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0 August 2016

THE TIMES

Liverpool bankrupt on the pitch amid investment talk

Burnley 2 Vokes 2, Gray 37

Liverpool 0 Referee: L Mason Attendance: 21,313

Takeover talk, questionable transfer activity, a dramatic early lurch from giddy optimism to numbing pessimism prompted by a defeat to inferior opponents who exploited shortcomings in their squad: Liverpool's ability to repeat familiar themes remains undiminished.

Saturday may only have been one day in their 124-year history but in numerous respects it carried such an inescapable feel of so many before it that a loss to Burnley followed by speculation about new ownership prompted knowing shrugs rather than shock.

To separate the issues, Fenway Sports Group moved swiftly to deny involvement in investment talks and to reiterate that the club are not for sale. Clearly, though, there is sufficient interest from financial services company, China Everbrite, for a PR blitz to be launched across media outlets. It has been known for at least 18 months -- and has been stated on the record by Mike Gordon,

the Liverpoolpresident -- that FSG would sell a partial stake in the club in a strategic partnership.

That those reports emerged in the aftermath of newly promoted Burnley administering an early-season reality check made the PR offensive particularly timely. It is on the back of such demoralising defeats that a transfer strategy built around finding value and developing players rather than signing proven talent feels like whistling in the wind. On the evidence of a single game, that would, of course, be knee-jerk but supporters have seen this so many times before that a setback such as this was always going to provoke renewed doubt.

It is at such times that the idea of a takeover seems most alluring, particularly when reports suggest that one interested party could make Liverpool the richest club in the Premier League. Their transfer strategy this summer remains curious with Jurgen Klopp balancing the books while so many of Liverpool's rivals are showing more ambition, and so many issues, most notably left back, are still to be addressed. Klopp, though, not only buys into FSG's approach to spending, he is an advocate of it and the Liverpool manager insisted he would be "an idiot" if he changed his opinion of his players on the back of one defeat.

Just as Liverpool were not worldbeaters after a victory over Arsenal, they should not be written off after defeat by Burnley. As ever, the truth lies somewhere in between. Capable of beating anyone and capable of losing to anyone, theirs is a case study in inconsistency and the cause is always the same — an absence of the kind of quality to ensure highs are not followed by lows. Again, the notion that a wealthy investor could change that is an attractive one. The problem with that approach is that it ignores that Liverpool were architects of their own downfall at Turf Moor as a pair of wholly avoidable breakaway goals from Sam Vokes and Andre Gray went unanswered despite the visiting team dominating from start to finish

Sean Dyche conceded afterwards that Burnley cannot compete even with Bournemouth in the transfer market and yet they were still able, through organisation, effort and ingenuity, to beat a team with vastly superior resources and much loftier ambitions. For that to happen, Dyche had to have a brilliant day and Klopp had to have a poor one and in the event both happened.

The team Klopp selected felt like a fudge and it proved to be so.

The Liverpool manager has some big decisions to make. The suspicion remains strong that fielding Jordan Henderson and Georginio Wijnaldum in the same widfield benefit pointed above the fact.

strong that fielding Jordan Henderson and Georginio Wijnaldum in the same midfield benefits neither player and certainly not the team, as does the fact that Liverpool lack pace when Sadio Mane is unavailable.

That the left-back issue is still to be addressed is inexplicable and the situation will veer towards negligence should Klopp's options for that position continue to be either Alberto Moreno or James Milner after the transfer window has closed. Added to those problems, Daniel Sturridge's overall form has fallen off to the point where his status as an almost automatic starter, when fit, can no longer be taken for granted. Admittedly, Klopp did not help the forward by using him as a wide attacker on Saturday but the fitful performance that Sturridge produced, the latest in an increasingly lengthy series of such displays over two-and-a-half injury-plagued years in which he has scored only 15 league goals, did little to dissuade

RATINGS

Burnley (4-4-2): T Heaton 7 -- M Lowton 6, M Keane 8, B Mee 7, S Ward 6 -- G Boyd 7, D Marney 7, S Defour 7 (sub: B Gudmundsson, 56min 6), S Arfield 6 -- S Vokes 7 (sub: L Jutkiewicz, 82), A Gray 8 (sub: A O'Neill, 90). Substitutes not used: P Robinson, M Kightly, J Tarkowski, T Darikwa.

those who believe Liverpool are a better side when Divock Origi is leading the

Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet 5 -- N Clyne 5, D Lovren 5, R Klavan 5, J Milner 5 (sub: A Moreno, 77) -- J Henderson 5, G Wijnaldum 5, A Lallana 5 (sub: M Grujic, 78) -- D Sturridge 5 (sub: D Origi, 65 6), P Coutinho 5, R Firmino.

Substitutes not used: A Manninger, E Can, J Matip, K Stewart. Booked: Henderson. MAKING IT COUNTBurnley beat Liverpool with the lowest possession of any winning side in the top flight since 2004 Premier League 2003/04 to Now Season Team Opp Pos % 20/8/16 BurnleyLiverpool 19.4 2/5/15 West Brom Man Utd 20.3 4/12/13 Aston Villa So'ton 21.2 6/4/12 Newcastle Swansea 22.6 21/9/14 C Palace Everton 23.9

theguardian

Burnley and Sam Vokes catch Liverpool cold as Klopp's men fire blanks This was a fine way for Burnley to collect their first points of the season and a demoralising way for Liverpool to go down. Sean Dyche's men were simply hungrier than the visiting team who lacked the requisite quality in front of goal. Burnley's manager offered a telling criticism of his opponents.

