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18 November  
2017

## THE TIMES

From Chelsea flop to Klopp's goalscoring star

Liverpool 3 Salah 31, 41, Coutinho 68

Southampton 0 Referee M Jones Attendance 53,256

Mohamed Salah's first brush with the Premier League did not extend beyond nine hours of football and, in the weeks, months and years that followed, memories of that brevity forever nagged away at the Egyptian.

Chelsea's brusque dismissal of his talents, with Salah bought and jettisoned within a year by Jose Mourinho, played on his mind. The forward did not regard himself as a failure, but more a victim of circumstance who had been left with unfinished business. Jurgen Klopp played down that reality after witnessing the 25-year-old's latest bewitching performance, but behind the scenes at Anfield the view holds that it was this sense of unfulfillment that smoothed his return to England.

Liverpool's interest had never waned given that they had pursued him in January 2014 only for Mourinho to trump them at the last to secure a player who had only recently scored for Basle against his Chelsea side. Juan Mata had been sold to Manchester United and Mourinho required a replacement.

Yet without Salah's hunger and determination to right the wrong of what proved to be a wasted year in the capital, it would have been difficult for Liverpool to prise him from Roma in the summer for a club record PS36.9 million. Making up for lost time he most certainly is.

The red blur leaving defenders in his slipstream has been accompanied by a rush of goals, 14 in 18 matches in all competitions this term, meaning that he has scored as many by late November as any Liverpool player since 2014 has over a whole season. Trace Salah's story back and his is a rise from disaster. The death of 74 people in the Port Said Stadium tragedy in February 2012, after thousands of Al-Masry supporters stormed the arena and attacked Al-Ahly fans, resulted in the Egyptian league being suspended.

During the shutdown, Basle organised a friendly against the Egypt Under-23 team and Salah, a player with El-Mokawloon, came on in the second half and scored twice in a 4-3 win for his side. Within a month the Swiss had offered him a four-year contract. Salah is a quiet, discreet person. At Roma, whom he joined having initially escaped Stamford Bridge with a loan move to Fiorentina, he lived in a villa in Casal Palocco, a green residential area outside the city, and then, just as now, rarely conducted media interviews.

Salah did front a public campaign for tourism in Egypt, however, which brought unwanted attention after the death of an Italian, Giulio Regeni, who was found near Cairo bearing signs of torture in February 2016.

Amnesty International later asked Serie A clubs to display a banner "Verita Per Giulio Regeni" (Truth For Giulio Regeni) before matches, but Roma did not want to embarrass Salah and so sought a solution with ballboys carrying the message before the players appeared.

It proved a difficult period through which he was guided by Ramy Abbas Issa, who had replaced the agents who had negotiated Salah's move to Chelsea. Abbas smoothed his client's move to Merseyside, but only after Liverpool had looked at other targets. Borussia Dortmund refused to let Christian Pulisic leave, Julian Draxler was pursued last January, opting to move instead to Paris Saint-Germain from Wolfsburg, and Julian Brandt chose to stay at Bayer Leverkusen fearing that he would not play regularly at Anfield.

Liverpool scouted about 15 wide players between missing out on Salah and signing him. Klopp has conceded that it was Dave Fallows, head of scouting and recruitment, Barry Hunter, the chief scout, and Michael Edwards, the sporting director, whose background checks extended to spying missions at training camps as well as matches, who constantly pushed his case.

The left-footed Salah has brought balance and searing pace. The breakaway goal from an Arsenal corner at Anfield in August involved Liverpool accelerating from the edge of their penalty area to score in a blistering 12.96 seconds. It was tempting to search for scorch marks on the turf at the London Stadium after the visiting side countered from a West Ham United set piece at similarly breakneck pace before the international break.

His output is testament to the remarkable number of times he manoeuvres himself into scoring positions, typified by the smart run and finish that beat Fraser Forster, the Southampton goalkeeper, for a second time rather than the curling strike that opened the scoring. By playing Salah on the right and moving Sadio Mane to the left, the Senegal player's primary position when making a name for himself at Red Bull Salzburg, Liverpool have inverted wingers with a huge goal threat to complement the link-up and cleverness of Roberto Firmino in the centre. "He was a kid when he came to Chelsea and in that time they were really successful. It was quite difficult to come through," said Klopp, who saw Philippe Coutinho complete a 3-0 victory against insipid opponents.

"A little bit less muscle, a little bit less physical and you fly through the Premier League -- not like he's flying now -- but [sent flying] with one body check. He's a man now. He was a kid at Chelsea, now he's a man."

There have other been necessary adjustments. After Salah's debut in the pre-season friendly with Wigan in July, Klopp preferred not to flag up his tap-in goal but highlighted what he saw as an inability to defend. It is a discipline with which Salah is coming to terms, although responsibility clearly sits comfortably with him.

After all, he is to Egypt what Neymar is to Brazil, Lionel Messi to Argentina and Cristiano Ronaldo to Portugal. When Salah held his nerve to dispatch the 94th-minute penalty against Congo last month, propelling his nation to their first World

Cup since 1990, the outpouring of emotion which followed was a sight to behold. One businessman wanted to gift Salah his own holiday villa but the offer was politely declined, the attacker suggesting that a donation to the Nagrig village in the Gharbiya province of Egypt, where he grew up, would be more appropriate. Next up in the Premier League is Chelsea. They will struggle to recognise him.

### RATINGS

Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet 6 -- T Alexander-Arnold 7, D Lovren 8, R Klavan 7, A Moreno 7 -- J Henderson 8, G Wijnaldum 7, P Coutinho 8 (sub: E Can 69min, 6) -- M Salah 9 (sub: J Milner 80), R Firmino 7, S Mane 7 (sub: A Oxlade-Chamberlain 74).

Substitutes not used L Karius, J Gomez, D Sturridge, D Solanke. Booked Lovren. Southampton (4-2-3-1): F Forster 6 -- C Soares 6, V Van Dijk 6, W Hoedt 5, R Bertrand 5 -- O Romeu 5, S Davis 5 -- D Tadic 5 (sub: C Austin 55, 5), S Boufal 6 (sub: J Ward-Prowse 69, 6), N Redmond 6 -- S Long 6 (sub: M Gabbiadini 79, 6). Substitutes not used A McCarthy, P Hojbjerg, M Targett, M Yoshida. Booked Romeu

## the guardian

Mohamed Salah hits double to help Liverpool cruise past Southampton

Mohamed Salah has become known as "The King of Egypt" around Melwood since securing his country's first World Cup appearance in 28 years. He has quickly established a regal presence at club level too. Liverpool's £36.9m summer signing struck another two goals as Southampton were comprehensively outclassed.

Salah followed up a two-goal display at West Ham United before the international break with two more to take his place as the Premier League's leading goalscorer. He was signed from Roma with speed and creativity in mind but he has exceeded expectations with 14 goals in 18 games in all competitions for his new, grateful club. Nine goals in his first 12 Premier League outings for Liverpool has also set a club record. And to think the former Chelsea winger's finishing was subject to legitimate criticism earlier in the season.

