

Date: 2 May 2018  
 Opposition: AS Roma  
 Competition: Champions League

	Times	Telegraph	Gazzetta
	Guardian	Mirror	Echo
	Independent	Mail	BBC

2 May 2018

# THE TIMES

They came, they scored, they wobbled

Roma 4 Milner (og) 15, Dzeko 52, Nainggolan 86, 90+4 (pen)

**Liverpool** 2 Mané 9, Wijnaldum 25

**Liverpool** win 7-6 on agg Semi-final second leg

When the final whistle blew here, shortly after Radja Nainggolan's penalty had incredibly put Roma within a goal of extra time, **Liverpool** players sunk to their knees in joy and relief and exhaustion. They'd given everything, been exposed defensively, but had still reached the Champions League final in Kiev.

**Liverpool** love Europe's elite trophy, old Big Ears, and their fans, whose emotions were put through the wringer, celebrated wildly. They now face Real Madrid, a repeat of the 1981 final, knowing that they will need to defend better, far better than this against a far superior strike force in Kiev. Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema could punish them more. Trent Alexander-Arnold never hid at right back, never stopped running up and back but got caught out of position and was lucky not to give away a penalty. **Liverpool** will need discipline, intelligence and total concentration to live with Real. **Liverpool** will need the sort of calm exuded by Georginio Wijnaldum, certainly in the first half, when confronting a Real midfield containing such dynamic, experienced players as Luka Modric and Toni Kroos in Kiev. Craving that place and singing of winning finals from Paris down to Turkey, **Liverpool** fans arrived early at the Stadio Olimpico, as requested by the authorities, but the 5,000 visitors were forced to contend with ridiculously lengthy queues as only three gates leading to the away section were open. Such was the lack of organisation, described as "bedlam" by some fans, that Uefa had to intervene. Fortunately for **Liverpool**, Roma's defence proved just as disorganised, allowing Sadio Mané and Wijnaldum to put Klopp's side in control. Even during some nervous early stages, **Liverpool** fans were in powerful voice. Edin Dzeko put himself about, his every touch cheered by the passionate Roma fans. They responded abusively as Loris Karius paused before the goal kick, triggering catcalls. Alessandro Florenzi sent a shot whistling past Karius's right-hand post. **Liverpool** were defending from the front, reviving the days of Ian Rush. Mané tracked back and cleared. Wijnaldum was immediately putting in a huge shift, closing Roma players down. The edginess of the Roma players was clear, their fears of **Liverpool**'s danger-men highlighted when Daniele De Rossi left a knee in on Salah. Aleksandar Kolarov then bowled Salah over.

Klopp had spoken of it being a "childhood dream" to reach a Champions League final, and his team certainly enjoyed the dream start here, gifted the ball and the opportunity by Radja Nainggolan. The Roma midfield player had been so important in the late stages of the first leg, playing a part in both the Italians' goal but he simply did not check on **Liverpool** players' positioning here. Firmino, Mané and Salah had stayed forward, in keeping with Klopp's bold approach. Nainggolan stroked the ball across the halfway line and Firmino pounced. Roma were exposed, holes all over their defence as Firmino strode towards the Curva Sud. Mané peeled left, and Firmino picked him out neatly. Mané sped on before placing the ball from left to right past Alisson before turning away and pointing gratefully towards Firmino. The focus has been so much on Salah's brilliance, and Firmino's selfless and productive creative work as well as goals, that Mané occasionally gets overlooked. Not here. This was a huge goal, the first that Roma had conceded here in Europe this season. Luis Suárez and Lionel Messi failed to score here. So had Eden Hazard and Álvaro Morata. Mané's goal sent waves of joy through the **Liverpool** fans. For the first time in Champions League history, a team boasted three players with nine or more goals each.

Within six minutes, Roma were level on the night. Florenzi delivered a long cross from the right, and Stephan El Shaarawy headed back across. Dejan Lovren stopped it reaching Patrik Schick, but the ball cannoned into James Milner and flew back in past Karius. Roma fans raised the roof again. But **Liverpool** stayed calm, stayed bold and just attacked and attacked. Andy Robertson galloped down the left, showing how he has matured into such a fine, all-round force. **Liverpool** have always loved their left backs in Rome.

Robertson's enterprise embodied **Liverpool**'s approach, setting up Mané who was denied by Alisson but they made hay from the corner. Dzeko tried to clear but his header was poor and Wijnaldum stole in to head past Alisson. Dzeko lay on the floor, looking desolate. That made it 7-3 on aggregate. That was surely it. Arrivederci Roma? Dobry den Kiev? Roma tried to get back in the tie and El Shaarawy's drive clipped Milner and hit a post. But again **Liverpool** were composed. They took responsibility. Karius came flying through a group of players to punch a Kolarov cross clear. When El Shaarawy dribbled in from the left, Alexander-Arnold moved to challenge but withdrew his leg and the Roma attacker dived through thin air. When Lovren was then booked for a challenge on El Shaarawy, Lorenzo Pellegrini's free kick was so wayward that the **Liverpool** 5,000 responded with a crowing "what the f\*\*king hell was that?" They were loving this but they knew Roma wouldn't go quietly. Their fans certainly didn't, especially when Karius saved El Shaarawy's shot and Dzeko collected the loose ball, and drilled it in. The Curva Sud, beseeching Roma's attacks towards their end, never ebbed in their belief and volume. Roma were increasingly targeting Alexander-Arnold, who was so fortunate to escape conceding a penalty when handling El Shaarawy's shot. It looked a nailed-on penalty and a bad miss by the Slovenian referee, Damir Skomina. Alexander-Arnold was struggling now. With 11 minutes remaining, Dzeko got behind the teenager but Karius saved. Ronaldo will have watched this with great interest. With nine minutes remaining, Klopp went to five

at the back by sending on Ragnar Klávan and removing Mané. Lovren shuffled to cover the space behind Alexander-Arnold who had pushed up to wing back. Jordan Henderson shouted words of encouragement. It was nailbiting to the end. With four minutes remaining, Nainggolan unleashed an absolutely unstoppable strike that sped in off the post. But he did not celebrate. It was **Liverpool** fans singing, launching into "You'll Never Walk Alone", willing their team home Roma pushed it right to the end, and when Klávan handled deep into stoppage time, Nainggolan drilled the penalty in but the final whistle came seconds later, bringing joy and relief unrestrained to **Liverpool**.

