice XI with one or two exceptions, notably Brazilian magician Philippe Coutinho - not in the squad - and Daniel Sturridge, who made do with a spot on the bench. Liverpool's front three of Divock Origi, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane comprised of international stars, players capable of unlocking the best Premier League defences. At the back, the Reds had Dejan Lovren and Joel Matip taking care of Albion's central forward pairing of Butcher and Beavon, with both largely comfortable despite a few early 50/50 tussles. Albion actually enjoyed a productive opening five minutes, getting the ball down well and testing Liverpool's back-line. Akins was getting particularly high up the pitch early on and causing some problems but when he did, Liverpool were able to utilise two-on-one moves to work the ball well down that flank. The Reds, as expected of potential Champions League challengers, carried a clear danger and could have taken the lead in the sixth minute. A superb flowing move across the pitch resulted in Mane slipping Origi in down the left of the box in space. The Belgian international, usually so assured in front of goal, should have done better than hit Bywater when trying to beat the Brewers' stopper at his near post. Bywater then had to be at his best to keep the score level five minutes later when Firmino, so dangerous when given space in behind, powered a header from Lallana's chip into the box at goal but Albion's experienced keeper palmed the ball wide of the post.

BEAUTIFULLY WORKED GOALS BUT SIMPLE FINISHES

But Klopp's side were not to be denied for long and after 15 minutes, Origi had given the visitors the lead through what initially looked like the simplest of tap-ins but was actually a lovely Cruyff touch into the back of the net. The goal owed much to the hard work of Mane, who collected Milner's deep cross from the left at the back post, beat his man and spotted his teammate in space just inside the six-yard box, pulling the ball back for Origi to finish neatly from close range. Seven minutes later, it was 2-0 as Firmino was given the simplest of headers from close range. Nathaniel Clyne got into an advanced position down the right and clipped the ball in. Bywater came out to claim it but missed it entirely, jumping past, and the Brazilian was given an easy finish from close range. Liverpool were comfortable from there, content to keep hold of the ball and close Albion down well. Much has been made in the past of Klopp's gegenpressing - counter pressing - philosophy and it was clear that the Reds have been well-drilled in the art of keeping your opponents at bay when they have the ball.

Albion were restricted to knocking the ball between the centre-halves and whenever they did, that front trifecta of Lallana, Origi and Mane were in position to close down the angles and stop Albion working it forward. They got in between McCrory and Dyer on the left, and Naylor and Akins on the right, and leaving a man central to cut off the balls to McFadzean. Albion's best chance came to McFadzean, playing as Albion's captain on the evening, as he headed Williamson's free kick from the right over the bar.

GOOD START TO THE HALF BUT AGAIN REDS ON TOP

The Brewers came out fighting again in the second half, winning a succession of corners for half-time substitute Matt Palmer to take, but could not take advantage and just as Liverpool's defence, with Dejan Lovren looking slightly shaky for a brief spell, looked like opening up ever so slightly, the visitors hammered home a third - a corner from the left flicked on by Emre Can and deflected in off the unfortunate Tom Naylor for an own goal. At 3-0 down with just under half-an-hour to go, the result seemed clear but the Reds did not take their foot off the gas and when they brought off Firmino and Lallana, they brought on Georginio Wijnaldum and Daniel Sturridge. Sturridge is one of the finest finishers in the Premier League and while his first - a one-yard tap-in from Milner's low drive across goal - may have been a relatively simple one, his assured touch in the box and superb left-footed drive from 15 yards nestled in the bottom-right corner past Bywater, in front of the travelling Liverpool faithful, for his second. The difference in quality was clear throughout this encounter and Albion were never given a sniff by a supremely-organised, quick and decisive Liverpool. The smart pressing of Liverpool's backline ensured the majority of the Brewers' possession was between their back three and any half-chances on goal were quickly snuffed out by their backline.

Ultimately, despite the scoreline, it would be harsh in the extreme to draw too many conclusions from this. Albion were up against what was close to Klopp's first-choice XI having made a few changes themselves with Friday in mind. They exit the EFL Cup but in front of a club record crowd of 6,450, Albion can learn their lessons and move on to another tough and historic game as Derby County arrive at the Pirelli on Friday.

Date: 23 August 2016
Opposition: Burton Albion
Competition: League Cup

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Burton Mail

23 August 2016



A strong Liverpool side overwhelmed Championship outfit Burton Albion to reach the EFL Cup third round.

The Reds led in the 15th minute when Divock Origi flicked in from close range before Roberto Firmino made it 2-0, heading in Nathaniel Clyne's cross.

Origi also went close when his low shot was saved by Stephen Bywater. Tom Naylor inadvertently put the ball in his own net after the break before Daniel Sturridge tapped in his first and then thumped home the Reds' fifth.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp made only four changes from the XI that started in the 2-0 league defeat at Burnley on Saturday.

