

Date: 19 September 2017
 Opposition: Leicester City
 Competition: League Cup

	Times	Telegraph	Mail
	Guardian	Mirror	Echo
	Independent	Leicester Mercury	BBC

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THE TIMES

Klopp's recurring nightmare as his side throw it away

Leicester City Okazaki 65, Slimani 78 20 Liverpool

There are few more popular members of the Leicester City dressing room than Shinji Okazaki. His team-mates love his selfless contributions, the way that he runs himself into the ground for them. Supporters love that he plays with heart and with a smile. He transformed this tie, coming off the bench early in the second half, giving Leicester all the urgency they lacked in an anaemic first period. Suddenly they acquired a creative spark and a cutting edge. Okazaki linked midfield and attack, he scored his third goal in five appearances this season and then created Islam Slimani's strike as the memory of Leicester's first-half labours faded as quickly as the life from Liverpool legs. They simply could not deal with Okazaki. Leicester have tried to update their attack, bringing players such as Kelechi Iheanacho in to work with Jamie Vardy, but Okazaki's influence remains prized. It suits Vardy to have Okazaki buzzing around, wearing defenders down for an hour before running out of zip and zest. Vardy was rested here, and Leicester's attack of Leonardo Ulloa and Slimani was largely anonymous. Ulloa's injury let in Okazaki and the visitors folded like origami.

Some Liverpool fans reacted angrily to the defeat, questioning why the tempo-setting Philippe Coutinho was removed at the break (it was a planned part of his fitness regime), asking how extensive and intensive defensive training is at Melwood and why Jurgen Klopp focused so much on trying to bring in Virgil van Dijk that he did not have a Plan B. Joe Gomez, centre back last night, surely deserves a starting chance in the league. Dejan Lovren, partnering Joel Matip, is hardly Alan Hansen. Liverpool again looked vulnerable at set pieces, which led to Okazaki's goal. Given the quality in Manchester contesting the title, and the many obstacles in Europe, some fans asked why Klopp did not field a stronger side in this competition. He made eight changes, to Craig Shakespeare's seven, but still had plenty of talent on the field and could argue that the modern game has become a squad affair. As well as Gomez's contribution, there were encouraging signs from Dominic Solanke, the 20-year-old centre forward making his first start in English football, and particularly Andrew Robertson, the 23-year-old Scot whose crosses from the left were a feature of the opening half. Liverpool were also encouraged by the return of Danny Ings for the first time in 11 months and another reminder of Ben Woodburn's promise.

The focus will be on the negatives, however, and Liverpool know they have to put in a more sustained, positive performance back here on Saturday in the league, but all the castigation of Klopp slightly ignores the joy of his at-tacking football, which humiliated Arsenal only 23 days ago. His back four needs more protection, though, especially if Okazaki runs from deep as he did here.

Liverpool had started so brightly, with Coutinho lighting up the game. Any hint of a hangover from his summer wooing by Barcelona was impossible to detect as he started tucked in on the left but moved all over, demanding the ball and then twisting and turning and constantly wrong-footing Leicester. He soon ushered Robertson down the inside-left channel and the full back's cross was wasted by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. Coutinho was so in charge, orchestrating Liverpool attacks, that Marc Albrighton flew in on him. Marko Grujic, the tall 21-year-old Serb floating around in the space behind Solanke, showed some neat touches, but the fulcrum remained Coutinho. Even off balance, Liverpool's No 10 managed to lift the ball in for Solanke, whose left-footed attempt sailed wide.

Oxlade-Chamberlain had less of an influential first half, playing wide on the right, which will raise the eyebrows of Arsenal fans but he did manage to cut in and test Ben Hamer with a low shot. Klopp, marching up and down his technical area, applauded with his hands above his head, as if to signal further encouragement to his summer signing. The traffic was largely one way until Leicester showed more ambition and energy in the second half. Until then, Shakespeare's side were deep and uncertain, their counterattacks limp. Demarai Gray provided occasional hope before the break and his pace was at times too much for Jon Flanagan.

Liverpool's right back, making his first appearance for Liverpool since May 15, 2016, dived in on Gray and could only watch as the Leicester flyer disappeared down the left. Fortunately for Flanagan, Liverpool's centre backs, Gomez and Ragnar Klavan, and the goalkeeper, Danny Ward, were alert.

Maybe it was the dearth of creativity or cutting edge on view, especially up front, that added to Leicester fans' delight in seeing Okazaki and Riyad Mahrez warming up. At least they had an attempt on goal from Ulloa, although in keeping with Leicester's unconvincing first-half efforts, he did not seem to know too much about it. As Liverpool adapted to Coutinho's withdrawal at the break, with Woodburn arriving on the left, Leicester went on the front foot. Gray ghosted past Flanagan and was brought down by the sliding Grujic but his free kick disappeared over. Ulloa departed injured, and his replacement, Okazaki, immediately lifted Leicester. He soon gave them the lead. From the wreckage of a corner, Wes Morgan leapt above Flanagan and headed across. Vicente Iborra knocked the ball down and there was Okazaki firing low past Ward. Liverpool fans simply intensified their noisy support for the team. Leicester celebrations contained an element of disbelief.

