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THE



TIMES

Class of Suarez provides hope for timid Liverpool

Liverpool 1 Suarez 67 1  
Newcastle United 1 Cabaye 43  
Referee A Taylor Attendance 44,803

This tense match ended with Newcastle United's supporters singing "Luis Suarez, you know what you are." And he almost certainly does -- a pest, an irritant, a thorn in the side of opponents and match officials alike and, above all at the moment, a top-class player who has emerged as the guiding light for a Liverpool team in transition.

With a patched-up Newcastle team surviving a late onslaught, during which Fabricio Coloccini was sent off for a dangerous challenge on Suarez, this result brought a familiar sense of deja vu at Anfield. This was Liverpool's fifteenth home game in the Barclays Premier League in 2012 and it was the twelfth time they have failed to win. With Suarez, they are a team who frequently dominate matches without winning them. Without him? It would hardly bear thinking about for Brendan Rodgers and his team.

Rodgers gushed with praise for Suarez afterwards, calling him "unplayable". At his best in the final half-hour, he was. His equalising goal, midway through the second half, was breathtaking -- on the run, he controlled Jose Enrique's 50-yard pass on his chest, then touched the ball past Tim Krul and prodded it into the net - but his all-round play was of an impressively high level throughout.

For all the nonsense, Suarez is a hell of a player when he puts his mind to it. "When all is said and done about this lad, he's a fantastic player," Alan Pardew, the Newcastle manager, said. "All day today he gave us real problems."

It was not the most auspicious or vibrant Newcastle performance of Pardew's tenure, but that is not entirely surprising. They never seem to be quite the same team without the tenacity of Cheik Tiote, who was suspended yesterday, and after losing James Perch, Yohan Cabaye and Demba Ba to injury over the course of the game, before Coloccini's red card, Pardew voiced a sense of relief that they had at least left Merseyside with a point.

Rodgers seemed delighted by Liverpool's performance. There was plenty from which he could draw satisfaction, even if Steven Gerrard visibly found the going tough on his 600th appearance for the club, but there was a lull in their play either side of half-time. It seemed for much of the game that Newcastle were there for the taking, but, like so many visiting teams to Anfield over the past few years, Pardew's team avoided defeat. The obvious question is how and why Liverpool can so continually have more possession and create more opportunities than their opponents but so rarely win matches. An awful lot of it seems to come down to a lack of incision and conviction in the final third of the pitch. When asked afterwards if there might be a psychological element to what seems to have become a self-perpetuating problem, Rodgers replied that it was an issue of quality, suggesting that the solution -- one that would enable him to optimise the threat of Suarez while producing more goals elsewhere -- would come in the January transfer window. Certainly Liverpool could do with producing a few acquisitions of the type that have proved the basis for Newcastle's resurgence over the past couple of years. This seemed like an off day for Pardew's team, but, with an offensive quartet as potent as Hatem Ben Arfa, Cabaye, Papiss Demba Cisse and Ba, they scored from their first attack of real note two minutes before half-time. It came from a schoolboy error, with Andre Wisdom, the young Liverpool defender, punished for a foul throw-in. From the resulting Newcastle throw, play was switched from the left-hand side to the right, where Ben Arfa, quiet to that point, scampered forward and used a combination of pace and skill to escape from Enrique, his former team-mate. Ben Arfa's cross travelled to the far post, where Cabaye controlled the ball and struck an excellent right-foot shot past Brad Jones to put Newcastle ahead. Liverpool had made a bright start, with Raheem Sterling and Suarez to the fore, but their threat had receded during the first half. On one occasion, Nuri Sahin released Suarez through the inside-right channel, but his shot was saved by Krul and there was a growing feeling that, whatever the Uruguay forward's intentions, he was being kept at arm's length by Coloccini and Steven Taylor.

The second half ended as the first had begun, with Liverpool afflicted by the conflicting senses of anxiety and timidity that Rodgers wants to remove from their play. They had lost the daring, but a little of it came with the introduction of Jonjo Shelvey as a substitute and the rest came in bucketloads as Suarez's influence grew. The equalising goal was a minor classic. Enrique's ball over the top of the Newcastle defence seemed to be born of desperation rather than vision, but Suarez's response, with Coloccini at his heels, was perfect. His first touch was to control the ball on his chest, his second to knock it around Krul and his third to knock into the goal before collecting it and charging back to the halfway line as if to demonstrate his commitment to the pursuit of victory.

Everything Liverpool did thereafter flowed through Suarez. He wriggled his way down the right-hand side to set up Shelvey, who failed to connect properly with his shot as he stretched. He then led a counter-attack and threaded the ball through to Sterling, but the teenager's shot was blocked superbly by Taylor.

Newcastle threatened through Ben Arfa, but by this stage it was one-way traffic and their task was made even more difficult by that rush of blood from Coloccini, whose challenge on Suarez looked worse with every replay.

Liverpool had six minutes plus stoppage time to claim the victory that would have taken them into the top half of the Barclays Premier League table for the first time

this season, but, despite a couple of late efforts from Shelvey, it did not come. Liverpool's lack of killer instinct long predates Rodgers' arrival, but it is his challenge to rectify it. The mood at Anfield these days is that where there is Suarez, there is hope. They know what he is. Everyone does. He is a top-class irritant and a top-class player. It never rains... After Yohan Cabaye had struck to put Newcastle United ahead at Anfield yesterday, something else happened to put a dampener on proceedings for Liverpool supporters. Just before the start of the second half, a sprinkler system malfunction sent water cascading into the main stand giving fans a dousing

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): B Jones 5 - A Wisdom 5, M Skrtel 6, D Agger 7, J Enrique 4 - S Gerrard 5, J Allen 7 - Suso 5 (sub: J Shelvey, 66min 6), N Sahin 4 (sub: S Downing, 74), R Sterling 7 - L Suarez 8. Substitutes not used: P Gulasci, J Carragher, S Coates, J Henderson, O Assaidi.

