

Date: 18 May 2016
Opposition: Sevilla
Competition: Europa League

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THE TIMES

Liverpool stumble after stunner from Sturridge

Liverpool 1 Sturridge 35 Seville 3 Gameiro 46, Coke 64, 70

Liverpool wilted when they needed to be at their strongest last night. Liverpool lacked the concentration and intelligence to deal with the inevitable fightback from the holders, Seville, who trailed to Daniel Sturridge's exquisite strike at the break. They will not be playing in Europe next season. They will need some new recruits, especially in defence. Goals from Kevin Gameiro and a double from Coke exploited wretched defending by Liverpool. At the final whistle, Emre Can was in tears, Sturridge pushed a camera away and Jurgen Klopp argued with the referee, Jonas Eriksson, but Liverpool were authors of their own downfall. The night had actually begun promisingly for Liverpool. They had been as good in the first half as they were poor in the second. Liverpool switched off, cut to pieces by the rapidity of the holders' attacks, shipping three goals in 25 minutes. It was some collapse. Alberto Moreno was poor. Liverpool's concentration was shocking, wasting all the good work in the first half, and that sublime goal from Sturridge, which seemed a distant memory when Seville stepped up a gear. It had come ten minutes from the break, and from a passing move that captured the quick, incisive football that Klopp has tried to instil into his team. The goal was designed by Brazilians and finished by an Englishman. The ball was moved slickly from right to left, from Roberto Firmino to Philippe Coutinho, who controlled it with his left and then very deliberately side-footed it on right-footed to Sturridge. Seville froze, seemingly expecting Sturridge to work the ball on his right, making the angle more enticing. They had clearly not been watching the videos. Sturridge touched the ball forward twice before making contact with the outside of his left foot, curling it past Mariano, the full back, and almost using Seville's defenders as a shield to hide his intentions from David Soria, the 'keeper. Adil Rami, the centre back, dropped back despairingly, belatedly realising Sturridge's plan.

Too late. The ball suddenly appeared at pace, carving its passage through the air, beating the outstretched left hand of the diving Soria and flying in. Liverpool's bench poured out on to the pitch. Klopp stayed calm, before turning, and punching the air. The goal was the least his team deserved. They had torn into Seville from the start, not letting them settle. James Milner, the captain, led by example, covering 5.88km in the opening 45 minutes. He was non-stop, drawing on all that stamina acquired as a schoolboy cross-country runner. Adam Lallana was fired up, chasing the ball down, second only to Milner in distance covered. Liverpool fans believed. Liverpool were responding to instructions of their manager, and the beseeching of their supporters, who commandeered three-quarters of St Jakob Park. Many Liverpool fans had turned up simply for the trip, lacking tickets, simply happy to watch the game on giant screens in the town centre. They can have hardly been impressed with the sight of Alexander Frei carrying the trophy out before kick-off; it was Frei who spat at Steven Gerrard when Switzerland met England during Euro 2004. The DJ's decision to try to get everyone to "party like it's 1999" was never going to go down well with Manchester United's arch-rivals. It was a night of strange decisions from Uefa. The governing body of European football seemed more interested in searching for bottle-tops, and insisting the officials change their black socks to yellow because they clashed with Seville's, rather than concentrating on the main issues, like properly segregating supporters. The gap between Seville fans and Liverpool's behind the goal where Sturridge, and then Seville, struck lacked any stewards. Brief skirmishing broke out before kick-off, stopped only when riot police arrived to form a barrier of blue. Soon all eyes were on the game, even before Sturridge's touch of class, as Liverpool hunted down Seville players, Can going in quickly on Ever Banega. Can, the Germany player with the Turkey flags on his boots, was again shielding the defence, biting into tackles and launching attacks. He even pushed forward after eight minutes, meeting a square pass from Nathaniel Clyne with a drive but Soria saved. Coutinho tested the strength of the shin-pads that bear pictures of his family, covering back to dispossess Coke. Clyne lifted a cross to the far post after ten minutes, Sturridge headed back but Daniel Carrico cleared off the line. Liverpool kept attacking, dominating the first period. The assistant referee, Mathias Klasieneus, missed Carrico handling the ball as Firmino went past him. Rami touched Moreno's attempted hooked cross. Dejan Lovren was then deservedly cautioned by Eriksson for hacking down Gameiro.