The game was completely turned on its head with 12 minutes remaining. Liverpool's first-half promise seemed a lifetime away. Again Okazaki was key, this time playing the creator, passing to Slimani, who thrashed the ball into the roof of the net. Leicester were through. Liverpool were left to another mini-inquest. Leicester City (4-4-2): B Hamer 6 -- D Amartey 6, W Morgan 7, A Dragovic 6, B

Chilwell 6 -- D Gray 8, V Iborra 6, W Ndiidi 6 (sub: H Choudhury 83min), M Albrighton 6 -- L Ulloa 5 (sub: S Okazaki 53, 8), I Slimani 7. Substitutes not used K Iheanacho, A Musa, E Jakupovic, R Mahrez, Y Benalouane. Booked Iborra. Liverpool (4-3-3): D Ward 6 -- J Flanagan 6, J Gomez 6, R Klavan 6, A Robertson 7 -- G Wijnaldum 6 (sub: D Ings 73), J Henderson 6, M Grujic 7 -- D Solanke 6, A Oxlade-Chamberlain 5, P Coutinho 8 (sub: B Woodburn 46, 7). Substitutes not used L Karius, J Milner, A Moreno, L Markovic, T Alexander-Arnold. Booked Grujic, Klavan.

Referee S Attwell.

the guardian

Islam Slimani strike seals Leicester win as Liverpool crash out of Carabao Cup

There is no respite for Jürgen Klopp at the moment. After admitting the previous week had been [his most frustrating](#) since he took over at Anfield, the Liverpool manager endured more of the same as Leicester City exposed the brittle confidence in a team who are no closer to working out how to defend.

Klopp sounded exasperated as he digested the fallout from a game that highlighted familiar failings, with both Leicester goals originating from set pieces. Shinji Okazaki, who came off the bench to such telling effect, scored the first following a half-cleared corner and Islam Slimani added a brilliant second after [Liverpool](#) were slow to react to a throw-in. "That we concede like this makes me really, really sick," Klopp said.

By that stage in the press conference Klopp had ruefully reflected on the numerous opportunities Liverpool squandered in a first half they totally dominated, enjoying 76% of possession and registering 13 shots to Leicester's three. Yet Klopp knows those statistics count for nothing if Liverpool continue to crack at the first sign of pressure. It is now four matches without a win for them and, with no evidence of any improvement in defence despite all the work on the training ground, it is hard to escape the feeling some of the players are not good enough.

Klopp's decision to withdraw Philippe Coutinho at the interval certainly did not help Liverpool's cause. The manager explained he had made up his mind before the game that the Brazilian, who was the best player by a distance in the first half, would play for only 45 minutes as he continues to build up his fitness. Whatever anyone thinks of Klopp's thinking on that front, the departure of one player is surely no reason for a team to totally lose their way.

Before the interval it had seemed a matter of when, not if, Liverpool would score. Klopp had made eight changes to the side held to a 1-1 draw [at home against Burnley](#) – Craig Shakespeare made seven to his Leicester team – and there was no hint of what was to come as Liverpool played with confidence and fluency. They created chance after chance, the majority of them arriving down their left flank, where Andrew Robertson was having a field day up against Daniel Amartey, Leicester's makeshift right-back.

It was Robertson's cross that Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, making his first Liverpool start, would have converted in the sixth minute but for Ben Chilwell's timely intervention. Coutinho, twisting and turning on the edge of the penalty area, saw his shot parried by Ben Hamer six minutes later. Then Robertson delivered another centre from the left that Dominic Solanke, slightly off balance as he stretched to reach the ball, volleyed over when he probably should have scored. Unable to keep the ball and looking disjointed with Leonardo Ulloa playing up front alongside Slimani, Leicester were a team under siege. Coutinho fed Solanke, whose blocked shot ran into the path of Robertson just outside the six-yard box. With the angle against him, the left-back tried to steer the ball into the far corner with the outside of a boot but his effort deflected behind. Then Solanke, from another Coutinho pass, lifted the ball on to the roof of the net on the stroke of half-time. "We lived a charmed life in the first half," said Shakespeare, who was delighted Coutinho failed to emerge after the interval.

Okazaki turned out to be the game-changer. A replacement for Ulloa in the 52nd minute, the Japan international brought Leicester to life with his dynamic running as he scored the first goal and created the second. Liverpool never properly cleared their lines for the opener, which came following Marc Albrighton's corner. Chilwell's deep cross picked out Wes Morgan, who won the first header. Vicente Iborra, making his Leicester debut, then intelligently nodded the ball down for Okazaki, whose shot took a deflection off Robertson and beat Danny Ward. Liverpool never looked like recovering from that blow and any faint hopes they had of forcing extra time were extinguished when Slimani added a second. Running on to Okazaki's pass following a throw-in on the Leicester right, the Algerian swept a glorious left-foot shot into the top right corner.

"It's all about the result," Shakespeare said. "And we really showed a lot of resilience and character to come back the way we did in the second half."

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The Mail

SLIMANI SINKS KLOPP KIDS; Leicester in control as Liverpool make changes but can't make an impact

LEICESTER CITY 2 LIVERPOOL 0

THIS match may not have had the scintillating impact of Craig Shakespeare's first meeting with Liverpool as Leicester manager but the result was the same. In February, Liverpool were blown away under the King Power floodlights as Shakespeare made his bow having replaced Claudio Ranieri. Although this victory took more time to develop, the feeling will be just as sweet. Shinji Okazaki broke the deadlock and 12 minutes from time Islam Slimani provided the exclamation mark with a strike that ripped into the roof of the net. This result will irritate Jurgen Klopp, who has unfinished business in this competition. He went to the final in his first season, losing on penalties to Manchester City, and was questioned over his selection for January's semi-final defeat by Southampton.

These two will now do it all again here on Saturday evening in the Premier League. Priorities were in evidence at the outset last night, with Shakespeare making seven changes from the weekend and Klopp seven.

In need of game time, Philippe Coutinho was one to keep his place.