## the guardian

Liverpool weather Roma storm to squeeze into Champions League final

Is it too presumptuous, when Liverpool have conjured up so many thrilling occasions en route to the [Champions League](#) final, to believe they might just have the attacking riches to prevent Real Madrid, the most successful team in the history of the European Cup, from registering a 13th triumph? The final will be on 26 May in Kiev and Liverpool, on this evidence, will be heading to Ukraine to score goals, live dangerously and examine the theory that Madrid can be susceptible at the back. Evidently, Jürgen Klopp's team will need to tighten up their own defence, eliminate the mistakes that briefly threatened a late meltdown and cling to the hope their goalkeeper, Loris Karius, avoids one of his more accident-prone performances. Attacking-wise, though, it is certainly within their reach to ensure another year, 2018, is added to all those banners on the Kop – many of them visible here in Rome – acclaiming their previous wins in 1977, 78, 81, 84 and 2005. Klopp's team have now accumulated 46 goals, qualifiers included, in this competition and Sadio Mané, Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino have 31 of them. True, they will need to find a way to subdue Cristiano Ronaldo *et al* but if there is one certainty about this **Liverpool** side it is that they will attack with vigour and confidence. That approach was too much ultimately for Roma and, though it was a night of high drama, it was only in the final exchanges that Radja Nainggolan's two goals meant Liverpool's aggregate lead was down to one. Even then [Roma](#) did not actually manage another touch after Nainggolan's stoppage-time penalty had made it 4-2. The game kicked off again, the final whistle sounded straight away and Klopp was charging on to the pitch to bearhug his players, one by one, starting with James Milner. There were wonderful scenes as the players celebrated in front of the corner where Liverpool's supporters were going through their victory songs. There was even a team photograph which featured a touching tribute to Sean Cox, the Liverpool supporter so badly hurt last week. Despite the defeat, it felt like we were witnessing a group of players who had come of age. Barcelona, lest it be forgotten, had buckled under the pressure here, blowing a 4-1 first-leg lead in the quarter-finals. The score might suggest Liverpool almost did the same and, granted, it was closer than Klopp must have imagined after the first-half goals from Mané and Georginio Wijnaldum. In truth, it was never really in doubt that it would be Liverpool in the final. That does not mean Klopp can be entirely happy with their performance bearing in mind the three second-half goals they conceded, the eccentric goalkeeping from Karius or Roma's third goal and the two occasions in the same period when Serie A's third-placed team should have been awarded a penalty. Roma gave everything and had a raucous crowd willing them on. Anfield was special for the first leg. Stadio Olimpico, a seething, whistling pit of bias, somehow managed to make even more of a racket. Of all the places Liverpool have been in this competition, all the stories they have accumulated over the years, have they ever experienced such a febrile din? That, however, was probably the most impressive part of Liverpool's performance: their fearlessness. Roma's record of having not conceded a single home goal in this competition – some achievement when their opponents have included Barcelona, Chelsea and Atlético Madrid – was gone within eight minutes. Liverpool began the game like a team in a hurry, not showing a flicker of apprehension, and had strong penalty claims of their own because of two Kostas Manolas challenges either side of Mané's goal. Even when Milner's freakish own goal offered Roma new hope, there was not a single part of the first half when Liverpool started playing with more restraint. Another side might have tried to draw the sting out of the game. Liverpool refused to sit back and it was typical that the corner for their second goal originated from a surging run by their outstanding left-back, Andy Robertson. Roma could not clear Milner's corner and when Edin Dzeko inadvertently headed the ball the wrong way, under pressure from Virgil van Dijk, it was too good an opportunity for Wijnaldum to pass up. Roma kept attacking, desperately trying to change the complexion of the evening, but they were in need of a football miracle and Liverpool had shown with the opening goal how devastating they could be on the break. Roma were vulnerable as soon as Nainggolan played the ball straight to Firmino. Mané was running to the Brazilian's left, Salah was going the other way, and there were only three defenders back. Mané took a touch to control Firmino's pass and fired emphatically past Alisson, Roma's goalkeeper. Perhaps the second half would have been more hazardous for Liverpool if Stephan El Shaarawy's 35th-minute shot had crept in rather than coming back off the post. Again Milner was involved, with the shot taking a hefty deflection off the midfielder. This time, however, Milner's luck was in – in stark contrast to the freakish set of events, a quarter of an hour in, when Dejan Lovren tried to hack away El Shaarawy's knockdown only for the ball to thud against Milner's head and zigzag into the net. Roma began the second half knowing they needed four goals, with none in reply, just to take the game to extra-time. At least they had a go.

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Dzeko had a splendid game, barring the mistake for Wijnaldum's goal, and made it 2-2 when Karius turned a shot into his path. Dzeko, wrongly flagged offside, should also have been awarded a penalty two minutes earlier when he went down under Karius's challenge and Liverpool got away with another one when Trent Alexander-Arnold used his hand to block El Shaarawy's shot. Karius was badly caught out for Nainggolan's first goal and the penalty was for an alleged handball by the substitute Ragnar Klavan. The damage was superficial and, half an hour after the final whistle, Klopp came out again, pumping his fists and screaming with joy in front of 5,000 euphoric fans.

## The Mail

Sadio Mane and Georginio Wijnaldum hold off late Roman revival to set up Champions League final tie with Real Madrid

They rode their luck, more than a little. They could have had their goalkeeper sent off. They could have conceded two more penalties. They could have been hanging on for dear life, come the end, or worse. Yet Liverpool will play Real Madrid in Kiev on May 26, because they got it right. They knew what they were best at. They didn't come to Rome in two minds about whether to dig in to defend a three-goal lead. Attack is the best form of defence, with this team. And so Jurgen Klopp, while not being a gung-ho lunatic, sent his players out to hurt Roma as much as Roma sought to hurt them. As a result, Liverpool got the goals required to ensure Roma's four were consolation and no more. They were never behind on the night until the 86th minute when it was far too late, and never less than two goals up on aggregate throughout this second leg, except in injury time. One might say the tie was never in doubt, were it not for those breaks courtesy of Slovenian referee Damir Skomina. He missed a handball by Trent Alexander-Arnold that could have been a penalty, and his assistant gave Edin Dzeko offside when he was probably on, and was quite definitely then taken out by Loris Karius. The locals howled their displeasure, but over two legs the better team went through. In both legs, Roma have only dominated at the point when Liverpool sought to close the game down. When both teams were at it, Liverpool were superior. Roma knew the size of their task but could not muster one of those periods that have set Liverpool apart in Europe this season — an attacking frenzy that as good as puts a tie to bed. Liverpool raced to a 5-0 lead at Anfield and, for all their pressure, Roma could not replicate it here. They won the game, but too late to change the outcome of the tie.

Radja Nainggolan scored the goal that put Roma ahead — but in the 86th minute. He converted the penalty that made the final score 7-6 on aggregate, but with almost the last kick of the match. And while it may not reflect well on Liverpool that a team needing three goals scored four against them — Real Madrid are next up — it also speaks volumes that a team who had not conceded at home in Europe all season should be a goal down after nine minutes and 2-1 down after 25. Klopp re-emerged 40 minutes after the game to celebrate with the penned-in Liverpool fans. He will know his team must approach the final as they did this game. No compromises, no holds barred. They work ferociously in midfield, but that is not the same as shutting a game down. What they do have, though, is the ability to slug it out. To match Madrid blow for attacking blow. If they had not gone for Roma in the first half, they would have lost the tie, not just the match — that much is clear. Having seen Real Madrid in action against Bayern Munich on Tuesday, all that can be guaranteed of the final is it will not be a 0-0 draw. What must also be hoped is that Liverpool have not used up all their luck in this 90 minutes. Not just with the penalties Skomina missed, but the calamitous errors that aided their two goals.