Then came Sturridge's superb finish. Liverpool seemed in control. Sturridge could have added a second but failed to turn in Clyne's drilled cross. At the halftime whistle, Klopp sprinted off down the tunnel, getting ready for his talk in the dressing room. But it was Seville who re-emerged the more determined. Liverpool were lax, lacking concentration, and punished by the Spaniards after only 17 seconds. Ferreira ran in from the right, nutmegging the sluggish Moreno, and driving the ball across. Can slid in, stretching out a leg in an attempt to intercept the ball. Lovren was caught out by the stealth of Gameiro, who positioned himself perfectly to meet the ball and bury it past Simon Mignolet for his 29th goal in 51 games this season. Liverpool were swept aside by Seville. After 63 minutes, their pressure brought the lead. Vitolo made the goal, driving through the middle, collecting a faulty clearance from Lovren, playing a one-two with Banega before looking to shoot. Coke had other ideas, running on to the ball and firing it emphatically past Mignolet. Liverpool were stunned, Seville rampant. More riot police filtered down in the line between the rival supporters. Worse befell Liverpool. They continued to pay the price for Moreno's positioning,

their general concentration and the failure to follow the old adage of playing to the whistle. When Clyne's clearance struck Coutinho, Coke was played onside. Liverpool stopped. Coke didn't. His was too strong for Mignolet and Seville were celebrating in front of their fans again. Liverpool were incensed, wrongly believing Coke offside. Klasieneus appeared to have been lifting his flag to signal offside but Eriksson rightly overruled him. Sturridge beseeched Klasieneus to stick with his original intention. Martin Skrtel, who was warming up, argued with Klasieneus, and was booked. Klopp debated the incident with Seville's coach, Unai Emery. Klopp tried to rescue Liverpool, sending on Joe Allen for Lallana and then Christian Benteke for Kolo Toure. Liverpool's fans tried to revive the side, singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" as they had at half-time in Istanbul but there was no chance of an Istanbulse.

the guardian

Coke double shakes Liverpool as Sevilla hit back to win Europa League final

They stood in the rain with runners-up medals around their necks, watched Sevilla hoist the Europa League trophy for the third year running, and promptly disappeared down the tunnel. Jürgen Klopp and his Liverpool players had no appetite for standing on ceremony after their European dreams were shattered by Sevilla's second-half transformation and their own inability to withstand it. Klopp appealed for one more show of defiance from Liverpool supporters, the dominant number inside a stadium that has brought them only European torment in 2002, 2014 and now 2016. There was none. He took every option available to cajole a comeback equal to the quarter-final victory over Borussia Dortmund, ending the game with Daniel Sturridge, Divock Origi and Christian Benteke on the pitch. Not this time. The final whistle signalled only despair for Liverpool's players and they collapsed to the turf en masse. The final step was in sight, Sturridge's exquisite finish had delivered a deserved lead, but they faltered badly and produced a reverse Istanbul – a second-half implosion of three goals in 25 minutes. After Sturridge's goal Sevilla appeared on the brink of unravelling. After half-time they caused Liverpool to unravel. The champions were ruthless, precise, powerful and showed why they have never lost a Europa League tie under Unai Emery and deserve a place in the history books. Kévin Gameiro and two from the captain Coke, his first goals in the competition, inflicted a fifth consecutive cup final defeat on Klopp. The manager pointed the finger at the referee, Jonas Eriksson, for missing two handballs inside the Sevilla penalty area, disallowing a second Liverpool goal and allowing Sevilla's third. Klopp was wrong about the goals. Of greater consequence was Alberto Moreno's mistake for the Andalusian club's equaliser and his team's feeble reaction in the face of the second-half onslaught. Sevilla's hat-trick of Europa League victories, their fifth triumph in the tournament in the last 10 years, made them the first club to win three consecutive Uefa titles since Bayern Munich dominated the European Cup between 1974 and 1976. For Liverpool, it was the most deflating end to a season in which Klopp has restored belief and unity to Anfield, investing so much in cup competitions that they affected the Premier League campaign. But there will be no European football in his first full season as Liverpool manager.

Klopp's side started nervously yet threatened to punish Sevilla's vulnerability at the back and their willingness to give space to Sturridge and the disappointing Brazilian pair of Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho. Daniel Carrico hooked a Sturridge header off the line and then somehow escaped with a clear handball 60 seconds later when intercepting Firmino's flick inside the area with an upper arm. The same player also touched a Sturridge pass into the area with his fingertips. Again not given. Simon Mignolet was untroubled in the first half and Liverpool's anxious opening was a distant memory by the time Sturridge swept them into a merited lead with a magnificent finish. Firmino and Coutinho were given far too much space as they switched play from right to left, where Liverpool's most potent striker was unmarked when he collected Coutinho's pass on the corner of the area. His closest defenders, Mariano Ferreira and Adil Rami, backed off. A fatal error, and Sturridge punished them by curling the ball just inside the far post with the outside of his left foot. Dejan Lovren, and the Liverpool bench, thought he had doubled the advantage with a towering header from James Milner's corner but Sturridge was in an offside position as he attempted to apply the final touch in front of the goalkeeper. Klopp chastised John Achterberg, Liverpool's goalkeeping coach, for leading the on-pitch celebrations while the assistant referee had his flag raised. Having taken the lead with a touch of brilliance, Liverpool gave it away carelessly 20 seconds after the restart. Moreno, the former Sevilla left-back and boyhood Sevilla fan, made a hash of clearing a crossfield ball and headed straight to Ferreira. The full-back burst through Moreno and Coutinho into the area and crossed low for Gameiro to score his eighth goal of the campaign from close range. Sevilla's leading goalscorer almost made it two when Éver Banega cut open the Liverpool defence with a precise pass and Gameiro looked certain to score until Kolo Touré intervened with a vital challenge. The France international should have scored when a long throw into the Liverpool area fell to the unmarked striker, but Gameiro could only scuff his volley straight at Mignolet who diverted over. Collectively, the Premier League side were disintegrating. Sevilla were now the dominant, dangerous force and they went in front when Vitolo dissected Liverpool's midfield with a series of passes followed by a twist inside Lovren. As the ball broke loose on the edge of the area Coke arrived first and swept an excellent finish around Mignolet into the bottom