"Mo is in a good moment," said an understated Jürgen Klopp. "That is good for us. The first one was not a real chance from that position, I would say. It was a fantastic goal. The second goal was fantastic play."

"It was an all-round good performance and also very important. We have pushed the top of the table together and that is really good. [Manchester] City are flying and pretty much alone. We cannot change that but we can make pressure on the others and we will do that."

Salah departed to a deserved standing ovation in the 80th minute and into an embrace from Klopp as he savoured his first league win over Southampton, at the fifth attempt, and a victory that moved Liverpool to within a point of Tottenham Hotspur in fourth. Philippe Coutinho provided the final flourish but Salah was the game-changer.

Southampton did not set out merely to absorb pressure and avoid a serious beating. They were just made to look that way as Liverpool controlled possession and gradually weakened a well-organised defence with the quality of their distribution and movement. That said, the manner of Liverpool's breakthrough was galling for a manager of Mauricio Pellegrino's defensive pedigree. One win in seven matches is a worry, he admitted, and that sequence was never in doubt from the moment Dusan Tadic committed a cardinal sin on the edge of his penalty area.

Liverpool had dominated but created few clear openings when Virgil van Dijk headed a Jordan Henderson corner out to the Serbian winger. Tadic had space and opportunity to stretch the hosts. Instead, he ran across his area where three Liverpool players were lurking, with predictable results. Roberto Firmino dispossessed Tadic, Georginio Wijnaldum picked out Salah free on the right and the forward swept a stunning, angled finish beyond Fraser Forster from 20 yards. A gift brilliantly accepted.

"You need these moments," Klopp said. "We have not had them too often this season. We all know what it has been like after 50, 60 minutes here without a goal. It could be the same performance but you need these goals and thank God we scored them. That makes all the difference."

Salah's second arrived courtesy of a truly exquisite ball into the area from Coutinho. There appeared little on for the Brazilian when he received Henderson's pass 30 yards from the Southampton goal. But he spotted Salah's run behind Wesley Hoedt and slipped the ball perfectly into his stride. Salah turned a first time shot past Forster with Southampton defenders appealing for offside, more in hope than expectation.

The visitors threatened little and a brief second-half surge was quashed by a Liverpool defence featuring impressive performances from Trent Alexander-Arnold and Dejan Lovren. Salah almost created a third for Alberto Moreno but his through ball got caught underneath the rampaging left-back, who missed the birth of his son, Alberto Junior, on Friday night to prepare for the game.

The pass that eventually delivered Liverpool's third was, like Coutinho's, an inspirational touch. Sadio Mané removed two defenders from the equation with a brilliant reverse ball into the unmarked Roberto Firmino. His shot cannoned off Forster and into the path of Coutinho who steered the ball home from 12 yards.

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## The Mail

THE ROCKET MAN; The boy who left Chelsea has grown up to become...  
 LIVERPOOL 3 Salah 31, 44 Coutinho 68 SOUTHAMPTON 0

WHEN Mohamed Salah's former club head to Anfield on Saturday they will find their boy has grown up.

'He was a kid at Chelsea,' said a delighted Jurgen Klopp after Salah's brace kick-started a routine thumping of a bang average Southampton. 'Now he's a man - that's good.' So good, that he has already scored nine Premier League goals this season in just 12 matches. Not bad for a winger, not to mention Chelsea reject. In the programme they had a tribute to Robbie Fowler. With his double, Salah broke the striker's record for the quickest goalscoring start in a red shirt. But Klopp is not backing the Egyptian to break more records.

'If he continued at this rate he would finish the season on something like 70 goals, which isn't really likely,' the German said.

He is right. But there would appear to be no limit to the PS38m summer signing's potential. Here, Salah was almost unplayable.

With the Saints rarely venturing outside their own half, it was a frustrating opening half an hour. However, Roberto Firmino nicked the ball from Dusan Tadic and Salah, with a delicious swipe of his left boot, curled the ball beyond Fraser Forster.

Ahead of the break, the 25-year-old was at it again, timing his run to perfection to collect Philippe Coutinho's defence-splitting pass before beating Forster for a second time. It was simple and effective. With Mauricio Pellegrino's men in keep-the-scoredown mode, Coutinho then rounded off the afternoon's work when Forster bizarrely didn't use his hands and chested Firmino's shot into the Brazilian's path.

They may have gone under the radar, but this is an important turnaround from Liverpool after their thumping by Tottenham. With Coutinho, Sadio Mane and Salah back from injury, they appear to be on the straight and narrow.

While the much-criticised defence has been untested, there is an almost clockwork-like efficiency in their attacking.

In victories over Huddersfield, West Ham and now Southampton, Liverpool have scored 10 goals, conceding just one.

A big week awaits, first with the trip to Sevilla tomorrow, where they can secure Champions League progression, and then the visit of Chelsea in Saturday's late kick-off.

Will Salah have a point to prove against his former club? 'It's not like this,' said Klopp. 'He's not like, "I will show you the real Mo Salah".' He's relaxed.' Klopp believes time in the gym, and time on the field at Roma, is behind his improvement.

'He was a kid when he came to Chelsea, and in that time they were really successful,' he said. 'It was difficult to come through. He had a little bit less muscle, but his body shape is now different. He's a man now.' It left Klopp musing on the dawning of a new age on the red half of Merseyside.

'Firmino and Mane are working unbelievably hard, but they're not scoring,' he said. 'But they will have their moments and we will talk about them. This is the Mo Salah period.' The gap between Liverpool and Manchester City is 12 points. But Klopp does not want that to cause consternation on the Kop.

'City are good. They've won pretty much all the games, but it's not important for us.

'We are in a bunch of teams behind them, not around them. They are where we have to be,' Klopp added.

SUPER STAT: Philippe Coutinho (31) has the third most assists for Liverpool in PL history - only Steven Gerrard (92) and Steve McManaman (58) have provided more.

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Mignolet 6; Alexander-Arnold 6.5, Lovren 7, Klavan 7, Moreno 7; Wijnaldum 7, Henderson 7, Coutinho 7.5 (Can 69min, 6); SALAH 8 (Milner 80), Firmino 7.5, Mane 7.5 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 74, 6). Subs not used: Karius, Gomez, Sturridge, Solanke. Scorers: Salah 31, 41, Coutinho 68.

Booked: Lovren. Manager: Jurgen Klopp 7. SOUTHAMPTON (4-2-3-1): Forster 5; Soares 5, Van Dijk 6.5, Hoedt 5, Bertrand 6; Romeu 5, Davis 5; Tadic 5 (Austin 55, 6), Boufal 5 (Ward-Prowse 69, 6), Redmond 6; Long. Subs not used: McCarthy, Hojbjerg, Targett, Yoshida. Booked: Romeu.