Shakespeare's strategy seemed clear. Seven of Leicester's outfield players were over six foot tall, including two big strikers in Islam Slimani and Leonardo Ulloa. In contrast, Liverpool were always going to go along the ground and that very nearly provided a way through inside five minutes. Coutinho fed Andrew Robertson on the left and his low cross set up Oxlade-Chamberlain with the goal at his mercy. But Ben Chilwell produced an outstanding block to divert behind. Five minutes later Coutinho was at his prancing best, finding a route through Iborra and Wilfred Ndidi to strike a hard shot from the edge of the box that Ben Hamer punched away. Hamer then held on when Coutinho tried again from longer range.

The Brazilian was very much in the mood and the catalyst for Liverpool's offensive forays. His dribble from deep in the 21st minute enabled Robertson to pick out a superb cross that Solanke ought to have done far better with.

Five minutes later another burst from Coutinho set up Solanke, whose shot was blocked to Robertson. He fired wide.

Leicester were ragged in possession and not finding the outlet expected via their front duo.

Joe Gomez was a key factor in that, the 20-year-old enjoying a rare start in his preferred centreback position and showing ability beyond his age in marshalling both Slimani and Ulloa.

Demarai Gray brought Leicester's brightest moment, a lightening run from midfield but tame shot as he fell off balance.

Job done in terms of gaining match sharpness, Coutinho was replaced at the break. On in his place went Ben Woodburn, the 17-year-old who made quite an impact for Wales.

Ulloa was forced off not long after having fallen awkwardly clearing a corner, with Shinji Okazaki on as replacement. And in the 65th minute, Liverpool only cleared Marc Albrighton's corner as far as Chilwell, who delivered the perfect lofted pass back into the area. Wes Morgan headed square, Iborra nodded down and Okazaki arrived to steer home via a deflection off Robertson.

In search of a goal Klopp sent on Danny Ings for his first appearances since last October.

But it was Leicester who scored. Okazaki fed Slimani and the Algerian bustled his way into space on the edge of the area, then hit the purest of left-foot drives.

LEICESTER (4-4-2): Hamer 7; Amartey 6.5, Morgan 8, Dragovic 7, Chilwell 7.5; Albrighton 7, Iborra 7, Ndidi 6 (Choudhury 84mins), Gray 7; Ulloa 6 (Okazaki 53, 7), Slimani 7.

Subs not used: Iheanacho, Musa, Jakupovic, Mahrez, Benalouane.

Scorers: Okazaki 65, Slimani 78. Manager: Craig Shakespeare 7.5.

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Ward 6.5; Flanagan 6, Gomez 7, Klavan 6, Robertson 7; Wijnaldum 7 (Ings 73, 6), Henderson 6.5, Grujic 5; Oxlade-Chamberlain 5, Solanke 6, Coutinho 7 (Woodburn 45, 6.5).

Booked: Grujic, Klavan. Subs not used: Karius, Milner, Moreno, Markovic, Alexander-Arnold.

Manager: Jurgen Klopp 6. Man of the match: Wes Morgan Referee: Stuart Atwell.

Attendance: 31,609.

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp 'sick' after defence lets Liverpool down again

Jurgen Klopp picked another kind of team in another competition but was forced to confront a familiar outcome, that being a side who can dominate long periods of games and yet seem strangely incapable of winning them.

This was Klopp's team's fourth successive game without a victory, and while defeat in the Carabao Cup third round is not the season's worst outcome for Liverpool it does pose uncomfortable questions about the recruitment and gameplan so early in the season. Leicester struggled to live with their visitors all first half and yet when finally Craig Shakespeare's team emerged from their shells they did not need to do much to win this tie.

The second half introduction of Shinji Okazaki was transformative and he scored the first before Islam Slimani struck an outrageous second from the Japan international's pass, without Leicester ever really being on top in the game. The questions were once again about Liverpool's defence, with eight changes to the team from Saturday's 1-1 draw with Burnley and the same old errors creeping in. Klopp admitted afterwards that the first goal, in which Liverpool's defence lost two successive headers in the area, was hard to take. "That we conceded like this makes me really, really sick," he said. "That is really hard." He said later, "Defending set-pieces, it's not the first ball obviously we have had problems with this but now we have it with the second and third ball even - and the throw-in [for the second goal]."

Philippe Coutinho had been Liverpool's greatest threat in the first half but came off at the break with Klopp saying later that the Brazilian's substitution had been decided beforehand as necessary given his fitness levels. The two sides meet again at the King Power in the league on Saturday when Shakespeare will recall his big hitters including Jamie Vardy, Riyad Mahrez and Kasper Schmeichel who sat out this cup tie.

Shakespeare had made seven changes from the Leicester team that drew with Huddersfield Town at the weekend and the first half saw an incoherent performance in which the away side controlled possession and got full-back Andy Robertson in down the left. With Daniel Amartey at right-back and two debutants in the team, the Spanish midfielder Vicente Iborra and the Austrian centre-half Aleksandar Dragovic, Leicester were dominated.

"I was delighted to get in halftime level and even more delighted that they took Coutinho off," Shakespeare. "It's about trying to stay in the game. For as much possession and chances as they [Liverpool] have it is up to them to take those chances. They didn't. We showed resilience and character to come back the way we did."

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain started on the right side, at odds with his intent to establish himself in a central position, and the former Arsenal man struggled to leave a mark on the game. In the latter stages Klopp introduced Danny Ings, who had not played since October last year following the second major surgery on his knee since he joined Liverpool in 2015 - where he has missed the majority of the last two seasons. Demarai Grey had been Leicester's best player until around 50 minutes when Leonardo Ulloa injured at a Liverpool corner, and Shakespeare called for Okazaki. The striker won a tackle within seconds and something seemed to click in Leicester.

