

Date: 24 September 2016

Opposition: Hull City

Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Hull Daily Mail

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2016

# THE TIMES

Lallana transformed by Klopp methods

Liverpool 5 Lallana 17, Milner 30, 71 (pens), Mane 36, Coutinho 52  
Hull City 1 Meyler 51

Referee: A Marriner Attendance: 53,109

Option or protection: that is the mantra that Jurgen Klopp, the Liverpool manager, has laid down to his mercury-like midfielders whose fluid, ever-changing ebbs and flows utterly flummoxed Hull City and further elevated his team's status as title contenders. It is not only the highintensity counter-pressing that opponents have found so difficult to cope with when facing Klopp's side. Pinning down anyone from that quicksilver midfield, to which the tenacity of two excellent full backs is often added, has proved a nearly impossible task.

"They were ruthless," Curtis Davies, Hull's shell-shocked captain, said. "They go wherever they want and that is what causes all the problems. The inter-changing, the good football, the passing ... it is hard to lay a glove on anyone. When there is so much inter-changing you cannot put your mark on one person. It is tough to try and get in and try and make a tackle which makes them think again because literally one second Mane will be in that hole, then Lallana and then Coutinho."

Klopp appeared to be deliberately talking down Liverpool's dominance despite the trouncing of the visiting team: the statistics of 74 per cent possession and 32 attempts against two being a perfect reflection of what happened. Even before Ahmed Elmohamady's red card for blocking Coutinho's goal-bound shot with his elbow, Hull were marooned in their own half, a cage of their own making.

"It has been a pretty good start," was all Klopp would say, even though the result and performance were the perfect answer to criticisms that Liverpool only play well against the big teams. He added: "It's a long, long, long race and I never saw in any race that if you have to run 20km that after 5km you are celebrating."

There was momentum everywhere in Liverpool, and not only at the Labour Party conference down the road from Anfield. One Reds landslide was followed by another, as the Jurgenistas refused to be pigeonholed to the left wing, the right wing or even the much-loved centre ground. "If I ask my offensive midfield players, of which we have a lot, 'What's your favourite position?' they all would say 'No 10,'" Klopp said. "But it's all about playing the game and creating the spaces you need. The rule is be an option or be protection. If you are not involved in offensive situations then protect. The rest is being creative, changing, movements." The system and philosophy suits the players that Klopp has: Adam Lallana, Philippe Coutinho and Sadio Mane led the Hull defenders a merry dance, with James Milner, a growing revelation as a converted left back, striking two perfect penalties. Maybe, at 30, his England retirement came too early. The spot-kicks apart, for goal one Coutinho wriggled through to set up Lallana for a cute finish, goal three was Lallana to Mane for the same result and goal four was Lallana to Coutinho for the kind of longrange strike that has become almost predictable.

Lallana in particular appears a man transformed by Klopp, and he has clearly bought into the "option or protection" mantra. "His most spectacular thing apart from his goal was his counter-pressing, and that was really impressive," the manager said. Loris Karius, chosen ahead of Simon Mignolet in goal, had virtually no opportunity to demonstrate his worth. "It wasn't the busiest day," the German goalkeeper admitted. Klopp confirmed that he will start again in the next match against Swansea and Karius could have done little to prevent David Meyler's goal, but the lingering concern about Liverpool in terms of a tilt at the title is that they conceded from Hull's first corner and their only shot on goal.

Mike Phelan, the Hull manager, said that he would reflect on the battering while recovering from an anticipated hangover -- it was the 54-year-old's birthday -- and could see no reason why Liverpool could not maintain their pressing game for the whole season: something that his old mentor, Sir Alex Ferguson, has recently doubted. "Why not?" Phelan said. "When you are winning it's a better feeling, when you're winning and playing at that intensity. They've got a squad that's really, really up there with the best in the league." There was more than a sense of deja vu for Phelan: the previous weekend Hull had had a player sent off against Arsenal for blocking a goal with an arm, before capitulating 4-1. "Seven points after six games is a decent return," insisted Phelan, August's manager of month. "If we can get into a position where we're competitive, and stick to our tasks and keep 11 men on the pitch more often than not, then we can offer a challenge to most teams." Klopp's one headache appears to be dealing with a recalcitrant Mamadou Sakho after the French defender posted a message at 3.05 on Saturday morning, via the social media network Snapchat, demanding to be given a chance to play.

"On a match day I am in completely the wrong kind of mood for something like this," said Klopp, before promising to tackle the issue "at the right moment". The dread of de-selection now faces Sakho: clearly he is not one of the party faithful. Yet Liverpool's membership will not care a jot while their beloved leader delivers this kind of result and keeps the Reds' flag flying high.

Liverpool (4-3-3): L Karius 6 -- N Clyne 6, J Matip 7, R Klavan 6, J Milner 7 -- J Henderson 7 (sub: E Can, 74min), G Wijnaldum 6, A Lallana 8 (sub: D Sturridge, 69) -- P Coutinho 9 (sub: M Grujic, 74), S Mane 8, R Firmino 6. Substitutes not used: S Mignolet, A Moreno, D Origi, Lucas. Booked: Milner.

Hull City (4-1-4-1): D Marshall 6 -- A Elmohamady 3, J Livermore 5, C Davies 5, A Robertson 4 -- A Diomande 5 (sub: Meyler, 33) -- S Clucas 6, T Huddlestone 5 (sub: Maguire, 46) 6, R Mason 4 (sub: M Henriksen, 73), R Snodgrass 6 -- A Hernandez 5. Substitutes not used: E Jakupovic, S Maloney, D Mbokani, W Keane. Booked: Huddlestone, Mason.

# the guardian

Liverpool's Adam Lallana inspires emphatic win over 10-man Hull  
Jurgen Klopp admonished the Kop for singing his name before the conclusion of Liverpool's previous home game but this time there were no complaints. It was the 82nd minute when Anfield felt safe to salute their manager: their team were coasting 5-1 against 10-man Hull and all had gone brilliantly, devastatingly to plan. Or so it seemed.

"I don't want to criticise but ..." said the Liverpool manager with an apologetic grin. "I think we could have done better in the second half. It was good, but not as good as it could have been. I am really happy and usually I am quite a thankful person. I am really thankful for the first half. We have a lot of things to improve and one is that if you are brilliant you need to be brilliant for 95 minutes. But that is my responsibility and my problem."

Good luck to Liverpool's opponents when they do reach Klopp's exacting standards. His team have now scored four times or more in four of their eight matches this season and this rampant, incisive performance ensured a 54th birthday to forget for Hull's caretaker manager, Mike Phelan.

Still "waiting for answers" from the club's current owners over the offer of a permanent managerial appointment, he had Ahmed Elmohamady dismissed after half an hour and a long time to wait for that birthday drink.

"I will have one," he said. "You have to have one in defeat as well as when you win. I'm not going to pick holes in the team or the players. You don't want to find yourself down to 10 men against any opposition, never mind Arsenal and now Liverpool. There are harsh lessons in football and we have learned some over the last week."