Manager: Mauricio Pellegrino 5. Referee: Mike Jones 6. Attendance: 55, 256.

## The Daily Telegraph

Klopp expects further 'unbelievable' feats from super-charged Salah  
 Should Mohamed Salah continue at his current rate of scoring for Liverpool, his total by the end of the season could be more than 40 goals.

After watching the Egyptian score his 13th and 14th in all competitions since signing from Roma, Jurgen Klopp's guess about the potential yield was somewhat excessive - but then, this is a manager with an appealing capacity for unbounded amplification.

"If he continued at this rate, he would finish the season on something like 70 goals, which isn't really likely," Klopp assessed.

"We [all] have these moments," he continued. "He could have scored the penalty [against Huddersfield] and he's missed some big chances, but I realise [then] it's just a moment. I really understand."

Klopp contradicted himself by describing Salah's opener here as "unbelievable" before insisting he had come to expect this type of act from the Egyptian.

"These shots are pretty normal for him, like Phil [Coutinho]. Sadio [Mane] is able to do it. Gini [Wijnaldum] too. And Ox [Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain] - he's able to do it, but he hasn't had the opportunity very often so far. At this moment, it is working for him [Salah]."

Klopp is right to mention the abilities of others. Liverpool's start to the season has been a curious one and it is understandable why there are doubts. When you have Salah, Mane, Coutinho and Roberto Firmino able to produce "moments" of magic but then you have Ragnar Klavan fea-turing far too often because of injuries to slightly better defenders, it is like fitting a Ferrari engine to the battered body of a Trabant.

Klopp was asked about what had changed for Salah - what had changed since 2015 when he left Chelsea for Fiorentina on loan; what had changed in the past month, now that he was taking more of his goalscoring opportunities?

"Physicality, he's top fit," Klopp responded, before offering insight into the mood at Liverpool's training ground and, indeed, how Salah's presence enabled greater tactical flexibility in his selection.

"Even when we lose, this is still a fantastic club," Klopp insisted. "At Melwood, it is easy to feel well and comfortable. This is quite special. I don't know a lot of English clubs but this is special here.

"All the other boys liked him [Salah] from the first day without him performing already. They knew they had a good player in the squad.

"If you see Roberto working unbelievably hard, he's not scoring in the moment. Sadio doesn't score in the moment. But they work and they will have their moments and then we will talk about them. There's the guys on the bench who will have their moments. This is the Mo Salah period - no problem with that; well deserved. But he's also very important even when he's not scoring because he stretches the formation.

"The speed of the boys means the last line drops - there can be no other reaction. And then we have the space [to play]. The speed players aren't only for counter-attacking. Sometimes that's not possible. It's about stretching formation and creating space for the rest."

In that space, Coutinho was able to supply a pass for Salah's second goal.

Coutinho then made it 3-0 in the second half.

Southampton were desperately uninspiring. At Liverpool, though, with all of their key players now available, there is much promise.

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## THE INDEPENDENT

Winter is coming but Salah ensures it won't be as bleak

Winter is coming. Though the November afternoon temperatures in Seville are expected to rise as high as 25 degrees, Liverpool FC will depart the city known as the "Frying pan of Europe" on Tuesday night and plunge into a period marked by darkness during two seasons under JAaAeA rgen Klop

Liverpool will play a game every four days between now and the end of January should they progress beyond the third round of the FA Cup. Liverpool had entered the corresponding section of the campaign last year at the top of the Premier League table. By the end of it, they had fallen to fourth -- 10 points behind leaders Chelsea, tumbling out of both domestic cup competitions as well.

Klopp has been unafraid to take responsibility for what has happened in the past, not offering excuses relating to the absence of key players like Philippe Coutinho and Sadio ManAaAeAa[c]. Thankfully for Klopp, the is no Africa Cup of Nations for ManAaAeAa[c] to think about in the next f months. Encouragingly for Klopp he approaches winter knowing all of his attacking threats are almost fully-fit to the point where here was no need to rush Adam Lallana back into his match-day squad, with the influential midfielder left out during Saturday's smooth 3-0 victory over Southampton.

Maybe this will be the season where Klopp is not undone by twilight. Whereas 12 months ago Liverpool lost momentum, now they are gaining it. Roberto Firmino is now much further down the line in his development as a centre forward, while Mohamed Salah has emerged as a fourth reference point in this Liverpool team. Klopp was bamboozled by mathematics when he discussed Salah's achievements inside the corridors of Anfield following his two goals against Southampton.

"If he continued at this rate he would finish the season on something like 70 goals, which isn't really likely," Klopp assessed, as the Egyptian moved on to 14 in just 18 games. Carry on like this and Salah will have 29 league goals by the end of May. Depending on how Liverpool do in the FA Cup and Europe, that figure would rise to more than 40.

Klopp spoke about "moments," insisting there will be spells where Firmino and ManAaAeAa[c] are the headline makers. "This is the Mo Salah period no problem with that; well deserved," he said.

There is no doubt that while Salah has improved the quality of Klopp's side as an individual, his presence is gradually helping the midfielders behind him to perform better. Jordan Henderson, for example, is learning there is nothing wrong with knocking a pass into space and letting Salah chase with all the enthusiasm of a Jack Russell hunting after a ball on the beach. If that isn't a possibility and defenders drop deep, it gives someone like Coutinho the room to operate and supply the assist like he did for Salah's second goal. Coutinho later scored Liverpool's third.

"He [Salah] stretches the formation," Klopp explained. "The speed of the boys means the last line drops -- there can be no other reaction. And then we have the space [to play]. The speed players aren't only for counter-attacking. Sometimes that's not possible. It's about stretching formation and creating space for the rest."

Salah's exploits act as a reminder that player progression is not an exact science. Just because he wasn't good enough to feature regularly for Chelsea a few years ago does not mean he cannot become top class a little later on. Kevin De Bruyne can talk about that experience.

Klopp was asked whether he saw any motivations in Salah to prove doubters wrong. "I don't think it's like this," he replied. "Maybe it was one reason he came back, but he's not like 'now I will show you the real Mo Salah'. He's completely relaxed. For sure he wanted to show a little bit he's better than that, but everyone knew it already.

"He was a kid when he came to Chelsea, and we have heard a few times that's quite difficult, and in that time they were really successful. It was quite difficult to come through. He's a man now, he was a kid at Chelsea; now he's a man. That's good."

## DAILY MIRROR

**SALAH DAYS!** We are entering Liverpool's Mo period crows Klopp as his prince becomes a king

LIVERPOOL 3

Salah 31, 41 Coutinho 68

SOUTHAMPTON 0

AROUND Anfield he is known as the little Prince of Egypt, his heroics for club and country prompting Jurgen Klopp to say: "This is the Mo Salah period."

Never mind "period" it may just be the Mo Salah era at Liverpool. As improbable as it sounds, the unassuming winger happens to be the Premier League's top scorer, ahead of Aguero, Kane, Lukaku and Jesus.

