

Date: 20 August 2011 Opposition: Arsenal Competition: League	Standard	Sunday Times	Times	Guardian	Independent		20 August 2011
		Sun Independent	Mirror	Echo	Telegraph		
		Observer	Mail on Sunday	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Mirror		



Dalglish cashes in on Arsenal's inexperience

Arsenal have a gleaming new stadium which doubles as a cash machine, one of the most respected managers in the game, some of its leading players and a conveyor belt of talent. That is a "crisis" most clubs would welcome.

However, there was a sense at the Emirates on Saturday that, for the moment at least, Arsenal are going backwards while their opponents progress. By contrast, there is an unmistakable mood of optimism at Liverpool.

But for the excellence of Thomas Vermaelen, Liverpool would already have been leading when, after 70 minutes, Emmanuel Frimpong was sent off and Luis Suarez and Raul Meireles brought on. With the new arrivals prominent, Liverpool ran away with the game. If Frimpong's dismissal illustrated Arsenal's inexperience, Kenny Dalglish's substitutions underscored his team's developing strength in depth.

"There's been a complaint [in the past] from supporters or media about our bench," Jamie Carragher said, "but to have that quality to come on is great. They were instrumental."

Arsenal were weakened by suspensions and injuries, but Liverpool were without Steven Gerrard and Glen Johnson and could still leave a quartet of seasoned internationals out of the 18 - Alberto Aquilani, Joe Cole, Christian Poulsen, Sotirios Kyrgiakos. Arsenal's starting XI featured two players making their first Premier League starts - Frimpong and Carl Jenkinson - with another four on the bench yet to do so.

Unlike Arsne Wenger, Dalglish has stepped decisively into the transfer market to strengthen his squad. In January he bought Luis Suarez and Andy Carroll and added Jose Enrique, Jordan Henderson, Charlie Adam and Stuart Downing in the off-season.

The sextet cost Dalglish [pounds sterling]100m-plus and he has been criticised for paying over the odds. "If you want to buy any of those players you'll pay a lot more than we did, but we're not interested in selling, we're interested in improving," Dalglish said. "We have a stronger squad than last year."

The same cannot be said of Arsenal, nor does Dalglish's subsequent comment about life at Anfield apply to the Emirates: "I think there is a feeling of contentment, the punters are happy, the owners are very good owners, it is less tense than it used to be."

Tension affects players, making them anxious, a feeling which is exacerbated when results prompt self-doubt. Young players are more likely to be afflicted than experienced ones, leaving Arsenal especially vulnerable, particularly as their one-touch play relies heavily on confidence.

Arsenal need the mental lift and fresh outlook new signings can provide almost as much as they need fit bodies. They are reported to have bid around [pounds sterling]18m for Yann M'Vila of Rennes, a 21-year-old French international, but another midfield target, Marseilles' 30-year-old Argentine Lucho Gonzalez, seems more likely to improve the team.

While Arsenal fans are losing faith in Wenger, Liverpool's captain has not. "I know it's the thing to criticise Arsenal and Arsne Wenger. I certainly don't think they are a spent force," Carragher said. "They've got a great manager and I'm sure he'll have something up his sleeve. He's done it so often. I wouldn't be writing off Arsenal."

ARSENAL 0-2 LIVERPOOL

Scorers: Liverpool Ramsey (og) 78, Suarez 90.

Subs: Arsenal Miquel 6 (Koscielny, 15), Bendtner (Walcott, 80), Lansbury 6 (Arshavin, 71). Liverpool Suarez 8 (Carroll, 71). Meireles 8 (Kuyt, 71). Booked: Arsenal Lansbury. Liverpool Lucas, Carroll. Sent off: Arsenal Frimpong (70). Man of match Enrique. Match rating 7. Possession: Arsenal 47% Liverpool 53%. Attempts on target: Arsenal 6 Liverpool 8/10. Referee M Atkinson (West Yorkshire). Attendance 60,090.



Liverpool recorded their first win over Arsenal since 2000 to heap more misery on the Gunners, who saw Emmanuel Frimpong sent off and lost centre-back Laurent Koscielny in a 2-0 defeat at Emirates Stadium. Samir Nasri impressed for the Gunners, despite being expected to join Manchester City, but Arsenal's luck was out after Aaron Ramsey's own goal and a last-minute strike from substitute Luis Suarez handed the visitors victory. Nasri - whose £22million move to City is, according to reports on French TV, said to have broken down - did not applaud the crowd as the teams came out of the tunnel, and was then jeered by some sections of the Emirates Stadium faithful when his name was announced.

On eight minutes, Frimpong was cautioned for squaring up to Jordan Henderson as the Liverpool midfielder tried to take a quick throw-in. Koscielny added to Wenger's defensive problems when he pulled up with what looked like a lower back injury on 14 minutes and had to be replaced by youngster Ignasi Miquel, the Spaniard making his Premier League debut. Liverpool almost took the lead on 20 minutes when Andy Carroll's towering header at the far post brought a brilliant save from Wojciech Szczesny. With 20 minutes left, Arsenal were reduced to 10 men when Frimpong was shown a second yellow card when he left his foot up in a 50/50 with Lucas, right in front of the referee.

Liverpool snatched a fortunate lead on 78 minutes when as Suarez darted into the six-yard box, Miquel's clearance cannoned off Ramsey's chest and back over the keeper into the net. A miserable afternoon for the Gunners was compounded in the final minute when Suarez tapped in from close range following a quick counter-attack.



WENGER'S ACID REIGN; SATURDAY'S ACTION FROM THE EMIRATES STADIUM

PREMIER LEAGUE: ARSENAL 0 LIVERPOOL 2

IN A sound-deadened room next to Arsenal's media theatre, a small square of a space that might double for a padded cell, it was put to Arsene Wenger that he was stubborn.

It was put to him that the more people tell him who he needs to buy and why he needs to buy them, the more he refuses to heed their pleas and demands.

For the first time in a troubling day, Wenger allowed a flicker of a smile to play across his lips.