Nainggolan, the Belgian midfielder, explained before the game why he preferred Roma to Premier League suitors, including Chelsea. He said he enjoyed a challenge and the extent of this thrill-seeking we now know. There are few challenges greater than needing three goals to win a tie and making it four so soon into the match. Nainggolan's pass that turned Roma's attack into forlorn defence for Liverpool's ninth-minute opener was suicidal. He gave the ball directly to Roberto Firmino. The Brazilian didn't waste his opportunity. He tore into Roma's hastily back-peddalling four and fed Sadio Mane, overlapping on the left. He drew goalkeeper Alisson and finished smartly.

It was the perfect start for Liverpool. Their three strikers now have 29 goals, the highest tally of any trio in this competition, beating the 28 scored by Gareth Bale, Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema in 2013-14.

That Roma pulled one back so quickly was more by luck than judgment. James Milner is having a great Champions League, but an unlucky semi-final. He was harshly ruled to have handled for the penalty at Anfield, and here he scored an own goal in which his role was that of a human rebound rubber on a penalty box pinball machine. The impressive Stephan El Shaarawy won a header against Alexander-Arnold on the right and Dejan Lovren went for distance with his clearance. Unfortunately, the trajectory was interrupted by Milner's head, the ball cannoning off him and back past Karius. The noise inside the Stadio Olimpico whenever Roma got near goal gave the impression Liverpool were under siege. It wasn't quite like that. Early on, Liverpool gave as good as they got, even if Mohamed Salah was not at his Messi-like best. They do have players who frighten teams into making mistakes, though, and another error restored their lead after 25 minutes. Initially, Alisson made an excellent save from Mane at the near post, but what followed was chaos. Roma didn't get the corner away and Edin Dzeko, under pressure, ended up heading an attempted clearance back towards his own goal. Georginio Wijnaldum, the happy recipient of a Champions League final place

that would otherwise have belonged to the luckless Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, was first to react and headed the loose ball past Alisson. It should have been all over, Roma now needing four just to take the game to extra time, but the Italians are nothing if not optimistically relentless. They didn't give up. And Liverpool got two hefty slices of luck. Soon after the break Dzeko broke away and was up-ended crudely in the penalty area by Karius. It would have been a penalty, maybe even a red card for the keeper, but a linesman's flag was raised. Erroneously, replays showed. Dzeko looked a fraction on. Roma could have been a goal and a man to the good. It was a crucial point in the match.

So, too, the decision to overlook Alexander-Arnold's handball, charging down a shot from Patrik Schick. His arm was raised above his body and the ball clearly struck a hand, preventing it from reaching goal. Seen them given? Yes, and plenty of times, too. Meaning the comeback would have had considerably more consequence with two goals added to it. As it was, Dzeko's equaliser, a Nainggolan shot that Karius appeared to think was going wide and a rather harsh penalty award against Ragnar Klavan gave the illusion Liverpool were clinging on. In reality, everything happened with the final grains of sand slipping away.

### MATCH FACTS, PLAYER RATINGS AND MATCH ZONE

ROMA XI: Alisson 6.5; Florenzi 6, Manolas 5, Fazio 5, Kolarov 6; Pellegrini 4 (Under 53, 5.5), De Rossi 6 (Gonalons 70, 5), Nainggolan 6.5; Schick 5, Dzeko 7, El Shaarawy 6 (Antonucci 75, 5). Subs not used: Skorupski, Jesus, Peres, Gerson. Goals: Milner(OG) 15; Dzeko 53; Nainggolan 86, 90+3(pen).

Bookings: Florenzi, Manolas, Nainggolan. Manager: Eusebio Di Francesco.

LIVERPOOL XI: Karius 6.5; Alexander-Arnold 5 (Clyne 90), Van Dijk 7, Lovren 6, Robertson 6.5; Wijnaldum 7, Henderson 7.5, Milner 7; Salah 6.5, Firmino 7.5(Solanke 86), Mane 8 (Klavan 83). Subs not used: Mignolet, Moreno, Ings, Woodburn. Goals: Mane 9, Wijnaldum 25 Bookings: Lovren, Solanke. Manager: Jurgen Klopp.

Referee: Damir Skomina (Slovenia).

## The Daily Telegraph

Anfield boys fight fire with fire to show they are turning into men - Liverpool's free scorers earn final place the hard way as tension rises

To understand it, you just had to look at Trent Alexander-Arnold, 19 and Liverpool born, celebrating in front of the away supporters with his shirt off. Jurgen Klopp's right-back was surrounded by kindred spirits but also in a world of his own. Mark Lawrenson recalled that the Roma manager knew his side were beaten in the 1984 final here when Liverpool's players walked round the pitch beforehand singing a Chris Rea song. No team that confident were going home without the European Cup. Klopp's side are still a leap away from being European champions but Alexander-Arnold, who comes from West Derby and joined the club aged six, is one of several in this squad who are turning from boys to men. Thus, Liverpool are already winners in the developmental stakes: Champions League finalists in Klopp's second full season in charge, with individual improvement all across the field.

Back in '84, Liverpool had class, history, aura, built up over two decades. This time, they came to Rome as revelations. They also came with an abundance of goals. If this year's Champions League semi-finals have resembled basketball at times, you can hardly ask Liverpool to apologise for being the first team to reach 46 goals in a single Champions League campaign.

Their prolific scoring is only partly explained by the defensive frailties in front of them. The biggest cause is their irresistible movement and finishing.

Sadio Mane can be the least celebrated of the trident and still open the scoring stylishly. Georgi Wijnaldum can start the game badly and still head Liverpool's second en route to a 7-6 aggregate victory. This was not a semi. It was an arms race. Liverpool, of all clubs, know the value of not giving up, from the final in Istanbul 13 years ago. Eusebio Di Francesco's team also know it well.

They fought to the end, almost chasing another lost cause down, until the final whistle released Liverpool from their "suffering", as Klopp called it.

A minority of Roma's fans had displayed the dark power of dysfunctional tribalism, turning the Stadio Olimpico into a security compound, a week after the appalling injuries suffered by a Liverpool supporter, Sean Cox, outside Anfield. But the majority brought a more benign kind of pressure to bear on Liverpool, the new hot ticket in European football, from a position in the Premier League table 21 points behind Manchester City. There was a strange kind of madness about this tie, with Liverpool losing their No 2 coach, Zeljko Buvac, who left the party just as it was getting really good, Steven Gerrard being courted by Rangers and away fans having to observe elaborate travel plans to ensure their safety. Outside the ground, the notorious bridges over the Tiber stood like crossing points from a nightmare, even with the swarms of carabinieri.

This kind of tension sits badly with the beauty of Rome, but maybe the two are indivisible. Turmoil is expressed in every Roman street, some of it merely emotional, other parts of it political and much darker. Football feeds this need for melodrama, but Roma were trying to feed it from an impossible position, against opponents who were also expected to fall long before this stage.