This is a player deemed not good enough for Chelsea, and while being a creative player rejected by Jose Mourinho is hardly a sign of lack of ability - think De Bruyne, Mata and Cuadrado - there were serious questions about his suitability for the English game.

No longer. He has a record scoring rate for the Reds since his PS40million summer move, beating the legend Robbie Fowler. So what has changed to give Salah the platform to destroy sides, as he did here against forlorn Southampton? Klopp (below) thinks it is a mixture of nature and nurture.

Most importantly, he believes the little prince has grown up into a king.

"He was a kid when he came to Chelsea, and had a little bit less muscle, and was a little bit less physical. In the Premier League you are sent flying," said Klopp. "His body shape is different. He was a kid at Chelsea, now he's a man.

"So physicality. He is super fit. He's settled in too. At Melwood, it is easy to feel well and comfortable. This is really special." The goals are important for Klopp. Since arriving at Anfield, he has wanted to find not only pace out wide, but also threat in those positions too.

Saints simply couldn't handle that threat. From the start, the sheer menace of Salah and his partner Sadio Mane was too much for them, the speed of movement and thought creating opportunities.

Some were spurned, most notably when Salah missed a volley after an audacious Mane run, but then the Egyptian produced a stunning, curling left-foot shot into the top corner, and Liverpool's majesty was allowed to flourish.

The second goal was a case in point. Philippe Coutinho's ball was mindblowing, displaying a vision mere mortals could never replicate for Salah. And the third was equally stunning, Roberto Firmino and Mane showing the touch of angels, before Coutinho converted.

For Klopp, it is not just about Salah, or his goals, but the piece of the jigsaw his pace puts into the overall Anfield puzzle.

"This is the Mo Salah period - no problem with that; well deserved," the manager said.

"But he's also very important even when he's not scoring because he stretches the formation. The speed of the boys means the last line drops. Then we have the space to play.

"The speed players aren't only for counter-attacking. Sometimes it's not possible. It's about stretching formation and creating space for the rest."

As for Southampton, the frustration of their boss was evident, not in the mistakes that led to the first two goals, but in the reaction from his side, as they tried to keep the score down, rather than fight back.

Mauricio Pellegrino said: "After the second goal we were really disappointing because we never tried to do anything to change the game.

"Of course, that worries me. Liverpool were better than us, but we have to react to that in a different way."

STAT IS AMAZING LIVERPOOL Mignolet 6, Alex-Arnold 7, Lovren 7, Klavan 6, Moreno 6, Wijnaldum 6, Henderson 7, Coutinho 8 (Can 69, 6), Salah 9 (Milner 80), Firmino 8, Mane 8 (Oxlade 74, 6) SOUTHAMPTON Forster 5, Soares 5, Van Dijk 6, Hoedt 5, Bertrand 6, Romeu 6, Davis 5, Tadic 4 (Austin 55, 5), Redmond 4, Boufal 6 (Ward-Prowse 69, 5), Long 4 (Gabbiadini 79, 5) MATCH STATS 61% POSSESSION 39% 8 SHOTS ON TARGET 0 6 SHOTS OFF TARGET 3 562 TOTAL PASSES 357 84 PASSING SUCCESS 72 10 CORNERS 2 2 OFFSIDE 2 15 FOULS 9 10 CARDS 0 1 REF: Mike Jones ATT: 53,256

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This was just what the doctor ordered. Three goals, a clean sheet and an emphatic fourth successive victory for Jurgen Klopp's resurgent Liverpool side. After his recent health scare, Klopp enjoyed the luxury of a stress-free afternoon as the Reds broke their Southampton hoodoo in style.

Liverpool carried on where they had left off before the international break to ensure it was a chastening return to Anfield for Saints boss Mauricio Pellegrino. Once again Mo Salah led the way as his deadly first-half double did the damage. His left foot is a wand and he has cast a spell over Kopites since his summer move from Roma. The Egyptian winger, who departed to a thunderous ovation and a Klopp bear hug late on, has surpassed all expectations. In a world of ridiculously inflated transfer fees his £36.9million price tag looks like the signing of the season. He now boasts 14 goals in just 18 appearances for the Reds. Put into context nobody scored more than that for the club in the whole of last season. His dazzling return of nine league goals in his first dozen top-flight outings for Liverpool is the best of the Premier League era – surpassing Robbie Fowler's tally of eight. Few can claim to be more prolific than 'God'. Chelsea's loss is Liverpool's gain. Salah maybe top of the Premier League scoring charts but this was far from a one-man demolition job. The Reds were impressive in all departments.

This was the first time Klopp had unleashed the attacking quartet of Salah, Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane and Philippe Coutinho from the start of a league game and they purred with intent. They complement each other so well – the perfect mix of perspiration and inspiration. Southampton simply couldn't handle their movement and ingenuity. Mane, who has passed fit after a hamstring scare, tormented his former club as he cut in off the left to wreak havoc. They know the Reds put one over them when they secured the services of the Senegal international for just £30million last year. He's now worth more than double that figure. Firmino set the tone with his tireless work rate, while Coutinho flourished in an advanced central midfield role. Saints made the fatal mistake of giving him space and he duly punished them. The little Brazilian, who had missed the Reds' previous three matches with a groin injury, capped a fine display by wrapping up the points with the third goal. The Kop are chanting his name once again.

This was a mightily impressive team performance from Klopp's men. They didn't fly out of the traps. They didn't take any unnecessary risks. They played with real maturity and control. This wasn't one of those days when the visitors parked the bus and simply challenged the hosts to find a way through. Saints did try to swing a few punches of their own with Dusan Tadic and Nathan Redmond getting up in support of Shane Long, but they failed to lay a glove on the Reds. With Jordan Henderson and Gini Wijnaldum rock-solid behind Coutinho, there was a decent balance to the side. Young Trent Alexander-Arnold excelled at right-back and Alberto Moreno, who missed the birth of his son after opting to stay with the squad, maintained his excellent form on the other flank.

There was also the sight of Dejan Lovren earning applause rather than brickbats. Joel Matip's thigh problem meant that the Croatia international was handed his first start since last month's shambles against Tottenham. Lovren could hold his head high. Tougher tests await with Tuesday's trip to Sevilla in the Champions League followed by next weekend's visit of Chelsea to Anfield. But this was a decent step forward for him. Rather than wilt at the hands of the boo boys in the away end, he silenced them with some crucial blocks and interceptions. Since last month's debacle at Wembley, Klopp has summoned the perfect response with 13 goals scored and just one conceded.