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corner. Liverpool were struggling to stem Sevilla's threat and their third arrived through Coke once again. The ball was deflected into the path of the captain, who appeared offside as he controlled before beating Mignolet with a close-range finish. The ball had arrived at Coke's feet via touches off Clyne and Coutinho, however, and after a lengthy wait while Klopp, Emery and their players argued and harangued the assistant referee, Eriksson eventually awarded the goal. Another Dortmund was required. Instead, Liverpool slid tamely to a comprehensive defeat. Klopp may have turned doubters into believers at Anfield but turning Liverpool into Europa League champions was beyond him.

The Mail

SLOPPY REDS GIVE IT AWAY; Fizzing Coke clinches a Sevilla hat-trick as Klopp's men bottle it

liverpool Sturridge 35 1 sevilla Gameiro 46 Coke 64, 70 3 THE famous press, the high energy, the heavy metal, it was all so much jazz. Liverpool succumbed to their heaviest defeat in a European final, beaten by a team that are masters on this stage, Sevilla -- Europa League champions for a third year in succession. There was controversy about the third goal, perhaps, but not the third trophy. The best team won here, Sevilla sweeping Liverpool aside with three second-half goals, leaving Jurgen Klopp to contemplate another final defeat in a fog of impotent fury. He has lost five in a row now -- in Germany, England and Europe -- but when Liverpool took the lead here it looked as if that dire run might be broken. No such luck. Sevilla were magnificent in the second 45 minutes and could have won by more. They equalised 17 seconds into the second half and never looked back, aided by some weak Liverpool defending, not least from Alberto Moreno against his old Spanish club. Moreno was sloppy for the first goal and Sevilla got too much change down his flank. Ultimately, the momentum rode over Liverpool, the way they have ridden over opponents in Europe this season. The second goal was quite magnificent, brilliant work from Vitolo in midfield playing two one-tuos -- the second with Ever Banega -- before captain Coke swept in to finish, running off Nathaniel Clyne. They are the three European row since Munich's triumphs 1974 and s eon. He scored the clincher, too -- they were his first goals in European competition -- fortuitously collecting a rebound off a Liverpool boot in what looked to be an offside position. Coke converted, a flag went up, but was overruled by referee Jonas Eriksson. Substitute Martin Skrtel led the touchline protests, soon joined by Klopp, but after another round of consultation the decision stood. This time there was no drama, no comeback, no miracle to behold. Liverpool have punched above their weight in Europe this season, but had moved up a belt too far with Sevilla. Anyone who saw Amir Khan's fight recently will know what they walked on to here. rtin ouchn fter sevilla have not been the best travellers this season. For all their exploits in Europe they have not won away in La Liga, and only once outside their city in all other competitions. So it must have been a daunting sight to see St Jakob Park decked out as an imitation Anfield, allLiverpool red and banners of Shankly quotes and celebrations of glories past. It was always going to be like this once UEFA selected a hopelessly inadequate venue for a match of this magnitude. Basle has charm as a town and this is a nice stadium, but it was out of its depth once a team with Liverpool's travelling support made it to the final. Liverpool took over three-quarters of the ground, even some tiny pockets reserved for Sevilla. There was no segregation, even around what was obviously two sets of fans, leading to a couple of ugly fights behind one goal before kick-off. Belatedly, riot police arrived and formed a human barrier, and the two clubs maybe sanctioned. But the real culprits are UEFA, who have acted these last few weeks as if they have never had to organise a game of football before. It really isn't that difficult. Still, it was to Liverpool's advantage to play before a partisan crowd, although they took a while to match that mood with the intensity of their performance. Perhaps it was all part of the plan but they did not start this game with the energy that had so startled Villarreal in the previous round and, at first, most of the action unfolded in their half. Once the game settled down, though, Liverpool got into their stride -- first to win titles in a Bayern European Cup between 1976 C l th wh cou Hodg m Liverpool note cut-- Clyne in particular a threat along the right, showing what a danger he could be for Roy Hodgson in France next month. Clyne set up Liverpool's first attack of note, cutting the ball back for Daniel Sturridge who could not reach it, instead finding Emre Can in an appealing shooting position. His effort was parried, but goalkeeper David Soria made an awful meal of it, which bode well. Clyne tested him again four minutes later, this time with a deep cross that Sturridge headed back across goal, defender Daniel Carrico hooking it clear as Soria floundered. Liverpool had a reasonable penalty shout a minute later when Roberto Firmino tried to take the ball around Carrico and it clearly struck his arm. It was the sort of appeal that Luis Suarez would invariably carry, but maybe Firmino does not have the same powers of advocacy. Referee Eriksson waved it away. By now, Liverpool were well on top and could have scored after 25 minutes when Adam Lallana surged through and slipped a lovely pass to Sturridge, breaking free of the Sevilla defence but at a wide, tight angle. Soria was off his line quickly to narrow it further and made a good save -- his first convincing involvement of the night. Ten minutes later, Liverpool were ahead, and with a goal worthy of the occasion, too. Firmino found Philippe Coutinho, who had been strangely quiet until this point, and he moved it on to Sturridge. He took a couple of touches and then curled it, beautifully, perfectly, with the outside of his left boot into the far corner.