"At times Liverpool had six men in midfield," he said. "I think if I put six in midfield we'd probably keep the ball a long time. But we want to penetrate." His side did and on this evidence Burnley have a fighting chance of staying up andLiverpool are destined for another frustrating campaign.

Jürgen Klopp used the correct term when despairing of the result. "We had absolutely no luck and everybody needs to be more clinical," he said. "We have to accept it. Burnley deserved to win with a very passionate performance.

"We have to say it was not enough today. The lesson here is – don't give the ball away like we did twice today. We will work on it 100%."

Burnley had the dream start, which meant Liverpool's was a nightmare. Two minutes in Nathaniel Clyne's sloppy pass ceded possession to Andre Gray. He turned the ball to Sam Vokes and a swift swivel then emphatic 20-yard shot gave Simon Mignolet little chance.

This rocked Liverpool, who soon needed a last-ditch Dejan Lovren intervention to avoid going two behind. This time Gray raced clear and at the Liverpool goalkeeper. As the No7 went to pull the trigger in dived Lovren to take the ball cleanly and the danger was gone.

The wild conditions swirling round Turf Moor were being matched by the up-andat-'em approach of Dyche's team. Each time Burnley poured forward their fans roared them on and to Liverpool's credit they attempted to gain the foothold that would stymie the onslaught.

Their end-product when nearing Tom Heaton's goal was deficient, however. Twice Philippe Coutinho was wasteful. The Clarets could again charge at the neongreen shirts with Gray often hit early with a long pass.

Dean Marney, partnering Burnley's record signing, Steven Defour, in midfield, led the press whenever he could. Jordan Henderson was left embarrassed when Marney mugged him near his area and Adam Lallana blushed when he later fell over in possession.

Defour was the single change from last weekend's 1-0 defeat here by Swansea Cityas the £7.5m man replaced David Jones, who is now at Sheffield Wednesday. As Jones was the sole difference from the XI that ended last season – for Joey Barton – Dyche is beginning a second term leading Burnley in the top flight by showing faith in those who won promotion from the Championship. For Klopp, his main moves from last Sunday's 4-3 win at Arsenal were to drop the beleaguered Alberto Moreno for James Milner at left-back and select Daniel Sturridge for the injured Sadio Mané.

From a short corner taken by Coutinho Lallana took aim but failed to finish. Then Milner and Sturridge linked along the left before switching play right and the move fizzled out.

Later Coutinho sprayed a regulation pass beyond Milner and out. It was a microcosm of where Liverpool were failing; their edge was blunt, rather than cutting.

Gray then struck to send the ground into raptures and Liverpool staring at a 2-0 half-time deficit. Ragnar Klavan lost the ball near halfway, Defour skipped forward, passed right to Gray and, after he cut inside, the finish was as sweet as Vokes's. This had the faithful singing: "We love you Burnley." It had Klopp standing stony-faced. And it meant his team needed to show considerable backbone if they were to engineer the comeback.

If, during the break, Klopp sternly informed his charges to be more ruthless, that would have been no surprise.

After the interval Liverpool's slickest move thus far came when Sturridge danced inside and spread panic in Burnley's area. A further warning that the visitors were finally sparking came when Heaton had to save sharply Roberto Firmino's 20-yard attempt to the keeper's left.

This ascendancy was the tale of Liverpool's second half. A further scare came when Heaton misjudged a Milner corner from the left before the keeper scrambled to tip it behind.

To turn this superiority into goals Klopp replaced Sturridge with Divock Origi on 63 minutes. Yet Liverpool still disappointed while dominating.

It is early days but these are the games any team with the title-winning pretensions Klopp is voicing have to win.

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The Daily T

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KLOPP WON'T PANIC; But he could still buy to plug Reds defence BURNLEY 2

LIVERPOOL 0

IT HAD been another one of those afternoons, the kind Liverpool fans have become wearily accustomed to seeing over the past 20 years.

Countless times they have started a season with a win to fire optimism, only for it to be followed by a sobering defeat. So, from the high of Arsenal six days earlier, perhaps they should have foreseen this loss at Burnley. These set-backs lead to demands for the manager to return to the market. So, would this defeat at Turf Moor prompt Jurgen Klopp to buy?

'If one game changed my mind then I would be a real idiot,' said the German bluntly. 'But the answer is I don't know.'

Klopp was bemused his side had lost to first-half goals from Sam Vokes and Andre Gray which were both consequences of Liverpool errors. Indeed, you wondered whether all the work Liverpool have done in this window -- seven signings so far -- have corrected issues that needed to be addressed at the end of last season. Take the situation at left back. James Milner was in no way to blame for this reverse, but asking a right-footed midfielder to take over from Alberto Moreno does not give the team balance. Liverpoolsold Brad Smith, who could have slotted into Moreno's position, to Bournemouth and withdrew from their pursuit of Leicester's Ben Chilwell when they could not agree a fee with the champions. Privately, Liverpool insist their business for the window is done but perhaps Klopp could make one final foray. 'We should be ready in our development and these mistakes shouldn't happen any more,' he said. 'Our training drills did not include us playing the ball to our opponents. We deserved a defeat.' Burnley's survival prospects depend on whether Vokes and Gray can replicate their performances here consistently.

'This is the first time Sam has been properly fit,' said manager Sean Dyche. 'Andre's a newcomer, so there are no guarantees with them. But they are very good players. They've got a thirst to keep improving and that's the key to how we work.'

SUPER STAT: This was the first time since Boxing Day 1973 that Burnley have scored more than one goal in a match against Liverpool.