Newcastle United (4-2-3-1): T Krul 7 - V Anita 5, S Taylor 8, F Coloccini 6, D Santon 5 - J Perch 4 (sub: D Simpson, 26 5), J Gutierrez 5 - H Ben Arfa 6, Y Cabaye 6 (sub: S Ferguson, 67 5), P Cisse 5 - D Ba 5 (sub: S Ameobi, 50 6). Substitutes not used: S Harper, M Williamson, G Obertan, F Ameobi. Booked: Santon. Sent off: Coloccini.

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guardian

Suarez shines bright but Liverpool pay price for lack of bite

Brendan Rodgers's post-match verdict was again a litany of "if onlys". If only Liverpool had marksmen to add penetration to possession football they would not be languishing 12th in the Premier League after 10 matches. If only Luis Suarez was not the one guaranteed source of goals and the narrative behind every Liverpool performance they could "fly". The reality is far less compelling. The imponderable it paid the Liverpool manager to ignore against Newcastle United was the state his team would be in had Fabricio Coloccini embedded his studs into Suarez's right knee with six minutes remaining. Coloccini was shown a merited straight red card, to the obvious disgust of his manager Alan Pardew, but Suarez survived and continued to present Liverpool's only threat even with a limp.

Rodgers described the Liverpool performance as "outstanding" after they recovered from Yohan Cabaye's first-half strike. The analysis applied to Suarez alone following another mesmerising individual display but one that could not give Rodgers a better points return after 10 matches than Roy Hodgson achieved. The contrast in Liverpool's performance level between Rodgers and Hodgson is night and day but the frustration is all-too familiar. Newcastle lost three key players to injury during the game but only a lapse in concentration denied them a first win at Anfield since 1994. Steven Gerrard was presented with an ornamental Liver bird in recognition of his 600th appearance for Liverpool before kick-off, the captain becoming only the 10th player in the club's history to reach that impressive milestone. On hand for the presentation was Gerrard's former mentor in Liverpool's central midfield, Gary McAllister, and how Rodgers could do with the vision, command and experience the Scot brought to Gerard Houllier's team.

The first half encapsulated Liverpool's recent home performances and the struggle facing Rodgers as he tries to implement a new style without all the components in place. January cannot come quickly enough in the manager's quest for strikers. Liverpool began brightly with the movement of Suarez and Raheem Sterling stretching Newcastle and Gerrard prepared to shoot on sight. But too often, usually in the absence of a finishing touch from the relentless Suarez, Liverpool have mastered the art of looking good without hurting their opponent and for 67 minutes Pardew's team were no exception.

Newcastle toiled in those opening exchanges and the suspended Cheik Tiote was sorely missed as Liverpool found space behind the visiting midfield time and again. Coloccini commenced his exhausting afternoon of trying to keep Suarez in check with an important interception at his near post and Suso had two efforts deflected wide having cut in from the right.

Hatem Ben Arfa and Papiss Cisse gave scant protection to their full-backs but, perversely, once James Perch, one of their better performers, limped off with a thigh injury the visitors finally entered the contest. The introduction of Danny Simpson at right-back and Vurnon Anita's switch into central midfield brought greater solidity, Liverpool were unable to find Suarez so easily and both Newcastle's passing and threat improved. Though it was still a shock to Anfield when Pardew's team took the lead moments before the break.

From a foul throw committed by Andre Wisdom, Newcastle broke in devastating style. Ben Arfa escaped the close attention of former team-mate Jose Enrique to reach the line from Demba Ba's pass and crossed perfectly for Cabaye at the back post. The French international had time to control before beating Brad Jones with a clinical finish across goal. Liverpool were re-energised after the interval. Suarez and Nuri Sahin both went close with shots on the turn as the home side dominated possession and they finally found a route to goal from an uncharacteristic long ball. Jonas Gutierrez sliced a careless pass to Jose Enrique and the Liverpool left-back launched a first time ball over the Newcastle defence. Suarez, having escaped Coloccini once more, controlled superbly on his shoulder, rounded Tim Krul and rolled the ball into an empty net.

Sterling should have added a second when sent through on goal by Suarez only for a moment's hesitation to allow Steven Taylor to make an excellent block. Suarez also set up Jonjo Shelvey for a decent chance that the substitute could only roll at Krul before Coloccini collected a straight red card for a dangerous foul on his Liverpool nemesis. The ball had long gone from Suarez when the Argentina defender arrived late, over the ball and raked the striker's calf with his studs. The

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Silky Suarez saves the day but Liverpool still look a one-man team

When, before the game, he was asked for the easy quote, the one that would condemn Luis Suarez as a cheat, Alan Pardew hesitated. No, said the Newcastle manager, Suarez was a fabulous player "worth a highlights package on his own". Here yesterday the Uruguayan delivered not just a package but a whole programme.

This was not Luis Suarez versus Newcastle but sometimes it felt like it. Liverpool supporters used to talk of "having a team of Carraghers" as the ultimate in commitment. A team of Suarezes would be a considerable improvement on the one Brendan Rodgers currently manages, although it might not finish every game with 11 men.

The irony was that yesterday Suarez was the victim. Six minutes from the end, Fabricio Coloccini raked his studs down the back of the striker's legs in a tackle fuelled by frustration and spite. From the television studio, the Wales manager, Chris Coleman, called it "a coward's challenge". It was not dissimilar to the foul inflicted by Suarez on Sylvain Distin in the Merseyside derby which was not answered by a red card.