Until then, he had been close to monosyllabic, echoing the mood of his new captain Robin van Persie, who marched past journalists after the match, refusing to speak.

Insanity raged all around in the muttered suggestions that the board might soon lose patience with the architect of the modern Arsenal.

One fan stomped past the press box at the final whistle yelling that he had had enough and he wanted Bolton's Owen Coyle to take Wenger's place.

People are even starting to mock him, resorting to familiar insults and increasingly outlandish accusations about his managerial style. There is a sense, for the first time in his 15 years at the club, that Wenger is vulnerable and some seem keen to hasten his demise.

This, don't forget, is being aimed at one of the most successful managers England has ever seen.

A man who has built and rebuilt fine Arsenal sides, often working within tight financial restrictions.

His refusal to bolster his squad with a sprinkling of tested quality is increasingly puzzling but there is still plenty of time before the transfer window closes.

And the return of Jack Wilshere from injury will make a big difference to a team still struggling to come to terms with the departure of Cesc Fabregas.

Yet now it is being said that if Arsenal are knocked out of the Champions League in Udine on Wednesday and lose to Manchester United next Sunday, Wenger's job will be on the line.

No wonder he allowed himself that watery smile.

"As far as our transfer policy is concerned, I don't think I'm stubborn," Wenger said. "No, not at all. I look at the players and if they are good enough.

"What you forget is we have bought players. We have bought Gervinho, Chamberlain, Jenkinson, Miyaichi and you will see during the season they are top-quality players.

"But at the moment we have to give them some time. Overall we will buy. People feel I'm stubborn.

I'm not I just want to do the best for the team and to buy the right players.

If I have shown one thing in the last 15 years, it's that I have brought good players here.

"We will bring experienced players too. But people just say 'buy' and it is buying the right player which is difficult."

Maybe Wenger's problem is that he cares too much. He has become so wedded to the principle of moulding young players and keeping faith with them that he cannot compromise. He seems unable to see that sometimes it is worth compromising on ability to bring in men with leadership qualities.

Scott Parker, for example, might not have the youth or the first touch that is Wenger's ideal but he would bring the experience and stature that a fine player like Emmanuel Frimpong does not yet have.

It was Frimpong's deserved dismissal, 20 minutes from the end, that swung the match decisively Liverpool's way.

They had been the better team anyway, playing the better football in midfield with new signings Charlie Adam and Jordan Henderson pulling the strings with Lucas.

But when Frimpong was sent off and Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish introduced Luis Suarez and Raul Meireles, the gap widened.

Liverpool took the lead, forcing an own goal from Aaron Ramsey, and completed the job in the dying seconds after Lucas and Meireles combined to give Suarez a tap-in.

Arsenal are caught in a perfect storm, unsettled by the departure of Fabregas and the apparent defection of Samir Nasri.

Liverpool look like a team moving forward. Arsenal do not. But Wenger will fix it.

Any other solution is unthinkable.

ARSENAL: Szczesny 7, Jenkinson 7, Vermaelen 8, Koscielny 6 (Miquel 15, 5), Sagna 6, Frimpong 77, Walcott 6 (Bendtner 80), Ramsey 6, Nasri 6, Arshavin 3 (Lansbury 71, 5?), Van Persie 5. **LIVERPOOL:** Reina 7, Kelly 7, Carragher 7, Agger 6, Jose Enrique 7, Kuyt 6 (Meireles 71, 8), Henderson 6, Lucas 87, Adam 7, Downing 7, Carroll 5? (Suarez 71, 8). Goals: Ramsey 78og, Suarez 90 **REFEREE:** Martin Atkinson Att: 60,090

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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LIVERPOOL secured their first ever victory at the Emirates Stadium with an impressive 2-0 win over Arsenal.
The Reds hadn't tasted success away to the Gunners in 14 attempts in all competitions since Titi Camara got the winner at Highbury back in February 2000 but they put that right with a gutsy performance.
Kenny Dalglish's side were given a helping hand by Emmanuel Frimpong's dismissal midway through the second half and they made their numerical advantage count.
They went in front courtesy of Aaron Ramsey's own goal and substitute Luis Suarez wrapped up maximum points in stoppage time to spark wild celebrations in the away end.
Dalglish made two changes from the 1-1 draw with Sunderland on the opening day as Martin Kelly and Dirk Kuyt replaced Jon Flanagan and Suarez.
Kuyt started on the right with Stewart Downing on the left in a 4-2-3-1 formation with Jordan Henderson playing just behind Andy Carroll.
Arsenal had been rocked by the departure of Cesc Fabregas to Barcelona and Arsene Wenger's men were severely depleted by injuries and suspensions. There was a surprise start for Samir Nasri with the Frenchman's future still in the balance amid interest from Manchester City.
Liverpool were under the cosh early on and didn't help themselves by giving possession away cheaply.
Andrey Arshavin wasted one decent opening but the Reds weathered the storm and began to gain a foothold in the game.
Their cause was boosted by the sight of Gunners defender Laurent Koscielny limping off as 18-year-old Ignasi Miquel came on for his league debut.
Jose Enrique and Downing combined to good effect and in the 20th minute Carroll's header was pushed behind by Wojciech Szczesny.
The Reds continued to press and Kuyt picked out Henderson in the box but he nodded too close to the keeper.
Just before the half hour mark Charlie Adam spotted Szczesny off his line but his audacious strike from the halfway line drifted a yard over the bar.
Arsenal responded and Pepe Reina had to be at his best to keep out Emmanuel Frimpong's 25 yarder.
Nasri had received a warm reception from the home fans and he threatened before the break with a classy run which took him past Lucas and Daniel Agger before dragging his shot narrowly wide.
Liverpool wrestled back control at the start of the second half and a slick move involving Adam and Carroll teed up Kelly, whose shot cannoned off the post.
The game got increasingly stretched and in the 68th minute Arsenal should have broken the deadlock.
Arshavin shoved Kelly off the ball and crossed for Robin Van Persie whose side footer was turned past the post by Reina.
Two minutes later the Gunners were reduced to 10 men when Frimpong, who had earlier been booked for tussling with Henderson, picked up a second yellow for a reckless challenge on Lucas.
Dalglish responded by bringing on Suarez and Raul Meireles for Carroll and Kuyt as the Reds went in search of a winner.
Downing was thwarted by Szczesny but the goal finally arrived courtesy of some good fortune in the 77th minute.
Suarez exchanged passes with Meireles in the box and Miquel's attempted clearance struck Ramsey before flying into the net.
Liverpool continued to dominate and it was no surprise when they added a second in stoppage time.
Lucas released Meireles and he unselfishly crossed to present Suarez with a simple tap in.
Arsenal: Szczesny, Koscielny (Miquel 15), Vermaelen, Jenkinson, Sagna, Frimpong, Ramsey, Nasri, Arshavin (Lansbury 71), Walcott (Bendtner 80), Van Persie. Not used: Fabianski, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Chamakh, Miyaichi.
Liverpool: Reina, Kelly, Carragher, Agger, Jose Enrique, Lucas, Henderson, Adam, Downing, Kuyt (Meireles 71), Carroll (Suarez 71). Not used: Doni, Maxi, Spearing, Skrtel, Flanagan.
Referee: Martin Atkinson (W Yorkshire)
Attendance: 60,090.