Two James Milner penalties and goals from the impressive Adam Lallana, Sadio Mane and Philippe Coutinho took Liverpool's tally to 24 in eight games. At the corresponding stage of last season, under Brendan Rodgers, they had scored six. Klopp had called for anger from his players and patience from the crowd but there was no examination of the latter as Liverpool took control immediately and a comfortable early lead.

Hull set up to stifle Liverpool's runs from midfield plus the varying threats of Coutinho and Mane either side of Roberto Firmino. They were powerless on all counts, even with 11 men. Joel Matip and Coutinho had both missed clear chances before the hosts swept in front with another demonstration of how their understanding in the final third and Lallana's influence have grown this season. Coutinho was the creator, exchanging passes with Milner on the left and ghosting away from Ryan Mason before feeding Lallana's run. The England international had work to do but, before Andrew Robertson could intervene, he guided the ball behind the defender and inside David Marshall's left post.

Another flowing, enterprising move ensured there was no way back for Hull with a third of the game gone. Firmino released Mane into space and when Coutinho met the Senegal striker's pass with a powerful drive beyond Marshall, Elmohamady stuck out his right arm to deny a certain goal. The referee, Andre Marriner, had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and showing a straight red card. The Egyptian was heading down the tunnel when Milner tucked his penalty beyond Marshall's dive to his left. "It is a sending-off and a penalty," Phelan accepted. "Probably now there is a mentality that is better to let the ball go in and stay on the field."

Hull were in damage-limitation mode and Liverpool were showcasing long before the interval. Georginio Wijnaldum even had time to nutmeg the referee. Mane got the goal his efforts deserved following more good work by Lallana. Spinning away from Mason on the corner of the Hull area, the midfielder picked out Mane and he provided a fine finish to beat Marshall low to his right.

The visitors grabbed a consolation when Loris Karius, selected ahead of Simon Mignolet in Liverpool's goal, stayed on his line when Robertson curled a corner in from the left. Wijnaldum, under pressure from the substitute Harry Maguire at his back, was unable to clear with his header and his fellow substitute David Meyler converted with a close-range volley.

The comeback always seemed a fanciful prospect and Liverpool restored their three-goal advantage in magnificent style within seconds. Once again Lallana was involved, cutting across the Hull defence and finding Coutinho lurking in the area where he causes most damage. The Brazilian accepted the invitation to beat Marshall with a trademark shot from 25 yards and the home team continued to coast towards a fourth consecutive victory.

Lallana received a standing ovation when replaced by Daniel Sturridge and the substitute was quickly involved in the procession, going over Robertson's trailing leg inside the area and earning Liverpool a second spot-kick. The result was the same as the first, Milner firing low to Marshall's left, and, as with the game itself, had never looked in doubt.

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## The Mail

GIVE ME MORE, GROWLS KLOPP; Hull humbled but Liverpool boss is hard to please

LIVERPOOL 5  
HULL CITY 1

JURGEN KLOPP sat with his arms tightly folded in deep conversation with assistant Zeljko Brusic, occasionally leaping from his dugout to growl an order.

To observe Liverpool's manager during the second half against Hull City, you would not have guessed his team were on their way to dishing out another pummelling and heading towards a place in the top four.

The German's mood was in stark contrast to the atmosphere around Anfield. Hull might not present one of the most difficult assignments in the Premier League, but the manner in which they were dismantled augurs well for Liverpool's season.

So high was their quality, Sadio Mane -- scorer of the third goal in this 5-1 procession -- was moved to call it 'amazing'. James Milner, usually so circumspect, described the squad's quality as 'unbelievable'.

It was anticipated that Klopp would be similarly effusive in his praise of this performance but, instead, he seemed at pains to play it down. There were platitudes but, equally, there was another message.

'I'm quite different usually,' Klopp acknowledged. 'But it's only because I know nothing has happened yet. What would change if I said, "Wow! What we did in the first half I never saw in my life!" That is not the truth. Until now it has been a pretty good start, with a few ups and not so many downs. But we are still far away from Christmas. After Christmas there's January, February, March, April, May.

'Then it stops, right? So it's a long, long, long race. I've never seen a 20km race where you are like this (hands in the air celebrating) after 5km. It makes no sense.

'I'm happy with the performance but I know about the need to carry on and keep going. I'm fine, but I know there's still a lot of work to do.' The message could not have been clearer, but Liverpool's fans are desperate to latch on to the idea their team will be a conquering force this season and the fluent way the Reds are performing is doing nothing to temper expectations.

Mane, for instance, is playing so well that it has almost been forgotten he cost PS30million. Big price tags can sometimes weigh heavily on players but there is no such issue with the Senegalese flyer.

Adam Lallana, who opened the scoring, might be playing the best football of his career, while the Samba beat provided by Brazilians Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho is irrepresible.

Yet there is certainly no sense from Klopp -- or from within the dressing room -- that they will get carried away with them-selves. 'We played amazing from the beginning until the end,' said Mane.

'We created a lot of chances and scored a lot of goals as well. It was key to our success but we have to be ready for the next step.'

This was a difficult afternoon for Hull, who finished with 10 men after Ahmed Elmohamady was sent off for deliberate handball, but Mike Phelan did his best to maintain a brave face. 'You have to stay positive and I want my players and the club to stay positive,' said the manager, who is still awaiting a decision on his future.

'We have to get back what we had against Leicester (in last month's 2-1 victory). We will get it back.'

SUPER STAT: For the first time since 1959, Liverpool have scored four goals or more in their opening two home games. When they last did it, the second game was also a fivegoal haul -- and Hull were the opposition.

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Karius 6.5; Clyne 7, Matip 7.5, Klavan 7, Milner 8.5; Lallana 8 (Sturridge 69min, 7), Henderson 8 (Can 74, 6), Wijnaldum 7.5; Mane 8, Firmino 7, Coutinho 7 (Grujic 74, 6).

Subs not used: Mignolet, Moreno, Origi, Lucas.

Booked: Milner. Scorers: Lallana 17, Milner pen 30, pen 71, Mane 36, Coutinho 52.

HULL CITY (4-2-3-1): Marshall 7; Elmohamady 4, Livermore 5, Davies 5, Robertson 5; Huddleston 5 (Maguire 46, 5), Mason 5 (Henriksen 73, 5); Snodgrass 6, Clucas 5, Diomande 5 (Meyler 32, 6); Hernandez 5.

Subs not used: Jakupovic, Maloney, Mbokani, Keane.

Booked: Huddleston, Mason. Sent off: Elmohamady. Scorer: Meyler 51.

Man of the match: James Milner. Referee: Andre Marriner 6.

## The Daily Telegraph

Klopp warns Liverpool of long race to finish line

Liverpool will not just outplay teams this season, they will smother them into submission.

"They didn't give us a chance to breathe," reflected Hull's captain, Curtis Davies, eulogising the most "ruthless" and "fluent" attack he had faced this season.

A trip to Anfield is the closest defenders will get to understanding how a fox feels when a pack of bloodhounds is on its trail.