Having already lost Cheick Tiot[c] to suspension and seeing Demba Ba, Yohan Cabaye and James Perch withdrawn here through injury, Newcastle, who have not won away since beating Chelsea in May, can ill afford to lose their captain for three fixtures. The struggle between the Argentine and the Uruguayan had the taste of the River Plate about it and it had been comprehensively won by Suarez, not least when a 70-yard ball from Jose Enrique struck him on the crest of his shirt. Coloccini was in pursuit but Suarez controlled the ball beautifully, made to go one way and, in an instant, rounded Tim Krul and passed into an empty net. It is a goal Diego Maradona would have recognised.

And yet Liverpool should not be a team that revolves around a single player. In the spring of 1981, before his home island of Antigua staged its first Test match, Viv Richards went over to Geoff Boycott and said he fancied himself to score a century. When Boycott asked why, Richards replied "because you have only one fast bowler" and sauntered off. Replace "fast bowler" with "striker" and you understand why some teams might be confident of facing Liverpool if they continue to over-rely on Suarez.

Rodgers described the performance as "outstanding" and "superb" - which in many ways it was. Sky calculated that Liverpool put together 523 passes and had 64 per cent of possession.

However, you can play it like Stoke or you can play it like Barcelona, but football is about scoring goals - everything else is propaganda. In every aspect bar one, Liverpool were a better side than Newcastle. In terms of corner kicks it was 14-3, but in terms of goals, the only currency that matters, it was 1-1. There are no marks for artistic merit.

Newcastle also possessed a cutting edge that Liverpool simply lacked. Pardew had suggested that Hatem Ben Arfa had something of Suarez's instinctive brilliance about him. Certainly, he had scored fabulously at Everton a couple of years ago but, bar one move, his touch here seemed too heavy and his control too loose. However, he produced what Pardew thought was the goal that should have seen him become the first Newcastle manager since Kevin Keegan in 1994 to celebrate a league win at Anfield.

It was every bit as good as Suarez's. The boy from Marseilles was so tight to the byline that he would almost have felt the breath of the Kop as he crossed deep to the back of the area. Cabaye controlled it with his knee, took it down and drove it almost through Brad Jones' gloves and into the net. The Newcastle fans in the Anfield Road end seethed with passion and disbelief. They had not seen a goal here from a Newcastle player since Patrick Kluivert's eight years ago.

Liverpool simply seethed, especially since Andre Wisdom, whose foul throw had begun the move, ducked slightly as Cabaye's shot sped towards him, giving his goalkeeper a very late sight of the ball.

During the interval, one of the mains that supplies Anfield's sprinklers burst, sending water pouring into the directors' box. Sadly for the comic possibilities of the situation, John W Henry, the man who has seen more than [pounds sterling]100m poured away, mostly on players for whom Liverpool have no further use, was not present to receive a more literal kind of soaking.

Suarez, the man he did sanction a [pounds sterling]20m bid for and whom he resisted the temptation to sell in the wake of the racism scandal, did turn the tide and not just with the equaliser. A free-kick delivered in stoppage time struck Papiss Ciss[c] and looped on to the top of the crossbar. Earlier, he had broken away and sent through Raheem Sterling, who was denied by a brilliant sliding block from Steven Taylor. Ultimately it was not enough, though: one-man shows seldom are.

Steven Gerrard, who celebrated his 600th appearance for Liverpool with a statuette of a liver bird and a strangely below-par performance would know that. Time and again Gerrard has rescued his boyhood club to win them European trophies and FA Cups as well as Anfield's undying loyalty. Suarez already has Liverpool's love, although whether he wins them any silverware is more open to question.



Ten-man Toon survive Suarez inspired onslaught

Striker Luis Suarez upstaged Steven Gerrard on a landmark day for the Liverpool captain as he underlined his value to Brendan Rodgers' side once again.

Gerrard became only the 10th player to make 600 appearances for the club but it was the 25-year-old Uruguay international who stole the show against Newcastle, who finished with 10 men after Fabricio Coloccini was sent off late on.

With Liverpool trailing to Yohan Cabaye's fine strike late in the first half, Suarez produced a brilliant equaliser - his seventh goal in nine league matches - but just could not inspire his team to victory.

He did, at least, preserve Liverpool's impressive unbeaten home record against the Magpies which was extended to 18 league matches - 15 of which were wins. It would have been harsh had Newcastle ended that run as Liverpool spent 43 minutes dominating the match, only to be caught with a sucker punch just before half-time.

The frustrating thing for Reds manager Rodgers - and most of Anfield - was that you could see it coming.

From the moment Coloccini appeared to make contact with Suarez in the penalty area in the sixth minute only for referee Anthony Taylor to wave play on the writing was on the wall.

Liverpool forced a succession of corners and saw shots from Suso and Raheem Sterling either deflected wide or just off target, while Suarez curled a free-kick just wide.

Tim Krul made first save of note from Suarez after Suso and Sahin had combined to set him racing down the right, and the striker also headed wide from Gerrard's cross.

Such was Liverpool's dominance and confidence Gerrard attempted a 60-yard free-kick in an attempt to catch Krul off his line but it dropped just over - unlike Xabi Alonso's effort from inside his own half which beat Magpies keeper Steve Harper on this ground in 2006.

Those were the days when the Reds had the Spain midfielder controlling midfield and Gerrard, in his pomp, charging forward to score goals aplenty - even before Fernando Torres arrived to terrorise the Premier League.

It seems a long time ago now and Liverpool no longer carry the same threat - and opponents know it.