The first goal was a series of missed opportunities for Liverpool to clear the danger. Even after Wes Morgan and Iborra had won headers from Chilwell's ball in after a corner was cleared, Robertson might have blocked Okazaki's cross. Instead he succeeded only in deflecting it past the second choice goalkeeper Danny Ward.

"Everyone can imagine we know how to defend a set piece and a throw-in," Klopp said. "I'm in the boat too, I am not saying 'I told you and you don't know [to the players]'. No, I feel really bad at the moment about this. It is not about not knowing, it is about doing it."

"It feels really hard at the moment to go out after a performance like the first half but that is what we have to expect because we should be able to make seven or eight changes and still play football, that's cool but if you concede goals like that it makes it difficult."

Okazaki was the decisive presence who made the opening for the second. His run took him into the Liverpool half and he picked out Slimani who switched the ball from right foot to left and struck the shot of his life, curling in a perfect arc beyond the fingertips of Ward.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Slimani stunner dumps more woe on Liverpool

Phillipe Coutinho caught the eye but Leicester claimed the win as Liverpool's Brazilian star dominated discussion when he was on the field and again when he left it.

Coutinho started again after a failing to secure a summer move to Barcelona and played a starring role with his bewitching footwork in a dominant first-half display from Jurgen Klopp's side.

Yet Klopp's decision to replace him at half-time had an even bigger impact on the game as Liverpool lost their impetus and second-half goals from Shinji Okazaki and Islam Slimani took Craig Shakespeare's Leicester into round four of the Carabao Cup.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain also made his first Liverpool start in a side containing eight changes but his impact was minimal and a Leicester side with seven changes won thanks to an opening goal from substitute Okazaki and a superb striker from Slimani.

Liverpool made a more cohesive start and gave Oxlade-Chamberlain the chance to stamp an early mark on the game.

The seized on loose passing from Leicester with Marko Grujic, Coutinho and Andrew Robertson combining to turn it into a chance.

Robertson's cross found Oxlade-Chamberlain at the far post but he was thwarted by a superb, goal-saving challenge by Ben Chilwell.

Leicester tried to spring an attack of their own but Islam Slimani allowed Daniel Amartey's pass to run away from him.

And they were defending again moments later when Coutinho served up a reminder of the talent Barcelona were so keen to acquire.

He weaved past three challenges and tried his luck from the edge of the penalty area but his effort was beaten away by diving goalkeeper Ben Hamer.

Coutinho tested Hamer again on 17 minutes with a shot from inside the D but this time the Leicester man did not have to move to claim a comfortable catch.

Leicester had struggled to stem the Liverpool tide but Demarai Gray sparked a much-needed moment of respite when he tricked his way past Jon Flanagan into yards of space in the Liverpool half.

Yet with team-mates awaiting a pass, the winger tried an ambitious shot from the edge of the area that Danny Ward in the Liverpool goal saved comfortably.

Dominic Solanke then had a tough chance to mark his first Liverpool start with a goal but he scooped a shot over the crossbar from a fine Robertson cross.

Robertson was a constant threat and another powerful burst down the Liverpool left ended with him drilling a shot just beyond the far post.

Coutinho sent a free-kick over the crossbar and then produced a fine pass to release Solanke for a chance he lifted over, but Liverpool could not find a goal before half-time despite their general dominance.

Early in the second half Gray's winding run towards goal was halted unceremoniously by a lunge from Grujic on the edge of the penalty area.

But Gray made a mess of the resulting free-kick, curling it wastefully over the crossbar.

He was clearly encouraged by his earlier run, however, and a surge towards the heart of Leicester defence moments later almost brought its rewards as he dragged a shot just wide from the edge of the penalty area.

Okazaki replaced the injured Leonardo Ulloa after 52 minutes and made his mark on the game just 14 minutes later.

Leicester kept alive a corner and, when Vicente Iborra cushioned a pass back to Okazaki, the Japan striker fired a shot into the bottom corner from just inside the 18-yard box to open the scoring.

Rising Welsh star Ben Woodburn, who had replaced Coutinho at the break, almost drew Liverpool level on 72 minutes but his curling, right-footed strike from the corner of the penalty area drifted just wide.

Liverpool still had hope of a comeback until the 78th minute when Slimani's moment of magic killed them off.

Leicester's [pounds sterling]30m record signing cut off the right flank to the edge of the area and blasted a superb, right-footed effort past Ward into the top corner.

LEICESTER (4-4-2): Hamer; Amartey, Morgan, Dragovic, Chilwell; Gray, Iborra, Ndidi (Choudhury 83), Albrighton; Ulloa (Okazaki 52), Slimani.

Subs not used: Iheanacho, Musa, Jakupovic, Mahrez, Benalouane.

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Ward; Flanagan, Gomez, Klavan, Robertson; Wijnaldum (Ings 73), Henderson, Grujic; Oxlade-Chamberlain, Solanke, Coutinho (Woodburn HT).

Subs not used: Karius, Milner, Moreno, Markovic, Alexander-Arnold.

DAILY MIRROR

REDS ARE A BUNCH OF WASTERS

Leicester 2

Liverpool 0

AS defeats go, this was as frustrating for struggling Liverpool as it gets.

Their season is in real danger of disintegrating following a run of four games across three competitions without a win.

Once again they were let down by their finishing; once again they were made to pay.

Leicester took full advantage of Kop wastefulness as second-half goals from Shinji Okazaki and Islam Slimani put them into the fourth round. That was a scarcely believable outcome after a first half in which Liverpool battered the Foxes.

At Anfield at the weekend the Reds failed to put away Burnley despite 35 shots on goal. And last night at the King Power Stadium, despite a further 21 efforts on goal, Jurgen Klopp's men once again flopped.