The Daily Telegraph

Carragher calm as Liverpool end their barren run
Arsenal 0
Att: 60,090
Liverpool 2
Ramsey 78 og, Suarez 90
The last time Liverpool won at Arsenal, Highbury's giant screens sought to rally the home fans by showing highlights of famous triumphs in the 1971 FA Cup final, the 1987 Littlewoods Cup final and that unforgettable 1989 "it's up for grabs now" title decider.
Jamie Carragher was there that day, Feb 13, 2000, when Steven Gerrard sent Titi Camara through on David Seaman for a confident finish. "In the green kit," reminisced Carragher after Liverpool prevailed at Arsenal after such a long wait. "A great ball by Stevie. That was at Highbury so this is the first time at the Emirates. It shows what a hard place it is to come and what a great side Arsenal have had over the last decade or so."
If Liverpool's result 11 years ago was a surprise, particularly with Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler absent, and Camara supporting Erik Meijer, then Saturday's hardly registered high on the Richter scale of seismic footballing shocks.
Liverpool's mood has been lifted by Kenny Dalglish, their squad deepened to such an extent that players of the calibre of Luis Suarez and Raul Meireles could come on, combining for both goals, an own goal by Aaron Ramsey and then Suarez's late finish.
"That's always been a complaint from supporters or people in the media about the bench at Liverpool," Carragher continued. "But to have that quality to come on, they were instrumental in killing the game off for us."
Unlike Arsene Wenger, Dalglish has strengthened where his team needed it most. Jose Enrique shone at left back, utterly stifling Theo Walcott, while Stewart Downing again impressed on the wing. "I thought Jordan Henderson was outstanding," Carragher added.
In truth, Henderson still has much to prove but he is a useful option for Dalglish while Gerrard regains fitness. To those sceptics claiming Liverpool paid over the odds for Henderson ([pounds sterling]20million) and Andy Carroll ([pounds sterling]35million), Dalglish had a swift retort. "If you want to buy any of those players [now], you'll pay more than I did," Dalglish argued. "You want to put a bid in?"
Liverpool have certainly been bold, investing heavily in their squad. "Bold?" mused Dalglish. "Stupid? Time will tell." As well as the new signings, academy prospects are being given a chance. Martin Kelly is back from his hamstring injury, and his rich promise at right back is being closely monitored by Fabio Capello.
"Kelly looked really strong," reflected Dalglish.
In keeping with Liverpool tradition, Dalglish is mixing tyros with experienced campaigners. In contrast, Wenger relies too heavily on the untested like Emmanuel Frimpong, whose naivety brought a red card and marred an otherwise good first Premier League start.
Carragher's trained eye focused on the problems and positives in Arsenal's defence. "Thomas Vermaelen was outstanding," the Liverpool centre-back said. "In the first half, he won a couple of headers at the back post just as someone was about to stick it in and he got there. Without Vermaelen, we would have been a goal up at least at half-time."
"Laurent Koscielny went off [injured] and it's very difficult, especially in the back four. You like continuity there. We all remember the great Arsenal back four. They used to play every week. When you get injuries in that position, it's difficult to get a cohesive unit so it's something that we tried to take advantage of and, fortunately, we did."
Arsenal were missing Kieran Gibbs and Jack Wilshere, but the England midfielder has a chance of featuring against Udinese this week.
"If everyone for Arsenal is fit, it's still a formidable team," Carragher said. "I know at the moment, it's the thing to criticise Arsenal and Arsene Wenger but if you look at last season, with 10 games to go, they were the real challengers to Manchester United.
"The only team that were on the verge of stopping Manchester United towards the end of last season were Arsenal so I certainly don't think they are a spent force. They've got a great manager, great stadium, great club and I'm sure he'll have something up his sleeve in the next 10 days if Samir Nasri goes. He's done it so often so I certainly wouldn't write off Arsenal."
While the inquest intensifies at the Emirates, belief floods through Liverpool, although Carragher typically refused to get carried away. "Maybe it will make people sit up and take notice and think that this Liverpool team could maybe do things this season but time will tell," he said.
Even with a first win at Arsenal in 11 years, nobody at Liverpool is getting carried away.