They bide their time, keep a close eye on the carefully-prepared passing game taking place in front of them and then strike at an opportune moment.

Newcastle did exactly that and when Andre Wisdom was penalised for a foul throw deep in enemy territory, the Magpies swiftly transferred the ball to their right to isolate Hatem Ben Arfa against former Newcastle defender Jose Enrique.

The Frenchman made a thrilling run to the byline and crossed to the far post where Cabaye controlled and smashed a superb half-volley past Brad Jones, becoming the first Newcastle player to score at Anfield since Patrick Kluivert in December 2004.

Demba Ba's failure to last more than five minutes of the second half was something of a bonus for Liverpool, although he had not really posed much of a threat up to that point.

The home side picked up the tempo and just before the hour Suarez's shot was turned around the post by Krul, with Sahin's strike bouncing just past the same upright soon after.

Newcastle were restricted to counter-attacks and one could have resulted in a penalty when Skrtel challenged Ba's replacement Sammy Ameobi, but referee Taylor judged it fair as Ameobi appeared to stand on the ball rather than being felled by the defender.

For all Rodgers' insistence on short passing football, the equaliser came from a 50-yard ball out of defence by Enrique. However, to say it owed a lot to Suarez's brilliance would be an understatement.

The Uruguay international, running at full tilt under pressure from Coloccini, controlled it on his shoulder, brought it down and quickly side-stepped Krul to roll it into the net.

Once again Suarez had ignited Liverpool and when he cut in from the right byline soon afterwards, substitute Jonjo Shelvey could not get enough on the ball to divert it into the net.

Another Liverpool mistake, this time from Enrique, sent Ameobi racing clear but with a two-man overload down Newcastle's right, Ben Arfa shot tamely at Jones.

But Newcastle captain Coloccini put his side under pressure when he raked his studs down the back of Suarez's leg and was sent off with six minutes to go.

Still Suarez could not be contained and a deflected free-kick and freakish bounce almost snatched a bizarre winner in the last minute of added time.

The final whistle saw Newcastle manager Alan Pardew march onto the field to speak to the officials but there was no sustained protest.