Attacking left-back Andrew Robertson put over several tantalising first-half crosses but Liverpool missed the suspended Sadio Mane, plus the absent trio of Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Daniel Sturridge.

Without them no-one could provide the breakthrough as Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain had a full debut to forget.

It left Leicester still in the game at the interval when the tie should have been over.

Liverpool were punished for their profligacy as substitute Okazaki fired home on 65 minutes to break the deadlock. Slimani sealed the tie with a left-foot screamer into the top corner 12 minutes from time.

Liverpool manager Klopp, who made eight changes, was afterwards forced to justify his half-time decision to replace Philippe Coutinho with the teenager Ben Woodburn (below). But the Liverpool boss promised both he and his team will have rediscovered their poise by the time they return here on Saturday in the Premier League.

The German said: "I have lost plenty of games in my life and, believe it or not, tomorrow morning I will be fine.

"We will come back in better shape before Saturday's game."

Oxlade-Chamberlain and Dominic Solanke both had decent chances to put Liverpool ahead in a one-sided first half lit up by Coutinho.

The Reds dominated possession with Leicester content to hit them on the break using Demarai Gray's pace.

Solanke, signed from Chelsea this summer, had another sniff of goal in the 22nd minute as he diverted Andy Robertson's cross over. Robertson also flashed a left-foot cross-shot across the face of goal four minutes later.

Leicester keeper Ben Hamer was called into action again in the 30th minute when Oxlade-Chamberlain drilled in a low left-foot shot straight at him.

But despite their dominance, Liverpool somehow failed to make a breakthrough. Woodburn, just 17, replaced Coutinho for the second half with Klopp insisting he couldn't risk playing the Brazilian any longer following his recent return from injury.

With him gone, Liverpool looked nowhere near as threatening and Foxes, overrun in the first half, were inspired by the introduction of tireless Okazaki, who opened the scoring with a shot that took a deflection off Kop full-back Robertson. It was Okazaki's fourth goal in his last seven appearances, more than in his previous 33 combined.

Slimani ensured victory for Leicester with a thunderous left-foot finish for his third goal in the competition this term after more good work from Okazaki from a throw-in.

LEICESTER: Hamer 7, Amartey 6, Dragovic 6, MOTM Morgan 8, Chilwell 7, Gray 7, Iborra 7, Ndidi 6 (Choudhury 84, 6), Albrighton 6, Slimani 7, Ulloa 6 (Okazaki 53, 7) LIVERPOOL: Ward 6, Flanagan 6, Klavan 6, Gomez 6, Robertson 6, Oxlade-Chamberlain 6, Henderson 5, Wijnaldum 6 (Ings 73, 6), Grujic 6, Coutinho 6 (Woodburn 45, 6), Solanke 7 REFEREE: Stuart Attwell ATTENDANCE: 31,609 match stats 30% POSSESSION 70% 5 SHOTS ON TARGET 3 2 SHOTS OFF TARGET 10 4 CORNERS 6 0 OFFSIDE 1 9 FOULS 10 1 0 CARDS 2 0

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Join the club Jurgen because we're all sick of this Different faces, same old depressing problems. Liverpool crashed out of the Carabao Cup at the first hurdle as Jurgen Klopp was left with that sinking feeling once again at the King Power Stadium. "I'm sick of this," declared a fuming Klopp as he reflected on yet another self-inflicted setback. Join the club. It was all so depressingly familiar as glaring mistakes were punished. Just like against Sevilla and Burnley, Liverpool only had themselves to blame. A much changed Reds line up should have been out of sight after comprehensively outplaying Leicester City during a one-sided opening 45 minutes. But they squandered some gilt-edged chances and then fell apart during a pitiful second-half display. Substitute Shinji Okazaki and Islam Slimani did the damage but they were given a helping hand by Liverpool's inability to do even the basics right defensively. The first, predictably, came from a corner which was half cleared and then lofted back into the box. The second was a beauty from Slimani but the Reds' backline opened up like the Red Sea after dozing off from a throw-in. That's 16 goals conceded in nine games in all competitions so far this season and that's unacceptable. Klopp is adamant it's about lapses in concentration rather than a lack of quality but the evidence increasingly suggests otherwise. Liverpool failed to address their most obvious weakness in the transfer window and it's costing them dear. Klopp's faith in the personnel he opted to stick by this summer simply isn't being repaid with performances on the field. There's a soft centre and it's being exposed time and time again. Opponents know they only have to hang in there like Leicester did in the first half because at some stage a gift or two will be presented to them at the other end. The Reds' post-international break blip is in danger of becoming something much more serious. Klopp has to earn his corn by quickly repairing battered belief and instilling greater organisation. The Carabao Cup was never going to define this season and an early exit has to be put in context. But the reality is that a club which hasn't won a trophy since 2012 just saw it's best hope of ending that drought go up in smoke. Simon Mignolet, Joel Matip, Dejan Lovren, Emre Can, Mohamed Salah, Daniel Sturridge and Roberto Firmino were all given the night off as Liverpool embarked on the first of two trips to the King Power Stadium in the space of five days. The opening 45 minutes were reminiscent of last Saturday's clash with Burnley as Klopp's side dominated and enjoyed moments of great promise but composure in the final third was sadly lacking. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain looked destined to score when he latched on to Andy Robertson's low cross but Ben Chilwell produced a fine block to deny him. From the resulting corner, Dominic Solanke turned and flashed a shot narrowly wide. Philippe Coutinho started on the left of the front three but he repeatedly drifted inside and was afforded time and space as he pulled the strings. Rusty against Sevilla and Burnley, Coutinho was much more polished here. The little Brazilian's quick feet and box of tricks bamboozled Vicente Iborra and Wilfred Ndidi before his strike was parried away by Ben Hamer. Strong and powerful, Solanke provided a decent focal point in attack on his first start for the Reds but his finishing was wayward. It proved to be a full debut to forget for Oxlade-Chamberlain, who struggled to grasp his chance after being positioned on the right of Klopp's front three. His decision-making was poor and he contributed very little. The past few weeks have been a learning curve for the £35million deadline day signing with time spent on the training ground adjusting to what's expected of him at his new club. Oxlade-Chamberlain felt he had gone stale at Arsenal and needed a move to realise his full potential. He has done nothing to silence the doubters so far but has to be given time to settle in before judgments are made. Leicester made seven changes themselves with Jamie Vardy, Kasper Schmeichel, Harry Maguire and Kelechi Iheanacho all rested. Craig Shakespeare went with a combative front two of Leonardo Ulloa and Islam Slimani but they didn't get a sniff before the interval. Joe Gomez could hold his head high after being moved to centre-back to partner Ragnar Klavan. The England Under-21s skipper refused to be bullied as he won his aerial battles and dealt with the danger around him. Jon Flanagan, who was handed his first Liverpool outing since May 2016, had his hands full with Demarai Gray flying at him. Midway through the first half Solanke stretched to meet Robertson's inviting centre but turned it over the bar. The chances kept on coming with Robertson firing past the post before Oxlade-Chamberlain shot tamely at Hamer. Coutinho unlocked the door once again with a delightful flick for Solanke, who lifted it over the advancing keeper but missed the target. Frustration reigned. Liverpool had enjoyed 76% of the ball and mustered 13 shots but they went in level. The second half was a different story. With Coutinho making way for Ben Woodburn, Liverpool lost the catalyst for their first-half creativity and it showed. It was a tale of two substitutions as Leicester benefited from the introduction of Okazaki and the hosts finally started to show some ambition. Gray turned away from Klavan and sent a left-footer flashing just past the post. Danny Ward, who was back in a Liverpool shirt for the first time in 16 months, had been a spectator for most of the night, but midway through the second half he was beaten.