Adam Lallana, Philippe Coutinho, James Milner and the chief stalker, Roberto Firmino, generate a red swarm. Hull succumbed to the relentlessness and audacity of a Liverpool defensive line effectively positioning itself on the edge of the opponents' penalty area.

So high was the starting position of Liverpool's centre-backs, any messages delivered by new goalkeeper Loris Karius to his teammates needed to be dispatched by carrier pigeon. Granted, Hull were reduced to 10 men for an hour, but that was also the case against Arsenal a week ago. Davies said Jurgen Klopp's side posed a different set of problems to Arsene Wenger's.

"Arsenal are a very good passing team, but a lot of their stuff is in front of you," he said.

"Nice little passes. Liverpool have that mix of nice little passes and then people who will run and run at you and beat you as well, like [Sadio] Mane and Coutinho. They weren't satisfied with 3-0. They wanted six, seven, eight. That is the difference.

"It is hard to lay a glove on anyone. When there is so much interchanging, you cannot put your mark on one person. It is tough to make a tackle. One second, Mane will be in that hole, then Lallana and then Coutinho. There is a lot of interchange, quick football and, with the full-backs playing like wingers, it becomes very difficult because you end up with backs against the wall.

"They play with [Jordan] Henderson and the two centrehalves at the back and the rest can go wherever they want. That is not an ill-disciplined thing, that is organised."

Klopp's video analysis for the rest of the season may simply involve replaying the first 45 minutes here. Liverpool scored three before the interval but could have had seven.

Coutinho miskicked from six yards, Mane hit the crossbar and missed from close range, while Georginio Wijnaldum continues to be frustrated in pursuit of his first goal despite countless attempts.

No matter, Lallana, Mane and James Milner's penalty decided the game before the break, Ahmed Elmohamady's dismissal for handball reducing Hull to damage limitation. To concede only twice more when defending the Kop end - to an archetypal Coutinho right-footer and a second Milner penalty - was some relief to Hull's caretaker manager, Mike Phelan.

His side found consolation with their one shot on target, a goal from David Meyler, after Liverpool failed to deal with a set-piece. Hull improved because, in the first half, they were at their most vulnerable when in possession. Astutely, they opted to let Liverpool have it more often in the second half.

By the end, the pre-match concerns that Liverpool only rouse themselves for VIP guests were dispelled. They have now scored 24 goals in eight competitive fixtures, the club's best tally at this stage for 121 years. Most significantly, the goals are spread between 10 players. Liverpool's last title challenge three years ago was built upon tweaking a formula to get the most from Luis Suarez and his partnership with Daniel Sturridge. Under Klopp, there is a team unit that gives the impression of longer term sustainability.

Klopp began the season trying to convince his own supporters a vast rebuilding of the team was unnecessary. He looks vindicated, but now his problem is ensuring expectations do not inflate too much. "It's an early moment," said Klopp. "We are far away from Christmas now and after Christmas there's January, February, March, April, May and then it stops, so it's a long, long, long race and I never saw in any race that if you have to run 20km that, after 5km, you are like this [hands in the air celebrating]. There's a lot of work still.

"The big difference between us and the rest of the people in the Liverpool world was that everyone thought we should change a lot of the team. We changed a few things but not a lot. Most of the players who performed most of the time last year are still here. That's what we want to build on. We brought a few things in, that's true. A few new skills. But it's all about the base that we already had."

Klopp's only displeasure was that the second half failed to match the first. Having created a side that was initially dealing in 10-minute blitzes, he has seen that extended to 45. The Anfield scoreboard will take a pounding the day this team retains its appetite for a full 90.

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## THE INDEPENDENT

Lallana thriving thanks to Klopp's show of good faith

When Jurgen Klopp emerges each morning from the front door of his home on the tree-lined street in Formby dubbed locally as Millionaires Row, the first person he is likely to see from work is his next door neighbour, Adam Lallana. Lallana says the relationship is as it should be between manager and player, reiterating what others have said about Klopp: that he is a friend but certainly not a best friend.

If there is one person who symbolises Klopp's Liverpool, though, it is Lallana. In the same way Pep Guardiola's management at Manchester City has helped inspire Raheem Sterling to reach the level of performance that convinced City to take him from Liverpool two summers ago, Lallana's transformation under Klopp's guidance has been remarkable.

Lallana had a role in three of Liverpool's five goals against Hull City on Saturday and again, when asked about the midfielder's emergence as a key figure, Klopp tried his best to shine a light on those who are not talked about quite as much by nestling reminders in his response. "Look how Henderson played," he said, "a lot of people were pretty sure he cannot play a holding role."

If there is one undisputed truth about Klopp it is that he does not like to praise individuals while others are in the mood to do so, even if it reflects well on his coaching. His method is from the old school of picking them up when they're down while keeping them hungry for more when they're up.

Klopp will appear on the Sky Sports Monday Night Football show with Jamie Carragher before Burnley's game with Watford tomorrow evening and it is imaginable that his lips will become pursed and his facial expressions generally pained if faced with such questions, as they frequently do during press conferences before the smiles take over when he feels comfortable enough that the answer given has taken the conversation in the direction he wants. Listen to Klopp regularly enough and you appreciate quickly that team-ethic comes before anything else.

It is a significant fact, indeed, that of the six players chosen by Klopp in midfield and attack against Hull "and in every other league match this season" only Sadio Mané is being used in what he considers his natural position.

While Liverpool's players have spoken privately that this is fostering a spirit of selflessness inside Melwood's dressing rooms, Klopp deserves credit for spotting what others haven't and making it work for him.

Though Lallana has been able to express himself creatively within the framework of the 4-3-3 set-up that Klopp has used at Liverpool, he is being placed towards the right of the centre (rather than the left wing as he was before) because Klopp believes he has the diligence and intelligence to help Liverpool achieve positive results while playing there.

The same reasoning explains why James Milner is being used at left back while Roberto Firmino rather than Daniel Sturridge is considered as the first choice striker.

It was put to Klopp that despite the first half pulverisation of Hull, which also included goals from Mané and Milner, he was not entirely satisfied. David Meyler's consolation reminded Klopp that his team is yet to keep a clean sheet. Philippe Coutinho and then another Milner penalty kick made sure the scoreline reflected the proceedings.

Klopp's read from scripture that reminds anyone getting too excited about Liverpool's form that a football season is a marathon rather than a sprint. "We are far away from Christmas now and after Christmas there's January, February, March, April, May and then it stops, right?"

"So it's a long, long, long race and I never saw in any race that if you have to run 20km that after 5km you are like this [hands in the air celebrating]."

"It makes no sense and I'm happy with the performance and I know about the need to carry on and keep on going. I'm fine, I'm really fine but I know there's a lot of work to do still."

## DAILY MIRROR

KLOPP YOUR HANDS AND LAP IT UP; Kop stars happy to play anywhere as Jurgen's philosophy finally takes hold

LIVERPOOL 5

Lallana 17, Milner 30 pen, 71 pen, Mane 36, Coutinho 52

HULL 1

Meyler 51

FOR a man usually so passionate about explaining his thoughts, Jurgen Klopp is succinct to the point of bluntness in revealing what he demands from his players. "The rule is be an option or be protection," he said. "If you are not involved in offensive situations, then protect."