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	<p>Malfunctioning LFC need Luis Suarez wonder-strike to rescue a point</p> <p>PITY those Liverpool FC supporters in front of the directors' box who got a surprise soaking during the interval. Having grown accustomed to sitting and suffering at Anfield, on a bitterly cold afternoon they got a sustained drenching thrown in. But it wasn't just the sprinklers which malfunctioned on another desperately frustrating afternoon on home soil.</p> <p>This was another hard luck story to add to a growing collection this season. Another game Liverpool could and should have won but carelessly allowed to slip through their grasp. The faces may have changed over the years but one constant has been that Newcastle United are sent packing pointless.</p> <p>Not this time. It took a piece of individual brilliance from Luis Suarez to prevent the Toon from securing their first league win at Anfield since 1994.</p> <p>Brendan Rodgers' men had 64% possession, 23 shots and 14 corners but in the only statistic that matters they fell short.</p> <p>Like a boxer who looks the part but is unable to deliver a knockout punch, they had Newcastle on the ropes but ultimately let them off the hook.</p> <p>A string of chances were spurned as spells of sustained dominance went unrewarded. Once again Liverpool's lack of firepower and their over-reliance on Suarez was laid bare. The Uruguayan is in sensational form and the manner in which he restored parity just past the hour mark will live long in the memory.</p> <p>It was also a strike laced with irony. Rodgers has installed a slick short, sharp passing game but it took a 60-yard punt from the erratic Jose Enrique to create the opening. Suarez held off the attentions of Fabricio Coloccini, took the ball on his chest and brilliantly dispatched it past Tim Krul.</p> <p>It moved him into double figures for the season – it was mid-February before he reached that milestone last term. Suarez terrorised Newcastle throughout and having tired of being constantly embarrassed, Coloccini resorted to raking his studs down the striker's leg and was rightly dismissed. Even with a numerical advantage late on, the Reds could find no way through.</p> <p>At times it was a one-man show and the burden on Suarez desperately needs to be eased. Others need to start chipping in, otherwise when reinforcements arrive in January there will be little more than pride to play for.</p> <p>Suarez must be wrapped in cotton wool when his team-mates take on Anzhi in Moscow on Thursday night to ensure he's fit and ready to fire against Chelsea next Sunday. Sitting in 12th place today with 11 points from their opening 10 games, the table doesn't make pleasant reading.</p> <p>Rodgers had always insisted there would be some short-term pain for long-term gain and the manager must be afforded both time and patience as he carries out a rebuilding job. Liverpool's dire home form is a problem he inherited – the Reds still haven't recorded back-to-back league wins at Anfield since September 2011 – and the Northern Irishman has yet to find a solution.</p> <p>Once again the lack of depth at his disposal was exposed by the paucity of attacking options on the bench. There were no game-changers.</p> <p>It had all started so promisingly for Liverpool after a capacity Anfield crowd had stood to acclaim Steven Gerrard's immense contribution to the cause over the past 14 years. The skipper received a special memento from Gary McAllister to mark his 600th appearance and the Reds looked like they would mark the occasion in style. Newcastle were penned back as the front three of Suarez, Raheem Sterling and Suso linked up expertly.</p> <p>The tempo and intensity was impressive as Suso saw his shot deflected behind before Sterling's 30-yarder flashed wide. Suarez went close with a curling free-kick after being cynically upended by James Perch. Midway through the first half, Nuri Sahin's pass sent Suarez scampering clear but Krul saved with his legs.</p> <p>What followed was painfully predictable. Newcastle had barely threatened as an attacking force but two minutes before the break they were in front.</p> <p>It came from Andre Wisdom's foul throw and as the visitors switched play down their right, Liverpool were caught napping. Enrique allowed Hatem Ben Arfa to get the better of him and his deep cross found Yohan Cabaye unmarked at the back post. The Frenchman took a touch to steady himself and unleashed an unstoppable right-footer into the top corner. He became the first Newcastle player to score at Anfield in the league since 2004.</p> <p>It almost got worse for the Reds on the stroke of half-time after a mix up between Gerrard and Joe Allen but Steven Taylor failed to punish them.</p> <p>One quality this Liverpool side isn't lacking is character and they wrestled back control in the second half. Suarez was thwarted by a smart save from Krul before Sahin dragged his shot narrowly wide. At the other end Martin Skrtel did brilliantly to get back and dispossess substitute Sammy Ameobi as the visitors broke dangerously. Jonjo Shelvey came on for Suso and the equaliser arrived in the 67th minute courtesy of Suarez's moment of magic.</p> <p>Having been eerily quiet and increasingly anxious, the atmosphere was transformed and the Reds should have taken the lead soon after. Suarez teed up Shelvey eight yards out but the young midfielder scuffed his shot.</p> <p>Stewart Downing replaced Sahin and with 14 minutes to go another glorious opportunity went begging. Allen and Suarez combined to put Sterling through. However, the teenager dallied too long and Taylor was able to get back and deflect his shot behind. After a woeful pass from Enrique, Newcastle countered</p>	<p>but Brad Jones came to the Reds' rescue as he thwarted Ben Arfa.</p> <p>The dismissal of Coloccini on 84 minutes served to crank up the pressure even further. Shelvey could have been the hero but he fired straight at Krul before nodding Downing's cross into the keeper's welcoming arms.</p> <p>Deep into stoppage time, Suarez's deflected free-kick struck the bar after bouncing over Krul as Newcastle held on for a point.</p> <p>A five-game unbeaten league run represents Liverpool's best run of 2012 but no-one was in the mood to celebrate.</p>  <p>LFC's Anfield water torture continues</p> <p>MOMENTS before the teams emerged for the second half yesterday, a sprinkler malfunction resulted in supporters sat in the Paddock near the dug-out being soaked.</p> <p>It was somehow apt given watching Liverpool on their own turf this season has been akin to water torture for the Anfield faithful.</p> <p>Another home game meant another afternoon of frustration as Brendan Rodgers' side once again allowed three points to slip through their fingers.</p> <p>Certainly, there are more important problems to address than half-time irrigation. So how grateful Liverpool must be for the sheer genius of Luis Suarez.</p> <p>The lambasting Suarez has received for much of the campaign has detracted from Uruguayan's impressive contribution in attack for Liverpool.</p> <p>But it was impossible to ignore his effervescent performance against Newcastle United yesterday, the highlight of which was an outrageous piece of skill that saw him pluck the ball out of the sky before striking his team's equaliser midway through the second half.</p> <p>That it came from Jose Enrique's long ball out of defence added further intrigue to the debate surrounding such tactics prompted by Steven Gerrard's comments after last week's derby.</p> <p>Where Liverpool would be without Suarez is something Rodgers would sooner not contemplate.</p> <p>The forward now has 10 goals for the season, a figure it took until February to achieve last campaign, along with a clutch of assists.</p> <p>As the only available senior striker at Rodgers's disposal, the burden will continue to weigh heavy on the Uruguayan's shoulders until expected reinforcements arrive in the January sales.</p> <p>Thankfully for Liverpool, however, Suarez has shown little sign of wilting.</p> <p>Until his intervention, Yohan Cabaye's strike two minutes before the break – the Frenchman becoming the first Newcastle player since Patrick Kluyvert in December 2004 to score at Anfield – had further deepened the gloom in the wake of the dismal Capital One Cup exit to Swansea City in midweek.</p> <p>The visitors, though, were ultimately grateful to survive a late Liverpool barrage after Fabricio Coloccini was dismissed six minutes from time for a vicious foul from behind on Suarez.</p> <p>Nevertheless, Rodgers' total of 11 points from his opening 10 Premier League games is one fewer than that managed by Roy Hodgson.</p> <p>Of course, the Anfield landscape has changed significantly since then. But the Northern Irishman continues to grapple with the all-too-familiar shortcoming of Liverpool's home form, which now reads seven wins in 26 Premier League outings.</p> <p>This was a landmark day for Steven Gerrard, handed a commemorative Liver Bird by former Liverpool midfield counterpart Gary McAllister before kick-off in recognition of his 600th appearance for the club.</p> <p>The skipper was one of nine players reinstated to the starting line-up by Rodgers following Wednesday's debacle, Pepe Reina and Glen Johnson both still unavailable.</p> <p>Yet there was precious little change in level of performance as the home side once again huffed and puffed to minimal effect.</p> <p>Suarez, as ever, was Liverpool's chief threat early on, Coloccini fortunate to escape in the sixth minute when challenging Suarez inside the area, television replays suggesting the Uruguayan had been clipped by the Newcastle defender.</p> <p>Having been upended by Jason Perch 25 yards from goal, Suarez picked himself up and curled a vicious free-kick that brushed the side-netting with Newcastle goalkeeper Tim Krul rooted to the spot.</p> <p>Moments later, Nuri Sahin's threaded pass gave Suarez the chance to run at Magpies centre-back Steven Taylor, the Liverpool striker unleashing a shot saved by Krul's legs.</p> <p>But too often the Uruguayan was left to fend for himself, the striker lost among the sea of well-organised black-and-white-shirted defenders, Liverpool's frustration highlighted when Gerrard sailed an ambitious free-kick over from the halfway line.</p> <p>It was against the run of play, then, when Newcastle went ahead two minutes before the interval from a move which originated from a foul throw by Andre Wisdom.</p> <p>With Newcastle shifting the ball across field, neither Sterling nor Enrique could halt Hatem Ben Arfa's progress down the right flank to the byline, the Frenchman's deep cross finding unmarked compatriot Cabaye, who took a touch before smashing a shot beyond the helpless Jones.</p> <p>Rodgers' men regrouped after the interval. A 20-yard drive from Suarez forced</p>
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Krul into a decent diving save on 57 minutes, with the Uruguayan then feeding Sahin for a shot across the face of goal.

