


Date: 24 September 2011	Sunday Mail	Time	Guardian	Independent		24 September 2011
Opposition: Wolverhampton Wanderers	Telegraph	Mirror	Echo			
Competition: League	B'ham Post	Observer	Sunday Mirror	Sun Independent		

THE TIMES

Suarez can end foolish fallen idol obsession

Liverpool 2
Johnson 11 (og), Suarez 38
Wolves 1
Fletcher 49

Referee: K Friend. Attendance: 44,922

For a second successive weekend, the misadventures of Fernando Torres dominated the Premier League discourse.

Even at Anfield, where people ought to have moved on by now, a somewhat celebratory half-time announcement confirming that the fallen Liverpool idol had been sent off was greeted with an equally gleeful outpouring from the Kop. Unbecoming it most certainly was.

Club-endorsed digs at former players are anathema to the much-vaunted "Liverpool way", an unwritten code built on class, dignity and humility. But what cheapened the broadcast and its reaction most was that it was unnecessary. Why revel in the failings of a figure from the past when his replacement is bringing glory to the present? This, yet again, should have been Luis Suarez's day and his alone. This human tornado with mesmeric feet and devilish impudence was not bought to replace Torres but his brilliance has ensured that he has done. The goal that earned Liverpool an ultimately hard-earned win over Wolverhampton Wanderers was testament to his rare talent, the Uruguayan giving Christophe Berra twisted blood before beating the otherwise excellent Wayne Hennessey at his near post.

Suarez may have been at Anfield for only eight months but Kenny Dalglish believes that legendary status has already been attained, a tribute as genuine as it is eye-catching.

"I think he has already arrived," the Liverpool manager said when asked what his protegee has to do to join the pantheon of Liverpool greats of which Dalglish is the most revered. "I don't think he is just on course, he has arrived. He was there when he scored his first goal after coming on against Stoke."

Dalglish is, of course, biased and he is no more likely to downplay the impact of one of his players than he is to criticise them publicly. Which makes the opinion of a rival manager, and one who has suffered at Suarez's hands, even more revealing.

Mick McCarthy could not have been more effusive about his team's tormentor if he had tried.

"I was saying to Kenny he never does what you expect him to," the Wolves manager said. "You think he's going to pull the trigger and he cuts it back. You think he's going to come short and he cuts in behind."

"You never know how to play him. He's just a bloody good player who is incredibly hard to play against and in the second half we played it by the seat of our pants against him, which is probably why we deserved to get something from the game. He is something else. I thought he was even before we played against him and I'm convinced even more now."

If Suarez is Liverpool's biggest strength, then their ever-retreating back four is their most conspicuous flaw. Even with a 2-0 lead, Suarez's goal having been preceded by a wayward strike by Charlie Adam that took a decisive deflection off Roger Johnson's head, and with Wolves lacking a forward with the pace needed to get behind an opposition back four regularly, Liverpool managed to withdraw to such an extent that when Steven Fletcher, a substitute, reduced the arrears, there were no fewer than half a dozen red-shirted players inside Pepe Reina's six-yard box.

It is a collective problem that undermined them in their recent back-to-back defeats by Stoke City and Tottenham Hotspur and it is one that is exacerbated by a lack of pace in the central areas of defence and midfield. McCarthy recognised it, extracting a higher tempo from his players and releasing Jamie O'Hara between the lines. His tactical adjustments ensured that Liverpool endured a nervous second half that had been unimaginable after the first.

"Of course, there is always disappointment we didn't get more after that final half-hour when we dominated," McCarthy said, his frustration eased only by an admission that even during that spell Liverpool had continued to create the better chances, all of which were wasted by Suarez, Stewart Downing and the much-improved Andy Carroll.

"Excellent," was Dalglish's succinct appraisal of Carroll's contribution, a desire to keep his record signing out of the spotlight preventing a more detailed analysis. With or without accompanying hype, it is clear that the present holder of the Liverpool No 9 shirt is finally showing signs of stirring from his slumber. Another reason for his predecessor to be consigned to the club's past.