"That's all - but the rest is being creative, changing, movements."

It has taken a little while but Klopp's philosophy is beginning to take hold.

Remember Daniel Sturridge's complaint he wasn't happy about playing wide, and Klopp's response that he wasn't a wide player?

Well, that applies to just about every 'position' in this exciting Liverpool team.

Jordan Henderson is fulfilling the holding role without being a holding midfielder, while Roberto Firmino is a centre-forward whilst playing anywhere but.

James Milner is a left-back who has a crucial midfield role, and Adam Lallana, well, he's a key defender who creates and scores delicious goals.

When it works, as it did against dazed Hull, against Arsenal and Chelsea too at times, and against champions Leicester, it can be bewitching, as even visiting skipper Curtis Davies (above) had to concede.

"Last week against Arsenal we had 10 men but it was different. Liverpool, with their pressing game, weren't satisfied with 3-0, they wanted six or seven and that is the difference," he explained.

"They don't give you a chance to breathe. They are a side which plays with Henderson and the two centre-halves at the back and the rest go wherever they want."

"That is not an ill-disciplined thing. That is organised. That is what causes all the problems. The interchanging, the good football, the passing - they are a very, very tough team to deal with when they are on their game."

"It is hard to lay a glove on anyone, put it that way. One second Sadio Mane will be in that hole, then Lallana and then Philippe Coutinho."

"Liverpool have that mix of nice little passes and then people who will run and run at you and beat you as well."

Lallana got the first with a fine finish from Coutinho's brilliant ball, with the Brazilian then settling the game after Mane's cross, when his shot was handled by Ahmed Elmohamady, who was dismissed for his troubles.

Milner converted, and the rout started, only briefly interrupted when sub David Meyler scored from a corner new keeper Loris Karius should have claimed.

Lallana created brilliantly for Mane, Coutinho produced a stunner, and Milner from the spot again rounded it off. It could easily have been 10. And for Klopp, the key was in keeping his nerve when everyone suggested in the summer he needed to ditch the team he inherited.

"We thought a lot about what we needed," he added.

"Most of the players who performed most of the time last year are still here."

"That's what we want to build on. We brought a few things in, that's true. A few new skills. But it's all about the base we had."

Hull manager Mike Phelan believes defeats like this don't matter... if you can beat the teams in trouble.

"We are competing at different ends of the scale," he admitted.

"My players must stay positive and, going forward, we will need to be competitive against those teams that are around us."

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Belief growing that Reds are on the cusp of something special Kopites are daring to dream once again.

The fortress is being rebuilt and there's a growing belief both in the stands and in the dressing room that Liverpool are on the cusp of something special.

A beaming Jurgen Klopp applauded all four sides of Anfield before following his triumphant players down the tunnel after this ruthless demolition of 10-man Hull City. Not since that heady spring of 2014 has there been a buzz around the club like this. Only twice in the Premier League era have the Reds made a better start to a season and their tally of 16 goals equals their previous best.

No wonder such optimism abounds. Talk of mounting a title challenge may seem premature, but the fact is Klopp's men have already overcome some major hurdles in their pursuit of glory.

Can they deliver in the high-stakes contests against the big boys? Check. They proved that beyond doubt with their impressive wins at the Emirates and Stamford Bridge as well as the stalemate at White Hart Lane.

Can they also find a way to overcome more limited opponents who are simply intent on keeping them out? That's been a long-running issue at Anfield but here was compelling evidence that the current crop are a different proposition.

"Some people think we have a problem with bus parking," was the way Klopp put it in the build up to this fixture. Certainly, Liverpool were a soft touch on home turf last term as the likes of Norwich, West Brom, Sunderland, Newcastle and Crystal Palace picked up points. But the Reds are now unrecognisable from those kind of insipid displays.

'When it clicks, there are few top-flight clubs who can live with them'

Hull never had a prayer such was the hunger, desire, speed, intelligence and sheer firepower of Klopp's men. The Tigers did indeed 'park the bus' but it got demolished by a devastating show of force. You have to go back to 1959 for the last time Liverpool scored at least four goals in their opening two home league matches. Klopp has moulded them into a potent attacking force and when it clicks like this there are few top-flight clubs who can live with them.

Hull looked shell-shocked during an opening 45 minutes when Liverpool got at them from the start and simply refused to give them any respite. It was 3-0 at the break but it could easily have been five or six. There's talent in abundance but this exciting revival is based on hard graft. The Reds pressed Mike Phelan's side like their lives depended on it and forced them to repeatedly cough up possession. There is no main man. It's all about the team ethic and anyone who doesn't knuckle down and buy into that is cast aside. Just ask Mamadou Sakho.

The new signings have certainly provided a welcome injection of class but Klopp has also proved a master at getting more out of the players he inherited. The benefits of that first pre-season are clear for all to see.

The biggest ovation of the afternoon was reserved for Adam Lallana when he went off and rightly so. Nobody is questioning that £25million price tag any more. 'Liverpool had a front five causing havoc'

Lallana has flourished under Klopp and he was at the heart of everything best about them against Hull.

The England international opened the scoring on 17 minutes with his third goal of the season – poking the ball past David Marshall after Philippe Coutinho had exchanged passes with James Milner. Hull had been lucky to remain on level terms that long as Joel Matip nodded over and Coutinho's effort was hacked clear by Ahmed Elmohamady. With Ragnar Klavan shining on his home bow after Dejan Lovren was sidelined by illness and Jordan Henderson running the show in front of the back four, Liverpool effectively had a front five causing havoc.

Just before the half-hour mark it was over as a contest as Coutinho's goalbound shot was handled on the line by Elmohamady. The Egyptian full-back was dismissed and James Milner converted from the spot. Hull responded by bringing on David Meyler for Adam Diomande but it was akin to rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic. If Lallana was the pick of the bunch, Milner wasn't far behind. He has adjusted expertly to the left-back role Klopp gave him. Robert Snodgrass barely got a kick. Liverpool were rampant with Mane's deflected strike hitting the bar and then Gini Wijnaldum's 20-yarder was parried away by Marshall.

Nine minutes before the break it was 3-0. Lallana picked out Mane, who was given time and space on the edge of the box and he made Hull pay as he drilled into the bottom corner.

'This is a squad with strength in depth'

Loris Karius was effectively a spectator for most of his Premier League debut. It was a big call by Klopp to drop Simon Mignolet after his solid start to the season and we didn't learn much about the new boy here. Karius didn't have a serious save to make but he did pick the ball out of his net early in the second half.

The summer signing from Mainz remained rooted to his line as Snodgrass swung a corner towards the six-yard box and Meyler punished the Reds' indecision.

The response was swift as within seconds Lallana picked out Coutinho, who worked it on to his right foot and whipped an unstoppable 20-yarder beyond Marshall. Wijnaldum should have ended his wait for a first Liverpool goal soon after but volleyed straight at the keeper. Daniel Sturridge replaced the outstanding Lallana and played his part in the fifth as Andrew Robertson was adjudged to have tripped the frontman in the box.