For all the talk of defensive woes, Liverpool have only let in one league goal at Anfield in nine hours of football so far this season. Yes, the past few months haven't been plain sailing with some punishing setbacks on their travels, but with key personnel returning there's good reason to believe that momentum can be maintained. Thirteen games in the space of 44 days will certainly test the depth of Klopp's squad, but with James Milner, Joe Gomez, Daniel Sturridge, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Emre Can, Dom Solanke on the bench here and Adam Lallana set to return, the boss certainly isn't short of options. Liverpool failed to score in all four meetings with Saints last season but a repeat never looked likely as they gradually cranked up the pressure in the first half. Wijnaldum's strike was pushed away by Fraser Forster, who was then called upon to claw Coutinho's low drive behind. Just past the half hour mark the breakthrough arrived. It was testament to Firmino's tenacity as he picked Tadic's pocket 20 yards out.

Ragnar Klavan and Wijnaldum combined to tee up Salah, who unleashed an unstoppable curler from the edge of the box. Four minutes before the break it was 2-0. Coutinho's pass delivered with the outside of his right boot was exquisite and Salah ensured it got the finish it deserved. In the second half Saints briefly rallied and Lovren did brilliantly to thwart Sofiane Boufal. There was a roar from the stands and a fist pump from his boss. Liverpool swiftly regained the initiative with Firmino going close after being expertly set up by the marauding Alexander-Arnold. Some of the Reds' incisive build up play was sublime. Coutinho fired wide after slaloming his way through but he soon made amends. Firmino's piledriver from Mane's flick hit Forster and Coutinho was on hand to tuck away the rebound for his fifth goal of the campaign. Liverpool cruised to the end as Coutinho, Mane and Salah were all given a breather. This time it was Southampton's turn to take their medicine. The Reds are in rude health.

# Daily Echo

Liverpool defeat Southampton 3-0 at Anfield with Mo Salah scoring twice

Saints' poor form extended to one win in seven as their tough run of fixtures started with a 3-0 defeat at Anfield. Mauricio Pellegrino's side were well beaten by Liverpool, who triumphed via two first half goals from Mo Salah, and one in the second period from Philippe Coutinho, while Saints failed to register a shot on target during the 90 minutes. The defeat leaves Saints staring at a vital looking home game against Everton up next in which they need three points to ease the nerves as they begin to look over their shoulders during a run which sees them play all of the Premier League's top six. Saints had an immediate concern as Dusan Tadic went down injured inside the first minute, but after treatment he was able to continue. It was an interesting start to the game tactically, with both sides prepared to press high up the field when they had the chance, but were also content to sit in deep to defend.

Liverpool caused a bit of panic in the Saints backline on nine minutes as a deflected shot found Trent Alexander-Arnold. Virgil van Dijk did enough to ensure he couldn't make proper contact. After Fraser Forster had failed to hold a tough loose ball Mohamed Salah's shot was blocked. Moments later Salah had the chance to shoot on the turn but missed the target. For all Saints' defensive work, they were still vulnerable to Liverpool's attacking pressure and Forster had to make two saves in the space of a minute. First he dived to his right to push away a shot from Geroginio Wijnaldum from outside the area.

Philippe Coutinho was the next to test him with a low drive from 20 yards that required a much better stop to turn wide. The Brazilian midfielder had the chance to shoot again with a free kick 25 yards out in a decent position, but blazed well over the bar. Eventually the pressure told as Liverpool took the lead on 31 minutes. It came in part due to a Saints error as Virgil van Dijk headed a corner clear to the edge of the box where Tadic picked up the loose ball.

He dwelt on it a little too long as he drifted back across the face of the box and was robbed by Robert Firmino. A few quick passes later the ball was at the feet of Salah just outside the area on the right hand side, and he measured a perfect curling left footed finish that bent inside the far post for 1-0.

Saints put Simon Mignolet under pressure for the first time on 39 minutes as Cedric Soares got in a cross from the right which the Liverpool keeper had to punch away with Sofiane Boufal challenging for the ball.

Things got worse for Saints on 41 minutes as Liverpool doubled their lead. Coutinho was the provider with a pass that split the Saints defence and Salah was again the finisher. He produced a darting run in front of Ryan Bertrand and behind Wesley Hoedt and chipped a lovely first time past Forster from just outside the six yard box for 2-0. Bertrand went close with a free kick that went over the wall but wide of the target before half time but at the break Saints had it all to do if they were to get anything from the game. Boufal had the first real effort of the second period but from a difficult angle it went well over the bar.

The Moroccan was in action again on 51 minutes, trying to work space in the area to get in a shot only to see Dejan Lovren make a sliding block when he did get an effort away. It was still Liverpool who looked the more dangerous and Forster had to save with his legs to keep out Firmino after another incisive Coutinho through ball. Pellegrino made his first change on 55 minutes with Charlie Austin replacing Tadic and going through the middle with Shane Long dropping out to wide right role. Alberto Moreno was blocked out by the back tracking Nathan Redmond as he tried to turn inside in the area rather than shooting first time after another defence splitting pass. Oriol Romeu picked up the first booking of the game for a foul on Firmino, which was his fifth of the season meaning he will be suspended for the game against Everton. Coutinho came close again as Liverpool continued to threaten a third but his shot went narrowly wide.

There was no stopping the Brazilian from finally getting on the scoresheet on 68 minutes. Mane found Firmino with a lovely cut back pass, with the striker's shot cannoning back off of the body of Forster. It fell to Coutinho who calmly sidefooted home. It was his last action as he was immediately replaced by Emre Can with James Ward-Prowse also coming on for Boufal.

Austin had a sight of goal from Ward-Prowse's inswinging free kick but headed wide. Liverpool made a second switch on 74 minutes with former Saints star Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain replacing Mane. Saints had a final roll of the dice on 79 minutes with Manolo Gabbiadini coming on for Long before James Milner replaced Salah. Firmino had come close a few times already and clearly fancied a goal but his turn and shot across goal went just wide of the far post. Can tried to make something happen late on with a surging run but his cross just drifted away and behind.

The fourth official held up the board to show three minutes of added time and Virgil van Dijk made a timely intervention in the area to prevent a possible fourth Liverpool goal after Oxlade-Chamberlain had got the ball off of Redmond and got in a cross towards Firmino.

When the final whistle came it was a welcome relief to Saints, who had long since been well beaten and now face the challenge of picking themselves up before a big home game against Everton they really need to win.