But for all their probing, Liverpool’s equaliser came as a result of a long ball, although it required a superlative piece of skill from Suarez to capitalise. Gifted possession by Jonas Gutierrez’s weak pass, Enrique thumped a 60-yard pass towards the Uruguayan who, having raced behind Coloccini, in one fluid moment expertly controlled the ball on his shoulder, skipped around the advancing Krul and tapped into the unguarded net.

Liverpool should have been ahead three minutes later. A brilliant run by Suarez took him beyond Coloccini’s attempted challenge but his cutback was completely mishit by substitute Jonjo Shelvey.

A home break then led to Suarez releasing Sterling but the winger took too long to release his shot, allowing Taylor time to recover and block, but Newcastle got their second wind, Papiss Cisse scuffing a shot wide and Ben Arfa firing at Jones from a swift counter-attack.

Following Coloccini’s dismissal, Shelvey directed two late chances at the grateful Krul before glancing Suarez’s deflected free-kick on to the crossbar.

It was merely the latest damp squib of many at Anfield during the past 18 months.

**MAN OF THE MATCH.** Luis Suarez. The Uruguayan was a non-stop threat and scorer of a magnificent goal



AS FAR as trips to Anfield go for Newcastle United, you have to say this was one of the better ones.

Eighteen years without a victory and seven straight defeats before yesterday tell a sorry old story, so at least this stalemate stops the rot in front of the Kop.

But that didn’t stop it feeling a bit like a defeat for Alan Pardew’s troops as they filed out of Liverpool’s famous home with just a point to show for their efforts.

At times they weathered the storm in both halves against Brendan Rodgers’ side. However, they also created some excellent chances to finish the game off after Yohan Cabaye had handed them a lead they just about deserved.

The big regret is that Newcastle may never have a better chance to sicken a Liverpool crowd that have only experienced one Premier League loss to Newcastle at Anfield.

Rodgers’ side are going through a transitional period and have some inexperienced figures in their line-up these days. This is arguably one of the weakest sides in the club’s Premier League history – and certainly the table suggests as much.

In Steven Gerrard and Luis Suarez, though, they have two massive characters who have the ability to carry them through games.

And with the lethal marksman from Uruguay on the field, they were always capable of salvaging something out of the game – especially with such charity on offer like Jonas Gutierrez’s dozy giveaway.

With a quarter of the game left, he gifted possession to his old pal Jose Enrique before the Spaniard unlocked an until then resilient Newcastle back four to allow Suarez in for the equaliser.

Then in the dying stages came Fabricio Coloccini’s out-of-character high tackle, which resulted in a red card.

No doubt about it, in years gone by Newcastle would have finished the game with 11 men.

Thirty years ago, you’d get a new contract for such a challenge and wild roars of approval from your fans.

Twenty years ago, it would earn you a ticking-off.

Ten years ago you’d be booked and on your final warning, but in the modern game, with studs up, officials have no choice but to produce a red card.

Unlike Cheick Tiote against Sunderland, this incident was clear-cut.

The Ivorian was off balance and had just been fouled which meant he won some sympathy from Geordie fans who felt a yellow on Wearside would have sufficed.

Here though, even the most blinkered United fan would admit that Coloccini was always likely to walk once he raised his foot and Suarez screamed out loud as he went down.

Until then, Newcastle had looked relatively composed and calm, even when Liverpool poured forward in front of a restless crowd.

And it looked like – in the words of Liverpool’s famous anthem – there could be a golden sky at the end of a long and painful storm at this ill-fated venue. Fate, though, appeared to change their mind.

Perhaps something inevitably was going to go wrong at Anfield – it usually does for Newcastle, after all.

Even after injury woe had cut into Pardew’s squad.

First he lost James Perch, then Demba Ba and then Yohan Cabaye.

It was almost relentless as bad luck began seeping out everywhere.

Even those with limited experience of watching Newcastle at Liverpool would know something was bound to blow up, and it did. Don’t forget a fresh-faced Kevin Keegan was the last man to lead the Magpies to victory at Anfield in the Coca-Cola Cup in 1995.

But nobody could say Pardew didn’t try to win the game.

For long periods they played smart, intelligent football.

Pardew reinstated Steven Taylor to the centre of his back four alongside Coloccini

and Vurnon Anita was handed the task of looking after lightning-quick 17-year-old Raheem Sterling.

Sterling wasn’t even born the last time the Magpies won at Anfield in the Premier League, and the teenager created the game’s first real clear-cut opportunity when he rasped one just wide.

Demba Ba and Hatem Ben Arfa fired effort high and wide of the goal frame respectively in the first quarter, but despite absorbing lots of Liverpool pressure, United emerged unscathed.

But the coolness of Krul was needed to keep out Suarez when he saved with his feet.

At the other end United pressed slightly but did not test a shaky-looking Brad Jones.

Jones, though, faced his toughest assignment of the first half when Cabaye found his shooting boots and the Aussie failed miserably.

That was down to fine work down the right from Ben Arfa.

His lightning-quick run down the right saw him jink past Enrique and Sterling before finding Cabaye at the back post before the Frenchman’s majestic strike at the back stick flew past Jones.