Once again it was a horribly soft goal to concede. Marko Grujic only cleared a corner as far as Ben Chilwell, who helped it back into the box. Wes Morgan headed back across goal and Iborra nodded down to Ozazaki, whose low drive deflected off Robertson and flew beyond Ward. The travelling Kop did their best to inspire a response and briefly hope remained as Oxlade-Chamberlain and Woodburn went close. Danny Ings made his eagerly-awaited first-team comeback 11 months after suffering a serious knee injury, but there was no dream return for the striker. With 11 minutes to go Liverpool's misery was complete. Okazaki wriggled away from Robertson from a throw and Klavan didn't cover himself in glory either as Slimani raced through and slammed a left-footer into the top corner. Game over. The eight-times winners had lost three successive League Cup games for the first time in their history. Three trips to the King Power for Klopp during his Anfield reign and three chastening defeats. He won't be relishing Saturday's return. The manager needs to take action. Those same old depressing problems have to be addressed.

MATCH FACTS
Leicester City : Hamer, Amartey, Dragović, Morgan (c), Chilwell, Albrighton, Iborra, Ndidi (Choudhury 84), Gray, Slimani, Ulloa (Okazaki 53)
Not used : Benalouane, Iheanacho, Jakupovic, Mahrez, Musa.
Liverpool : Ward, Flanagan, Gomez, Klavan, Robertson, Henderson, Grujic, Wijnaldum (Ings 73), Oxlade-Chamberlain, Coutinho (Woodburn 45), Solanke.
Not used : Karius, Milner, Moreno, Markovic, Alexander-Arnold
Referee : Stuart Attwell. **Attendance** : 31,609 **Goals** : Okazaki 65, Slimani 78.
Bookings : Iborra, Grujic, Klavan. **Man of the match** : Philippe Coutinho. Excellent in the first half. Liverpool fell apart without him.

LEICESTER MERCURY

Slimani's special goal seals victory
 Leicester City came through a stern test of their mettle as they booked their place in the fourth round of the Carabao Cup. Liverpool were the dominant force against a City side that struggled for any cohesion until the introduction of Shinji Okazaki, who scored City's first goal. Islam Slimani then produced a wonderful strike into the top corner from the edge of the area to seal the victory and give City first blood ahead of their Premier League meeting at the King Power Stadium on Saturday. With that fixture in mind, Craig Shakespeare gave debuts to new signings Vicente Iborra and Aleksandar Dragovic as he made seven changes from the side that drew at Huddersfield. Captain Wes Morgan, full-back Ben Chilwell and midfielders Wilfred Ndidi and Marc Albrighton were the only players to retain their places as Shakespeare opted to give some of his fringe players much-needed pitch time. He challenged those who had been complaining at a lack of opportunities to go out and stake a claim for more starts in the future, but judging by the first-half display they didn't heed his call. City produced a disjointed display against a Liverpool side that also made eight changes, but did include Jordan Henderson, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Philippe Coutinho amongst their ranks. Liverpool made all the running in the first half as City struggled to get any foothold in the game. The visitors had 76 per cent possession and 13 efforts on goal, although keeper Ben Hamer was only called upon to deal with three of them. In contrast City looked like a team of strangers, despite the fact that seven of them had played together in the previous round at Sheffield United. Strikers Islam Slimani and Leonardo Ulloa received very little service, while it was a torrid debut for Iborra and Dragovic, who are both lacking match fitness. Chilwell produced a good block to deny Oxlade-Chamberlain after just six minutes while young striker Dominic Solanke should have done better with two opportunities that fell his way. At the other end, Danny Ward had to race from his goal to deny Slimani but had very little else to do and the only positive for City at half-time was that it was still goalless. That was until news came through that Liverpool had withdrawn the influential Coutinho. Demarai Gray had lifted the sell-out crowd with some bursting runs at the Liverpool defence but hadn't been able to find the final ball, but he did go close eight minutes into the second half. But just as Shakespeare was about to throw on Riyad Mahrez and Hamza Choudhury, City broke the deadlock. Liverpool cleared a corner and Chilwell helped the ball back into the box where Wes Morgan helped the ball on for Iborra and his cushion header was stabbed home by substitute Okazaki. It was by now a much more even contest with Okazaki's introduction transforming City, although Reds substitute Ben Woodburn almost restored parity with a curling effort that was inches away from the top corner of Hamer's net. But then the top corner was found, in amazing fashion by Slimani. There have been some special goals scored against Liverpool at the King Power Stadium, with Jamie Vardy's and Danny Drinkwater's particularly memorable in recent seasons, but when Slimani's strike from outside the area arced into the top corner it joined their efforts in the list of special strikes. It was a memorable finish to what had been a stern test for Shakespeare's men, one that they ultimately passed.