Milner stepped up to emphatically score his second of the afternoon.

From then on the intensity levels dropped. The Reds effectively declared with Hull just relieved to avoid any further punishment.

Emre Can and Marko Grujic came on for Henderson and Coutinho as Klopp sought more fresh legs. With the likes of Lovren, Divock Origi, Lucas Leiva and Danny Ings not even involved this is a squad with strength in depth.

Momentum is growing. Now standards must be maintained.

MAN OF THE MATCH. Adam Lallana. Scored the opener and was at the heart of everything best about the Reds.

## HULL DAILY MAIL

[HULL City](#) suffered their heaviest league defeat since 2009 as they were trounced 5-1 by Liverpool on a miserable afternoon at Anfield.

Outclassed by Jurgen Klopp's impressive side and reduced to 10 men when Ahmed Elmohamady was sent off for deliberate handball after 30 minutes, the Tigers were condemned to a second consecutive loss when goals from Adam Lallana and Sadio Mane sandwiched a James Milner penalty inside a disastrous first half. Substitute David Meyler grabbed a goal back early in the second period but a superb goal from Philippe Coutinho and a second penalty from Milner meant caretaker boss Mike Phelan endured an uncomfortable 54th birthday.

Nine goals conceded in the space of a week will be an obvious concern for Phelan as the shine begins to come off a bright start to the campaign. The Tigers fell to 12th in the Premier League table and face another demanding test when hosting Chelsea next weekend. Phelan had urged his side to "achieve something extraordinary" ahead of kick-off and opted to break up the team that had previously served him well this season. Two changes, the caretaker's first in the Premier League, saw David Marshall and Ryan Mason both handed full league debuts for the club. Eldin Jakupovic and Meyler made way.

Klopp made alterations of his own as he chased a third consecutive league win, with goalkeeper Loris Karius making a Premier League bow, but all the action was at the opposite to Liverpool's summer signing. The Reds were relentless through the opening stages, suffocating their visitors with the trademark intensity of Klopp. Centre-half Joel Matip could have opened the scoring as early as the fifth minute when he met James Milner's corner unmarked. A free header, though, could not be kept down. Philippe Coutinho was next to fluff a big chance after Sadio Mane had advanced to the byline and pulled back for the Brazilian.

The goal gaped but a poor connection allowed Ahmed Elmohamady to clear off the line. City were leading a charmed life and their fortune expired when conceding the opener on 17 minutes. Coutinho's balance and awareness allowed him to ghost beyond Mason and into space before he played the ball into the path of Lallana. A shot on the turn was scruffy but still good enough to find the bottom corner. An inability to retain possession under the constant scrutiny of their hosts ensured City were always under pressure and their afternoon took a disastrous turn on the half-hour mark. A slick Liverpool break saw Roberto Firmino turn Curtis Davies inside the centre circle and play the ball out wide to Mane. The return pass plated up a chance for Coutinho and only Elmohamady's deliberate handball on the line denied Liverpool a second. The clear decision was a straight red card and a penalty, which Milner coolly placed beyond the dive of Marshall. Elmohamady, unlike Livermore seven days earlier, could have no complaints and nor could City as the home team continued their onslaught. Mane's shot deflected off Mason to clip the crossbar but the Senegal international netted Liverpool's third soon after.

Lallana's clever play, under minimal attention from a static City defence, worked the ball inside to Mane and his turn and finish was too good for Marshall.

The Tigers' new goalkeeper at least spared his side further embarrassment in first-half stoppage time when keeping out Georginio Wijnaldum's shot from 10 yards out. Phelan opted for damage limitation at the break when introducing Harry Maguire for the ineffective Tom Huddlestone. A five-man defence also included David Meyler, who had earlier come on to fill the gap left by Elmohamady.

It was the two substitutes who momentarily offered their side a route back into the game with what would prove to be a consolation six minutes into the second half. Robert Snodgrass' corner was met by Maguire and Meyler was alert to slam in an unstoppable finish from inside the box. The 2,000 travelling supporters finally had something to cheer from their team's first attempt on goal but respite failed to last even a minute. Just 54 seconds after City had pegged back their hosts, Coutinho scored Liverpool's fourth with a magnificent drive from 25 yards out. Both Mason and Sam Clucas were slow to close down the Brazilian but the finish was exceptional. Liverpool toyed with their visitors and got a fifth in the 71st minute. Daniel Sturridge had been on the pitch a matter of minutes when he went down under minimal contact from Andy Robertson and Milner duly completed his brace from the penalty spot. Mercifully for City, that was as bad as the afternoon got. Liverpool continued to dominate possession but without recreating the 6-1 victory over the Tigers in September 2009.

Liverpool

Loris Karius, Nathaniel Clyne, Joel Matip, Ragnar Klavan, James Milner, Jordan Henderson (Emre Can 74), Georginio Wijnaldum, Philippe Coutinho (Marko Grujic 74), Adam Lallana (Daniel Sturridge 68), Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino  
Subs: Simon Mignolet, Alberto Moreno, Divock Origi, Lucas  
City David Marshall, Ahmed Elmohamady, Jake Livermore, Curtis Davies, Andy Robertson, Sam Clucas, Tom Huddlestone (Harry Maguire 46), Ryan Mason

Date: 24 September 2016

Opposition: Hull City

Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Hull Daily Mail

24 September  
2016

(Markus Henriksen 73), Robert Snodgrass, Adama Diomande (David Meyler 32), Abel Hernandez Subs: Eldin Jakupovic, Shaun Maloney, Dieumerci Mbokani, Will Keane



### Brilliant Liverpool hit five past ten-man Tigers

Way down Everton Valley, where the old terraced homes of Walton Breck Road meet the rubble of the bulldozed Notre Dame school, a billboard promises regeneration: A brighter Anfield is coming,(tm) it reads confidently.

In sporting terms, it does not feel far away. Maybe it's nearly here. Under Jrgen Klopp this was Liverpool at their most cunning and their most cold-blooded.

When Sadio Man[c] rolled Liverpool into a 3-0 lead not long after the half hour mark, Mike Phelan turned away and grimaced, fiddling with the knot in the tie; loosening the pressure on his neck.

For Hull's caretaker manager " on his 54th birthday " the day could not have been any more uncomfortable. Ahmed Elmohamady had already been sent off for his team by then after handling Philippe Coutinho's shot on the line. Yet even before, the mismatch in quality and planning was patently obvious.

The gap between the new the new main stand and the Kop means Anfield's pitch is now susceptible to wind blowing in from the Irish Sea. On occasions, this might prove to frustrate Klopp but here " and for Hull's defence " it must have felt like attempting to play under the wing of a jumbo jet, such was the energy in front of them. It would not have been unjust had Liverpool's lead at the break been as great as seven.

Adam Lallana was at the source of everything that Liverpool did well. He scored once and set up another two before being given a rest with 20 minutes remaining.