The quality of the visiting team was soon apparent at the Pirelli Stadium against a Burton side who have had a mixed start to their first ever season in the Championship.

After Liverpool's Belgian forward Origi cleverly profited from tricky work in the box from Sadio Mane, Brazilian Firmino doubled the lead following a terrible throw-out from goalkeeper Bywater.

It was 3-0 just after the hour when the unfortunate Naylor had little time to react as James Milner's ball came towards him at pace.

And substitute Sturridge then grabbed a late double, converting at the far post from Milner's pass before firing in low from 15 yards.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "There were still a few situations where we were missing a bit of sharpness but the main problem was, it was unbelievable, our build-up and style of play at Burnley - one more pass but 15 times we are completely free in the box.

"So we needed to use this game and that's what we did and it was better."

Burton manager Nigel Clough: "It's difficult for our lads to compete with that sort of quality. With this being 72 hours before the Derby game, our focus was always with that one.

"When you think we finished with a couple of teenagers and a 20- or 21-year-old, you could train with them for a couple of seasons and not gain the experience they've got tonight."

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23 August 2016



Match ends, Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 5.
 90'+4' Second Half ends, Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 5.
 90'+1' Corner, Burton Albion. Conceded by Joel Matip.
 89' Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.
 88' Divock Origi went off injured after Liverpool had used all subs.
 88' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Kevin Stewart.
 87' Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 86' Delay in match Divock Origi (Liverpool because of an injury.
 83' Goal! Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 5. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Sadio Mané.
 78' Goal! Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 4. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from very close range to the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner.
 76' Corner, Burton Albion. Conceded by Kevin Stewart.
 76' Foul by Kevin Stewart (Liverpool.
 76' Matthew Palmer (Burton Albion wins a free kick on the left wing.
 72' Hand ball by Ben Fox (Burton Albion.
 72' Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross following a corner.
 71' Substitution, Liverpool. Kevin Stewart replaces Emre Can because of an injury.
 71' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Stephen Bywater.
 71' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.
 69' Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 68' Delay in match Emre Can (Liverpool because of an injury.
 67' Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.
 65' Substitution, Burton Albion. Ben Fox replaces Lloyd Dyer.
 65' Substitution, Burton Albion. Marcus Myers-Harness replaces Lucas Akins.
 64' Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Roberto Firmino.
 64' Substitution, Liverpool. Georginio Wijnaldum replaces Adam Lallana.
 63' Attempt missed. Lucas Akins (Burton Albion right footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses the top right corner. Assisted by Matthew Palmer.
 61' Own Goal by Tom Naylor, Burton Albion. Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 3.
 61' Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool header from the left side of the six yard box misses to the right. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.
 61' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Matthew Palmer.
 61' Lee Williamson (Burton Albion is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 60' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 60' Foul by Lee Williamson (Burton Albion.
 57' Hamza Choudhury (Burton Albion is shown the yellow card.
 55' Corner, Burton Albion. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 54' Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool.
 54' Matthew Palmer (Burton Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 52' Offside, Liverpool. Sadio Mané tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.
 51' Corner, Burton Albion. Conceded by Nathaniel Clyne.
 50' Corner, Burton Albion. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 46' Offside, Liverpool. Emre Can tries a through ball, but Nathaniel Clyne is caught offside.
 Second Half begins Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 2.
 45' Substitution, Burton Albion. Matthew Palmer replaces Jackson Irvine.
 45'+2' First Half ends, Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 2.
 44' Attempt blocked. Lucas Akins (Burton Albion left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Stuart Beavon.
 42' Attempt missed. Kyle McFadzean (Burton Albion header from the centre of the box is close, but misses the top left corner. Assisted by Lee Williamson with a cross following a set piece situation.
 42' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
 42' Kyle McFadzean (Burton Albion wins a free kick on the right wing.
 40' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.
 40' Kyle McFadzean (Burton Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 38' Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool.
 38' Damien McCrory (Burton Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 36' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 36' Foul by Lloyd Dyer (Burton Albion.
 31' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Sadio Mané with a cross.
 27' Attempt saved. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Sadio Mané.
 24' Offside, Liverpool. Adam Lallana tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.
 22' Goal! Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 2. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from very close range to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.
 20' Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool header from the right side of the six yard box misses to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.
 17' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
 17' Lucas Akins (Burton Albion wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 15' Goal! Burton Albion 0, Liverpool 1. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Sadio Mané.
 11' Attempt blocked. Joel Matip (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.
 11' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Stephen Bywater.
 11' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana with a cross.

10' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 10' Foul by Kyle McFadzean (Burton Albion.
 9' Corner, Burton Albion. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 9' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
 9' Callum Butcher (Burton Albion wins a free kick on the right wing.
 8' Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 7' Attempt blocked. Stuart Beavon (Burton Albion left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Lee Williamson.
 7' Attempt saved. Divock Origi (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Sadio Mané with a through ball.
 First Half begins.
 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.