BURNLEY (4-4-2): Heaton 7; Lowton 7, Keane 8.5, Mee 8, Ward 7.5; Arlfeld 7, Marney 8, Defour 8 (Gudmundsson 56min, 7), Boyd 7.5; Gray 8 (O'Neill 90), Vokes 8 (Jutkiewicz 82). Subs not used: Robinson, Tarkowski, Kightly, Darikwa. Scorers: Vokes 2, Gray 37.

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Mignolet 5.5; Clyne 4, Lovren 5, Klavan 5, Milner 5 (Moreno 78); Lallana 5 (Grujic 78), Henderson 5, Wijnaldum 4; Sturridge 4 (Origi 64, 6), Firmino 5, Coutinho 5.5. Subs not used: Manninger, Can, Matip, Stewart. Booked: Henderson. Man of the match: Michael Keane. Referee: Lee Mason 6.

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp finds same old problems come back to haunt him

The triggers of discontent are pulled earlier every season. Whether it is buying the wrong players, failing to sign enough players, picking the wrong team or simply losing a match, the first false step causes the game's legion of the entitled to yell "sell" and "buy" with equal levels of indignation.

It is a world Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp did not have to inhabit during his debut season in England, as he was given the time to impose his vision, but Saturday gave him a taste of Anfield's annual recycling of discontent. Liverpool continue to operate on the extremes, prompting quiet and not-so-quiet confidence of a title or top-four challenge when they win, and prophecies of impending doom and enthused responses to claims someone wants to buy the club when they lose.

Within a few minutes of Liverpool's timid defeat at Burnley, Klopp was dismissing the notion that he needed to rethink his plans. "If one game should change my mind then I would be a real idiot," he said.

Asked about further additions, however, he repeated that they were possible. "The answer is I don't know, we will see. It was an experience we don't want." Certainly, this was the kind of unimaginative and physically meek performance it was thought would be banished this season. Yet the problems were not new or especially surprising.

Issues raised but buried after the opening-day win at Arsenal could no longer be shrugged off as peripheral. At Turf Moor they looked fundamental.

James Milner may be an option at left-back, but he is not yet comfortable in the role. It is inconceivable there is not an affordable and superior alternative to Alberto Moreno, dropped for this game, in the scouting dossiers.

There was no central midfielder of authority, and when Burnley let Liverpool keep the ball they did so with a purpose. Once Sam Vokes had secured a second-minute lead, Sean Dyche, the Burnley manager, was astute to recognise that if you let certain Liverpool players have possession deep enough they do not have the range of pass to do anything purposeful.

Daniel Sturridge operates in the wrong zones, reserving all his tricks for when he is 60 yards from goal but looking tentative when challenged to run beyond defenders. He needs to rediscover the yard he has lost following last season's injuries. Only Philippe Coutinho offered a threat and his shots were also limited to distance

Klopp pointed out that Emre Can and Lucas Leiva had been injured, while the potential of Marko Grujic was evident during his cameo. The answer to midfield imbalance could still be within.

Sadio Mane was also missed and it would stretch credibility to argue that Liverpool have problems creating and scoring, given how they played eight days ago. Nevertheless, having thrilled so much on their opening day, this incarnation of Liverpool followed the bloodline of those who have flattered to deceive for the past 20 years. Excelling against the 'elite' is pointless when beaten by teams whose chief ambition is staying in the division.

Not that Liverpool's deficiencies should be the sole focus. Credit Dyche for exposing them and the combination of goal-scorers, Andre Gray and Vokes, has the capacity to trouble every defence, particularly when counter-attacking. Gray took advantage of Liverpool's lack of conviction and struck up a formidable strike partnership. Vokes was never 100 per cent when Burnley were last in the Premier League. He too demonstrated what a difference he will make.

"We've seen he has matured a lot since then," said Dyche. "The last time we were in the Premier League he caught the end of it. It can take time to be clear of an injury, both physically and mentally, and you can see he's got his fitness back to where it should be. For him to score that goal was great for him."

Dyche could also be satisfied with the debut of Belgium midfielder Steven Defour, who lasted an hour of scurrying around before tiring. The manager was cautious about suggesting that his PS8 million arrival demonstrated that Burnley were operating in a new financial reality. "The market's as hard as I've ever seen it," said Dyche. "Particularly for clubs like us."

Whatever the imbalance off the field, this was another of those occasions where it was difficult to identify financial inequalities on it.

Smash and grab No 1 Beating the statistics Burnley Liverpool 20 - Possession 19% off 2 on Shots at goal 13 off 128/207 Passes completed 763/Crosses

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POSSESSION? IT'S A MYTH; KLOPP: Is it fair when they had two good moments.. and we had 500

BURNLEY 2

Vokes 2 Gray 37

LIVERPOOL 0

BRENDAN RODGERS could have related to Jurgen Klopp after Burnley took a battering and three points from Liverpool.

Rodgers' reign at Anfield produced a lot of exciting games, entertaining football, bucket loads of goals but all too often a let down in a game they were expected to win

Klopp has got his players buying into what he wants and just like the days of Rodgers' marauding front-line of Luis Suarez, Daniel Sturridge and Raheem Sterling, this was one-way traffic. And even those on the winning side could scarcely believe what they had seen.

"It's all a bit surreal," said Burnley striker Andre Gray of an encounter that saw the visitors to Turf Moor enjoy complete territorial advantage, 81 per cent possession, and 25 shots on goal to Burnley's two.

Given those two lonely shots proved the difference between the sides, it prompted Reds' boss Klopp to wonder: "Is it fair they won when they had two good moments and we had 500?"