Phelan had the sense to put an extra defender on, replacing Tom Huddlestone with Harry Maguire, as he tried to cut off the angles where the England midfielder's passes were proving so effective.

But then there was the threat of Sadio Man[c] as well. His arrival from Southampton has transformed the way Liverpool play. If defences go high, trying to squeeze the space where Lallana and Coutinho are so dangerous especially, the room left behind releases the Senegalese. Go deep instead, and Lallana and co " on this form " are irresistible. Man[c]'s pace means bad passes often turn in to good ones. Not since Michael Owen have Liverpool had someone who marries such raw and basic qualities with effectiveness.

Before, there was a sense that this game could be a season defining for Liverpool, one which determines whether Klopp's team is really one to trust.

Win, and smash the supposed mental block that takes hold when facing deep sitting and opponents of lesser means like Hull. Any other outcome, and when Liverpool meet West Bromwich Albion next month, the encounter would be approached with reasonable trepidation.

Klopp had asked for the temperature inside Anfield to reach that of fresh lava. His team was able to get the crowd on side from the beginning because Liverpool's domination was overwhelming.

James Milner's right boot was the genesis of Liverpool's first goal in front of the new main stand against Leicester City. It was here too, his pass in-field from the left back position, releasing Coutinho, who then found Lallana. The shot that followed from Lallana was one of those scuffed efforts that may not have been as affective had it been clean. It was enough to beat David Marshall, though.

Liverpool were one-up. It should have really been three but it wasn't because Joel Matip connected with Milner's corner with his shoulder rather than his head, and then Coutinho appeared to completely break down from five-yards out when it was probably easier to score.

After Elmohamady was ordered off and Milner drilled home the subsequent penalty, Lallana supplied Man[c] for Liverpool's third and after that, their fourth " swept in majestically by Coutinho. That came after the little black mark on Liverpool's performance, a Hull goal from David Meyler after a poorly defended corner that means Liverpool are yet to keep a clean sheet this season.

Roberto Firmino was favoured instead of Daniel Sturridge but when the forward was sent on, his impact was instant; his trickery leading to a foul by Andrew Robertson and a second penalty converted in exactly the same fashion by Milner as the first.

Sturridge had appeared to want to take it and though Klopp has not said it publicly, his presence in this Liverpool team will be determined by his team work and reaction to disappointment.

That Sturridge handed the ball over to Milner and celebrated in the aftermath suggests that maybe times are, indeed, changing at Anfield for the better.

Liverpool (4-3-3): Karius; Clyne, Matip, Klavan, Milner; Lallana (Sturridge 70), Henderson (Can 75), Wijnaldum; Mane, Firmino, Coutinho (Grujic 75). Subs not used: Mignolet, Moreno, Origi, Lucas

Hull City (4-3-3): Marshall; Elmohamady, Livermore, Davies, Robertson; Huddlestone (Maguire h-t), Clucas, Mason (Henriksen 74); Snodgrass, Hernandez, Diomande (Meyler 33). Subs not used: Jakupovic, Maloney, Mbokani, Keane.

Referee: Andre Marriner

Attendance: 53, 109

## The Sunday Telegraph

### Ruthless Liverpool show no mercy to blow Hull away

Liverpool 5

Lallana 17, Milner 30pen, 71pen, Mane 36, Coutinho 52

Hull City 1

Meyler 51

Att: 53,109

Some say Liverpool have had a problem in disposing of the Premier League's lesser lights. Manager Jurgen Klopp had demanded an "angry" performance from his players. He got a display of ice-cold, dead-eyed precision that simply blew away poor Hull.

Liverpool have already been flowing this season, apart from a lapse at Burnley. There were no mistakes here. Utterly dominant, their glimpses of brilliance and an iron-willed determination to show no mercy had Klopp applauding from the sidelines.

Strikes from Adam Lallana, Sadio Mane, Philippe Coutinho and a brace of penalties dispatched by James Milner only goes some way to illustrate the total control enjoyed by Liverpool. It is now 24 goals in eight matches for Klopp's men as style blends with substance to devastating effect.

Klopp, who also had to deal with a pre-match attack from out-of-favour defender Mamadou Sakho, said: "The first half was brilliant. We were really strong in possession today. The counter-pressing was the most impressive thing.

"There was a lot of movement, a lot of good passing patterns, so we could have done better in the second half, perhaps, but it was all good."

Hull had arrived prepared for a siege. Two deep-lying banks of four, with Sam Clucas deployed between the lines for good measure, provided a barricade of sorts but Liverpool were soon swarming across it.

With full-backs Milner and Nathan-iel Clyne pushing on, Hull were fully stretched and soon cracking. Coutinho should have scored, scuffing an eightyyard chance in the ninth minute, but Liverpool were not to wait for long.

Milner, driving up the left flank in the 17th minute, found Coutinho, who placed the perfect ball into the run of Lallana, who controlled with his right foot before sweeping home with his left.

Poor Hull were scarcely able to get out of their own half, hardly capable of putting three passes together. More pain was inevitable and Liverpool were not happy to hang about.

Any semblance of hope for Hull was banished inside six minutes just beyond the half-hour mark as Liverpool moved out of sight and the unfortunate visitors were reduced to 10 men.

Coutinho's volley from Mane's cross was stopped by the hand of Ahmed Elmohamady. A red card for the Hull leftback and a penalty that Milner stroked low to goalkeeper David Marshall's left.

Now Lallana turned provider, working an opening just inside the Hull penalty area, then delivering a delicious pass for Mane to drill home in the 36th minute.

Hull's caretaker manager, Mike Phelan, enduring an afternoon of torment on his 54th birthday, could do little but introduce another defender Harry Maguire, in place of already-booked midfielder Tom Huddlestone, at the interval.

Few goalkeepers can have enjoyed an easier Premier League debut than Loris Karius, Liverpool's new German No 1, but he suffered a rude awakening six minutes into the second half when Robert Snodgrass's corner fell to Hull substitute David Meyler, who finished emphatically.

Such temerity. Within 60 seconds, Hull had been put back in their place as Coutinho unleashed a venomous drive from 20 yards that flew beyond Marshall. It was the pick of the Liverpool goal selection, hailed as the "perfect finish" by Klopp afterwards.

And there was still Daniel Sturridge to come. Stepping off the substitutes' bench in the 69th minute, he took barely a minute to flit into the penalty area and induce a rash challenge from Hull defender Andrew Robertson. Milner duly tucked away his second spot-kick of the match to complete the rout.

Liverpool (4-4-3) Karius 5; Clyne 7, Matip 7, Klavan 7, Milner 8; Lallana 9 (Sturridge 69), Henderson 8 (Can 74), Wijnaldum 8; Mane 8, Firmino 8, Coutinho 8 (Grujic 74). Subs Mignolet (g), Moreno, Origi, Lucas. Booked Milner.