Date: 18 November 2017  
 Opposition: Southampton  
 Competition: League

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### Salah shows class as Liverpool ease to victory

When a manager wants to pay a world record fee for a defender and the deal ends up collapsing dramatically, with his club offering a public apology for clandestine meetings that happened near Blackpool's winter gardens, it is understandable why the story confiscates the focus of an entire summer. Jürgen Klopp did not sign Virgil van Dijk and so, the significance of Mohamed Salah's arrival was lost somewhat -- even though the finance that secured his move from Roma represented the most Liverpool had spent on any player in their history. Michael Edwards has been criticised for both his ability to identify targets and negotiate his way through a transfer process since becoming a key figure in Liverpool's recruitment department. But credit is due with Salah. It would have been tempting to believe that because the Egyptian was cast aside by Chelsea so quickly, that the Premier League was not the platform for him. And yet here, he scored his thirteenth and fourteenth goals for Liverpool in just eighteen games. Statistically, Salah is converting chances at a quicker rate than Robbie Fowler when he entered Liverpool's first team in sensational fashion twenty-three years ago. Salah's feat is made more remarkable that he is not even a centre-forward. It would also be unfair to describe his opener in this game as a chance. There was so much he needed to get right when the ball arrived at his feet twenty-five yards from goal. What followed was not really a shot. In technical terms, it was more of a caressed left-foot pass, with accuracy favoured over power. Even if he had two sets of arms, Fraser Forster would not have saved it. The highly-respected Monchi was only a month into his job at Roma when he sanctioned Salah's departure for [pounds sterling]36.9million. What was he thinking? Salah's qualities are Lionel Messi-esque. He is left footed, plays on the right but has the speed and ingenuity to concern entire defences. He has been the best-value signing of any Premier League club for this season, if not the most outstanding. The Kop has a new hero to worship. There are signs that Liverpool are maturing under Klopp. The response to a chastising afternoon at Wembley in defeat to Tottenham last month has been excellent: four games, four wins, thirteen goals scored, one conceded. It has been said that Liverpool will struggle to qualify for the Champions League this season because of improvements at both Manchester clubs as well as Tottenham. With all of their key players now fit at the same time, they are now level with Tottenham and just three points off second place. Patience was required in this victory because Southampton's set-up initially could have contributed towards a surge of frustration inside Anfield. Once behind because of Salah's brilliance, Southampton's response was flat. Watching them here made you wonder why Les Reed decided to replace Claude Puel with Mauricio Pellegrino, two coaches with similar defensive mindsets, albeit one being more experienced at imposing his methods more impressively. Pellegrino is not that coach. Liverpool were 2-0 ahead at half-time because of Philippe Coutinho's pass and Salah's cross-field sprint and subsequent finish. It became 3-0 when Coutinho was perfectly positioned to slide in a rebound after Roberto Firmino had drilled a shot into Forster's chest. Liverpool were as convincing as they have been at home all season. For Southampton, the doubts about Pellegrino linger.

## The Sunday Telegraph

### Speedy Salah runs over Southampton

Liverpool 3  
 Salah 31, 41, Coutinho 68  
 Southampton 0  
 Att: 52,256

Mohamed Salah spent most of the second half at Anfield chasing a hat-trick. It is the only thing the sprinter supreme has failed to catch since he arrived at Liverpool. His manager, Jürgen Klopp, opted to substitute Salah with 10 minutes left, sparing not only the Egyptian's legs for exertions ahead but those of Southampton's defenders. Salah's double exhausted them. Klopp offered an apologetic hug after denying the winger more time to complete the mission, but Salah's work was done and he was given the standing ovation he deserved. The comfort of this win should not be underplayed. Liverpool failed to score in four attempts against the Saints last season, a stubborn defence extending beyond resistance to mega offers for Saints players. Liverpool did not have Salah to unpick defences then. He was signed to create but is rewriting goal records. Not since Robbie Fowler has anyone started a Liverpool career in such prolific form. Salah took his tally to 14 in 18 games, nine in 12 Premier League fixtures. Fowler struck eight in that time back in the early Nineties. Salah's first yesterday on 31 minutes had a dash of Kenny Dalglish picking out the top corner with a dipping, swerving shot from the edge of the penalty area. At first glance, it seemed Fraser Forster ought to have got closer. At second, it was evident the Southampton keeper had no chance. Four minutes before the interval, Salah had his second, drifting inward from the right wing to latch on to the kind of Philippe Coutinho pass that carries as much gravitas as the finish. Salah nudged past Forster with his lethal left foot and Liverpool's superiority was confirmed. "The first one is not a real chance. It was a fantastic goal," said Klopp. "The second? Fantastic play. What a pass." The home side had started menacingly, the advancing of Trent Alexander-Arnold especially prominent, but there was a pleasing pace to their performance. The quartet of Salah, Coutinho, Sadio Mané and Roberto Firmino brought wisdom as much as quality, the feeling a goal would come long before it was spectacularly delivered. Southampton were organised without being in full retreat but finding it impossible to escape. "We started well but then made a couple of mistakes which you cannot against this type of game," said coach Mauricio Pellegrino. "After the second goal, it was really difficult." At least one of his defenders was prompting admiration in his efforts to repel Klopp's attackers. Five months after his attempts to join the Merseyside club, Virgil van Dijk had finally made it to Anfield, and there was not a Premier League complaint in sight. The Kop was not sure whether to cheer or jeer. The only applause granted to the defender was late on, and that was ironic as he sliced a clearance. Van Dijk had a glimpse of what he has been denied, helpless as the runners kept scurrying his direction through the second half. Liverpool squandered several opportunities to extend their lead, Alberto Moreno especially eager to celebrate becoming a father for the second time after his wife gave birth on Friday, but the third arrived courtesy of Coutinho, pouncing after Forster was unable to hold Firmino's strike. Liverpool are quietly in form, with 13 goals in four consecutive wins since their humbling 4-1 defeat to Tottenham Hotspur last month. This time last season, an irresistible start to the season was undermined in the build-up to Christmas. This year, they look equipped to pick up the pace to reassert their top-four challenge. "It looked much more mature, and that is very important for us," said Klopp. "It was just an all-round good performance and really deserved." Liverpool (4-3-3) Mignolet 7; Alexander-Arnold 8, Lovren 7, Klavan 7, Moreno 7; Henderson 7, Wijnaldum 7, Coutinho 7 (Can 69); Mané 7 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 74), Salah 8 (Milner 80), Firmino 7. Subs Karius, Gomez, Sturridge, Solanke. Booked Lovren. Southampton (4-3-3): Forster 4; Soares 5, Van Dijk 6, Hoedt 5, Bertrand 6; Davis 6, Romeu 6, Boufal 6 (Ward-Prowse 69); Redmond 5, Tadic 5 (Austin 55), Long 4 (Gabbadini 79) Subs McCarthy, Hojbjerg, Targett, Yoshida. Booked Romeu. Referee: M Jones (Chester).

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## THE SUNDAY TIMES

Salah and slick Liverpool too hot to handle for Southampton's brittle defence

LIVERPOOL 3 Salah 31, 41, Coutinho 68  
SOUTHAMPTON 0

Jurgen Klopp spent much of the international break in South Africa and some of it in an NHS hospital, but if the Liverpool manager needed a pick-up, then surely supine Southampton's visit would have provided balm to the constitution.

Effervescent when it mattered and serene when frustration threatened to take hold, Liverpool won 3-0, but it could have been many more and such was the paucity of the visitors' attacking play that whether Klopp has extinguished his team's defensive frailties is a question for another day.

"This was an all-round good performance," smiled a suitably restored Klopp. "This was a good moment for us. We're building on the experiences we've had this season. We didn't get nervous when we didn't score early on, we just kept trying and trying again. We're getting more mature and after this we can put pressure on the others around us."