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<div>  </div> <p>Suarez cameo stuns edgy Arsenal</p> <p>ARSENAL 0 LIVERPOOL 2 Ramsey (og 78), Suarez (90) THE burgeoning sense of optimism gathering at Anfield, tempered marginally last weekend, will now continue unabated. After all, their first victory in 11 years at Arsenal in a game in which they had the majority of the possession can hardly be discounted; all this and Steven Gerrard still to come.</p> <p>Certainly Kenny Dalglish demonstrated the wisdom of completing your transfer business early on, as his transformed team eventually outplayed and out-muscled a fragile, threadbare Arsenal side.</p> <p>Yet, dig beneath the surface of a fine victory and some question marks emerge. For Liverpool were truly at their most impressive in the final quarter of the game, which was when Andy Carroll had been withdrawn and they had ceased to rely purely on crosses to break down Arsenal.</p> <p>Indeed, one passage of play when [pounds sterling]16million Jordan Henderson, who looked incapable of playing in the role of support striker, played a poor ball to [pounds sterling]35m Carroll, who then failed to control, was illustrative of both the overinflated price of English players and their basic shortcomings.</p> <p>In defence of new signings, [pounds sterling]20m Stewart Downing -- also English -- was excellent, as was [pounds sterling]6m Jose Enrique.</p> <p>But in reality this was the Luis Suarez and Raul Meireles show and they only played 18 minutes, when Arsenal had already been reduced to 10 men.</p> <p>'They are a hell of a good pair of substitutes to bring on,' said Dalglish. 'We were really pleased with the way Carroll worked but we just wanted to try to win the game.</p> <p>'And when you have two players of that quality on the bench, I think it would be wrong not to at least have a go.</p> <p>'The squad we have now is stronger than it was last year and this was a great example of that.' However, for much of this match Liverpool were contained. The excellent Thomas Vermaelen kept the Downing cross/Carroll header combination entirely under control, other than in the 20th minute when Ignasi Miquel, on for the injured Laurent Koscielny, lost his man.</p> <p>From Barcelona's famous academy to marking Carroll proved quite a gear shift for Miquel, and Wojciech Szczesny had to pull off an athletic diving save to deny the muscular centre-forward.</p> <p>Thereafter, Liverpool became somewhat predictable, with a Henderson header on 24 minutes and a Charlie Adam effort from the halfway line their best efforts before marauding Martin Kelly hit a post on 55 minutes. Though they had the better of Arsenal, who were reduced to long-range efforts from the unexpectedly committed Samir Nasri and the energetic Emmanuel Frimpong, Liverpool almost fell behind on 65 minutes when Robin van Persie scuffed Andrey Arshavin's cross and forced Pepe Reina to save with his legs in an undignified scramble.</p> <p>The game pivoted on a nine-minute spell in the last quarter. Frimpong, a revelation in his ambition to attack but a potential liability in his desire to be combative, collected a second yellow card when he challenged Lucas Leiva with his foot up and connected with the Brazilian's shin.</p> <p>Arsenal were fragile enough going into this game without inflicting fresh difficulties upon themselves, but lost Koscielny in the first 15 minutes to back spasms. The weakness of the squad was demonstrated by the fact they fielded three Premier League debutants in Carl Jenkinson, Henri Lansbury and Miquel, while Frimpong was making his first start.</p> <p>Once Meireles and Suarez were summoned from the bench, they seemed unlikely to stay the course. So it proved, yet in unfortunate circumstances. Suarez played in Meireles -- who was offside -- and when Miquel lashed at the cross, it deflected off Aaron Ramsey and looped over Szczesny.</p> <p>From that point, Arsenal's young players looked understandably bereft in the driving rain. Suarez, in particular, took great delight in exploiting the freedom allowed him.</p> <p>'Last week, (against Sunderland) maybe I was being a wee bit romantic with Luis and brought him back a bit too soon,' said Dalglish. 'He was on such a high and looked sharp in training, so I thought I'd give him a game. Maybe that was the wrong decision, although he still scored and played well, but he never had the energy he normally has.' Not so yesterday. With 90 minutes played, Liverpool's quick movement stretched Arsenal's 10 men, as Dirk Kuyt found Meireles, who crossed for Suarez to steer the ball home from close range.</p> <p>It was a simple finish and yet the Uruguayan deserved his goal. There should be many more to come. ARSENAL (4-2-3-1): Szczesny; Sagna, Koscielny (Miquel 15min), Vermaelen, Jenkinson; Frimpong, Ramsey; Arshavin (Lansbury 72), Nasri, Walcott (Bendtner 80); van Persie. Subs (not used): Fabianski, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Chamakh, Miyaichi. Booked: Lansbury, Frimpong. Sent off: Frimpong (70min).</p> <p>LIVERPOOL (4-4-1-1): Reina; Kelly, Carragher, Agger, Jose Enrique; Lucas, Henderson, Adam, Downing; Kuyt (Meireles 72); Carroll (Suarez, 72). Subs (not used): Doni, Skrtel, Flanagan, Maxi, Spearing. Booked: Lucas, Carroll.</p> <p>Referee: M Atkinson (West Yorkshire).</p>	<div>  </div> <p>Suarez strike completes day of Wenger woe</p> <p>Arsenal 0 Liverpool 2 Ramsey 78 og, Suarez 90 Att: 60,090</p> <p>And it pours. Arsene Wenger stood at the edge of his technical area, soaked and bedraggled in the August rain, willing his team to score an improbable late equaliser. Another injury, another red card and an own goal left them on the brink of defeat and, in the last minute, Luiz Suarez confirmed it.</p> <p>From those who were left in the Emirates stadium for the final whistle, a significant portion greeted the final whistle with boos.</p> <p>Wenger had started the day with a bold gesture, selecting Samir Nasri to start in the playmaking role so recently vacated by Cesc Fabregas.</p> <p>Despite Nasri being so close to a transfer to Manchester City, the Arsenal support responded positively to the France international. There were muted boos when his name was read out before kick-off but his impressive performance won most of the crowd over.</p> <p>The seeds of Arsenal's undoing were sown early, though.</p> <p>Emmanuel Frimpong started the game wildly, hurling himself into challenges and getting booked for preventing Jordan Henderson taking a throw. Nasri spoke to him at length trying to get him to calm down.</p> <p>The 19 year-old, who missed pretty much all of last season with a knee injury, grew into the game after that becoming one of Arsenal's better performers -- he came closest to scoring with a great surge and strike, denied by a good Pepe Reina save.</p> <p>Yet when he went in late, with studs raised, on Lucas Leiva in the 69th minute, Martin Atkinson, the referee, had not choice but to show him a second yellow.</p> <p>Without defensive midfield cover on the bench it left the Arsenal back four completely exposed. Considering Laurent Koscielny had limped gingerly off the pitch before quarter of an hour was up, it was hardly the most experienced rearguard.