IMAGES Hull City (4-1-4-1) Marshall 5; Elmohamady 3, Livermore 4, Davis 4, Robertson 4; Clucas 3; Snodgrass 4, Huddlestone 3 (Maguire h/t), Mason 4 (Henriksen 74), Diomande 3 (Meyler 32); Hernandez 3. Subs Jakupovic (g), Maloney, Mbokani, Keane. Booked Huddlestone, Mason. Sent off Elmohamady. Referee A Marriner (W Midlands).

Sakho slams 'lie' Defender claims he is fit to play

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp described an attack by Mamadou Sakho as "not positive" as he considers what action to take against his out-of-favour defender. Sakho, who has not played for the club this season, took to snapchat to say: "I accept my situation but I cannot accept the lie. The fans deserve to know the truth. It is three weeks and I am fit to play games." Klopp said: "It is not positive. I will address the situation when I think it is the right moment."

Date: 24 September 2016

Opposition: Hull City

Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Hull Daily Mail

24 September  
2016



## THE SUNDAY TIMES

Hull torn to pieces by world-class Coutinho

LIVERPOOL 5 Lallana 17, Milner 30 pen, 71 pen, Mane 36, Coutinho 52

HULL CITY 1 Meyler 51 1

IF ONLY more of Liverpool's recent afternoons had been like this lopsided clash between teams representing future and past European Capitals of Culture, they would not be suffering a 26-year title purgatory. Liverpool's glorious, uninhibited attacking football brought them a joyful, emphatic victory, albeit against a limited Hull City, so obliging they played for an hour with 10 men.

Much as Jurgen Klopp dislikes the term, this was heavy metal football: Liverpool's sound and fury signified they were capable of anything. They flung themselves at Hull down both wings, through the middle and, on the rare occasions Liverpool's rearguard found themselves involved, from the back. Hull had no answer: in truth they struggled to comprehend the question.

"I'm not going to pick holes in the team," said Hull caretaker manager Mike Phelan. "You can say some of our decision making wasn't right and I could have done better in selection, but playing them with 10 men was difficult, although I've no complaints about the sending off. These players have come so far from preseason and we've got points on the board. We've learnt a lot of harsh lessons today." Phelan remains ready to sign a contract to make his position permanent. "I have an offer," he said. "I'm just waiting for answers from the owners. I'm up for the challenge and they want me at the helm. When the paper is put in front of me I'm ready and willing to sign."

Simon Mignolet's return from injury failed to dislodge Loris Karius, but the German enjoyed a gentle afternoon, unlike his counterpart David Marshall, making his Hull Premier League debut -- he was worked like a Victorian child mill-worker from first to almost last.

"In the first half we played football how it should be played," said Klopp. "We were strong and I was impressed by our counterpressing: winning the ball back is so important. I'm thankful for that first half but we could have done better in the second."

Before 10 minutes had passed, Joel Matip planted a header wide of Marshall's goal and Ahmed Elmohamady hacked Philippe Coutinho's scuffed shot off the line following delightfully impish work from Sadio Mane. It would be Coutinho's only mistake.

Hull defended gamely.

Curtis Davies put his body where others fear to tread while sticking to the mercurial Roberto Firmino, but Hull were overwhelmed when they had 11 men and destroyed when they had 10. They were two goals and one man down by 30 minutes.

First Coutinho collected the ball in the inside-left channel, waltzed around some rather nesh defending and found Adam Lallana, who pirouetted with a suppleness Carlos Acosta would have appreciated and planted the ball beyond Marshall.

Hull hardly had time to draw breath. In contrast, Liverpool had no need and soon it was two. The unstoppable Mane and Firmino combined for Coutinho to shoot hard and low. Elmohamady blocked it on the line with his arm. Off went the Egyptian and James Milner thumped the penalty past Marshall.

Already comfortable, Liverpool played as if they were behind and shortly after Ryan Mason deflected a Mane piledriver onto the bar, it was three. The magnificent Coutinho found Mane in so much space that the Senegal international had time to spin 360 degrees and fire past poor Marshall.

It could have been worse for Hull, but the goalkeeper saved athletically from Georginio Wijnaldum. As birthdays go, Phelan's 54th must rank among his least enjoyable. He juggled his depleted troops and they pulled one back shortly after the break. Robert Snodgrass knocked a corner over from the right. One substitute, Harry Maguire, helped it on and another, David Meyler, volleyed home. For all Liverpool's attacking sparkle, defensive doubts linger.

Any preposterous thoughts Hull might have had of making some sort of fist of things were dashed within seconds by the unplayable Lallana-Coutinho combination. Lallana skipped in from the right to find Coutinho. As Hull's defence backed off, Coutinho merged power with precision to let fly from 20 yards.

Marshall barely saw it.

Still Liverpool pressed.

Still the 10 men of Hull were game and dogged, but still they were swamped and when Daniel Sturridge emerged to replace Lallana, whose standing ovation was the least his showing deserved, the screw of misery tightened still further.

Moments after he emerged, Sturridge was felled by Andrew Robertson in the penalty area. Milner tucked home his second spot kick of the day.

If anything the ovation for the departing Coutinho was louder still and Liverpool finally relaxed, basking in an afternoon to savour.

Star man: Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool) Yellow cards: Liverpool: Milner Hull City:

Huddlestone, Mason Red card: Hull City: Elmohamady Referee: A Marriner

Attendance: 53,109 Liverpool: Karius 5, Clyne 6, Matip 6, Klavan 6, Milner 6,

Henderson 6 (Can 74min, 5), Wijnaldum 6, Lallana 8 (Sturridge 69min, 6),

Coutinho 9 (Grujic 74min, 5), Mane 8, Firmino 7 Hull City: Marshall 7,

Elmohamady 4, Livermore 5, Davies 6, Robertson 5, Diomande 5 (Meyler 33min,

6), Clucas 6, Huddlestone 5 (Maguire h-t, 6), Mason 5 (Henriksen 73min, 4),

Snodgrass 6, Hernandez 6

# The Observer

Date: 24 September 2016  
 Opposition: Hull City  
 Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Hull Daily Mail