It was a quite magnificent strike, not just for Liverpool, but as a reminder to all that he is by no means the fourth, or fifth, name in England's roll call of strikers this summer. That is not to say his contemporaries could not have scored it -- but, let's face it, they didn't and he did. And on a grand stage, too. He ran away in triumph and did his little dance, unfortunately to the wrong corner of the ground. In his defence, it was hard to tell. Sevilla offered little in the firsthalf. Dejan Lovren was booked for a brutal and rather unnecessary foul on Kevin Gameiro and two minutes later the Frenchman showed his skills, coming close with an overhead kick after Banega's free-kick was half-cleared. If Liverpool's plan was to keep them similarly shackled in the second-half, it was ruined after just 20 seconds. From the kick-off, Sevilla attacked and after a Moreno header had fallen to Mariano Ferreira on the right, Liverpool fell apart defensively. Mariano cut inside, beat Moreno easily, got to the by line, struck a low cross and Gameiro was on hand to tap in from close range. It is not the first time Moreno's defensive frailty has cost Liverpool in Europe this season and it seemed to leave them in shock. Their fans fell quiet and minutes later, Gameiro broke free, a magnificent recovery by Kolo Toure on aging legs all that thwarted him as he bore down on goal. It was Simon Mignolet to the rescue next with an excellent save from Gameiro that kept Liverpool in the game as Klopp implored the fans to make Basle feel like Anfield again.

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool fold as Coke proves the real thing