</p> <p>Carl Jenkinson, 19, played rightback, Bacary Sagna switching to the left, while Ignasi Miquel, 18, was making his debut after coming on for Koscielny.</p> <p>Until they fell completely to pieces in the last 20 minutes, Arsenal had traded blows with Liverpool in a broken, open game. It was frustrating stuff for the home support at times. Theo Walcott and Aaron Ramsey were subdued, early mistakes seeming to sap their confidence, while Andrey Arshavin showed glimpses of his former excellence but, for the most part, looked a player who has lost self-belief.</p> <p>By contrast Stewart Downing looks a player in fine form and his pace and direct dribbling created openings for Liverpool. As halftime approached, though, Arsenal had chances of their own. Perhaps most impressive was Nasri, who picked up the ball midway in his own half, beat Lucas before sprinting to the edge of the Liverpool box, where he glided past Daniel Agger only to shot across goal and wide. No wonder Manchester City want him.</p> <p>Charlie Adam had tried to score from the halfway line in the first half but the closest Liverpool came to opening the scoring before Arsenal's sending off was when Martin Kelly, who gave an energetic performance attacking from right back, hit the post from Andy Carroll's pull-back.</p> <p>Carroll had scored the winner on this ground for Newcastle last season but he did not have Thomas Vermaelen to contend with then. The Belgian dominated Carroll for most of this game and the one time the big England striker got away from him, his header, from Downing's cross, was saved by Wojciech Szczesny.</p> <p>While Liverpool had been competitive and combative all game, they lacked fluency before Suarez and Raul Meireles came on in last 20 minutes.</p> <p>Frimpong had just been sent off and Arsenal were tiring so the context was important but Suarez gives the front three a subtlety of movement no other Liverpool performer possesses, while Meireles combines hard-running with crisp passing. Henderson has promise but he lacks Meireles' game intelligence.</p> <p>The need to manage Suarez's gameload is understandable. Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish admitted that they might have brought him back too early last week. He has played a season for Ajax, a World Cup with Uruguay, another full season between Ajax and Liverpool and then the Copa America this summer.</p> <p>The Meireles situation is different -- he was promised an improved contract by the previous regime and, having not been given improved terms, wants to leave.</p> <p>On this evidence, now that he is fit, it is a situation Liverpool should resolve.</p> <p>Meireles helped set up the first, receiving the ball from Suarez before playing the ball into his path as the Uruguayan darted towards the box. Miquel got his right-foot to the ball ahead of Suarez but with his left he flicked it on to Ramsey's chest and it looped over Szczesny into the net. To Wenger's frustration, replays showed Suarez had been just offside.</p> <p>With the final whistle close, Lucas drove unmolested towards the Arsenal penalty area. With Suarez darting in behind, the Brazilian seemed to hold his pass too long but he cleverly shifted the ball wide to Meireles who, in turn, squared the ball for Suarez to steer into the goal.</p>
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	<p>THE GRIN REAPER; Dalglish smiles better as Wenger problems pile up ARSENAL 0 LIVERPOOL 2 Ramsey (og) 78 Suarez 90</p> <p>THERE may be crisis clouds at Arsenal but Kenny Dalglish was full of smiles after Liverpool's first win at The Emirates.</p> <p>Beaming Dalglish was happy to praise the quality of football from both sides but insisted his team deserved this memorable victory.</p> <p>"I think it was fantastic advert for the Premier League," said Dalglish.</p> <p>"The quality of the football from both sides.</p> <p>"But overall I think we deserved to win.</p> <p>"They had their problems and it wasn't their strongest side on the pitch. But we can only play against what they put out.</p> <p>"Overall I was very happy." Expectations have risen on Merseyside following further investment in the side.</p> <p>Liverpool have spent more than pounds 100 million on new players since January. In contrast Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has come in for widespread criticism for failing to buy and selling "I thought the first goal was " captain Cesc Fábregas to Barcelona. Injuries and suspensions aside, this was further evidence that they lack the depth and quality in their squad to challenge for major honours this season.</p> <p>And unless Wenger becomes proactive in the closing days of the transfer market there is no doubt he and his team are in for a tough campaign.</p> <p>"I thought the first goal was harsh on us and the sending off of (Emmanuel) Frimpong was decisive," he said.</p> <p>"People also have to accept that we have eight first team players missing through injury and suspension so you have to put defeat into perspective.</p> <p>"Despite all this talk of a crisis, which is coming far too early, I have always maintained I want a good team with good players. Nothing has changed."</p> <p>You have to go back 11 years since Liverpool beat the Gunner's at home.</p> <p>That said, they started well enough carrying the early threat to Arsenal.</p> <p>Unfortunately the Gunners' problems continued when central defender Laurent Koscielny limped off after just 15 minutes and was replaced by Ignasi Miquel.</p> <p>The first real threat on goal came from Liverpool when Wojciech Szczesny tipped Andy Carroll's header round the post.</p> <p>Three minutes later Jordan Henderson failed to trouble the Arsenal keeper with a tame header from Dirk Kuyt's cross.</p> <p>And an optimistic shot from the half-way line by Charlie Adam almost caught Szczesny unaware but narrowly sailed over the bar.</p> <p>Arsenal closed the half stronger though.</p> <p>The impressive Frimpong's 30-yard drive was tipped round the post by Pepe Reina and Nasri failed to hit the target after an impressive solo run at goal.</p> <p>It was the visitors who threatened once more at the start of the second-half, Martin Kelly hitting the outside of the post just inside the Gunner's penalty area.</p> <p>Arsenal began to apply pressure and captain Robin Van Persie hit a tame shot at goal when he only had Reina to beat.</p> <p>But they shot themselves in the foot with 20 minutes left.</p> <p>Frimpong, who had already been booked in the first-half, made a reckless challenge on Lucas and was immediately sent-off by Martin Atkinson.</p> <p>And within minutes of coming on Luis Suarez almost made Liverpool's numerical advantage count when he was denied a goal by an impressive save from Szczesny.</p> <p>But 12 minutes from time Liverpool made the breakthrough in rather bizarre circumstances.</p> <p>Suarez look marginally offside as Liverpool broke into the Arsenal penalty area but when the ball was eventually played across the goal Miquel, attempting to clear the ball, fired it straight at Ramsey and it rebounded into the net.</p> <p>The final nail in Arsenal coffin came at full-time with a classy three-man Liverpool move that ended with Suarez sweeping the ball home from close range.