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Liverpool claimed a third straight Premier League win courtesy of an emphatic victory over 10-man Hull. The Reds controlled the game and led through Adam Lallana's low shot. Ahmed Elmohamady saw red for handball in the box, with James Milner scoring from the spot before Sadio Mane added a third for the home side. David Meyler lashed in for Hull but Philippe Coutinho's long-range strike and a second Milner penalty underlined the home side's dominance. Jurgen Klopp's side are now fourth in the table and the division's second-top scorers behind Manchester City, with 16 goals in six matches - 11 of those coming in their past three. In the time since Klopp took over on 8 October 2015, Liverpool have scored 71 goals, more than any other team over this period. The result is a second heavy defeat in a week for Hull - following the 4-1 home loss to Arsenal - and another chastening experience for caretaker boss Mike Phelan, whose long-term future is yet to be resolved. Whatever term you use to describe Klopp's tactical approach, the benefits have been clear to see now his squad have had time to digest the message. The Reds' front five will rightly take most of the plaudits for their movement, skill and finishing, but that should not detract from the contribution of the other outfield players, whose work-rate provided the platform for victory. Liverpool were more energetic and more aggressive throughout, harrying the Hull players and denying them any time to think, let alone pick a pass. It was only a matter of time before they established an advantage, which came through Lallana's low shot from inside the box following a driving run and pass from Coutinho. Elmohamady's handball on the line led to his dismissal and the first of Milner's successful spot-kicks. More goals were inevitable and came through Sane's low finish, Coutinho's brilliant long-range effort and Milner's second penalty - awarded for Andrew Robertson's foul on substitute Daniel Sturridge. The home side should really have scored more - Georginio Wijnaldum was particularly wasteful with two close-range volleys - but it was nevertheless an afternoon of overwhelming positives for Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho has had a hand in five goals in his past three games for Liverpool in all competitions (two goals, three assists) Phelan has his party spoiled Phelan will hope this result, coming on his 54th birthday, will not be a factor in the decision over whether to make him Hull's next permanent manager. Few sides in the division would have coped with Liverpool in this form on home turf, let alone a newly promoted one reduced to 10 men with an hour remaining. Having made the first changes to their starting XI this league season, with goalkeeper David Marshall making his debut and Ryan Mason coming into midfield, their approach was clearly one of containment and counter-attack. However, this was made redundant by Elmohamady's dismissal and quickly transformed into a strategy of damage-limitation. That they kept it to five is a positive in itself, with the added bonus of Meyler's consolation goal, which saw the midfielder smash the ball in following a corner to very briefly reduce the deficit to 3-1. Man of the match - Adam Lallana (Liverpool) What they said... Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "I think we should not worry about whether we should have scored more. It was a brilliant, amazing first half in all aspects. "It was a world-class performance in counter pressing. We didn't give Hull the opportunity to create confidence. It was wonderful to watch. All in all, really good. "I was a little angry we conceded. It would be nice to have a clean sheet one time in the season. "Maybe we will work on this. It was a professional second half from the players. I am not interested in statements now just collecting points." Hull caretaker boss Mike Phelan, speaking about taking over permanently as manager: "Everything is open to debate. I am doing my job like I've always done. "We have to look forward to what's ahead but we've had two disappointing results. We have Chelsea to come and then we go into 'our league' and we'll be judged on that. "The offer has been there but it hasn't been signed, sealed and delivered yet. We had a terrific chat and I'm waiting now. I want it to be sorted out. It'll be done when it's done." The stats you need to know Philippe Coutinho has now scored eight goals from outside the box in the Premier League since the start of 2015; two more than any other player. Hull City have had red cards in consecutive Premier League games for the first time since January 2014, with their two most recent coming courtesy of handballs in the box. Milner has scored in 43 Premier League games without losing (W35 D8); only Darius Vassell (46 games) has scored in more without defeat in Premier League history. Sadio Mane has had a hand in six goals in six games for the Reds this season in all competitions (three goals, three assists). Only one manager (Colin Todd - Bolton 0-5 Man Utd in December 2001) has lost a Premier League game by a bigger margin on their birthday than Mike Phelan did today. What's next? Liverpool are at Swansea for a 12:30 BST kick-off in the Premier League on Saturday, 1 October, while Hull host Chelsea on the same day at 15:00.

Date: 24 September 2016

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Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
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Match ends, Liverpool 5, Hull City 1.

90'+3' Second Half ends, Liverpool 5, Hull City 1.

90'+1' Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from more than 35 yards misses to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

87' Foul by Marko Grujic (Liverpool.

87' David Meyler (Hull City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

84' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Marko Grujic.

82' Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool.

82' Harry Maguire (Hull City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

81' Attempt missed. Robert Snodgrass (Hull City left footed shot from outside the box is too high from a direct free kick.

80' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

80' Robert Snodgrass (Hull City wins a free kick in the attacking half.

80' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

80' Robert Snodgrass (Hull City wins a free kick on the right wing.

78' Foul by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool.

78' Harry Maguire (Hull City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

78' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Curtis Davies.

78' Attempt blocked. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

77' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

75' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

75' Abel Hernández (Hull City wins a free kick in the attacking half.

74' Substitution, Liverpool. Marko Grujic replaces Philippe Coutinho.

74' Substitution, Liverpool. Emre Can replaces Jordan Henderson.

73' Substitution, Hull City. Markus Henriksen replaces Ryan Mason.

73' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

73' Foul by Andrew Robertson (Hull City.

71' Goal! Liverpool 5, Hull City 1. James Milner (Liverpool converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom right corner.

70' Penalty Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge draws a foul in the penalty area.

70' Penalty conceded by Andrew Robertson (Hull City after a foul in the penalty area.

69' Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Adam Lallana.

67' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.

66' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

66' Foul by Ryan Mason (Hull City.

63' Corner, Hull City. Conceded by Joel Matip.

61' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Robert Snodgrass.

61' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

61' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

61' Foul by Curtis Davies (Hull City.

60' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.

59' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Harry Maguire.

59' Attempt saved. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

58' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Curtis Davies.

58' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

57' Attempt saved. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

55' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Curtis Davies.

55' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

54' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

53' Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.

53' David Meyler (Hull City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

52' Goal! Liverpool 4, Hull City 1. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

51' Goal! Liverpool 3, Hull City 1. David Meyler (Hull City right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Harry Maguire with a headed pass following a corner.

50' Corner, Hull City. Conceded by James Milner.

49' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

47' Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.

47' Attempt missed. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

Second Half begins Liverpool 3, Hull City 0.

45' Substitution, Hull City. Harry Maguire replaces Tom Huddlestone.

45'+4' First Half ends, Liverpool 3, Hull City 0.

45'+3' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Curtis Davies.

45'+2' Attempt saved. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a cross.

45'+1' Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

44' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

39' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

38' Delay in match Robert Snodgrass (Hull City because of an injury.

37' Ryan Mason (Hull City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

37' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

37' Foul by Ryan Mason (Hull City.

36' Goal! Liverpool 3, Hull City 0. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

35' Attempt saved. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

35' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses to the right following a corner.

34' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.

33' Substitution, Hull City. David Meyler replaces Adama Diomande.

32' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho following a corner.

32' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ryan Mason.

32' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

30' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jake Livermore.

30' Goal! Liverpool 2, Hull City 0. James Milner (Liverpool converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom right corner.

29' Ahmed Elmohamady (Hull City is shown the red card.

29' Penalty conceded by Ahmed Elmohamady (Hull City with a hand ball in the penalty area.

29' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

27' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

25' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Robert Snodgrass.

19' James Milner (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

19' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

19' Robert Snodgrass (Hull City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

18' Offside, Hull City. Sam Lucas tries a through ball, but Abel Hernández is caught offside.

17' Goal! Liverpool 1, Hull City 0. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

16' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ahmed Elmohamady.

12' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.

9' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range is blocked.

8' Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a set piece situation.

7' Tom Huddlestone (Hull City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

7' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

7' Foul by Tom Huddlestone (Hull City.

5' Attempt missed. Joel Matip (Liverpool header from very close range is too high.

Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.

5' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Curtis Davies.

4' Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

4' Foul by Abel Hernández (Hull City.

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up