But for all their possession, for all their skills and quality on

show, Liverpool weren't good enough, or as Klopp said: "It is our job to get the result we deserved and obviously today we deserved a defeat."

Why? Well, those perennial Liverpool failings. Defensive frailty and a lack of incision - or is it belief? - with all that possession.

At times, it seemed like a game of shots-and-in, so often were the visitors camped around the Burnley box. Yet it was Turf Moor manager Sean Dyche who summed it up best.

"Possession doesn't win you games - it's a myth. Leicester proved that last season," he said.

If Liverpool had problems last season, it wasn't against the top teams, who gave them space to play, but when frustrated by the lower-ranked sides, who packed the midfield and defence in regimented lines.

No one did it better than Burnley here, who - despite all those shots - didn't concede a chance of note.

It shows just how much stats can distort reality. It also left Klopp intensely frustrated

"I was really angry around the first goal because it was unnecessary, but it is not a defending problem, it is an offensive problem," said Klopp. "I don't need to tell them we shouldn't play the ball to the opponent at the wrong time.

"Losing the ball in the build-up makes no sense. We can react better but I saw a lot of good things.

"If you tell me last year we could have played at Burnley like this, not perfect of course, I would be really surprised."

It was Nathaniel Clyne who lost the ball early on, gifting a goal brilliantly finished by Sam Vokes, and when Gray added a second after more poor defending, it gave Burnley victory in only the second game of the season.

Given it took them 11 games to get off the mark when they were last in the Premier League, Dyche believes this is a side who now knows what they have to do to stay up.

He said: "The players have matured, and I think they get it a bit more. The last time it was all a bit enormous at times, it hit everyone a bit quick coming into the Premier League, but now they know the task.

"Playing in big games, like this one, Chelsea next week, Man City and all that. But imagine that game to get back into the Premier League where there's a gazillion quid on it: that's pressure. They're in a better place, our current group."

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Reds endure miserable defeat to Premier League new boys
Liverpool failed to build on their opening weekend win over Arsenal as they
slumped to a miserable 2-0 defeat at Premier League new boys Burnley.
First-half goals from Sam Vokes and Andre Gray ensured the Clarets celebrated
their first league win over the Reds since 1974.

Jurgen Klopp's men could have no complaints after producing a wretched performance at Turf Moor. Liverpool got off to a nightmare start as they fell behind inside two minutes.

Ragnar Klavan's cross-field pass didn't do Nathaniel Clyne any favours and as Burnley pressed, the full-back coughed up possession cheaply.

Gray pounced and fed Vokes, who turned on the edge of the box and hammered emphatically past Simon Mignolet.

The Reds' problems could have increased when Gray burst through soon after but Dejan Lovren got back to make a crucial sliding challenge.

Klopp's side enjoyed 78% possession in the first half but they did precious little with it.

It was all too slow, too predictable as they played in front of Burnley rather than getting in behind them

getting in behind them.
Philippe Coutinho lit up the Emirates on the opening weekend but his standards

slipped dramatically.
The little magician was without his wand as he unleashed a series of wayward shots and overhit passes.

Coutinho stood chastising himself after knocking the ball straight out of play when

he had the opportunity to release Milner down the left flank.

Daniel Sturridge, brought into the side as a replacement for the injured Sadio

Mane, dropped deeper and deeper to get involved. The problem was that Liverpool had no attacking focal point.

On the one occasion in the first half that Sturridge was presented with a chance

he opted to hit it early and curled wide.

Despite being camped in Burnley's half for long periods, Liverpool failed to really test Tom Heaton.

Adam Lallana turned in the box after latching on to Milner's low cross but the finish was tame.

Eight minutes before the break Burnley went 2-0 up.

Sturridge lost possession and the hosts countered menacingly. Klavan came off second best in a challenge with debutant Steven Defour on halfway and Liverpool were left exposed.

Defour raced forward and teed up Gray, who cut inside past both Henderson and Klavan before drilling a left-footer into the bottom corner.

Coutinho should have quickly reduced the deficit but he ballooned high over the bar when well placed.

Liverpool showed greater urgency in the second half as they poured forward in search of a way back into the contest.

Sturridge dragged wide before Coutinho and Firmino both forced saves from Heaton. Coutinho then volleyed wide as the lifeline they craved continued to alude them.

Klopp brought on Divock Origi for Sturridge with Alberto Moreno and Marko Grujic following in place of Milner and Lallana.

Grujic's sweet strike was tipped over by Heaton but a late comeback never looked likely.

MATCH FACTS

Burnley: Heaton, Lowton, Keane, Mee, Ward, Boyd, Defour (Gudmundsson 56), Marney, Arfield, Gray (O'Neill 90), Vokes (Jutkiewicz 82).

Not used: Robinson, Tarkowski, Kightly, Darikwa

Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Klavan, Lovren, Milner (Moreno 77), Henderson, Wijnaldum, Coutinho, Firmino, Lallana (Grujic 77), Sturridge (Origi 65).

Not used: Manninger, Can, Matip, Stewart.

Referee: Lee Mason Goals: Vokes 2, Gray 37 Bookings: Henderson

Man of the match: Dejan Lovren. One of the few Liverpool players to do

themselves justice.