</p> <p>SMITH'S VERDICT</p> <p>THERE'S no doubt that Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool looked strong and will only improve.</p> <p>But the growing crisis engulfing Arsene Wenger and Arsenal at The Emirates is showing no signs of subsiding.</p> <p>Killer stat 11This was Liverpool's first away win against Arsenal for 11 years.</p>	<p>Nasri, received coolly at the beginning, was applauded off at the end by a febrile Emirates stadium. Over 90 largely horrific minutes for them, Arsenal supporters' sympathy for the exit-seeker grew. Nasri went from deserter almost to a rebel they could rally around. Long before he left the pitch a glut of Gooners left the stadium, booing, glaring at a sodden Arsene Wenger, singing that song about how he should spend money.</p> <p>Nasri's performance, which was inventive and surprisingly committed, helped prompt understanding. But so did what was around him -- a depleted, hopelessly inexperienced, worryingly humdrum Arsenal side losing at home to Liverpool for the first time since Titi Camara scored in a 1-0 win in 2000. "Can you blame him [Nasri] for wanting to go?" fans asked on message boards and Twitter.</p> <p>Despite delays over the commission being demanded by his agents, Nasri remains on the brink of a move to Manchester City, where he would join a club challenging for the title. Just two weeks into the season, that looks beyond Arsenal. Their next crisis may be a European one. Wenger, whose injury list was already long, will be without Laurent Koscielny, who hurt his back, and Nasri, because of his transfer situation, for Wednesday's Champions League qualifier at Udinese, with Arsenal's 1-0 first-leg advantage against the talented Italians precarious. Wenger could bank [pounds sterling]25m by selling Nasri but lose even more by failing to reach the Champions League.</p> <p>Next Sunday, when Arsenal visit Manchester United, goodness knows what state they'll be in. Ignasi Miquel, who replaced Koscielny and was the 18-year-old who coughed up a goal, may continue in defence. The midfield will comprise Aaron Ramsey and, with everybody else injured or suspended, who? Henri Lansbury, recently offered to Leeds for [pounds sterling]1.5m? Emmanuel Frimpong is ruled out because of the red card that followed a soft early booking (for obstructing a throw-in) and cast-iron second caution (for a high tackle on Lucas) he incurred. That's 88 Arsenal sendings-off in 15 years of Wenger.</p> <p>Arsenal won't be winning the Fair Play League and maybe should be careful they don't need it to requalify for Europe. Liverpool are aiming at Arsenal as the club they could most feasibly overhaul to get back into the top four and felt this win could be important in helping to reach owner John Henry's target of being in the Champions League by 2012-13.</p> <p>It was deserved. Despite Andy Carroll and Jordan Henderson vying with each other to seem the most overpriced young footballer in England (at one point [pounds sterling]20m Henderson couldn't lob the ball accurately five yards to [pounds sterling]35m Carroll, and Carroll couldn't control it) the overall display of Kenny Dalglish's side was more cohesive, more purposeful -- and, yes, more mature than their hosts'. Even Arsenal's good football appears to be waning and for 40 minutes Liverpool had the better and brighter possession, with Charlie Adam and Stewart Downing outstanding.</p> <p>Driven on by Frimpong, whose feistiness was refreshing and footwork deceptively subtle, Arsenal came back and were in control until the youngster's 70th-minute dismissal. Cannily -- and cruelly -- Dalglish sent on Luis Suarez and Raul Meireles. Both were fresh, eager, clever and clinical. They combined to punish Arsenal twice. Carl Jenkinson was slow pushing up as Suarez played a one-two with Meireles -- though Suarez looked just offside when Meireles released a through ball. Miquel went to deal with it but, hustled by Suarez, knocked his clearance against Ramsey and it cannoned past Wojciech Szczesny for 1-0.</p> <p>On 90 minutes, a lovely pass from Lucas released Meireles to square for Suarez -- initially offside but adjudged to have been so in a different phase of play -- to make it 2-0. The damage to Arsenal would have been greater but for the towering resistance of Thomas Vermaelen. With Robin van Persie and Theo Walcott subdued and Andrey Arshavin's Arsenal career reaching new levels of anticlimax, Nasri was Wenger's most creative player. He and Frimpong provided most of Arsenal's threats but neither could beat Pepe Reina. In the first half, Adam was not far from lobbing Szczesny from inside his own half. It could have been worse, for Arsenal, but not much.</p> <p>Arsenal: Szczesny 6, Jenkinson 5, Vermaelen 8, Koscielny 5 (Miquel 15min, 5), Sagna 6, Ramsey 5, Frimpong 7, Walcott 4 (Bendtner 80min), Nasri 7, Arshavin 3, Van Persie 5 (Lansbury 71min)</p> <p>Liverpool: Reina 7, Kelly 6, Carragher 7, Agger 7, Enrique 7, Lucas 7, Adam 7, Kuyt 5 (Meireles 71min), Henderson 4, Downing 7, Carroll 5 (Suarez 71min) Jonathan Northcroft is a guest on Sky Sports 1's Sunday Supplement programme this morning from 9.30am-11am</p> <p>WENGER RACKS UP 88TH RED CARD</p> <p>Another week, another sending-off. New signing Gervinho became the 87th player to be shown a red card since Arsene Wenger became Arsenal manager on October 1, 1996, when he was dismissed last week at Newcastle and number 88 followed yesterday. Emmanuel Frimpong, left, making his first Premier League start, received two yellow cards in the defeat by Liverpool -- the 56th Premier League red card under Wenger. It was the first time in 42 years that Arsenal have failed to score in their opening two league games, and only once in 18 seasons (2006-07) have they failed to win either of their opening two league games</p> <p>WENGER'S NOT A KNOW-ALL ANY MORE</p> <p>Arsenal fans used to make banners reading 'Arsene Knows' but it seems there should be new flags reading 'Arsene Doesn't Know' after Arsenal's 2-0 defeat by Liverpool. Ashen-faced in his post-match press conference, manager Arsene Wenger pleaded ignorance to several queries - fueling speculation that, having apparently lost the battle to keep Samir Nasri, he is no longer in full control of transfers</p>
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	<p>Arsenal in horror show ARSENAL 0 LIVERPOOL 2 Ramsey og 78 Suarez 90</p> <p>ARSENAL'S first goal was conceded when an 18-year-old, on his league debut, was pressured into a mistake. Their -- perhaps now customary -- sending-off saw naivety undo a 19-year-old. A teen defender, who until last week had never played outside League One, got a roasting; they finished with their midfield anchored by a kid they're trying to flog to Leeds. Arsenal are supposed to be one of the world's leading clubs. No wonder Samir Nasri feels let down by the brochure.</p>
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Date: 20 August 2011 Opposition: Arsenal Competition: League	Standard	Sunday Times	Times	Guardian	Independent		20 August 2011
		Sun Independent	Mirror	Echo	Telegraph		
		Observer	Mail on Sunday	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Mirror		