Jurgen Klopp exhorted his Liverpool players to become legends. But not like this. This is an unwarranted anti-legendary status, not quite infamy, as they collapsed in the second half, overrun by a rampant Sevilla, who won the Europa League for an unprecedented third time in a row and with it earned a place in next season's Champions League. The Spaniards, instead, go into lore, Andalusian legends, with two goals from their captain. Coke was the real thing. From the miracle of Istanbul to the bedlam in Basel. This was an embarrassing capitulation from Liverpool - and it was nothing short of that - and for Klopp who, extraordinarily, has now lost his last five finals. The Liverpool manager said he was good at celebrating things. But not last night. It was sobering as his team lost its fizz. Liverpool are building, they will go again under the impressive Klopp, but this was a heavy blow. It felt like all or nothing for this season and it ended with nothing. No trophy and no European football. There was an edge. There was an atmosphere and there was a goal to grace any final. Any final. It came from the boot, or rather the outside of the boot, of Daniel Sturridge with the striker collecting possession from Philippe Coutinho and, with Mariano Ferreira backing off, he used the Sevilla defender as cover to bend the ball around him and into the corner of the net. The fingertips of goalkeeper David Soria brushed the ball as it went past him. It was some strike and Sturridge danced away in celebration. The flares, the chants, the songs erupted. Klopp pushed out his chest and then turned to give a little nod to the bench. Moments earlier and Sevilla striker Kevin Gameiro had gone close with an acrobatic overhead kick that flew a foot past the post but it had been Liverpool creating the chances. They were denied a penalty, early on, with James Milner chipping the ball forward for Roberto Firmino who tried to lift it past Daniel Carrico as he ran into the area. The Sevilla defender appeared to move his arm to block but as Firmino appealed, referee Jonas Eriksson was unmoved. Before that and Sturridge had gone close, heading back across goal from Nathaniel Clyne's cross only for Carrico to hook the ball away with Soria beaten. Then Adam Lallana slid a cover pass through to Sturridge only for Soria to block his angled shot. Once ahead Liverpool turned the screw. A powerful header by Dejan Lovren from a corner beat Soria but Sturridge, in an offside position, had wafted a leg. The striker then tried to push the ball into the area, again it brushed a Sevilla hand, this time Grzegorz Krychowiak, but once more no penalty was given. And to think Liverpool had started nervously. The ball had been turned over too often with Klopp urging his defence to push up as Sevilla - clearly sensing some weakness and with Ever Banega pulling the strings - were direct and aggressive, often fighting the ball in the air early, provoking a series of free-kicks without testing Simon Mignolet. That edge had spread to the supporters with the unsuitability of this tight, small venue again exposed as the fans behind one goal were barely separated. Fighting broke out pre-match, with peace eventually restored as riot police formed a cordon. The split was clear. There was a noisy wedge of Sevilla fans but they were hugely outnumbered. Thirty thousand Liverpool fans had descended on Basel, half apparently without tickets but many appeared to acquire them as red was the predominant colour. This felt like a final between two big teams, two big cup teams. Indeed both clubs had played seven Europa League and Uefa Cup finals between them and not lost one with Sevilla's four triumphs having come in the last decade. So something had to give. El trono ya espera su rey ('The throne is now expecting its king') read the headline in Seville's sports daily Estadio Deportivo the day Sevilla returned to the Europa League, from the Champions League. They wanted ownership of this cup and would now have to claim it from behind. Liverpool, we know, also took this competition seriously. Defeating Manchester United, Borussia Dortmund and Villarreal to get here said it all. Everyone also knew the stakes and it was pulsating stuff. So, into the second-half, Sevilla flew out of the traps. After just 17 seconds they were level. It came as the woeful Alberto Moreno headed a clearance straight to Ferreira who ran at him. Moreno rashly committed himself, was easily beaten, and the right-back squared the ball low for Gameiro to sweep it in.

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LIVERPOOL

ECHO

Reds consumed by regrets after final heartbreak

This was a crushing defeat that cut deep. The night when [Liverpool's](#) European dream turned into a living nightmare. A miraculous run reached a wretched conclusion as Jurgen Klopp's side capitulated at the hands of Sevilla in the Europa League final. So much for that catalyst to launch the Reds' bright era. Instead they came up short on the big stage yet again as weaknesses were ruthlessly exposed. As the ticker tape fell and the gifted La Liga outfit celebrated an historic third successive triumph, Klopp and his devastated players turned on their heels and headed for the sanctity of the dressing room. Their season had just been summed up in the space of 90 crazy minutes – brilliant in patches, pathetic in others.

From a position of total control after Daniel Sturridge's classy opener, the Reds imploded. Kevin Gameiro restored parity early in the second half and Coke's double ensured that Sevilla deservedly walked away with the spoils.

There will be no European football for Liverpool next season. It was either all or nothing, and they ended up with the latter after failing to grasp the golden ticket into the group stage of the Champions League.

They will be consumed by regrets.

Klopp had talked about his side writing a story to tell the grandkids about but nobody in red will ever recall this final with any degree of pride. They will be consumed by regrets. The class of 2015/16 won't go down as the legends who ended the club's 11-year wait for a European trophy. Instead they will be remembered as a team which tossed away two golden opportunities to clinch silverware having also come up short in February's Capital One Cup final. Pity the 25,000 Kopites who transformed Basel's St Jakob-Park into a sea of red. They have been treated to a joyride in the Europa League this season as Liverpool claimed the scalps of Manchester United, Borussia Dortmund and Villarreal in thrilling fashion. But the conclusion was pure car crash. The squad Brendan Rodgers put together never did win anything and now Klopp will embark on his own rebuilding job. For some this will be the end of the road. Out of those involved here, Kolo Toure, Joe Allen and Christian Benteke are likely to form part of the summer exodus as the manager seeks reinforcements.

One of the worst final performances from a Liverpool player in living memory.

And surely a left-back will be high on Klopp's shopping list after Alberto Moreno delivered one of the worst final performances from a Liverpool player in living memory. Moreno was a glaring weak link against his former club as his lack of defensive discipline cost the Reds dear. One defeat – no matter how damaging - doesn't undo the progress Klopp has overseen over the past seven months with someone else's players. He's a class act and Liverpool were lucky to secure his services. Solid foundations have been laid but here was proof that plenty of fresh talent is required to ensure they kick on next term. 'It's about the glory,' read one of the hundreds of banners that adorned a sun-kissed Barfusserplatz in Basel earlier in the day. The atmosphere inside St Jakob-Park was electric – a home from home with the travelling Kop present in such numbers – and after a ropey start Liverpool dominated the first half. The opening stages were frenetic with the Reds having to overcome an early bout of nerves. Klopp gestured wildly, trying to make himself heard above the din, as he called for some composure.