An anodyne performance in defeat against Burnley two weeks ago failed to test the seemingly inexhaustible patience of Southampton manager Mauricio Pellegrino. Maya Yoshida and Marco Gabbiadini were replaced by the restless Wesley Hoedt and the goal-shy Shane Long but, devoid of ambition and flair, they were built to stifle rather than pilfer.

Such an approach may have worked had Southampton's defence not been at its most lackadaisical. "It's worrying," admitted Pellegrino, whose team have now won just once in seven games. "We started well, but we made a couple of mistakes and although we changed players and positions we never created a chance and the third goal finished our expectations. Today was not good news for us: we are in a difficult moment right now and so we have to put on our best face next week."

Alberto Moreno started despite his wife giving birth in the early hours of Saturday morning while he was at the team's hotel. Joel Matip's troublesome thigh meant Dejan Lovren started for the first time since his Wembley calamity against Tottenham, while Joe Gomez's sterling work for his country failed to retain him his club place. But, as ever, Liverpool were all sturm und drang at the start, hoping to crush early to avoid late embarrassment. So it proved. Philippe Coutinho ran the game alongside his countryman Roberto Firmino in one of those afternoons where Liverpool glittered but were well within their comfort zone.

Hoedt's wild slice which flew past Fraser Forster's upright epitomised Southampton's wayward defending and their luck ran out when Virgil van Dijk cleared Mohamed Salah's corner to Dusan Tadic, who foolishly elected to dribble his way across his own 18-yard line. Firmino dispossessed him and found Ragnar Klavan, who in turn found Georginio Wijnaldum. The Dutchman rolled the ball into the path of the untracked Salah, whose glorious, unstoppable curler sailed into the top corner.

Salah wasn't done yet, but neither was Southampton's brittle defence. Van Dijk, possibly playing for his place in both teams, squandered possession to Jordan Henderson. Coutinho picked up and as Oriol Romeu backed off, curled a delightful through ball into the area. Unaccountably, Hoedt peeled away, leaving Salah the time and space to neatly slot home his 14th goal in his 17th start.

Ryan Bertrand flashed a vicious free kick inches wide but a comeback from Robert Mugabe seemed more likely than one from Southampton.

In the second half Pellegrino went for bold, swapping Tadic for the more attacking Charlie Austin, but Liverpool kept on coming. Salah had a piledriver blocked and Forster saved well from Firmino. The irrepressible Brazilian saw another shot cannon off Forster for Coutinho to roll home his first goal at Anfield this season.

With a midweek trip to Seville looming, Klopp withdrew Mane and Salah too and the intensity evaporated. The job had long been done.

Star man: Roberto Firmino (Liverpool) Yellow cards: Liverpool: Lovren

Southampton: Romeu Referee: M Jones Attendance: 53,256 Liverpool: Mignolet 6, Alexander-Arnold 6, Lovren 6, Klavan 6, Moreno 6, Wijnaldum 6, Henderson 6, Coutinho 8 (Can 69min, 5), Salah 8 (Milner 80min, 4), Firmino 8, Mane 6 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 74min, 5)

Substitutes: Karius, Gomez, Sturridge, Solanke Southampton: Forster 7, Soares 5, Van Dijk 5, Hoedt 4, Bertrand 5, Romeu 5, Davis 5, Tadic 5 (Austin 55min, 5), Boufal 4 (Ward-Prowse 69min, 5), Redmond 5, Long 5 (Gabbiadini 79min, 4) Substitutes: McCarthy, Targett, Yoshida, Hojbjerg

## The Observer

Date: 18 November 2017  
 Opposition: Southampton  
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Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said two goals from Mohamed Salah helped his side to a "perfect day" as they eased past Southampton to secure three Premier League wins in a row for the first time in 2017.

After a competitive start at Anfield, Egypt forward Salah curled high into the net from 18 yards, punishing Dusan Tadic for losing possession near his own area.

The strike gave the home side added swagger and a fine Philippe Coutinho threaded pass picked out an expertly-timed run as Salah prodded the second.

No Premier League player has more goals in all competitions than Salah's 14 this season and though he was quieter after the break, Coutinho picked up the mantle to stab home when Roberto Firmino's shot was saved.

In all, Liverpool had 21 shots at goal and are the only side to find the net three times against Mauricio Pellegrino's team this season.

"It was an open game. We had more chances before we scored and we needed to be patient in a lively way," said Klopp, whose side are fifth, a point behind Tottenham in fourth.

"The first goal - wow. I have nothing to do with the goal and the second was a fantastic pass and Mo Salah makes great runs. We could have scored more often but it was a perfect day for us."

Salah edges past Fowler  
 Southampton, a side perhaps carrying little confidence in their attacking ability given their return of just nine league goals this season, wilted after Salah curled in the opener.

Tadic's error was telling but the authority Salah exuded in the finish pointed once more to him being a player of the highest quality - and not the one Chelsea allowed to leave permanently for Roma after just 19 appearances.

His second, squeezed past Fraser Forster after a brilliant run on the blind side of his marker to collect Coutinho's outside-of-the-foot pass, took his haul to nine goals in his first 12 league games.

That tally is better than that of Reds legend Robbie Fowler, who managed eight goals in the same number of matches - a record which had stood as the best start any player had made to their Liverpool career in the Premier League.

The reception Salah got when he was replaced on 80 minutes summed up the depth of feeling the club's fans already have for him. Not just the Salah show

The understanding in Coutinho and Salah's link-up play will surely have pleased Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, who allayed fears over his health this week after he was taken to hospital on Wednesday.

His side never looked like causing him stress against Saints and, prior to the opener, Georginio Wijnaldum had had a shot saved, while Coutinho had dragged a shot wide.

Pellegrino's side often dropped into a 4-5-1 shape without the ball and in doing so allowed Coutinho plenty of possession to orchestrate from deep. It meant his influence could not be limited and by half-time he had touched the ball 45 times.

Adding to the dynamic was the fact this was the first time Coutinho, Firmino, Salah and Sadio Mane had started a game together this season and their threat occupied the visitors, who touched the ball just once in the Liverpool area during the opening half.

After the break, Coutinho fired wide after again dribbling from deep and Firmino went close twice, once when denied by a timely Ryan Bertrand challenge and later when pulling a low shot inches wide.

Salah will take the plaudits and rightly so but Coutinho, who is still linked with a move away, remains fundamental in injecting guile and tempo into attacks.

His finish from 12 yards was straight forward and he has now been directly involved in 14 goals in his last 15 league appearances for the Reds. It remains critical they keep hold of him.

Saints remain blunt and vulnerable  
 Southampton, without influential defensive midfielder Mario Lemina through injury, never looked like threatening short of Bertrand going close with a free-kick when the score was 2-0 and a Charlie Austin header that flew over late on.