Frimpong red card exposes cracks as Arsenal fall apart

"You can spend money and have a bad team," Arsne Wenger insisted after walking off here with Arsenal supporters again urging him to invest. They are entitled to respond that in this day and Premier League age, refusing almost perversely not to spend significant sums is a more certain route to finishing with a bad team. The two Manchester clubs, Liverpool and to a lesser extent Chelsea, have strengthened significantly this summer, which is why on the admittedly brief evidence to date they look the most likely teams to inhabit the top four positions. Certainly nobody among the 60,000-plus observers here yesterday would have rushed to the bookmakers to bet on Wenger's team finishing above Liverpool. The home team were on top only for a briefly brighter period on either side of half-time, which darkened, like the sky, with a second red card in as many games. After Gervinho's dismissal in the goalless draw at Newcastle last week, the powerful young midfielder Emmanuel Frimpong went for a second yellow card, Liverpool's two goals following in the final 20 minutes. If the first was an own goal that might have been disallowed for offside, there was still not sufficient justification for Wenger to claim: "The result was very harsh on us."

The manner of that goal and the number of injuries - six before yesterday and now Laurent Koscielny too - was unfortunate, but losing three players for disciplinary reasons is less forgivable. Now Thomas Vermaelen, who was excellent, is the only fit senior centre-back ahead of a critical week comprising visits to Udinese in the Champions' League play-off and then Old Trafford. Defeat in Manchester and Arsenal will be embarrassingly close to the bottom of the table. Liverpool also had a disappointing start in fading away for a home draw with Sunderland but they are a vastly different team to the one Roy Hodgson was forced to leave in January, not least because of the reinforcements Kenny Dalglish (right) has acquired. Even without Steven Gerrard, he could afford to leave Luis Suarez and Raul Meireles kicking their heels until the last 19 minutes. "They're a helluva good pair of subs to bring on, which is a great example of how strong the squad is," the manager said. Suarez, who replaced Andy Carroll, was intimately involved in both goals. After forcing a good save from Wojciech Szczesny within two minutes of arriving, he was allowed to play on in the penalty area when fractionally offside and hassled Koscielny's replacement Ignasi Miquel on his Premier League debut into hitting the ball against Aaron Ramsey, from where it bounced past a helpless goalkeeper. Arsenal by that point had required only one save in each half from Pepe Reina, the first diverting Frimpong's low shot for a corner after a driving run and the second with his foot after the ineffectual Andrey Arshavin had got away with a blatant push before setting up Robin van Persie. Nicklas Bendtner came on for Arsenal's other anonymous wide player, Theo Walcott, but in the 90th minute Lucas Leiva and Meireles split the defence to give Suarez a tap-in. That confirmed Liverpool's first win away against Arsenal since February 2000, which had looked on the cards at least since Frimpong's dismissal. The Ghanaian received one card for preventing Liverpool from taking a throw-in and a second was always a possibility given his fierce tackling; his immediate apology for catching Lucas with a raised foot indicated his guilt. His suspension from the United game will leave Arsenal even shorter in midfield, where they are already lacking Jack Wilshere, Alex Song, Abou Diaby, Tomas Rosicky and, of course, a certain Cesc Fabregas. The suggestion that Samir Nasri could be staying was the only good news all day for Arsenal. If he does remain then at full strength Arsenal will still be competitive, but the short-term problems in midfield and defence must surely prompt Wenger into strengthening now. Liverpool in contrast have done their business and done it well. If Charlie Adam's set-pieces were less threatening than usual, and Carroll produced little more than one fine header, Jordan Henderson looked happier in the centre of midfield than out wide last week, Stewart Downing did well on the left and Jose Enrique behind him was outstanding in subduing Walcott.