The script was that Virgil van Dijk's defensive unit would pick up where Mohamed Salah, Mane and Roberto Firmino left off at Anfield. Liverpool would probably pinch an away goal to ease the pressure, but the main aim was stopping Roma doing what they did to Barcelona in the last round.

Roma's fans came here thinking a second miracle was possible. Liverpool's fought

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against their own belief that a 3-0 Roma win was impossible, given the effervescence of their own front trio, which reflects the modern cult of forwards working in gangs of three. Seldom has a 5-2 starting point felt so tantalising, and **Liverpool** could never relax on their seemingly commanding position. The threat was always there. Salah, meanwhile, now knows the pointlessness of not celebrating goals against former clubs. At Anfield, Salah was apologetic about his two first-half goals, raising his palms and avoiding the group hug. His reward was to be jeered by Roma fans on his old hunting ground - a more rational approach, if a little ungracious. Roma have been derided as semi-final impostors. But you could hardly question their spirit as they chased the game from 7-4 down. They pressed and hustled, hounding **Liverpool's** two young full-backs, Andy Robertson and Alexander-Arnold, and giving Van Dijk the biggest test of his **Liverpool** career, four months in. Not unreasonably, Roma went direct, whipping diagonal balls forward and trying to create mayhem in Loris Karius's penalty box. With eight minutes left, Klopp sent Ragnar Klavan on as a fifth defender in place of Mane, but even then the tension was maintained - and intensified when Radja Nainggolan struck from long range with five minutes left, and then scored from the penalty spot to make it 7-6 overall. Desperation, of different kinds, gripped both teams. Football ceases to be academic at this point. It becomes a ferocious battle of wills. You either stand or break. Purists will say that no tie with so many goals can be hailed as a classic. But it is too early in **Liverpool's** return as European heavyweights to be throwing academic caveats at them.

They were forged by fire in this tumultuous semi-final, which propels them into a final against another team, Real Madrid, who made it to Kiev the hard way. **Liverpool** earned another stroll round the pitch and a song.

Job done **Liverpool** do enough in rst half to progress after another thriller Roma change shape but **Liverpool** have a plan First-half average positions

Roma **Liverpool** Direction of play Direction of play Roma switched from a back three to a back four, and their average positions in the rst half show how they tried to ood the mideld. **Liverpool** mirrored their setup, though, with their front three dropping deep to help outnumber the hosts in a key area of the pitch.

Hosts' sloppiness helps **Liverpool** Misplaced passes by Roma's midelders in the rst half Direction of play Congestion in mideld Roma struggled to keep the ball, as shown by the misplaced passes in the rst half by mideld trio Radja Nainggolan, Daniele De Rossi and Lorenzo Pellegrini. The worst of those was by Nainggolan (in bold) which led to Sadio Mane's opener.

Milner unfortunate but Alexander-Arnold enjoys a slice of luck **Liverpool** scored a bizarre own-goal when Dejan Lovren's clearance hit James Milner in the face and looped into the net (left), but they were more lucky when Trent Alexander-Arnold blocked Stephan El Shaarawy's shot with his hand (below). It could have been a penalty and red card but wasn't seen.

When **Liverpool** play, entertainment is guaranteed This was the highest-scoring semi-final in European Cup history and after Real Madrid's entertaining 4-3 aggregate victory over Bayern Munich this was easily the highest-scoring pair of semi-finals in recent history. It made for fabulous entertainment.

## THE INDEPENDENT

Liverpool into the Champions League final thanks to courageous brand of flawed but unflinching football

Jürgen Klopp usually takes a scattergun approach to answering the questions of journalists, bombarding his interrogator with so many words that dictaphone batteries expire and translators need new notepads. Yet a telling line often lies among the mass of detail, and so it was before this semi-final.

"Football is as in life," he told those who had dared to venture that Liverpool could relinquish their 5-2 first-leg lead over Roma and fail to reach the Kiev final.

"If you are not ready to lose, you cannot win."

Liverpool's build-up to this second leg could only be described as difficult. The loss of Klopp's assistant Zeljko Buvac was bizarre, the season-ending injury to Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain cruel, Saturday's draw with Stoke City disappointing and the furore in Egypt over Mohamed Salah's image rights unhelpful.

And then, cutting all those inconveniences down into insignificance, was the well-being of Sean Cox, the Liverpool supporter left in a medically-induced coma by Roman ultras last week. The 53-year-old's condition more than cast a cloud over the occasion, lacing the streets around the Stadio Olimpico with a palpable menace. Yet plenty of Cox's counterparts - approximately 5,000 travelling supporters - took heed of the warnings, followed the safety instructions and still arrived in the Eternal City intent on backing a group of players they are gradually falling in love with. Hardly George Cross fare, but still a decision that required a degree of courage, and courage that deserved to be reflected out on the pitch.

In the circumstances it would have been understandable if Klopp had instructed his players to play tight, composed football and soak up the pressure that Roma would inevitably exert. Another team you may have heard of, one slightly more successful than Liverpool of late, tried to do just that in this stadium recently.

An overlooked aspect of Barcelona's display in that remarkable quarter-final was that Ernesto Valverde took a passive, reactive, 'have-what-we-hold' approach, confident that the natural superiority of La Liga's champions would be enough to overcome Serie A also-runs. Yet the talents at Barcelona's disposal made their performance particularly craven, and it was dealt with a fair punishment.

Would Liverpool do the same? It would be naive to even suggest so. Klopp's side were forced to play deep given the nature of the occasion but they accepted

every opportunity to break, especially in a breathless first half. Even after taking a lead on the night inside nine minutes, there was no let-up. Oceans of space were afforded to a Roma team that needed goals and eventually found them, but not enough. Had Liverpool not sought to pounce in those opening stages, the Italians would be the ones travelling to Kiev. Bravery was not only seen at the frontline, though, but also in the rear. There was Andy Robertson driving up the pitch in search of an assist then driving back down it with equal endeavour to prevent one. There was the slight Sadio Mané rising for high and hung-up aerial balls that he was never likely to win, usually being clattered underneath his marker, but the next time rising again. There was Roberto Firmino seeming like three Roberto Firminos across the breadth of the pitch any time his team-mates were on the back foot. Liverpool's nerve slipped a little in the second half but the ideals were still not compromised. This is not football characterised by fear, doubling down on defensive strengths in order to mitigate offensive weakness. Nor is it total dominance, or an attempt at such scientific superiority that defeat becomes unthinkable, if no less inevitable. Instead, it is flawed but unflinching, sometimes imprecise and sometimes incisive, always a spectacle. If you are not ready to lose, you cannot win. There was another telling Klopp line back in September, when it appeared as though the defensive problems that have dogged this side for years would spoil yet another season. "I never had one doubt about the system," Klopp said at the time. Those defensive problems remain but have significantly receded, without an ounce of the devastating attacking potential lost.