"We started well with energy, with shape and didn't give them too much space to create - but we made a couple of mistakes and it was really difficult for us to come back," said former Liverpool player and coach Pellegrino.

Pellegrino looks to have serious work to do as again his attack looked blunt. Shane Long - without a goal since February - did not manage a shot in his 79 minutes on the pitch.

Saints left Merseyside without an effort on target, a flaw in their game which is becoming common and undoubtedly contributing to a run of just four wins in 20 league games.

Could finally selling Virgil van Dijk to Liverpool offer funds to strengthen their attacking options? The central defender was solid if unspectacular at Anfield, making more clearances and interceptions than any other Saints player, while also boasting their best pass completion rate of 85%.

But there can be no doubt their problems are at the other end. Only twice this season have they managed to score two goals in a game and something will have to give if Pellegrino is to better the eighth-place finish Claude Puel achieved last season.

#### Man of the match - Mohamed Salah

Mohamed Salah has now had a better goalscoring start to a career at Liverpool than any of the club's players in the Premier League era. Against Southampton there was an assurance about him. His curled opener screamed confidence and his run to latch onto Coutinho's pass for the second showed a depth of understanding with another of the Reds' creative sparks. He looks technically and mentally ready to be a consistent difference maker.

#### Wizard Coutinho - the key stats

The Reds have conceded just one goal in their past eight Premier League games at Anfield, keeping seven clean sheets in this run.

Southampton have scored only nine goals in the Premier League this term - their fewest after 12 games of a top-flight campaign since 1998-99 (also nine), when they finished 17th and avoided relegation by just five points.

Coutinho (31) is now the player with the third-most assists for Liverpool in the Premier League, with only Steven Gerrard (92) and Steve McManaman (58) having made more.

The Saints failed to record a shot on target in a Premier League game for the first time since May, which also came in this fixture at Anfield (0-0).

#### Up next?

Liverpool travel to Sevilla in the Champions League on Tuesday (19:45 GMT kick-off) knowing a win would send them through to the knockout stage. They then host Chelsea in the Premier League next Saturday (17:30).

Southampton host Everton on Sunday, 26 November (13:30) and face Arsenal, Manchester City and Chelsea during their next six games.

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Match ends, Liverpool 3, Southampton 0.  
 90'+4' Second Half ends, Liverpool 3, Southampton 0.  
 90'+3' Hand ball by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).  
 90'+1' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.  
 90' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool).  
 90' Virgil van Dijk (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 84' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.  
 82' Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 82' Foul by James Ward-Prowse (Southampton).  
 80' Substitution, Liverpool. James Milner replaces Mohamed Salah.  
 79' Substitution, Southampton. Manolo Gabbiadini replaces Shane Long.  
 77' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).  
 77' Nathan Redmond (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 76' Offside, Liverpool. Trent Alexander-Arnold tries a through ball, but Georginio Wijnaldum is caught offside.  
 74' Substitution, Liverpool. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain replaces Sadio Mané.  
 72' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool).  
 72' James Ward-Prowse (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 72' Attempt missed. Charlie Austin (Southampton header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by James Ward-Prowse with a cross following a set piece situation.  
 71' Foul by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool).  
 71' Shane Long (Southampton wins a free kick on the left wing.  
 70' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ryan Bertrand.  
 69' Substitution, Southampton. James Ward-Prowse replaces Sofiane Boufal.  
 69' Substitution, Liverpool. Emre Can replaces Philippe Coutinho.  
 68' Goal! Liverpool 3, Southampton 0. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal.  
 68' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Sadio Mané.  
 68' Attempt blocked. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Ragnar Klavan.  
 67' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cédric Soares.  
 65' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool).  
 65' Ryan Bertrand (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 63' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ryan Bertrand.  
 63' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.  
 61' Oriol Romeu (Southampton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
 61' Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 61' Foul by Oriol Romeu (Southampton).  
 60' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
 59' Delay in match Wesley Hoedt (Southampton because of an injury.  
 58' Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.  
 56' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool).  
 56' Cédric Soares (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 55' Substitution, Southampton. Charlie Austin replaces Dusan Tadic.  
 54' Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.  
 54' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Nathan Redmond.  
 54' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Trent Alexander-Arnold.  
 52' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked.  
 52' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steven Davis.  
 51' Attempt blocked. Sofiane Boufal (Southampton right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Wesley Hoedt.  
 50' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).  
 50' Wesley Hoedt (Southampton wins a free kick on the left wing.  
 48' Attempt missed. Sofiane Boufal (Southampton right footed shot from the left side of the box is too high. Assisted by Dusan Tadic.  
 47' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).  
 47' Shane Long (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 47' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.  
 Second Half begins Liverpool 2, Southampton 0.  
 45'+3' First Half ends, Liverpool 2, Southampton 0.  
 45' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool).  
 45' Cédric Soares (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 44' Attempt missed. Ryan Bertrand (Southampton left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right from a direct free kick.  
 43' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
 43' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).  
 43' Virgil van Dijk (Southampton wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 43' Attempt blocked. Virgil van Dijk (Southampton header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Dusan Tadic with a cross.  
 42' Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Ragnar Klavan.  
 41' Goal! Liverpool 2, Southampton 0. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.  
 34' Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Trent Alexander-Arnold is caught offside.  
 33' Offside, Southampton. Steven Davis tries a through ball, but Shane Long is caught

offside.

31' Goal! Liverpool 1, Southampton 0. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.  
 31' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ryan Bertrand.  
 31' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked.  
 29' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Wesley Hoedt.  
 25' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).  
 25' Nathan Redmond (Southampton wins a free kick on the right wing.  
 24' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high from a direct free kick.  
 23' Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 23' Foul by Sofiane Boufal (Southampton).  
 22' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Fraser Forster.  
 22' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.  
 22' Attempt saved. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Sadio Mané.  
 21' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 21' Foul by Sofiane Boufal (Southampton).  
 20' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cédric Soares.  
 17' Foul by Ryan Bertrand (Southampton).  
 17' Mohamed Salah (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 16' Wesley Hoedt (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 16' Foul by Mohamed Salah (Liverpool).  
 13' Foul by Sofiane Boufal (Southampton).  
 13' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 12' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool).  
 12' Cédric Soares (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 11' Foul by Dusan Tadic (Southampton).  
 11' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.  
 10' Offside, Southampton. Steven Davis tries a through ball, but Dusan Tadic is caught offside.  
 9' Attempt missed. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Sadio Mané with a cross.  
 9' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cédric Soares.  
 9' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked.  
 9' Attempt saved. Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.  
 9' Attempt blocked. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.  
 8' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.  
 5' Dusan Tadic (Southampton wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 5' Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool).  
 4' Foul by Dusan Tadic (Southampton).  
 4' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 3' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 3' Foul by Oriol Romeu (Southampton).  
 2' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
 2' Delay in match Dusan Tadic (Southampton because of an injury.  
 First Half begins.  
 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.