Arsenal (4-2-3-1): Szczesny; Jenkinson, Koscielny (Miquel, 15), Vermaelen, Sagna; Frimpong, Ramsey; Walcott (Bendtner, 80), Nasri, Arshavin (Lansbury, 71); Van Persie. Liverpool (4-2-3-1): Reina; Kelly, Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Lucas, Adam; Kuyt (Meireles, 71), Henderson, Downing; Carroll (Suarez, 71). Referee: Martin Atkinson
Man of the match: Enrique (Liverpool) Match rating: 7/10
REDS' 11-YEAR WAIT FOR A WIN
2010-11 Apr: Arsenal 1-1 Liverpool 2009-10 Feb: Arsenal 1-0 Liverpool
2009-10 Oct: Arsenal 2-1 Liverpool (Carling Cup)
2008-09 Dec: Arsenal 1-1 Liverpool 2007-08 Apr: Arsenal 1-1 Liverpool
2007-08 Apr: Arsenal 1-1 Liverpool (Champions' League)
2006-07 Nov: Arsenal 3-0 Liverpool 2005-06 Mar: Arsenal 2-1 Liverpool
2004-05 May: Arsenal 3-1 Liverpool 2003-04 Apr: Arsenal 4-2 Liverpool
2002-03 Dec: Arsenal 1-1 Liverpool 2001-02 Jan: Arsenal 1-1 Liverpool
2000-01 Aug: Arsenal 2-0 Liverpool



Liverpool achieve lift-off with Ramsey ricochet
ARSENAL 0 LIVERPOOL 2 Ramsey 78og Suarez 90

For the second week in succession, Arsenal had a man sent off and failed to score a goal, but for Arsene Wenger at the moment, it never rains but it pours. Just as a patched-together Arsenal side seemed likely to hold out for another draw, after being held in the goalless opener at Newcastle, a freakish own goal handed Liverpool three points they barely deserved, the unfortunate Aaron Ramsey's match-changing moment a smack in the face for his manager. Kenny Dalglish will not be complaining about that, though there was more evidence here that, in addition to paying over the odds for Andy Carroll, he may not be able to build a side around the powerfully built centre-forward as quickly as he may have imagined. Liverpool barely looked like breaking the deadlock here until the pounds 35m former Newcastle player was taken off. By the end, with Arsenal losing their composure, the visitors were able to add insult to injury with a second goal, in the final minute, their two substitutes combining for the second time in their short spell on the pitch to leave Luis Suarez with a tap-in.

Jamie Carragher admitted afterwards that being held at home last week had been a downer for everyone at the club and, though this result will provide a tonic, the margin by which Liverpool improved when Suarez and Raul Meireles came on, midway through the second half, was revealing, though allowance ought to be made for the fact they were now playing against 10 men. Yet, for more than an hour, even with Arsenal reduced to fielding a rookie centre-half after Laurent Koscielny limped off after 17 minutes, Carroll's predictability failed to pose them any major problems. "We just about deserved to win," Dalglish said. "We have a stronger squad than last season and, when you have two substitutes of that quality to bring on, they deserve the chance to make a difference. It wasn't easy, but at least our season is up and running now. It was a better performance than last week and we didn't concede a goal. The new players have had a week to settle in and we are beginning to see what they are capable of."

Wenger was less impressed, not without reason. He lost two more players, and thought the crucial goal should have been disallowed. "With a sending-off and an offside goal, the result was very harsh on us," the Arsenal manager said.

Surprisingly, Wenger turned out not to have been joking when he hinted Samir Nasri might play. The supposedly Manchester City-bound Frenchman not only appeared in midfield, he seemed perfectly happy to do so. People have been saying all summer that Wenger is too careful with his money, yet here he was taking a bold gamble with a chip worth pounds 20m, amid rumours that talks between the clubs have broken down. Dalglish was slightly more cautious in his selection, leaving Suarez on the bench and asking Carroll to play with just Dirk Kuyt's occasional company up front. That did not immediately look too threatening a combination, though, when Koscielny broke down after a quarter of an hour, Arsenal had to fill in at centre-half with Ignasi Miquel, making his first Premier League appearance, and the balance tipped a little towards the visitors. Certainly, the Arsenal fans initially had cause to be worried when Miquel mistimed his jump and failed to cut out the first Stewart Downing cross he had to deal with, leaving Carroll a free header that Wojciech Szczesny had to dive to save. It turned out not to be a portent of what was to come.

Jordan Henderson also brought a save from the Arsenal goalkeeper, though, with fewer crosses landing on Carroll's forehead than Dalglish must have been hoping, it was perhaps significant that the nearest Liverpool came to taking the lead in the first half was a shot from exactly halfway by Charlie Adam, one that had Szczesny back-peddalling, but that flew a couple of feet too high. Arsenal came back into the game before the interval and twice came close with direct approaches, one when Pepe Reina dived low to keep out a drive from the impressive Emmanuel Frimpong and then when Nasri left Lucas Leiva chasing in vain with a run through the middle to flash a shot narrowly wide. The second half, played in a steady downpour, was as drab and depressing as the London weather until several things happened at once, with 20 minutes left. First, Robin van Persie brought a scrambling save from Reina with Arsenal's first decent attempt since the interval, after a shot from Martin Kelly had shaved a post at the other end. Then the impetuous Frimpong dangerously left a foot in against Lucas to collect a second yellow to add to the one he received for obstructing a throw in the first half. Finally, and not before time, Dalglish replaced the labouring Carroll with Suarez, who at least promised finesse. Together with the other Liverpool substitute, Meireles, Suarez helped conjure a goal in a matter of minutes. It was not much of a goal, more a comedy of errors in the Arsenal defence that ended with Miquel's attempted clearance striking Ramsey in the chest and looping back over a stranded Szczesny, though the situation came about because Suarez, who had actually strayed fractionally offside, was trying to reach a return pass from Meireles. Just a few minutes of cleverness and movement brought a greater reward than the previous hour-and-a-bit's attempts to play the ball up to the big fella, a point re-emphasised by Liverpool's second goal. It could have gone either way while Carroll was on the pitch, but, at the end, it was the Arsenal fans moaning bitterly about not seeing value for money.

ARSENAL Szczesny; Jenkinson, Koscielny (Miquel 15), Vermaelen, Sagna; Ramsey, Frimpong (sent off), Nasri; Walcott (Bendtner 80), Van Persie, Arshavin (Lansbury 71) Subs not used Fabianski, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Chamakh, Miyaichi
LIVERPOOL Reina; Kelly, Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Kuyt (Meireles 71), Henderson, Lucas (Booked), Adam, Downing; Carroll (Booked) (Suarez 71) Subs not used Doni, Rodriguez, Spearing, Skrtel, Flanagan
Emirates Stadium 60,090
Game rating 7/10
Referee Martin Atkinson

Compiled by Graeme Riley