Belatedly, Liverpool settled with Emre Can's 25-yarder pushed away by David Soria. Adam Lallana epitomised the hunger as he thundered into a tackle on Sergio Escudero and then left Daniel Carrico on his backside. The Reds moved the ball at pace and Sevilla looked rattled.

Nathaniel Clyne provided Liverpool's best attacking outlet as he burst down the right flank at every opportunity. It was from his searching cross that Sturridge nodded past Soria, only for Carrico to hack off the line.

Sevilla continued to ride their luck with Eriksson turning a blind eye when Carrico handled inside the box. James Milner provided the graft and gave Klopp's men a platform to turn the screw. Lallana's cute pass released Sturridge but the angle was tight and Soria was off his line smartly to make the block.

Ten minutes before the break Liverpool deservedly led.

Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho combined to find Sturridge lurking on the edge of the box. Sevilla backed off and the striker punished them, expertly planting it into the corner with the outside of his left boot.

It was a stunning finish and St Jakob-Park erupted. Briefly, Liverpool threatened to blow Sevilla away. Lovren soared highest to nod Milner's corner goalwards and Sturridge made sure it found the net but the celebrations were curtailed by the offside flag. Sturridge then went close to converting Clyne's drilled cross with Sevilla relieved to avoid further damage. Whatever was said in the dressing room at half-time was ignored. Liverpool switched off and surrendered their lead 17 seconds into the second half. Moreno's poor defensive header was pounced on by Mariano Ferreira, who skipped past the left-back and crossed for Kevin Gameiro to turn home his 29th goal of the season. It was all far too easy and the sloppy Reds were carved open again soon after. Gameiro raced clear but just as he was about to pull the trigger, Toure made a crucial last-ditch challenge.

Vulnerable at the back and with no presence in midfield, Liverpool were on the ropes and there was another let-off when Simon Mignolet kept out Gameiro's volley. Their luck ran out in the 63rd minute. Vitolo exchanged passes with the outstanding Ever Banega and Coke arrived to hammer past Mignolet.

Klopp turned to Divock Origi, who came on for Firmino, but Liverpool were a spent force.

They looked like the team beaten at Watford, Swansea and Newcastle.

They had dug themselves out of some serious holes en route to Basel but this time they had no response. They looked like the team beaten at Watford, Swansea and Newcastle. Their fate was sealed in shambolic fashion. Clyne slid in to intercept a cross and inadvertently cannoned the ball against Coutinho and into the path of Coke. Mignolet got a hand to the shot but couldn't keep it out. The assistant's flag went up immediately but to the Reds' disgust he then put it down and referee Jonas Eriksson awarded the goal. Angry protests followed but there was no injustice here. Liverpool only had themselves to blame. Rather than take the final step, they stumbled yet again.

Man of the match

Kolo Toure. One of the few who could hold his head high.

Diario de Sevilla

Éste es el campeón de los campeones (1-3)

El Sevilla conquista su quinta Liga Europa, la tercera consecutiva, ante un Liverpool que tuvo que rendirle pleitesía. Los hombres de Emery se transformaron en la segunda mitad para remontar con un juego brillante.

El Sevilla volvió a demostrar en Basilea que es el campeón, el campeón de los campeones se podría decir también. Porque tal vez campeones haya muchos, tantos como dos todas las temporadas en Europa, pero como el club que defiende la fe balompédica radicada en Nervión no hay absolutamente ninguno. El cuadro sevillista fue capaz de conseguir su tercer título consecutivo en la Liga Europa, el quinto en el último decenio, y lo hizo como se presupone que lo hacen los más grandes, engullendo a un Liverpool al que tuvo que remontarle incluso después de un primer tiempo cargado de dudas. Pero ésa es la gran diferencia. El Sevilla nunca se rinde, tal y como establece la letra de su himno, siguió adelante, ajustó algunas de sus piezas y sencillamente se tragó al histórico equipo inglés.

Fue un triunfo rotundo del hoy sobre el ayer, de un Sevilla que maneja todos los resortes del fútbol cuando le da trascendencia a lo que tiene en juego sobre un Liverpool que administra presupuestos estratosféricos, que compra a todos los futbolistas que le da la gana a base de libras. Pero lo que no puede adquirir el dinero es ese intangible que defienden todos los que se enfundan la elástica blanca del Sevilla, esa pasión con la que defienden la camiseta y siguen adelante en pos de la gloria. Ahora lo llaman hambre en el argot futbolístico de la modernidad y sí, está claro que en ese aspecto nadie es capaz de tener la capacidad de engullir que tienen Unai Emery, José Castro y Monchi, como siempre pónganlo en el orden que cada uno prefiera, y sus hombres. Porque desde el mejor de los futbolistas hasta el último miembro del cuerpo técnico son capaces de tragarse a un león si hace falta para llevar más plata a las vitrinas del Sánchez-Pizjuán.