Liverpool (4-4-2): J M Reina 6 - M Kelly 5, J Carragher 5, M Skrtel 5, J Enrique 6 - J Henderson 4 (sub: D Kuyt, 71min), Lucas Leiva 6, C Adam 5, S Downing 6 - A Carroll 7, L Suarez 8 (sub: S Gerrard, 81). Substitutes not used: A Doni, S Coates, J Spearing, J Flanagan, C Bellamy. Booked: Lucas, Carroll, Kelly. Next: Everton (a). Wolverhampton Wanderers (4-1-4-1): W Hennessey 7 - R Stearman 5 (sub: M Doherty, 46 5), R Johnson 5, C Berra 5, S Ward 5 - K Henry 5 - S Hunt 5 (sub: A Guedioura, 81), J O'Hara 6, D Edwards 5 (sub: S Fletcher, 46 7), M Jarvis 7 - K Doyle 6. Substitutes not used: D de Vries, G Elokobi, A Hammill, N Milijas. Booked: O'Hara, Hunt.

Next: Newcastle United (h).

the guardian

Suarez has already arrived as a legend, says Dalglish

They were standing in the foyer before kick-off, two men who were absolutely assured of their place in the Anfield pantheon. And then they parted, Kenny Dalglish to the home dressing room, Ian Rush to the directors' box.

There will come a time, perhaps a decade and a half from now, when Luis Suarez will be around the Legends Lounge, passing the time with whoever happens to be managing **Liverpool** - whether it be Jamie Carragher, Jurgen Klopp or - and imagination can take you a long way - Darren Ferguson.

When asked to describe the Uruguayan's performance, which included perhaps the best goal at Anfield this year, where he bamboozled Christophe Berra before finding the slight gap between Wayne Hennessey and the near post, Dalglish remarked: "He has been here before he has been here."

What the **Liverpool** manager meant was that Suarez came to Merseyside with a CV that included scoring more than 100 goals for Ajax, a feat achieved by Johan Cruyff, Marco van Basten and Dennis Bergkamp, who are as assured of their welcome at the Dutch club's Amsterdam Arena as Rush is at Anfield.

It says something for Suarez's performances since he scored on his debut against Stoke City that the other part of his CV seems to have been entirely forgotten. He was the man whose handball had denied Ghana a place in the semi-finals of the first African World Cup. At Ajax he was known as a diver whose career in the Eredivisie ended when he bit PSV Eindhoven's Otman Bakkal.

They are headlines that seem not to belong to the striker who proved the difference between **Liverpool** and a rugged and sometimes inventive Wolverhampton Wanderers. Andy Carroll, who enjoyed one of his better games for **Liverpool**, has not shaken off the baggage that accompanied him from Newcastle. There should come a time when he is not thought of as a big Geordie with a pint forever in his hand. This match was a step forward.

When discussing how far Suarez could go at Anfield, Dalglish cut the conversation short. "I don't think he is just on course, I think he has arrived. I think the fans take to him because he is genuine and 100% committed. Our supporters are probably the most intelligent I have come across and they understand when someone is doing something well."


For someone who has spent most of his life in the fierce limelight Anfield can throw, Dalglish can be surprisingly modest. In the reprint of his autobiography, *My Liverpool Home*, he is clear that the man most responsible for bringing Suarez to Merseyside was the club's director of football, Damien Comolli, whose precise relationship with his manager is the source of much speculation.

On Saturday evening, as the discussion spread to what kind of advice Dalglish has given Suarez not just as manager to player but as one forward to another, he replied: "No hablo espanol." He has, of course, made enough golfing pilgrimages to La Manga to have picked up the odd phrase and Suarez himself has confirmed there have been plenty of tips and encouragement.

There is, of course, a sizeable contingent for whom Spanish is a first language and that includes Jose Enrique, whose journey from St James' Park has been more instantly successful than Carroll's.

And yet with the Merseyside derby looming at Goodison Park, there was urgency in the Spaniard's voice. "If we want to be in the Champions League next season, we need to get these points now," he said. "Andy was unlucky not to score but next time he will and next week will be perfect."

Man of the match Luis Suarez (**Liverpool**)

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THE INDEPENDENT

Suarez shows instincts of a certain other Anfield No 7

Luis Suarez was offered his pick from five squad numbers when he arrived at Liverpool last January but claims it was with no knowledge of history that he plumped for seven. Indeed, he insisted later that had he known that it was Kenny Dalglish's number, he would respectfully have chosen another.

Inevitably, therefore, he attracts comparisons. Yet would he not do so anyway, given the qualities he clearly shares with his revered manager? Like Dalglish at his peak, Suarez plays a game driven by instinct and invention, one with the potential always to produce goals of the kind that won this match, goals with a touch of genius.