There should be no doubt now that this system, with all its inherent flaws and all those moments it looks vulnerable to collapse, is a success. To paraphrase the late playwright Arnold Wesker, Klopp's Liverpool have shown the courage to go after a utopia and survive their failures. It is that courage that has brought them within 90 minutes plus stoppage time of what this club, since 1977, has considered its utopia: lifting the European Cup.



### ROME SWEET ROME

EVEN by **Liverpool's** own incredible standards, this will go down as one of their most dramatic European nights. A night never to be forgotten, a night to go down in **Liverpool** folklore and a night when Jürgen Klopp took this great club another step towards a sixth European Cup. The scoreline is misleading because **Liverpool** never really came close to blowing it even if Roma got to within a goal of completing the most remarkable fightback. **Liverpool** never do it the easy way but Klopp's philosophy of attack being the best form of defence means we can expect another thrilling encounter in the final in Kiev against Real Madrid on May 26.

There is always a sense of destiny with **Liverpool** and they reached their eighth European Cup final in the stadium where they won the trophy in 1984.

History looms large again as they beat Real Madrid in the European Cup final in 1981 and now face each other again with Klopp desperate to write a new chapter in the record books. It is difficult to believe you can win the Champions League playing like this because it just seems impossible you can go all-out attack and still go through. It was an epic white-knuckle ride at times and that explains **Liverpool's** wild celebrations after the final whistle as the players went over to the 5,000 travelling fans banked up in a corner of the magnificent Stadio Olimpico. crumbled in the last round amid the noise and sea of red and yellow but **Liverpool** thrilled us all until the final whistle. In the ancient city famous for Gladiators, it went right to the death. Klopp was overjoyed afterwards, swept up in the moment, and yet even the cavalier **Liverpool** boss quickly pointed out they must defend better. We could pick apart their defensive mistakes and suggest they have no chance against Real. Or we could celebrate **Liverpool's** brilliant attacking football which even Madrid might struggle to contain.

Few managers would be brave or foolhardy enough to go to Rome and play three strikers, but that is Klopp's philosophy - and what has got thought **Liverpool** would score and yet we could not have expected the first goal to be quite so easy. Radja Nainggolan's woeful pass gave the ball straight to Roberto Firmino, the **Liverpool** forward led the break and set up Sadio Mane to fire the visitors into a ninth-minute lead. Mane was brilliant all night, his pace and power were outstanding. But Roma were given hope after 16 minutes when Dejan Lovren sliced a clearance, it hit James Milner and cannoned into the net for a comical own goal. **Liverpool** went back in front after 26 minutes as Milner's corner caused mayhem, Edin Dzeko headed the ball back into the danger area and Georginio Wijnaldum cleverly guided a header into the net to restart the **Liverpool** party. But the topsy-turvy rollercoaster of a game was far from over. Roma equalised on the night after 52 minutes when **Liverpool** keeper Loris Karius parried Stephan El Shaarawy's who smashed home. The home side kept storming forward, and it was one-way traffic. **Liverpool** right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold was lucky not to concede a penalty for handball while Dzeko should have scored and El Shaarawy hit the post. Eventually Roma got their third after 86 minutes as Nainggolan (above) smashed a 20-yard shot in off the post. Roma got a fourth to go within a goal of taking it to extra time after **Liverpool** sub Ragnar Klavan handled and Nainggolan smashed home the penalty. But the whistle went straight after the restart. It was a crazy game, the most goals in a semi-final in Champions League history, and **Liverpool's** forwards will no doubt strike fear even into the mighty Real Madrid. Never mind that Madrid are going for their third straight Champions League victory. Even Cristiano Ronaldo will know **Liverpool** will take some stopping in their own quest for European history.

Date: 2 May 2018  
Opposition: AS Roma  
Competition: Champions League

Times	Telegraph	Gazzetta
Guardian	Mirror	Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

2 May 2018



Jürgen Klopp's Reds stand on the brink of greatness after heroics in Rome

Rome sweet Rome. Once again the Eternal City was painted red as Liverpool secured their passage to the Champions League final on a nerve-shredding night at the Stadio Olimpico. The scene of two of the club's European Cup triumphs was the setting for another monumental achievement as Jürgen Klopp's side dug deep to survive a late Roma onslaught. The scenes of unbridled joy showed just what it meant. Virgil van Dijk dropped to his knees at the final whistle, while Klopp charged on to the field to wrap his arms around each of his shattered heroes.

The party in the away end was already under way. 'Allez, Allez, Allez', the soundtrack of this remarkable continental adventure, will echo around the streets of Kiev on May 26. Real Madrid stand between Liverpool and a sixth European crown in a repeat of the 1981 final in Paris.

It was telling that Klopp's players re-emerged from the dressing room after the locals had dispersed to join in the celebrations with the 5,000-strong travelling Kop. At first they stood on the edge of the pitch dancing and singing before Sadio Mane dashed across the running track to get closer to their adoring public.

His team-mates followed suit as shirts were thrown in and scarves and hats tossed back. The flag bearing the name of Sean Cox was held aloft. The emotion was raw. This was Liverpool – the powerful, unified force who have stunned Europe on this dazzling journey. This was the resurgent Liverpool whose 11-year wait to grace the biggest game in club football is over. Klopp, the architect of this stunning revival, punched the air in delight. From a qualifier against Hoffenheim in August to a final meeting with 12-times winners Real, it's the stuff of fairytales.

Yet Klopp's men have proved they belong on this stage. No other club in Champions League history has ever scored 46 goals en route to the final.

Now the Reds stand on the brink of greatness. Finish the job off in the Ukrainian capital and this crop of players will be remembered as legends forever.

It's Klopp v Zinedine Zidane. It's Mohamed Salah v Cristiano Ronaldo. The prospect is mouthwatering. When Liverpool last faced Real Madrid four years ago they raised a white flag before a ball had been kicked. There was an inferiority complex. Not this time. Kopites will travel with genuine belief that after the near misses of recent years this run will have a happy ending.

In a position of control after last week's emphatic 5-2 win at Anfield, the Reds appeared to be cruising when Sadio Mane and Gini Wijnaldum struck either side of James Milner's own goal. But Eusebio Di Francesco's side mounted a spirited second-half fightback as Edin Dzeko pulled one back before Radja Nainggolan's late double. This was all about guts and resilience when their backs were against the wall. The mentality Klopp has instilled came to the fore as Liverpool refused to crumble. Captain Jordan Henderson delivered a true captain's performance as he covered every blade of grass, while Van Dijk was a commanding presence as he kept his cool amidst the mayhem. Liverpool proved they are so much more than simply the record-breaking Salah.

The night had started with the Reds being greeted by a deafening crescendo of whistles and jeers. The Stadio Olimpico crowd had been whipped into a frenzy and Roma fed off that energy initially as they looked to reduce the hefty first-leg deficit. Amidst the hostility, the Reds kept their shape and remained composed.