Burnley

Maiden Premier League goals for strike duo Sam Vokes and Andre Gray secured a sensational 2-0 victory over Liverpool at Turf Moor. The result, which saw the Clarets climb to sixth in the top flight and leapfrog the Reds in the process, was as impressive as the performance, ranking alongside wins over Manchester United and rivals Manchester City. ADVERTISING inRead invented by Teads Sam Vokes fired Burnley into an early lead at Turf Moor After the Europa League finalists dismantled Arsenal at the Emirates on the opening day there wouldn't have been many that gave the Clarets much, if any, hope. But they may have given Sean Dyche's side a bit more of a chance when Vokes opened the scoring in the second minute at Turf Moor. The Welshman, who was sidelined for the majority of the 2014/15 campaign, netted his first ever goal in the top flight with a sumptuous effort that stunned the travelling support in to silence. Gray picked up the pieces from Nathaniel Clyne's poor pass, fed the ball in to his strike partner and, with Dejan Lovren or Ragnar Klavan not even in close proximity, Vokes swept the ball beyond Simon Mignolet from the edge of the box. Andre Gray slots home the second and his first Premier League goal With the visitors committing men forward and applying the pressure, the Clarets had the opportunity to exploit the high line. That exact strategy almost paid dividends when Gray raced clear from Matt Lowton's ball over the top only for Lovren to recover well to thwart the danger. The Reds, though, were bossing the ball yet failed to test Tom Heaton. Phillipe Coutinho bent two, almost identical, efforts over the top with his right boot as the Brazilian international struggled to find his range. The England international did have to react to Adam Lallana's low effort from close range, after the former Southampton playmaker was picked out by James Milner, but it was a routine save. After the returning Daniel Sturridge flashed an effort wide of the far upright, and the stadium held a one minute applause in memory of Burnley fan Chris Walker, the Clarets caused a seismic shock in the Premier League when extending their lead. Andre Gray turns to celebrate his first Premier League goal in front of the Burnley fans Penning in, and retaining their shape with admirable synchronicity, Jurgen Klopp's side grew frustrated as they failed to break their opponents down. Stephen Ward broke up the play when taking Coutinho's pass off the toes of Sturridge, allowing record signing Steven Defour to break. The Belgium international, making his debut after signing from RSC Anderlecht for £7.5m, drove forward, riding the challenge of Klavan on the halfway line, before assisting Gray for his first goal in England's top tier. Last season's Championship player of the year moved on to his left boot, bypassing Jordan Henderson and Klavan in the process, before threading the ball between the legs of Lovren and in to the corner in the 37th minute. Coutinho, as before, missed the target with another curling right-footed effort as Liverpool looked for a response while the half closed with another applause, in tribute to local grassroots football coach Neil Kinnerley. The saying goes, 'possession is ninetenths of the law'. Not in football. The Clarets ended the opening 45 minute period with just 22% possession. While the home side were clinical at one end in the first half, they were equally as exemplary in their own third of the pitch in the second half. Whatever Liverpool offered, whatever they piled in to the box, there was a man wearing claret on the end of it. Sturridge dragged an early attempt wide of the post after a defensive mix up before Heaton sprawled to his left to pluck Roberto Firminio's strike from distance out of the top corner. The Clarets were typically disciplined and organised and that prevented the visitors from engineering a genuine opportunity to score. Sturridge sliced awkwardly wide, Coutinho continued his streak of inaccuracy when volleying wide before drilling a speculative drive over the bar and Heaton denied substitute Marko Gruiic. In the end it was a dream day back in the Premier League for the Clarets who will go on to challenge Chelsea at Stamford Bridge next Saturday

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Liverpool brought down to earth by brilliant Burnley

Sam Vokes and Andre Gray each recorded their first Premier League goals and Burnley their first league victory over Liverpool since 1974 on a frustrating afternoon for Jurgen Klopp's side. For Vokes, without a top flight goal in 27 previous attempts, the goal could prove particularly important while Klopp, critical of his team's defending in last week's 4-3 victory at Arsenal, learned he may have even more work to do in that area than he first feared.

Burnley, keen to respond to an opening day home defeat to Swansea, took just two minutes to take control of the game when Vokes scored the first Premier League goal of his career, in his 28th appearance at this level.

The goal was the result of appalling play by full-back Nathaniel Clyne who, in attempting to play the ball out of defence, simply fed it directly to Gray who in turn found Vokes, on the edge of the area. A simple turn and shot into the bottom corner was all that was needed to open Burnley's goalscoring account for the new campaign. It quickly became apparent that Burnley would concede possession and space to their visitors but that did not prevent them from adding a second goal, after 37 minutes, through Gray, the striker who found the net 23 times in guiding them to promotion last season.

Again, the goal was the result of poor defending as Ragnar Klavan dove into win the ball around halfway, allowing Burnley debutant Steven Defour to come away and advance to the edge of the area where he found Gray.

The prolific forward was again allowed opportunity to shake off a challenge and steady himself before planting an impressive, low finish into the bottom corner of Simon Mignolet's goal. Burnley, losers of their four previous Premier League meetings against Liverpool and without even a solitary goal to show for their efforts, were seeking a first league win over their opponents in 42 years. The chances of recording that looked slim, even after the opening goal, as Liverpool pressed forward and placed the home goal under pressure. Indeed, it was hard not to think that Gray missing a third minute chance to double the lead, when he was sent racing into the area by George Boyd but stopped by Dejan Lovren, would prove costly.

Daniel Sturridge and Georginio Wijnaldum sent long shots wide, Phillipe Coutinho did likewise with a curling effort from 20 yards and James Milner picked out Adam Lallana who swivelled and saw his shot comfortably held by Tom Heaton. Sturridge, again from the edge of the area, and Clyne from similar range peppered the goal but when the technically excellent Coutinho cut in, made space for himself just inside the Burnley area but succeeded only in clearing the bar by feet, a Liverpool comeback looked increasingly unlikely.