Teams
Leicester City (4-4-2)
 12 Ben Hamer; 18 Daniel Amartey, 5 Wes Morgan, 16 Aleksandar Dragovic, 3 Ben Chilwell; 7 Demarai Gray, 25 Wilfred Ndidi, 21 Vicente Iborra, 11 Marc Albrighton; 19 Islam Slimani, 23 Leonardo Ulloa
Subs
 8 Kelechi Iheanacho, 13 Ahmed Musa, 17 Eldin Jakupovic, 20 Shinji Okazaki (for Ulloa, 53min), 26 Riyad Mahrez, 29 Yohan Benalouane, 38 Hamza Choudhury (for Ndidi, 84min)

Date: 19 September 2017 Opposition: Leicester City Competition: League Cup	Times	Telegraph	Mail	19 September 2017
	Guardian	Mirror	Echo	
	Independent	Leicester Mercury	BBC	

Liverpool (4-3-3)
52 Danny Ward; 38 Jon Flanagan, 12 Joe Gomez, 17 Ragnar Klavan, 26 Andrew Robertson; 5 Georginio Wijnaldum, 14 Jordan Henderson, 16 Marko Grujic; 21 Alex Oxlaide-Chamberlain, 29 Dominic Solanke, 10 Philippe Coutinho

Subs
1 Loris Karius, 7 James Milner, 18 Alberto Moreno, 28 Danny Ings (for Wijnaldum, 73min) 50 Lazar Markovic, 58 Ben Woodburn (for Coutinho, half-time), 66 Trent Alexander-Arnold

Referee: Stuart Attwell

Stats
Goals: Okazaki (City 1-0, 65min). Slimani (City 2-0, 78min)
Half-time: 0-0
Yellow cards: Grujic, Klavan (Liverpool)
Att: 31,609
Possession: 30% (City), 70% (Liverpool)
Shots in total: 8 (City), 20 (Liverpool)
Shots on target: 5(City), 3 (Liverpool)
Corners: 4 (City), 6 (Liverpool)
Fouls: 9 (City), 10 (Liverpool)

BBC

Islam Slimani's superb strike helped Leicester see off a wasteful Liverpool at the King Power Stadium to reach the fourth round of the Carabao Cup. The Algeria striker's left-footed shot found the top corner after substitute Shinji Okazaki had put the Foxes ahead. That came after Liverpool had dominated a first half in which Philippe Coutinho impressed before being replaced. Okazaki's arrival sparked the Foxes into life and he latched on to Vicente Iborra's knockdown for the opener. Summer signings Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Dominic Solanke both missed good opportunities for the visitors, who named a much-changed side. A tale of two substitutions

Coutinho, having returned to the Liverpool side [for the 1-1 draw](#) with Burnley on Saturday, was by far the best player on the pitch in the first half as he sauntered between the lines to dictate the tempo of the Reds' attacks. The tricky Brazilian combined well with Andy Robertson as the former Hull left-back, another summer arrival, put in several crosses that should have been converted. Oxlade-Chamberlain, making his first start since a £35m move from Arsenal, had a shot blocked from a smart Robertson cut-back before Solanke headed off target from another pin-point ball. But Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp opted to replace Coutinho with Ben Woodburn at the break and, despite some impressive running from the 17-year-old Wales international, the team lost their flow. Klopp said it "was always the plan" to give Coutinho 45 minutes, but his departure was countered with the arrival of Okazaki for the Foxes, the Japan striker adding pace and intensity. He reacted first to fire low into the corner for the opener with 25 minutes remaining, then teed up Slimani for a fantastic solo effort that put the game beyond the visitors. Same old problems for Liverpool

Liverpool had 35 shots on goal when they were held by Burnley at the weekend. It was a case of deja vu for travelling Reds supporters on Wednesday. Despite making eight changes, Klopp's team mustered 21 shots at the King Power Stadium on top of 70% possession, but to no avail. A long-range Demarai Gray effort came from one of Leicester's rare first-half forays, but when the winger dragged wide after the interval it was the first sign of a shift in momentum. Okazaki's breakthrough came after Liverpool failed to clear a corner - a problem that has haunted them this season, with Klopp admitting afterwards he was "sick" of conceding such goals. "That we concede like this, that makes me really, really sick," said Klopp. "You cannot play football and do that. "The story of this game is really easy to tell: we were the much better team in the first half, we played good football, we didn't score, that's sometimes part of football. "But as long as we concede goals like we conceded today, then it is quite difficult." Gray could have added gloss to the scoreline as Liverpool looked for a way back into the game late on, only for goalkeeper Danny Ward to turn his strike wide of the post. It meant a fourth game without a win for Liverpool, whose last victory [came against Arsenal](#) in August. Man of the match - Shinji Okazaki (Leicester) What's next? Liverpool travel to Leicester again on Saturday, this time in the Premier League for a 17:30 BST kick-off.