Alessandro Florenzi fired wide as Klopp's side weathered the early storm. Eusebio Di Francesco had ditched his three-man backline after seeing his side ripped to shreds at Anfield, but once again they looked so vulnerable when they lost possession and the Reds countered at pace. Liverpool struck with their first meaningful attack. Nainggolan gave the ball away cheaply and the punishment was ruthless. Roberto Firmino raced forward and released Mane, who took a touch to steady himself and coolly planted a left-footer past Alisson.

Atletico Madrid, Chelsea, Qarabag, Shakhtar Donetsk and Barcelona had all failed to score here in the Champions League this season, but it had taken Klopp's attacking juggernaut just nine minutes to find the breakthrough. It was the Senegal international's 19 goal of the season. Roma looked stunned but they were soon gifted a lifeline courtesy of a freak equaliser. There appeared to be little danger when Stephan El Shaarawy nodded back across goal, but Dejan Lovren hammered his clearance against Milner and the ball flew past a helpless Loris Karius.

Suddenly, the din was restored and Roma believed again. Where once this Liverpool team would have cursed their misfortune, they showcased their progress by dusting themselves off and going again. The more Roma committed players forward, the more wide open spaces there were for Klopp's front three to wreak havoc. Mane curled wide before Henderson's pin-point pass released Andy Robertson. The Scottish left-back burst into the area and teed up Mane, who was thwarted by a fine save from Alisson. Liverpool bagged a precious second away goal before the half-hour mark. Roma made a mess of dealing with Milner's corner as Dzeko misplaced his header and Wijnaldum pounced to nod home.

Elation was etched across the Dutchman's face. What a time for him to end his three-year wait for a goal on his travels. This was the first time he had scored away since he was playing for PSV Eindhoven against Den Haag in May 2015.

Roma were deflated. They needed four without reply just to take it to extra-time. The dangerous El Shaarawy struck the woodwork before the Italy international theatrically threw himself over a challenge from Trent Alexander-Arnold. Slovenian

official Damir Skomina rightly waved away pleas for a spot-kick. In the second half Roma raised the bar and Liverpool found themselves increasingly under the cosh. The offside flag saved Karius after he brought down Dzeko but the keeper was beaten seven minutes after the break. Dzeko tucked away the rebound clinically after Karius had parried El Shaarawy's strike. Desperation and dismay among the home fans turned to hope and the decibel levels were cranked up. Di Francesco went for broke, bringing on Cengiz Under, who squandered a great chance from close range. Hearts were in mouths in the away end when Alexander-Arnold's attempted clearance dropped kindly to El Shaarawy, but the gutsy teenager atoned for his error as he threw himself in the way and somehow deflected it over. A combination of last-ditch defending and wasteful finishing kept Roma out before the outstanding Mane made way for Ragnar Klavan. Klopp was shutting up shop. With minutes to go Nainggolan's fierce 25-yarder cannonned in off the post and then deep into stoppage time Klavan was penalised for handball. Nainggolan converted from the spot but as soon as the Reds kicked off Skomina blew the final whistle. Liverpool march on to Kiev. A defeat has never felt so sweet.

#### MATCH FACTS

**Roma:** Alisson, Florenzi, Manolas, Fazio, Kolarov, Pellegrini (Under 53), De Rossi (Gonalons 69), Nainggolan, Schick, Dzeko, El Shaarawy (Antonucci 75).

**Not used:** Skorupski, Jesus, Peres, Gerson.

**Liverpool:** Karius, Alexander-Arnold (Clyne 90), Lovren, Van Dijk, Robertson, Henderson, Milner, Wijnaldum, Salah, Mane (Klavan 83), Firmino (Solanke 87).

**Not used:** Mignolet, Moreno, Ings, Woodburn.

**Referee:** Damir Skomina **Attendance:** 61,889

**Goals:** Mane 9, Milner OG 15, Wijnaldum 25, Dzeko 52, Nainggolan 86.

**Bookings:** Lovren, Robertson, Manolas.

**Man of the match:** Sadio Mane. Scored the opener and caused Roma problems throughout.

## GAZZETTA DELLA SPORT

i Reds staccano il biglietto per la finale di Kiev

Tutti in piedi e grazie Roma. Grazie lo stesso, canta il popolo giallorosso addolorato e riconoscente, davanti allo sforzo di una squadra che non ha mollato mai, nemmeno quando era stra-finita. E' un 4-2 amaro, quello dell'Olimpico: resterà Madrid l'unica capitale europea rappresentata a Kiev il 26 maggio nella finale di Champions League, passa il Liverpool, forte della dote accumulata ad Anfield. Cade, però, l'imbattibilità dei Reds nel torneo: piccola consolazione romanista, a cui va aggiunta quella di aver finalmente fermato Salah.

**NINJA CHE GUAIO** — Tensione a mille al calcio d'inizio, per fortuna senza incidenti significativi prima del match. E il frastuono è lo stesso di una finale dei 100 metri, il fischio di Skomina è lo sparo dello starter, anche se stasera si corre all'interno della pista rossa dell'Olimpico, non sopra. Basta un destro di Florenzi per alzare i decibel: "l'unico grande amore de tanta tanta gente" spinge subito forte, come da comandamento vendittiano. A far sospiare i cuori, però, è Nainggolan dopo 9 minuti. E non nel senso buono. Follia del "Ninja", che aziona il 3 contro 2 dei Reds con un retropassaggio sciagurato. Firmino, Mané. Gol. E addio partita a scacchi, addio valutazioni a freddo sulla difesa a quattro voluta da Di Francesco, diversamente da Anfield. E' già serata da assalti all'arma bianca, disperati.

**QUANTI REGALI** — Gli uomini migliori della Roma, nel primo tempo, sono due: El Shaarawy e Milner. Sì, perché il tuttofare inglese tutto fa fuorché giocare per il Liverpool, andando al riposo con un autogol confezionato e uno sfiorato. L'1-1 che rianima la Roma, al 15', arriva per una carambola con Lovren, dopo una sponda aerea di El Shaarawy. E ancora Milner devia un destro dello scatenato Faraone mandandolo sul palo, a Karius battuto. Il problema è che, nel frattempo, il Liverpool è andato sul 2-1. Perché Dzeko, contagiato da questa strana voglia di farsi del male, serve a Wijnaldum il più comodo degli assist per l'incornata su azione da calcio d'angolo. Errori inattesi da protagonisti di questo livello, sintomo di un eccesso di frenesia. Tenere alta l'intensità per dare nerbo all'inseguimento si paga con massicce dosi d'imprecisione.

**E I RIGORI?** — Ci si mette anche qualche decisione arbitrale sfavorevole ad azzoppare la rincorsa giallorossa. Nel primo tempo un lieve contatto tra Schick e Lovren salva il croato da un "mani" in area, all'inizio della ripresa Karius sarebbe da rigore su Dzeko ma l'azione è fermata per un fuorigioco dubbio. Decisioni che pesano, perché al minuto 52 si sveglia Dzeko, che prosegue nella striscia realizzativa in Champions: destro di El Shaarawy, Karius respinge, Edin controlla e scaraventa in rete. Boato dell'Olimpico, dentro Under per un Pellegrini poco ispirato, c'è ancora tempo per sognare, o almeno per vendere cara la pelle. E il turco, al volo, per poco non firma subito il sorpasso. Che forse arriverebbe ugualmente, se Skomina sanzionasse col penalty una clamorosa parata di Alexander-Arnold su acrobazia di El Shaarawy. Niente, la lista dei dispianti s'allunga.