From the timing of the run on to Jose Enrique's through-ball, to the shift of feet that sent Christophe Berra critically off balance, capped by the precision with which he fired the ball left-footed between goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey and his near post, it was Dalglish all over.

Afterwards, Dalglish declined to enter a debate along those lines but willingly applauded the Uruguayan. "I think everyone has their own identity and it undermines the boy if you compare him with anyone else," Dalglish said. "He is Luis Suarez. He is a fantastic player and it is not fair to compare him with others who have been here before. Does he benefit from working with me? I don't know - I don't speak español. I don't know where he gets his ideas from but he is full of them and he certainly knows how to play."

Charlie Adam was sharp and resourceful in Liverpool's midfield, even if it did need a touch from Roger Johnson's head to take his shot past Hennessey for the opening goal. The goal from Steven Fletcher that rewarded Mick McCarthy's attacking tactics was sloppily conceded. Too early yet to hail a Liverpool revival.

LIVERPOOL 2-1 WOLVES

Scorers: Liverpool R Johnson (og) 11, Suarez 38. Wolves Fletcher 49.

Substitutes: Liverpool Kuyt (Henderson, 71), Gerrard (Suarez, 81) Wolves Fletcher (Edwards, h-t), Doherty 6 (Stearman, h/t), Hunt (Guedioura, 81). Booked: Liverpool Lucas, Carroll, Kelly. Wolves O'Hara, Henry, Ward, Hunt.

Man of the match Suarez. Match rating 7/10. Possession: Liverpool 52% Wolves 48%.

Attempts on target: Liverpool 6 Wolves 6. Referee K Friend (Leicestershire). Att 44,922.



LUIS STAREZ; Dalglish: He's already an Anfield legend

LIVERPOOL 2 WOLVES 1

IT IS always a clue you have played well when the opposition manager crosses himself at the mention of your name. So Luis Suarez can rest easy on a job well done in steering Liverpool through the dangerous rapids of this match towards a tense victory. Afterwards, Wolves boss Mick McCarthy required a deep breath - and probably a stiff drink - as he singled out the Reds striker as the unstoppable difference between the two sides. You do not have to be an expert to spot what Suarez offered. His own manager Kenny Dalglish suggested the South American is already on the way to becoming an Anfield legend, and McCarthy was not shy in his praise either. "He was awesome. He never does what you expect him to, and that means you never know how to play him. He's just a bloody good player who is incredibly hard to play against," McCarthy explained. "He is something else, in the second half we played it by the seat of our pants against him, which is probably why we deserved to get something from the game."

"I thought with Andy Carroll today as a pair they were devastating. It was a big man-little man pairing that worked so well, and was incredibly difficult to handle." Suarez's turns and touches were breathtaking and the second goal - when he feigned to shoot and did not and feigned to pass and shot - was simply stunning. Carroll, however, is clearly a little anxious given his initial struggles at Anfield, but he did everything right against Wolves, even if not everything went right for him.

For a start he hit a post, when he deserved a goal, but Dalglish was not too perturbed. "When it comes to writing his name as a legendary Anfield player, Suarez isn't just on course - he has arrived," said the Reds boss. "But Andy was excellent, too, and I don't think he needs everyone lauding him to know that. Someone is going to get the banner headlines and if it is Luis rather than Andy then, well... it may be helpful." The pair's partnership was Liverpool's greatest asset, and may have provided many more than the two goals the home side led by at the break. Charlie Adam had provided the first, with a deflected shot, and Suarez and Carroll ran riot until the hour mark. But then Liverpool's apparent weakness in the middle of the park was again exposed, as Wolves' Karl Henry and Jamie O'Hara began to run the show. Sub Steven Fletcher scored a good goal from Hunt's cross, and the visitors attacked almost ceaselessly for the last half-hour, and the only surprise was that they did not equalise.