They started the second half in similar fashion, Sturridge sending a low shot whistling beyond the far post, Wijnaldum laying the ball off for Coutinho to shoot too close to Heaton then Firmino seeing the home goalkeeper make a fine, two-handed save to deny his 20-yard attempt.

Coutinho, yet again, missed the target, this time with a volley from the edge of the home area after a corner had been cleared directly to him, and Gray continued to cause problems on the break at the other end, notably in the 65th minute when he made space and shot just wide, left-footed from 20 yards. Heaton was required to make a fingertip save to keep out a shot from Marko Grujic after the substitute showed good strength from 18 yards but, for all their possession, Liverpool failed to seriously test the home goalkeeper again. "Possession doesn't win you games," Dyche said after the game. "That myth came out a few years ago and Leicester proved it was a myth last year.

"Liverpool had five or six men in midfield at all times and if I did that I would have the ball for a long time. But that doesn't win you the game. I want to penetrate, create and take chances. "I don't think there will be many teams who get the ball as much as Liverpool, they get so many bodies in there, and it takes concentration and focus from the players to see through that and see they're not hurting us that much and that we will have breakaways and counters." Klopp bemoaned his players' luck and decision-making, on a day when their opponents scored with their only shots on target. "How can I be happy with this?" said Klopp. "When we gave away the first goal they defended for their lives. Both of their strikers Andre Gray and Sam Vokes are really hard workers. "We had absolutely no luck and everybody needs to be more clinical. We have to accept it. Burnley deserved to win with a very passionate performance. We have to say it was not enough today. "We know we lost a game in which we had 80 per cent possession today but there are different ways to play football. That's okay. But when we conceded the early goal, life was not over, we had a lot of time to win the game. And even at halftime, I felt we still had the possibility of it. But our timing and decision making really was not good."

Burnley (4-4-2): Heaton 7; Lowton 7, Keane 8, Mee 7, Ward 8; Boyd 7, Marney 7, Defour 7 (Gudmundsson 57, 7), Arfield 7; Vokes 7 (Jutkiewicz 82), Gray 9 (O'Neill

Substitutes (not used) Robinson, Tarkowski, Kightly, Darikwa. Liverpool (4-3-3): Mignolet 6; Clyne 5, Lovren 6, Klavan 5, Milner 7 (Moreno 78, 6); Lallana 7 (Grujic 78, 6), Henderson 8, Wijnaldum 6; Sturridge 6 (Origi 66, 6), Firmino 6, Coutinho 5. Substitutes (not used) Manninger, Can, Matip, Stewart. Referee: L Mason 6

The Sunday Telegraph

Liverpool humbled as Gray and Vokes expose flaws in defence Burnley 2

Vokes 2, Gray 37 Liverpool 0

Att: 21,313

Jurgen Klopp may have a vision for heavy metal football, but his defence is currently more like Spinal Tap.

The deficiencies so glaring at Arsenal a week ago were more embarrassingly exposed as Burnley deservedly secured their first win since returning to the Premier League.

For Sean Dyche, who argued English football is beguiled by overseas coaches to the detriment of home-grown talent, there could have been no more satisfying scalp. Tactically and physically his side was superior.

Klopp's pre-season vow to have a more finely tuned and athletic line-up was utterly undermined. Not only did his side lack imagination despite dominating possession, it was the lack of intensity in the tackle that was alarming. Every 50-50 went Burnley's way.

If Liverpool's concession of three goals in victory at Arsenal could generously be attributed to lack of concentration, this was sheer ineptitude. Andre Gray terrorised Klopp's defence from the first whistle, assisting his partner Sam Vokes after a minute before claiming the pivotal second himself nine minutes before half-time

There was no Alberto Moreno to blame for Liverpool, either, as he was initially left out for James Milner. Instead, Nathaniel Clyne assumed the role of tormentor-in-chief to his own team-mates, gifting Gray possession so he could find Vokes in space on the edge of the Liverpool penalty area.

The Welshman, so unfortunate to miss most of Burnley's last Premier League campaign due to serious injury, demonstrated he is ready to make up for lost time with a bullet finish.

From there, Burnley sat deep waiting for mistakes. Liverpool, ponderous in possession, duly obliged. For all the optimism following their win at Arse-nal, the imbalance in the line-up is glaring. A midfield trio of Jordan Henderson, Georginio Wijnaldum and Adam Lallana offers no protective shield.

Liverpool barely threatened a recovery. They were without Sadio Mane because of his shoulder injury, but the use of Daniel Sturridge from a wider role did not suit him. He is far more effective centrally.

"We lost timing and patience. It was not good. Usually in a game like this you win if you do not make mistakes," suggested Klopp.

Burnley handed a debut to Belgian international Steven Defour, signed from Anderlecht for a club record PS8 million, and he was well suited to closing down midfield spaces as the visitors tried to build momentum.

Klopp's use of Henderson as a quarterback needs urgent review. He does not have the range of pass for such a role. Opponents are content to let him have the ball. Substitute Marko Grujic's strike from the edge of the box was as testing as it got for Tom Heaton. The balance of power that shifted between the socalled elite and minnows last season may continue.

"It is important for the psychology of it," said Dyche. "There were outstanding performers all over the place. We contained them."

Burnley (4-2-2) Heaton 7; Lowton 7, Keane 7, Mee 7, Ward 7; Boyd 7, Marney 8, Defour 7 (Gudmundsson, 56) Arfield 7; Gray 8 (O'Neil 90), Vokes 8 (Jutkiewicz 82). Subs Kightly, Robinson (g), Tarkowski, Darikwa.