Está claro que la primera Liga Europa fue la más emotiva por lo que suponía, pero después de Eindhoven vendría Glasgow para repetir la gesta. Y más tarde llegaría Turín para que la siguiera Varsovia y ahora Basilea. Este Sevilla no hace distincios, las quiere a todas por igual y que no lo dude nadie, una vez que se ha metido en este carril amenaza con pelear por mucho más. De momento, ya tiene cinco, lo que no puede presumir ninguno, ni siquiera ese Liverpool que aspiraba a igualarle, y tres de ellas son consecutivas, algo que no ha hecho ningún club hasta ahora.

Hasta aquí todo el ornato de la gesta que supone conquistar tanta plata en tan escaso tiempo cuando la buscan también clubes de la entidad del Liverpool, pero conviene diseccionar también el partido de fútbol, que es de lo que se trata. El Sevilla tuvo arrestos para darle la vuelta a la tortilla del juego cuando parecía que estaba noqueado. Más o menos lo mismo que le pasó en Bilbao o en Lviv, donde la tropa de Emery lo pasó realmente mal durante un buen rato para después dictar una lección magistral de fútbol.

En el rápido césped de St. Jakob Park aconteció algo parecido. Aunque el Sevilla salió bien plantado en el campo, se fue diluyendo conforme se desajustaba una pieza fundamental. N'Zonzi no se parecía en nada al de los últimos tiempo y, tal vez por las órdenes que había recibido, limitó su fútbol a buscar la prolongación de los balones aéreos, muchos de ellos en una zona demasiado adelantada, lo que lo obligaba a recorrer muchos metros para atrás cuando el balón caía en poder del Liverpool. Era algo demasiado parecido al rol de Iborra con la diferencia de que el valenciano ya ejerce de delantero y se queda arriba mientras que el francés debe volver para colaborar con Krychowiak.

El Sevilla se encontraba con que uno de sus futbolistas más trascendentales se hallaba perdido y eso hacía gripar a la máquina entera. Sturridge lo aprovechó tras una pelota en la que Coutinho tuvo mucha ventaja para manejarla. El Liverpool había golpeado primero y hasta tuvo algunas opciones para repetir antes del intermedio. No lo hizo, sin embargo, y dejó viva a la fiera sin percatarse de lo que eso suponía.

El Sevilla salió del intermedio con las ideas más aclaradas, aunque ni siquiera necesitó que éstas se vieran reflejadas en el campo para golpear. Un balón peleado por Mariano, un túnel a Alberto Moreno y un centro preciso a Gameiro. Partido nuevo, empate pese a los sufrimientos del primer periodo. Y ahí apareció, una vez más, el gran Sevilla, esa escuadra sólida y capaz de jugar al fútbol como