LIVERPOOL: Reina 6, Kelly 5?, Carragher 7, Skrtel 6, Enrique 6, Henderson 5 (Kuyt 72, 6), Lucas 5?, Adam 6, Downing 6, Carroll 7?, Suarez 8 (Gerrard 82). GoALS: Johnson 11 og, Suarez 38 WOLVES: Hennessey 7, Stearman 5 (Doherty 46, 6) Johnson 8, Berra 7, Ward 6?, Hunt 7?, Henry 7?, O'Hara 7?, Jarvis 7, Edwards 5 (Fletcher 46, 6), Doyle 7. GoAL: Fletcher 49 rEF: Kevin Friend ATT: 44,922

The Daily Telegraph

Brilliance of Suarez is worth the histrionics

Liverpool 2

Johnson 11 (og), Suarez 38

Wolverhampton 1

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The visits of Wolves to Anfield always seem to have the same effect: an unconvincing Liverpool performance which concludes in an outburst of bitter frustration and brooding discontent. Nine months ago, it was the terraces and the boardroom: the former crying for the removal of Roy Hodgson, the latter eventually heeding the call. This time, at least the histrionics came from Luis Suarez.

The Uruguayan does not, it is fair to say, enjoy being substituted. His face crumples, his head shakes, he grumbles into his shirt, he kicks bottles, he slouches into his seat. It should not be taken as a sign of his unhappiness with life at Liverpool. Far from it. Suarez is just being himself, and few in these parts would change a thing.

"He wants to be involved all the time," said Kenny Dalglish, the man who replaced Hodgson, the messiah appointed by the Kop the last time Mick McCarthy's team came here. "He wants to play for as many minutes as he can and he wants to score."

It is an attitude which the Kop cherishes to such an extent that Dalglish, a man who knows these things, feels Suarez is not simply on the path to joining him in Anfield's pantheon, but there already.

Indeed, perhaps the only reason the 24-year-old cannot be considered as being seated next to the Scot himself is his evident aversion to sitting anywhere, at all.

"He is not just on course," the Liverpool manager said. "He has arrived. He was there when he scored his first goal after coming on against Stoke. The fans have taken to him because he is genuine, 100 per cent committed. They love players like that. Our supporters are the most intelligent I have come across and, for me, they understand when someone is doing well."


Suarez scored the decisive goal; an electric effort which left Christophe Berra seeing stars before it reduced Wayne Hennessey to grasping air -- after Charlie Adam's hopeful long-range effort was deflected home by Roger Johnson and despite Steven Fletcher reducing the lead just after half-time.

He is the embodiment of a virtue which Uruguayans pride themselves on more than any other; courage and an unquenchable will to win.

It means he chases down lost causes, hares after defenders in possession, marrying the technical excellence which produced his goal to a ferocious work ethic.

"He was awesome," McCarthy said. "He is something else. I said to Kenny that he never does what you expect him to do. You think he's going to shoot and he cuts it back. You think he is going to come short and he cuts in behind."

"You never know how to play him. He is just a bloody good player. In the second half, we played it by the seat of our pants against him, which is why we probably deserved to get something."

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Luis Suarez on another level to his team mates as LFC triumph ONE finished the afternoon scowling on the bench, while the other lay on the turf ruing a glorious late chance that went begging. But once the dust settled at Anfield both Luis Suarez and Andy Carroll could be proud of their contribution to ensuring Liverpool secured a much needed three points. This was the day when Kenny Dalglish's £57.8million pair finally started to look like a double act. Once again Suarez provided the inspiration with a sensational display. His goal proved to be the match-winner and the outstanding Uruguayan was a constant thorn in Wolves' side.

However, it was the perspiration of his strike partner which will have pleased the manager equally as much. Starting with Carroll on Saturday was a major show of faith from Dalglish, especially considering how Dirk Kuyt and Craig Bellamy had performed at Brighton in midweek. Dalglish has resolutely defended the big frontman in the face of mounting criticism. The Scot believes there is a media "obsession" with Carroll but there is no getting away from the fact that prior to Saturday Liverpool had played much of their best football without him in the side. Dalglish has chopped and changed his striking combinations so far this season and insists price tags are irrelevant when it comes to selection. But Liverpool didn't make Carroll the most expensive British footballer in history for him to warm the bench. They shelled out £35million for him to terrorise Premier League defences and due to a mixture of fitness and form it hasn't happened so far. With a full pre-season behind him and the Reds having bought the wide men required to provide the ammunition, fans expect to see a return on the club's investment.