**RISCATTO RADJA** — Il Liverpool s'accontenta di mantenere il largo vantaggio col favore del cronometro, alleggerisce la pressione con un tentativo di Firmino (Alisson reattivo, come su Mané nel primo tempo) e gestisce il risultato, non proprio la specialità della casa. E infatti paga, come ad Anfield. Gonalons e Antonucci sono le ultime due frecce di Di Francesco, il forcing finale è da applausi e trova la redenzione di Nainggolan, che insacca il bolide del 3-2 con 4 minuti più recupero da giocare. Radja farà doppietta poco dopo, calciando in porta con rabbia al 94' un rigore che sa tanto di beffa. Peccato, Roma. Ma grazie d'averci provato, di essere caduta tante volte e rialzata sempre, perché è così, solo così che si diventa grandi.

Date: 2 May 2018

Opposition: AS Roma

Competition: Champions League

Times

Telegraph

Gazzetta

Guardian

Mirror

Echo

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BBC

2 May 2018



Liverpool reached the Champions League final for the first time since 2007, advancing 7-6 on aggregate despite losing a dramatic second leg to Roma. A journey that started on 15 August in Germany against Hoffenheim in the play-off round will end on 26 May when Jurgen Klopp's men face 12-time winners Real Madrid in Kiev.

Liverpool conceded three times in the second half in Rome to lose for the first time in the competition this season but Klopp and his players celebrated wildly in front of 5,000 travelling fans after the final whistle at the Stadio Olimpico.

Virgil van Dijk sank to his knees and James Milner lay flat on his back in front of the travelling fans, who were kept in the ground long after the final whistle.

A delighted Klopp came back out after conducting television interviews to applaud the Liverpool supporters while the team posed for photographs with a banner in support of Sean Cox, the Liverpool supporter who was seriously injured after being attacked outside Anfield before the first leg.

Leading 5-2 after a devastating first-leg performance at Anfield, Liverpool went further ahead when Sadio Mane finished from Roberto Firmino's clever pass.

An own goal by Milner, after Dejan Lovren's attempted clearance cannoned off his team-mate, levelled the scores on the night before Georginio Wijnaldum's header made it 2-1, and 7-3 on aggregate.

However, Roma scored three more times to give Liverpool plenty of anxious moments in a match which appeared to pass off peacefully inside the ground after a large scale police operation in the Italian capital.

Edin Dzeko gave the home side hope with his side's second goal before Radja Nainggolan added two late strikes, including a stoppage-time penalty.

However, Liverpool just about kept their hosts at bay to become the first Premier League club to reach the Champions League final since Roberto di Matteo's Chelsea beat Bayern Munich on penalties in 2012.

Cool heads, raging hearts in Eternal City

Liverpool are on their way to a third Champions League final in 13 years despite losing for the first time in this season's competition.

The Stadio Olimpico evokes powerful memories for Reds fans.

It was the scene of their first European Cup triumph back in 1977 and they returned seven years later to break Roma hearts in the final.

The damage in the tie was done in the space of 33 minutes either side of half-time at Anfield, when the Reds rattled in five goals without reply.

Roma had given themselves a fighting chance by scoring two late goals in the first leg but any hopes of another memorable European comeback after their heroics over Barcelona in the previous round realistically disappeared when Mane made it 6-2 on aggregate.

After a hat-trick away to Porto and two against Spartak Moscow, the Senegal forward has been a driving force in Liverpool's charge to the final.

Mane made it nine in the competition this season - six behind Real's Cristiano Ronaldo - after pouncing on Firmino's superbly weighted pass following a mistake by Nainggolan.

That left Roma needing to score four times but their spirits were briefly raised when Milner's own goal levelled the scores on the night, an attempted clearance by Lovren hitting Milner in the face and flying into the net.

Yet Liverpool's potency and threat saw them stretch their aggregate advantage to 7-3 through an unlikely source.

Dzeko got it horribly wrong while trying to make a headed clearance from a corner, and an unmarked Wijnaldum nodded his first away goal in a Liverpool shirt.

Stephan El Shaarawy, helped by a deflection off Milner, hit the post before Roma's late rally.

Dzeko scored early in the second half after Loris Karius had parried a shot into his path, and Nainggolan put Roma ahead for the first time on the night with a shot that went in off the post four minutes from time.

Liverpool faced more anxious moments when Nainggolan scored from the penalty spot after substitute Ragnar Klavan handled - but it was literally only moments as the three minutes' added time were already up.

The final whistle was greeted with roars from the travelling fans as Liverpool reached their eighth final in Europe's most prestigious club knockout competition. Klopp one win from first Reds trophy

Klopp will be hoping it is a case of third time lucky when Liverpool head for Kiev later this month.

The 50-year-old German has yet to win a trophy since taking charge in October 2015 - his side lost the 2016 League Cup to Manchester City on penalties at Wembley before going down to Sevilla in the Europa League final three months later.

Klopp has a chance to write his name in Liverpool's history book by becoming the fourth manager to lead them to a European Cup/Champions League triumph after Bob Paisley (1977, 1978 and 1981), Joe Fagan (1984) and Rafael Benitez (2005). Yet the former Borussia Dortmund boss has struggled since winning the 2012 German Cup final.

His past five finals have all ended in defeat, a statistic that will have to end if Liverpool are to be crowned champions of Europe for a sixth time.

Man of the match - Sadio Mane (Liverpool)

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp:

We had a bit of luck and we needed that. It would have been deserved by Rome if it went to extra time but I don't know how we would have coped with another 15 minutes each way.

We came into the competition as a qualifier and now we are in the final so I'm delighted for the club, the players and the fans. We will go to Kiev to play the final.

Repeat of the 1981 final - the stats

The Champions League final will be a repeat of the 1981 European Cup final, in which Liverpool beat Real Madrid 1-0.

Liverpool v Real Madrid will be the third final to have been played in the competition as both the European Cup (1956 to 1992) and Champions League (1993 onwards), after Ajax v Juventus and Ajax v AC Milan.

With 13 goals over the two legs, this is the highest scoring Champions League semi-final ever, overtaking Monaco v Juventus (4-6) in 1998.

Roma conceded twice in the opening 25 minutes, having kept a clean sheet in each of their five previous home Champions League games this season.

Liverpool have scored 20 away goals in the Champions League this season, equalling the record for a single campaign in the competition (level with Real Madrid 2013-14).

The Reds also became the third team to score 40 goals within a single season in the Champions League, after Barcelona (45 in 1999-00) and Real Madrid (41 in 2013-14).