That’s how it stayed until the final quarter of the game.

A knock for Ba early in the second half meant that Pardew had to change shape and pack his midfield.

And at least Suarez and Gerrard – playing the 600th game of his distinguished Liverpool career – wasn’t giving up easily.

Krul was called into action again when he palmed away a Suarez chance in front of the Kop. Nuri Sahin rolled another inches wide.

Then came one of the turning points. Jonas gifted possession to Enrique and Suarez did the rest.

At that stage it was still end-to-end stuff and anybody could have nicked it. Coloccini’s moment of horror, though, put Liverpool in the driving seat.

Suarez could have snatched it in the dying stages. But Krul was on hand to push his shot on to the top of the bar.

With Newcastle finishing the game on the rack and Steven Taylor regularly utilising Row X, Y and Z in the old main stand, perhaps this was a day when Newcastle had to settle for the draw.

Given the history of this fixture, the long-suffering travelling Geordie fans were happy by the end to accept a point.

The wait goes on, yet this was a major improvement by the black-and-whites at Anfield.

That much was for certain.

Date: 4 November 2012 Opposition: Newcastle United Competition: League	BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo		4 November 2012
		Guardian	Mirror	Post		
		Independent	Mail	Chronicle		

BBC

90:00+4:13Full time The referee ends the match.

90:00+3:19 Luis Suarez crosses the ball in from the free kick, Papiss Cisse gets a block in. Corner taken right-footed by Jonjo Shelvey to the near post, Steven Taylor makes a clearance.

90:00+3:19Booking Davide Santon is shown a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.

90:00+2:50 Davide Santon challenges Raheem Sterling unfairly and gives away a free kick.

89:31 Centre by Stewart Downing, Jonjo Shelvey takes a shot. Tim Krul makes a comfortable save.

89:12 Jonjo Shelvey crosses the ball, clearance made by Steven Taylor.

87:45 Jonjo Shelvey takes a shot. Save made by Tim Krul.

87:22 Davide Santon challenges Steven Gerrard unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick crossed by Steven Gerrard, Jonas Gutierrez manages to make a clearance.

86:56 Corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard to the near post, clearance by Davide Santon.

86:36 Jonjo Shelvey sends in a cross, clearance by Sammy Ameobi.

85:38 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Steven Gerrard by Papiss Cisse. Direct free kick taken by Martin Skrtel.

84:53 The ball is sent over by Raheem Sterling, Danny Simpson makes a clearance.

83:25 Steven Gerrard delivers the ball from the free kick right-footed from right wing, Tim Krul makes a comfortable save.

83:25Dismissal DismissalFabricio Coloccini receives a red card.

83:11 Unfair challenge on Luis Suarez by Fabricio Coloccini results in a free kick.

82:36 Sammy Ameobi takes a shot. Save by Brad Jones.

77:05 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Tim Krul makes a save.

81:32 Sanchez Jose Enrique delivers the ball.

79:00 Hatem Ben Arfa takes a shot. Save by Brad Jones.

78:25 Outswinging corner taken left-footed by Stewart Downing played to the near post, Papiss Cisse makes a clearance.

77:52 Jonas Gutierrez challenges Raheem Sterling unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick taken by Raheem Sterling.

77:05 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Save by Tim Krul.

76:36 Papiss Cisse produces a volleyed right-footed shot from deep inside the penalty box which goes wide of the left-hand post.

75:29 Corner taken left-footed by Stewart Downing to the near post, clearance by Jonas Gutierrez.

75:12 Raheem Sterling takes a shot. Blocked by Steven Taylor.

73:38Substitution SubstitutionNuri Sahin goes off and Stewart Downing comes on.

73:01 Inswinging corner taken right-footed by Luis Suarez from the left by-line to the near post, Davide Santon manages to make a clearance.

72:53 Raheem Sterling takes a shot. Jonas Gutierrez gets a block in.

72:44 Steven Gerrard produces a cross, clearance made by Steven Taylor.

72:35 Sanchez Jose Enrique sends in a cross, clearance by Steven Taylor.

71:03 Unfair challenge on Sammy Ameobi by Nuri Sahin results in a free kick. Hatem Ben Arfa has a direct shot on goal from the free kick.

70:41 Centre by Shane Ferguson, Daniel Agger makes a clearance.

70:24 Short corner taken by Shane Ferguson from the left by-line.

69:38 Free kick awarded for a foul by Luis Suarez on Jonas Gutierrez. Direct free kick taken by Tim Krul.

69:21 Handball by Papiss Cisse. Martin Skrtel takes the direct free kick.

69:05 Jonjo Shelvey takes a shot. Save by Tim Krul.

67:21Substitution Newcastle makes a substitution, with Shane Ferguson coming on for Yohan Cabaye.

66:39 Sanchez Jose Enrique provided the assist for the goal.

66:39Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Liverpool 1 - 1 NewcastleLuis Suarez grabs a goal from inside the six-yard box low into the middle of the goal. Liverpool 1-1 Newcastle.

65:14Substitution Liverpool makes a substitution, with Jonjo Shelvey coming on for Jesus Fernandez Saez.

64:33 Corner from left by-line taken by Yohan Cabaye.

63:51 Corner taken by Yohan Cabaye, clearance by Nuri Sahin.

63:07 Sanchez Jose Enrique gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Papiss Cisse. Free kick crossed right-footed by Yohan Cabaye, clearance by Sanchez Jose Enrique.

62:14 Danny Simpson challenges Raheem Sterling unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick crossed right-footed by Steven Gerrard, Danny Simpson manages to make a clearance.