And on Saturday there were signs that Dalglish's loyalty in his No 9 will be repaid. Carroll didn't find the net but his effort, his presence and his movement caught the eye. He imposed himself on the contest and his link up play with team-mates was much improved. The 22-year-old should have scored in the dying seconds after being brilliantly picked out in the box by substitute Steven Gerrard but had three touches too many and the opportunity went begging. Carroll was in a heap when the final whistle went but the skipper raced over to pull him to his feet. It was a nice gesture and the Kop responded with a warm ovation for Carroll's display. This was a step forward for the 6ft 3ins frontman and an afternoon to build on.

Liverpool should have won at a canter but their profligacy in front of goal coupled with Wolves' gutsy fightback ensured there was a nervy finale at Anfield.

After back to back league defeats, victory was vital but they will need to sharpen up at both ends with games against Everton and Manchester United next up.

At least the Reds will travel to Goodison safe in the knowledge that Suarez is at the peak of his powers. The Copa America winner was operating on a different level to anyone else on Saturday. He tormented Mick McCarthy's men and scored his fourth goal of the season with breathtaking ease. After racing on to Jose Enrique's perfectly weighted pass, Suarez turned Christophe Berra one way and then the other before lashing the ball inside Wayne Hennessey's near post.

One back heel close to the touchline left Roger Johnson flummoxed and the Anfield Road End purring with appreciation. Only the brilliance of Hennessey denied him greater reward for another man of the match display. Suarez's goal made it 2-0 seven minutes before the break and at that point Liverpool were threatening to run riot. They had built on the moment of good fortune early on when Charlie Adam's wayward 25-yarder was headed into his own net by Johnson. The defender complained he had been shoved by Carroll in the build up but after some of the decisions Liverpool have had to endure so far this term sympathy was in short supply.

With Lucas Leiva shining in the centre, Stewart Downing flying down the left and Wolves' lone frontman Kevin Doyle well shackled by Jamie Carragher, the Reds were in complete control. Carroll nodded too close to Hennessey and then produced a tantalising cross which Suarez narrowly failed to convert.

The second goal finally gave Liverpool breathing space but four minutes into the second half their grip on the game loosened. Martin Skrtel allowed boyhood Reds fan Steven Fletcher to get away from him in the box and the substitute clinically converted Stephen Hunt's cross. The fact that new faces are bedding in – coupled with a few injury setbacks – goes some way to explaining why only one clean sheet has been kept in eight games so far this season.

But there is certainly work to be done at Melwood to ensure that Pepe Reina is given greater protection.

The keeper vociferously voiced his displeasure on Saturday in the direction of a back line he clearly felt were dropping too deep. Spurred on by their goal, Wolves grew in confidence and as they threw caution to the wind they left gaps for the Reds to exploit. Hennessey somehow denied Suarez before Carroll rattled the post with a header. Downing should have opened his Liverpool account after racing clear but fired too close to the keeper.

Those misses served to crank up the anxiety levels around Anfield and there was relief when Berra nodded wide. With the points still up for grabs there was no hiding Suarez's displeasure at being asked to make way. A few shakes of the head as he trotted off was followed by him taking out his frustration on a water bottle.

He's a fierce competitor and wanted to see the job through. In his place Gerrard steadied the ship with a slick cameo which almost brought a dream strike in front of the Kop. It was the first time the skipper had graced Anfield for six months and he got a rapturous reception.

With Gerrard back, Suarez flying and Carroll progressing, there is plenty to be positive about. But as a unit Liverpool will need to raise the bar if they are going to build on this narrow triumph. Tougher tests lie ahead.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): Reina, Kelly, Carragher, Skrtel, Enrique, Henderson (Kuyt 72), Lucas, Adam, Downing, Carroll, Suarez (Gerrard 81). Not used: Doni, Coates, Spearing, Flanagan, Bellamy.

WOLVES (4-5-1): Hennessey, Stearman (Doherty 46), Johnson, Berra, Ward, Hunt (Guedioura 81), Henry, Edwards (Fletcher 46), O'Hara, Jarvis, Doyle. Not used: De Vries, Elokobi, Hammill, Millijas.

GOALS: Johnson (og) 11, Suarez 39, Fletcher 49.

CARDS: Kelly, Carroll (Liverpool); Ward, Henry, Hunt, O'Hara (Wolves).

REFEREE: Kevin Friend.

ATTENDANCE: 44,922.