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 18 May 2016 Opposition: Sevilla Competition: Europa League	Times	Telegraph	Echo		18 May 2016
	Guardian	Mirror	Diario de Sevilla		
	Independent	Mail	BBC		
<div><div><div>BBC</div></div><div><p>Match ends, Liverpool 1, Sevilla 3.</p><p>90'+5' Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Sevilla 3.</p><p>90'+5' Attempt blocked. Vicente Iborra (Sevilla right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Sergio Escudero.</p><p>90'+4' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p><p>90'+4' Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool.</p><p>90'+4' Vitolo (Sevilla wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>90'+3' Substitution, Sevilla. Sebastián Cristóforo replaces Éver Banega.</p><p>90'+2' Attempt missed. Vitolo (Sevilla right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Timothée Kolodziejczak.</p><p>90'+2' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Grzegorz Krychowiak.</p><p>89' Substitution, Sevilla. Vicente Iborra replaces Kevin Gameiro.</p><p>88' Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.</p><p>88' Mariano (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>87' Offside, Sevilla. Éver Banega tries a through ball, but Kevin Gameiro is caught offside.</p><p>86' Corner, Sevilla. Conceded by Alberto Moreno.</p><p>86' Attempt blocked. Coke (Sevilla right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Kevin Gameiro.</p><p>85' Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.</p><p>85' Coke (Sevilla wins a free kick on the right wing.</p><p>85' Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.</p><p>85' Grzegorz Krychowiak (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>84' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner.</p><p>84' Offside, Sevilla. Vitolo tries a through ball, but Coke is caught offside.</p><p>84' Mariano (Sevilla is shown the yellow card.</p><p>83' Substitution, Liverpool. Christian Benteke replaces Kolo Touré.</p><p>82' Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Joe Allen.</p><p>80' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Alberto Moreno following a corner.</p><p>79' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Vitolo.</p><p>78' Substitution, Sevilla. Timothée Kolodziejczak replaces Adil Rami because of an injury.</p><p>78' Delay over. They are ready to continue.</p><p>77' Adil Rami (Sevilla is shown the yellow card.</p><p>77' Delay in match Adil Rami (Sevilla because of an injury.</p><p>75' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>75' Foul by Daniel Carriço (Sevilla.</p><p>74' Corner, Sevilla. Conceded by Kolo Touré.</p><p>73' Substitution, Liverpool. Joe Allen replaces Adam Lallana.</p><p>72' Divock Origi (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p><p>72' Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool.</p><p>72' Adil Rami (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>70' Goal! Liverpool 1, Sevilla 3. Coke (Sevilla right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner.</p><p>69' Attempt missed. Grzegorz Krychowiak (Sevilla header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Éver Banega following a set piece situation.</p><p>69' Substitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Roberto Firmino.</p><p>68' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.</p><p>68' Sergio Escudero (Sevilla wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>67' Attempt blocked. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.</p><p>66' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.</p><p>66' Foul by Daniel Carriço (Sevilla.</p><p>64' Goal! Liverpool 1, Sevilla 2. Coke (Sevilla right footed shot from outside the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Vitolo.</p><p>62' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.</p><p>62' Éver Banega (Sevilla wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>61' Attempt missed. Vitolo (Sevilla right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a corner.</p><p>60' Corner, Sevilla. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.</p><p>60' Attempt saved. Kevin Gameiro (Sevilla left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Steven N'Zonzi with a through ball.</p><p>58' Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>58' Foul by Mariano (Sevilla.</p><p>57' Éver Banega (Sevilla is shown the yellow card.</p><p>56' Vitolo (Sevilla is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p><p>56' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>56' Foul by Vitolo (Sevilla.</p><p>54' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>54' Foul by Kevin Gameiro (Sevilla.</p><p>51' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool header from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.</p><p>49' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.</p><p>49' Vitolo (Sevilla wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>48' Corner, Sevilla. Conceded by Kolo Touré.</p><p>48' Attempt blocked. Kevin Gameiro (Sevilla left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Éver Banega with a through ball.</p><p>46' Goal! Liverpool 1, Sevilla 1. Kevin Gameiro (Sevilla left footed shot from very close range to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Mariano.</p><p>Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Sevilla 0.</p><p>45'+1' First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Sevilla 0.</p><p>45' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from very close range misses to the left. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.</p><p>45' Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box</p></div><div><p>misses to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.</p><p>43' Corner, Sevilla. Conceded by Emre Can.</p><p>42' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.</p><p>42' Éver Banega (Sevilla wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>41' Foul by Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool.</p><p>41' Grzegorz Krychowiak (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>39' Offside, Liverpool. Dejan Lovren tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.</p><p>39' Attempt blocked. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.</p><p>38' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Daniel Carriço.</p><p>38' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.</p><p>35' Goal! Liverpool 1, Sevilla 0. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.</p><p>34' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>34' Foul by Éver Banega (Sevilla.</p><p>33' Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.</p><p>33' Éver Banega (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>33' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Sergio Escudero.</p><p>32' Attempt missed. Kevin Gameiro (Sevilla left footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left following a corner.</p><p>31' Corner, Sevilla. Conceded by Kolo Touré.</p><p>30' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p><p>30' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.</p><p>30' Kevin Gameiro (Sevilla wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>28' Corner, Sevilla. Conceded by Kolo Touré.</p><p>26' Delay over. They are ready to continue.</p><p>26' Delay in match Sergio Escudero (Sevilla because of an injury.</p><p>25' Sergio Escudero (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>25' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.</p><p>25' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Adam Lallana with a through ball.</p><p>23' Grzegorz Krychowiak (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>23' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.</p><p>19' Foul by Sergio Escudero (Sevilla.</p><p>19' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>13' Foul by Mariano (Sevilla.</p><p>13' Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>11' Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from the left side of the six yard box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.</p><p>9' Vitolo (Sevilla wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>9' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.</p><p>8' Sergio Escudero (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>8' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.</p><p>8' Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.</p><p>7' Foul by Vitolo (Sevilla.</p><p>7' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>6' Grzegorz Krychowiak (Sevilla wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>6' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.</p><p>2' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.</p><p>2' Éver Banega (Sevilla wins a free kick on the right wing.</p><p>1' Foul by Grzegorz Krychowiak (Sevilla.</p><p>1' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>1' Éver Banega (Sevilla wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>1' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.</p><p>First Half begins.</p><p>Lineups are announced and players are warming up.</p></div></div>					