Liverpool (4-3-3) Mignolet 5; Clyne 5, Lovren 5, Klavan 5, Milner 6 (Moreno 77); Lallana 5 (Grujic 78), Henderson 5, Wijnaldum 5; Sturridge 5 (Origi 65), Firmino 5, Coutinho 6. Subs Manninger (g), Can, Matip, Stewart. Booked Henderson. Referee L Mason (Lancashire).

BBC	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Mail	SunIndependernt	Guardian	Mirror
Echo	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Burnley Express

20 August 201

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Burnley make most of chances BURNLEY 2

Vokes 2, Gray 37 LIVERPOOL 0

THE afternoon began with the former Liverpool forward Christian Benteke announcing on social media that he had signed for Burnley, when in fact he had joined Crystal Palace. It ended with the two forwards who did play for the newly promoted Premier League side punishing Benteke's former club in the most clinical may imaginable.

Sam Vokes, without a Premier League goal in 27 appearances over the past seven years, and Andre Gray, playing his second ever game at this level, were each on the mark as Burnley recorded their first league victory over Liverpool in 42 years. But it was the manner of the win that most surprised. Sean Dyche's side looked comfortable despite statistics that showed they had 19 per cent of possession. "Possession doesn't win you games," said Dyche. "That myth came out a few years ago and Leicester proved it was a myth last year. Liverpool had five or six men in midfield at all times and if I did that I would have the ball for a long time. But that doesn't win you the game.

"It takes concentration and focus from the players to see through that, to see they're not hurting us much and that we will have breakaways and counters." And that, in a nutshell, was the game. Long periods of Liverpool passing the ball outside the Burnley area, Dyche's team maintaining their shape and discipline, and a visiting player eventually making a poor decision: one pass too many, an errant shot, or running into a defensive blind alley.

Meanwhile, the counters that Dyche told his team to be ready for led to the goals that clinched Burnley's first victory of the season.

The first attack of the game brought Burnley first blood. Nathaniel Clyne, Liverpool's England fullback, was badly at fault with a poor pass deep in his own half that found Gray, who in turn fed Vokes. The Wales international had time on the edge of the Liverpool area to turn and deliver an unstoppable finish past Simon Mignolet.

Moments later Gray had a chance when sent racing clear by George Boyd, only to be stopped in his tracks by a superb Dejan Lovren tackle. But Burnley only had to wait until the 37th minute to double the lead.

Debutant Steven Defour, the PS7 million record signing from Anderlecht, beat Ragnar Klavan near the halfway line before advancing to the edge of the area and passing to Gray, who shrugged aside a challenge and despatched a low finish into the corner.

Burnley: Heaton 7, Lowton 7, Keane 8, Mee 7, Ward 8, Arfield 7, Marney 7, Defour 7 (Gudmundsson 56min 7), Boyd 7, Gray 9 (O'Neil 90+3min), Vokes 7 (Jutkiewicz 82min 5) Liverpool: Mignolet 6, Clyne 5, Lovren 6, Klavan 5, Milner 7 (Moreno 77min 6), Lallana 7 (Grujic 78min 6), Henderson 8, Wijnaldum 6, Sturridge 6 (Origi 65min 6), Firmino 6, Coutinho 5

TheObserver

BBC	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Mail	SunIndependernt	Guardian	Mirror
Echo	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Burnley Express

20 August 2016



First-half goals from Sam Vokes and Andre Gray gave Burnley a surprise win over Liverpool, who could not recover after some disastrous defending. Nathaniel Clyne gave the ball away for the Clarets' first goal, with Gray finding Vokes to blast home. Steven Defour, on his Burnley debut, was allowed to charge forward and set up Gray to roll home the second. Liverpool had 81% of possession and 26 shots - but only tested Clarets keeper Tom Heaton with efforts from distance. The 19% of possession that the Clarets had is the lowest total by a winning side in the Premier League since Opta began recording the statistic in the 2003-04 season.

Burnley only had one other effort at goal, which was off target, but the figures belied how little threat the Reds posed when they came forward.

Liverpool were a shadow of the attacking force they were in last week's thrilling 4-3 win at Arsenal and their second away game of the season ended in their first defeat of the new campaign. The game had been switched to Turf Moor because work on the new stand at Anfield is not complete and, after losing to Swansea in their opener, Burnley made home advantage count this time to pick up their first points since their promotion. The manner of their victory at Emirates Stadium had given Liverpool plenty of reasons for early season optimism but, unfortunately for them, the only part of that performance they repeated came at the back. Left-back Alberto Moreno paid the price for his defensive errors at the Emirates, being replaced by James Milner, but right-back Clyne produced an even worse error that led to Burnley's opener.

Ragnar Klavan also should have done better when he failed to stop Defour's run forward, leaving Liverpool's defence wide open for Gray to make it 2-0. The Reds had problems at the other end too. Philippe Coutinho starred as Liverpool's forward play gave them victory last week - but he was a long way short of his best on this occasion.

Time and time again the Brazilian picked up the ball in space on the edge of the Burnley area looking to bend in one of his trademark spectacular goals but, of his 10 strikes from similar range, only one brought a save from Tom Heaton.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp told Match of the Day: "Our decision making was not good. We'd put in a good cross but there were no bodies in the box and then when we had bodies in the box we ended up shooting.

"The season is still pretty young. It doesn't look like we are 100% fine-tuned. But it's only the start of the season and I can see a lot of good things.

"The lesson here is don't give the ball away like we did twice today. We will work on it 100%. We need to have a plan for deep defending teams. We have a few things to do - that is clear."

Burnley out-run Liverpool as they hold out

As poor as Liverpool were given their amount of possession, credit must also go to Burnley for the work-rate throughout their team as well as their organisation and resolve at the back.