SHIVERPOOL FOR KENNY; Nervy Reds don't look like Euro stars

LIVERPOOL 2 Johnson 11 og, Suarez 38

WOLVES 1 Fletcher 49

LIVERPOOL took a nervous and far from convincing step back into the reckoning for Champions League qualification. Kenny Dalglish's team seemed to have shaken off the despair of consecutive away defeats when an own goal and a touch of brilliance from Luis Suarez gave them a 2-0 half-time lead.

But anxiety and uncertainty coursed through their ranks after Wolves substitute Steven Fletcher pulled a goal back and revived his colleagues' belief.

Andy Carroll, back in place of Craig Bellamy, headed against the woodwork in the second half as Liverpool tried desperately for the comfort of a third goal but keeper Wayne Hennessey played a heroic role in Wolves' defiance.

Liverpool's goal had to withstand a bombardment of its own as Wolves sensed the conviction draining from those in red, who were ultimately grateful to stumble over the line. Dalglish, though, hailed the performances of Suarez and Carroll, as well as his side's resilience. He said: "Suarez has been outstanding since he joined us, on and off the pitch. We're fortunate to have him.

"Everything about Andy was good today. He hit the woodwork and did everything except score. "We played better at Stoke and didn't win but we still deserved the points today. "We competed properly but you have to give credit to Wolves for putting us under pressure in the second half."

Jamie O'Hara made a characteristically combative start for Wolves, being booked and producing the first shot on target, which was easily gathered by Pepe Reina.

"At the other end Hennessey, could do nothing about Charlie Adam's 11th-minute shot, which was inadvertently diverted past him by his own captain, Roger Johnson. The central defender's protests that he had been pushed in the build-up to the goal were no more successful than his attempted clearance with a diving header.

Wolves boss Mick McCarthy backed Johnson, saying: "I thought he was fouled by Andy Carroll, so I was annoyed about that.

"It was a difficult first half for us but we were really excellent in the second half. I got the response I expected." Carroll might have extended Liverpool's lead with a downward header, but Hennessey, plunging to his right, clung on to the ball.

The big Geordie then sent a low, curling cross behind the Wolves defence that just eluded the stretch of Suarez.

The Uruguay striker had another chance minutes later when he latched on to Stewart Downing's delivery, only to scuff his shot off target.

David Edwards collected a cleverly worked free-kick from Stephen Hunt and was denied by the red wall erected in front of Reina's goal.

Wolves were still cursing their luck when they went two down after 38 minutes. Suarez ran on to Jose Enrique's through-ball, turned Christophe Berra inside out and drilled the ball past Hennessey.

McCarthy responded by sending on Fletcher and Matt Doherty at the start of the second half and had instant reward.

Hunt played the ball into the heart of the area and Fletcher hooked Wolves back into the contest with their first League goal in 363 minutes.


They needed the positioning of Hennessey and a little luck to retain that interest. The Wales keeper blocked a close-range shot from Suarez and, after Carroll headed against a post, foiled Downing.

Wolves retaliated and Liverpool were reduced to desperate goalmouth clearances.

Steven Gerrard came on to steady the ship, although why Suarez had to make way was as perplexing to both player and home fans.

Carroll wasted a late chance but Liverpool had their win and McCarthy's grim look reflected his feelings.

Killer stat 7 Liverpool have won six and drawn one of the seven PL games in which Suarez has scored

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THE INDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY

Suarez head and shoulders above Carroll as Reds stop the bleeding
Given that the Merseyside derby is up next, followed by the visit of Manchester United, Liverpool needed to break their recent habit of failing to win in September and did so, although not in quite the fluent manner preferred. Wolves, who had been badly exposed by Queens Park Rangers a week earlier, were still rocky under pressure and could not really complain much about being two behind inside 38 minutes, particularly after Luis Suarez had turned his marker one way and then the other before thrashing home the second. The goals rewarded Liverpool's rangy, vibrant attacking forays, which were easily the best aspect of their performance. But Mick McCarthy's side would not lie down, deciding instead to meet attack with attack and a goal early in the second half ensured that Kenny Dalglish's side, while not in danger of succumbing to a third consecutive Premier League defeat, were never certain of victory until the last whistle.

"Wolves put us under pressure," Dalglish said. "I don't think Mick was too happy after the QPR game but that was a total contrast and they deserve credit for the way they went about it today.