62:05 The ball is crossed by Steven Gerrard, clearance by Hatem Ben Arfa.

60:36 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Fabricio Coloccini gets a block in.

59:04 Nuri Sahin produces a left-footed shot from deep inside the penalty area which goes wide of the right-hand post.

57:50 Corner taken by Nuri Sahin, clearance by Jonas Gutierrez.

57:37 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save by Tim Krul.

55:31 Foul by Nuri Sahin on Danny Simpson, free kick awarded. Free kick taken by Tim Krul.

53:48 The ball is sent over by Raheem Sterling. Martin Skrtel is ruled offside. Indirect free kick taken by Tim Krul.

53:21 Foul by Davide Santon on Luis Suarez, free kick awarded. Free kick crossed right-footed by Steven Gerrard, save by Tim Krul.

52:45 Effort on goal by Vurnon Anita from outside the penalty box goes harmlessly over the bar.

51:00 Unfair challenge on Papiss Cisse by Raheem Sterling results in a free kick. Free kick taken by Yohan Cabaye.

49:34 Free kick awarded for a foul by Vurnon Anita on Raheem Sterling. Free kick crossed right-footed by Steven Gerrard from left wing.

48:45Substitution SubstitutionSammy Ameobi replaces Demba Ba.

47:59 Short corner worked by Luis Suarez.

47:06 Inswinging corner taken by Jesus Fernandez Saez, clearance by Demba Ba.

45:01 The referee gets the second half underway.

45:00+2:07Half time The players leave the pitch at half time.

45:00+1:45 Steven Taylor has an effort at goal from the edge of the box that misses to the right of the target.

45:00+1:10 Handball decision goes against Jesus Fernandez Saez. The free kick is swung in right-footed by Yohan Cabaye, Steven Gerrard makes a clearance.

44:50 Luis Suarez produces a right-footed shot from long range which goes wide right of the target.

44:11 Effort from outside the area by Yohan Cabaye goes wide right of the goal.

42:53 The assist for the goal came from Hatem Ben Arfa.

42:53Goal scored Goal - Yohan Cabaye - Liverpool 0 - 1 NewcastleA goal is scored by Yohan Cabaye from inside the box to the top right corner of the goal. Liverpool 0-1 Newcastle.

42:46 The ball is swung over by Hatem Ben Arfa,

40:52 Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard, Demba Ba makes a clearance. Effort on goal by Jesus Fernandez Saez from just outside the penalty area goes harmlessly over the target.

40:31 Jesus Fernandez Saez takes a shot. Blocked by Fabricio Coloccini.

39:56 The ball is swung over by Luis Suarez.

38:43 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Raheem Sterling by Yohan Cabaye. Strike on goal comes in from Steven Gerrard from the free kick.

35:18 Centre by Danny Simpson, clearance made by Daniel Agger.

31:32 Hatem Ben Arfa fouled by Jesus Fernandez Saez, the ref awards a free kick. Davide Santon takes the free kick.

31:17 Short corner taken by Nuri Sahin.

31:06 Steven Gerrard crosses the ball, clearance made by Fabricio Coloccini.

30:53 Daniel Agger delivers the ball, Davide Santon makes a clearance.

29:18 Foul by Joe Allen on Demba Ba, free kick awarded. Free kick crossed right-footed by Yohan Cabaye from left channel. The official flags Steven Taylor offside. Indirect free kick taken by Brad Jones.

27:56 Headed effort from inside the area by Luis Suarez misses to the left of the goal.

27:33 The ball is sent over by Sanchez Jose Enrique, clearance by Steven Taylor.

25:57Substitution SubstitutionJames Perch goes off and Danny Simpson comes on.

24:55 Unfair challenge on Jonas Gutierrez by Nuri Sahin results in a free kick. Direct free kick taken by Tim Krul.

21:37 Corner taken left-footed by Nuri Sahin from the right by-line to the near post, clearance by Demba Ba.

21:28 Daniel Agger fouled by Demba Ba, the ref awards a free kick. Joe Allen takes the direct free kick.

21:16 Luis Suarez concedes a free kick for a foul on Davide Santon. Tim Krul takes the free kick.

20:51 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save made by Tim Krul.

19:57 Hatem Ben Arfa has a shot and went wide right of the goal.

18:12 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Luis Suarez by James Perch. Luis Suarez has an effort direct from the free kick.

16:28 The ball is crossed by Vurnon Anita, Steven Gerrard makes a clearance.

16:12 The ball is delivered by Jonas Gutierrez.

15:03 Nuri Sahin concedes a free kick for a foul on James Perch. Fabricio Coloccini restarts play with the free kick.

14:03 Effort on goal by Demba Ba from long range goes harmlessly over the bar.

10:46 Foul by Fabricio Coloccini on Luis Suarez, free kick awarded. Steven Gerrard restarts play with the free kick.

10:07 Shot from outside the area by Raheem Sterling misses to the left of the target.

7:49 Inswinging corner taken by Nuri Sahin from the right by-line, clearance made by Demba Ba.

7:20 Inswinging corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the left by-line, save made by Tim Krul.

7:09 Jesus Fernandez Saez takes a shot. Blocked by Davide Santon.

5:45 The ball is crossed by Andre Wisdom.

4:17 Raheem Sterling delivers the ball, Davide Santon manages to make a clearance.

3:13 Short corner taken by Raheem Sterling.

2:55 Centre by Raheem Sterling, Fabricio Coloccini manages to make a clearance.

1:30 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Steven Taylor gets a block in. Vurnon Anita gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Raheem Sterling. Steven Gerrard delivers the ball from the free kick right-footed from left wing, save by Tim Krul.

0:00 The match gets underway.