Sadio Mane's strike was his ninth in the Champions League in just his 10th appearance - no player has scored more in their opening 10 games in the competition (level with Harry Kane and Simone Inzaghi).

Mohamed Salah (10), Roberto Firmino (10) and Mane (nine) have scored 29 goals between them in the Champions League this season, making them the highest scoring trio at a club in a single campaign in the competition.

Georginio Wijnaldum's strike was his 19th for an English club in all competitions (11 for Newcastle, 8 for Liverpool), though this was his first away from home.

What's next?

Roma look to hang on to third place in Serie A at Cagliari on Sunday (19:45 BST), and Liverpool play their penultimate Premier League game on the same day when they meet Chelsea (16:30) in a fifth-versus-third clash at Stamford Bridge.

Date: 2 May 2018

Opposition: AS Roma

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2 May 2018



Match ends, Roma 4, Liverpool 2.

90'+4' Second Half ends, Roma 4, Liverpool 2.

90'+4' Goal! Roma 4, Liverpool 2. Radja Nainggolan (Roma converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the high centre of the goal.

90'+3' Penalty conceded by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool with a hand ball in the penalty area.

90'+3' Substitution, Liverpool. Nathaniel Clyne replaces Trent Alexander-Arnold.

90'+2' Dangerous play by Aleksandar Kolarov (Roma.

90'+2' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90' Dominic Solanke (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

90' Federico Fazio (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90' Foul by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool.

90' Offside, Roma. Alessandro Florenzi tries a through ball, but Federico Fazio is caught offside.

89' Patrik Schick (Roma wins a free kick in the attacking half.

89' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

88' Hand ball by Radja Nainggolan (Roma.

87' Mirko Antonucci (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.

87' Foul by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool.

87' Substitution, Liverpool. Dominic Solanke replaces Roberto Firmino.

86' Goal! Roma 3, Liverpool 2. Radja Nainggolan (Roma right footed shot from outside the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Aleksandar Kolarov.

84' Andrew Robertson (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

84' Kostas Manolas (Roma is shown the yellow card.

83' Attempt missed. Cengiz Ünder (Roma header from outside the box misses to the left.

83' Substitution, Liverpool. Ragnar Klavan replaces Sadio Mané.

82' Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.

80' Attempt saved. Edin Dzeko (Roma left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan.

79' Attempt missed. Edin Dzeko (Roma left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan with a cross following a corner.

79' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.

78' Attempt missed. Patrik Schick (Roma left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses the top left corner. Assisted by Federico Fazio.

77' Aleksandar Kolarov (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.

77' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.

77' Alessandro Florenzi (Roma is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

76' Foul by Alessandro Florenzi (Roma.

76' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

75' Substitution, Roma. Mirko Antonucci replaces Stephan El Shaarawy because of an injury.

75' Offside, Liverpool. Andrew Robertson tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.

74' Stephan El Shaarawy (Roma wins a free kick on the left wing.

74' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.

74' Patrik Schick (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.

74' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

71' Attempt missed. Maxime Gonalons (Roma right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Edin Dzeko.

71' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.

69' Substitution, Roma. Maxime Gonalons replaces Daniele De Rossi.

69' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.

68' Attempt missed. Edin Dzeko (Roma right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan with a cross.

66' Attempt missed. Edin Dzeko (Roma left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Daniele De Rossi with a through ball.

66' Attempt missed. Cengiz Ünder (Roma left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Edin Dzeko with a headed pass.

64' Kostas Manolas (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.

64' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool.

63' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Trent Alexander-Arnold.

63' Attempt blocked. Stephan El Shaarawy (Roma left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box is blocked.

63' Attempt missed. Edin Dzeko (Roma header from the right side of the six yard box misses to the left.

62' Offside, Liverpool. Trent Alexander-Arnold tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.

60' Foul by Radja Nainggolan (Roma.

60' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

60' Attempt saved. Cengiz Ünder (Roma left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Daniele De Rossi with a through ball.

59' Hand ball by Mohamed Salah (Liverpool.

56' Attempt missed. Edin Dzeko (Roma header from the right side of the six yard box is too high. Assisted by Aleksandar Kolarov with a cross following a set piece situation.

55' Edin Dzeko (Roma wins a free kick in the attacking half.

55' Foul by Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool.

53' Substitution, Roma. Cengiz Ünder replaces Lorenzo Pellegrini.

52' Goal! Roma 2, Liverpool 2. Edin Dzeko (Roma right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top left corner.

52' Attempt saved. Stephan El Shaarawy (Roma right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner.

49' Offside, Roma. Stephan El Shaarawy tries a through ball, but Edin Dzeko is caught

offside.

49' Offside, Liverpool. Andrew Robertson tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.

47' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.

47' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

46' Offside, Liverpool. Sadio Mané tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.

Second Half begins Roma 1, Liverpool 2.

45'+2' First Half ends, Roma 1, Liverpool 2.

45'+1' Foul by Radja Nainggolan (Roma.

45'+1' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

45' Attempt missed. Lorenzo Pellegrini (Roma right footed shot from a difficult angle and long range on the left is high and wide to the right from a direct free kick.

44' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

44' Stephan El Shaarawy (Roma wins a free kick on the left wing.

44' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.

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

42' Attempt missed. Alessandro Florenzi (Roma right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan with a headed pass.

38' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Federico Fazio.

38' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

37' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Jordan Henderson.

37' Attempt blocked. Edin Dzeko (Roma right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan.

36' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.

35' Attempt blocked. Stephan El Shaarawy (Roma right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Aleksandar Kolarov.

33' Foul by Edin Dzeko (Roma.

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

31' Offside, Roma. Daniele De Rossi tries a through ball, but Patrik Schick is caught offside.

30' Edin Dzeko (Roma wins a free kick in the attacking half.

30' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.

29' Alisson (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.

29' Foul by Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool.

29' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Daniele De Rossi.

28' Attempt missed. Daniele De Rossi (Roma header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Lorenzo Pellegrini with a cross following a corner.

27' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.

25' Goal! Roma 1, Liverpool 2. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal following a corner.

25' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Alisson.

25' Attempt saved. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from very close range is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Andrew Robertson.

24' Lorenzo Pellegrini (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.

24' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

20' Foul by Patrik Schick (Roma.

20' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

19' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.

17' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right.

15' Own Goal by James Milner, Liverpool. Roma 1, Liverpool 1.

14' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner.

13' Foul by Lorenzo Pellegrini (Roma.

13' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

11' Attempt missed. Radja Nainggolan (Roma right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right.

9' Goal! Roma 0, Liverpool 1. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

8' Foul by Aleksandar Kolarov (Roma.

8' Mohamed Salah (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

6' Attempt missed. Alessandro Florenzi (Roma right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Stephan El Shaarawy.

5' Foul by Daniele De Rossi (Roma.

5' Mohamed Salah (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

3' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Georginio Wijnaldum.

1' Attempt missed. Edin Dzeko (Roma header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Stephan El Shaarawy.

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up.