Date: 19 September 2017
 Opposition: Leicester City
 Competition: League Cup

	Times	Telegraph	Mail
	Guardian	Mirror	Echo
	Independent	Leicester Mercury	BBC

19 September
2017



Match ends, Leicester City 2, Liverpool 0.
 90'+5' Second Half ends, Leicester City 2, Liverpool 0.
 90'+2' Attempt missed. Marko Grujic (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 90' Vicente Iborra (Leicester City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 90' Dominic Solanke (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 90' Foul by Vicente Iborra (Leicester City.
 88' Attempt blocked. Ben Woodburn (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jon Flanagan.
 85' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
 85' Demarai Gray (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 84' Substitution, Leicester City. Hamza Choudhury replaces Wilfred Ndidi.
 82' Attempt saved. Shinji Okazaki (Leicester City right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Wilfred Ndidi.
 80' Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Danny Ward.
 80' Attempt saved. Demarai Gray (Leicester City right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Marc Albrighton.
 78' Goal! Leicester City 2, Liverpool 0. Islam Slimani (Leicester City left footed shot from outside the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Shinji Okazaki.
 77' Attempt blocked. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Marko Grujic.
 75' Joseph Gomez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 75' Foul by Islam Slimani (Leicester City.
 75' Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 75' Foul by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool.
 75' Shinji Okazaki (Leicester City wins a free kick on the left wing.
 73' Substitution, Liverpool. Danny Ings replaces Georginio Wijnaldum.
 73' Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 72' Attempt missed. Ben Woodburn (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Andrew Robertson.
 71' Marko Grujic (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 71' Foul by Daniel Amartey (Leicester City.
 70' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 70' Foul by Vicente Iborra (Leicester City.
 69' Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 69' Foul by Ben Chilwell (Leicester City.
 68' Attempt missed. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is too high.
 65' Goal! Leicester City 1, Liverpool 0. Shinji Okazaki (Leicester City right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Vicente Iborra with a headed pass following a corner.
 65' Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.
 58' Foul by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool.
 58' Shinji Okazaki (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 57' Marko Grujic (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 57' Foul by Marko Grujic (Liverpool.
 57' Wilfred Ndidi (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 55' Attempt missed. Demarai Gray (Leicester City left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Islam Slimani.
 54' Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 54' Foul by Ben Chilwell (Leicester City.
 53' Substitution, Leicester City. Shinji Okazaki replaces Leonardo Ulloa because of an injury.
 51' Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 50' Delay in match Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool because of an injury.
 50' Delay in match Leonardo Ulloa (Leicester City because of an injury.
 49' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Chilwell.
 48' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Chilwell.
 48' Attempt blocked. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Marko Grujic with a headed pass.
 48' Attempt missed. Marko Grujic (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Joseph Gomez.
 48' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Vicente Iborra.
 47' Attempt missed. Demarai Gray (Leicester City right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right from a direct free kick.
 46' Foul by Marko Grujic (Liverpool.
 46' Demarai Gray (Leicester City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 Second Half begins Leicester City 0, Liverpool 0.
 45' Substitution, Liverpool. Ben Woodburn replaces Philippe Coutinho.
 45'+2' First Half ends, Leicester City 0, Liverpool 0.
 45'+1' Foul by Marko Grujic (Liverpool.
 45'+1' Leonardo Ulloa (Leicester City wins a free kick on the right wing.
 45'+1' Attempt missed. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is just a bit too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.
 40' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high from a direct free kick.
 39' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 39' Foul by Vicente Iborra (Leicester City.
 37' Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.
 37' Vicente Iborra (Leicester City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 37' Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 35' Delay in match Dominic Solanke (Liverpool because of an injury.
 33' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Vicente Iborra.
 31' Attempt saved. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool left footed shot from outside

the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.
 29' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Dominic Solanke.
 27' Attempt missed. Andrew Robertson (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left misses to the right.
 27' Attempt blocked. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 23' Offside, Liverpool. Marko Grujic tries a through ball, but Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain is caught offside.
 22' Attempt missed. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is too high. Assisted by Andrew Robertson with a cross.
 20' Attempt saved. Demarai Gray (Leicester City right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal.
 19' Foul by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool.
 19' Aleksandar Dragovic (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 17' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Dominic Solanke.
 15' Attempt missed. Marko Grujic (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.
 14' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Hamer.
 13' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 13' Foul by Marc Albrighton (Leicester City.
 12' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 12' Foul by Wilfred Ndidi (Leicester City.
 12' Foul by Jon Flanagan (Liverpool.
 12' Demarai Gray (Leicester City wins a free kick on the left wing.
 11' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Andrew Robertson with a headed pass.
 7' Foul by Marko Grujic (Liverpool.
 7' Wilfred Ndidi (Leicester City wins a free kick on the left wing.
 6' Attempt missed. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box misses to the left following a corner.
 6' Attempt blocked. Marko Grujic (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked.
 6' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Chilwell.
 6' Attempt blocked. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Andrew Robertson.
 4' Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Jon Flanagan.
 4' Attempt blocked. Wes Morgan (Leicester City header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Marc Albrighton with a cross.
 3' Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.
 First Half begins.
 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.