The Clarets out-ran Liverpool by 115.3km to 113km - and that industry was key to them defending their lead and securing the points.

When Liverpool did put balls into the box, Michael Keane and Ben Mee dealt with everything that came their way, ensuring Heaton was rarely tested.

His best save came from Roberto Firmino in the second half but, typically, that came from a long-distance shot.

Burnley's strikers also deserve praise, with Vokes and Gray both able to celebrate the first top-flight goals of their career.

They barely had a kick for much of the game, but kept running and kept stretching Liverpool's defenders when Burnley were able to counter-attack.

We have never been bogged down by possession stats - Dyche

"I thought we made Liverpool look uncomfortable," Burnley boss Sean Dyche told Match of the Day. "We think we can be a threat to teams.

"We have never been bogged down with all the stats about possession. There is something marvellous when you see someone give everything to the cause. That's what I thought we did."

Man of the match - George Boyd (Burnley)

What next?

Liverpool's road trip continues, first with a journey to Burton in the EFL Cup on Tuesday, and then a tough-looking task at Tottenham in the Premier League next weekend. Burnley are also on their travels. They leave Turf Moor for the first time for the short trip to Accrington in their EFL Cup second-round tie on Wednesday, then head to Stamford Bridge to play Chelsea on Saturday.

The stats you need to know

The Clarets won their first league game against Liverpool since September 1974, having gone seven without a win since then.

Sam Vokes became the first Burnley player to score a league goal against Liverpool at Turf Moor since Ray Hankin in March 1975 - they had failed in six games since then.

Burnley scored more in this game than they managed in seven previous home Premier League games.

Vokes scored his first Premier League goal in his 28th appearance in the competition.

Liverpool have only kept one clean sheet in their past 11 away Premier League games (6-0 v Aston Villa).

Since Jurgen Klopp took over, only Aston Villa (12) and West Ham (10) have had more errors leading to goals in the Premier League than Liverpool (nine).

BBC	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Mail	SunIndependernt	Guardian	Mirror
Echo	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Burnley Express

2016

Match ends, Burnley 2, Liverpool 0.

90'+4' Second Half ends, Burnley 2, Liverpool 0.

90'+4' Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross following a set piece situation.

90'+3' Marko Grujic (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

90'+3' Foul by Dean Marney (Burnley

90'+3' Substitution, Burnley. Aiden O'Neill replaces Andre Gray.

90'+2' Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Dejan Lovrer

 90° Attempt missed. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.

90' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Scott Arfield.

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

89' Foul by Lukas Jutkiewicz (Burnley.

89' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Matthew Lowton.

87' Attempt missed. Marko Grujic (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson

85' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the

83' Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.

83' Matthew Lowton (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

82' Substitution, Burnley. Lukas Jutkiewicz replaces Sam Vokes.

 81^{\prime} Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

79' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tom Heaton.

79' Attempt saved. Marko Grujic (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

78' Substitution, Liverpool. Marko Grujic replaces Adam Lallana.

77' Substitution, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno replaces James Milner.

75' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.

75' George Boyd (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

74' Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool.

74' Stephen Ward (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

73' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

73' Foul by Scott Arfield (Burnley.

72' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

72' Foul by George Boyd (Burnley.

71' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by James Milner

70' Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

70' Foul by Scott Arfield (Burnley,

68' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

68' Foul by Stephen Ward (Burnley.

67' Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

67' Foul by Scott Arfield (Burnley.

66' Attempt missed. Andre Gray (Burnley left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Matthew Lowton.

65' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

65' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.

65' Johann Berg Gudmundsson (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

65' Substitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Daniel Sturridge 63' Corner, Liverpool, Conceded by Tom Heaton,

62' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Dean Marney.

62' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

62' Foul by Scott Arfield (Burnley.

57' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Ragnar Klavan following a corner

57' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Mee.

56' Substitution, Burnley. Johann Berg Gudmundsson replaces Steven Defour.

54' Offside, Burnley. Sam Vokes tries a through ball, but Andre Gray is caught offside.

53' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a headed pass.

53' Attempt blocked. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.

52' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tom Heaton.

52' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. 50' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box

is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum 46' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of

the box misses to the left.

Second Half begins Burnley 2, Liverpool 0.

45'+2' First Half ends, Burnley 2, Liverpool 0.

44' Foul by Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool.

44' Stephen Ward (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

42' Offside, Burnley. Sam Vokes tries a through ball, but Andre Gray is caught offside.

41' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

40' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a cross.

39' Attempt saved. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana

39' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the

37' Goal! Burnley 2, Liverpool 0. Andre Gray (Burnley left footed shot from outside the

box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Steven Defour.

36' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

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

36' Foul by Andre Gray (Burnley.

33' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Matthew Lowton.

29' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

27' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

27' Foul by Dean Marney (Burnley.

26' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

26' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Michael Keane.

22' Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner.

16' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino following a corner.

16' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Matthew Lowton.

14' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Michael Keane.

13' Hand ball by George Boyd (Burnley.

12' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

11' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

11' Foul by Steven Defour (Burnley. 10' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

10' Foul by Dean Marney (Burnley.

9' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum

8' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

8' Corner, Liverpool, Conceded by Ben Mee.

8' Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

5' Offside, Burnley. Sam Vokes tries a through ball, but Andre Gray is caught offside.

3' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

3' Foul by Michael Keane (Burnley.

2' Goal! Burnley 1, Liverpool 0. Sam Vokes (Burnley right footed shot from outside the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Andre Gray.

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up