"But I think we deserved to win. We had a bit of luck with the opening goal but we have not had a lot of luck recently so I think we deserved some. With a bit more in the second half, when we hit the bar and their keeper made an unbelievable save, we could have had more goals."

While Suarez was the outstanding player, Dalglish pronounced himself "delighted" with Andy Carroll, whom he restored to the front line despite the claims advanced by Craig Bellamy in the Carling Cup win at Brighton in midweek. "It's funny how Andy has a decent game and I don't get a single question about him," Dalglish said, adding a postscript to Friday's pre-game press conference, when attempts to discuss the effectiveness of his [pounds sterling]35 million buy from Newcastle United brought a tetchy response. "Apart from not scoring a goal I thought everything about him today was good."

Shame, then, that the last impression left by Carroll was somewhat comical, as he failed to manage a shot in three or four attempts to set one up after Steven Gerrard, adding another 10 minute of game time to his recuperation, had picked him out unmarked.

Earlier, Carroll had hit the bar with a header from a Stewart Downing cross, although his height was never used as a particular weapon by Liverpool. Most of the time they were dangerous enough with the ball on the ground.

The first goal came when Charlie Adam took advantage of a generous invitation to shoot after 11 minutes. Roger Johnson, trying to get to his feet after a challenge from Carroll, tried to block the shot with his head yet succeeded only in deflecting past his goalkeeper, who may well have had it covered anyway, had it not been going wide.

Carroll, who might have scored soon afterwards when Wayne Hennessey smothered his header on the line, linked well enough with Suarez to encourage Dalglish to persevere with their partnership.

The second goal, though, came not from Carroll's pass but from a precise through-ball by Jose Enrique. Timing his run to foil Wolves' attempt to catch him offside, Suarez bolted away. Christophe Berra gave chase but, after shaping to pass square, Suarez wrong-footed him by moving the ball back to his left foot and found a gap between Hennessey and his near post.

Boldly, McCarthy switched from one striker to two for the second half and Steven Fletcher, the substitute, found the target within minutes, capitalising on some slack Liverpool defending.

After that, Wolves played a full part in an end-to-end game but the chances came largely at their end, Hennessey blocking at point-blank range from Suarez and brilliantly tipping a Downing shot wide. Dalglish's verdict, on that basis, was correct.

Liverpool (4-4-1-1): Reina; Kelly, Carragher, Skrtel, Enrique; Henderson (Kuyt, 71), Lucas, Adam, Downing; Suarez (Gerrard, 81); Carroll.

Wolves (4-5-1): Hennessey; Stearman (Doherty, h-t), Johnson, Berra, Ward; Hunt (Guedioura, 81), Henry, Edwards (Fletcher, h-t), O'Hara, Jarvis; Doyle.

Referee: Kevin Friend

Man of the match: Suarez (Liverpool)

Match rating: 7/10



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Liverpool hold off late Wolves surge

LIVERPOOL 2

Johnson og 11, Suarez 38

WOLVES 1

Fletcher 49

IT WAS less a return; more of a resurrection. The stadium clock read 81 minutes and four seconds when Steven Gerrard finally appeared; the first time supporters had seen him in action here for six months.

The chorus of approval for the man who has worn the Liverpool armband since 2003 was even greater than the half-time announcement that Fernando Torres had been sent off at Stamford Bridge.

There had been times in this contest when Gerrard could well have assumed that a brief late appearance would be no more than a cameo, with his team's authority fully asserted.

It was far from it, and the midfielder found himself part of a desperate rearguard action to claim the three points after leading through first-half goals from Luis Suarez and an own goal by visiting captain Roger Johnson.

Wolves, looking hopelessly outclassed and two goals adrift at the interval, had rallied magnificently once substitute Steven Fletcher had reduced the deficit early in the second half. But victory was key for Kenny Dalglish's team, and six days after the humiliation by Spurs, when Liverpool ended with nine men, this was the kind of response from Dalglish's team that the manager and faithful demanded.

Despite Craig Bellamy's impressive contribution in Brighton on Wednesday in tandem with Suarez, Dalglish restored Andy Carroll to the side. Those who have decried both his contribution and his ability to form an effective alliance with Suarez were rebuked by his performance here - despite not adding to his only goal of the season, at Exeter City.

Both teams had been chastened by consecutive league defeats but emboldened by midweek Carling Cup victories - Wolves the more so, having won 1-0 here last season.

Mick McCarthy, the Wolves manager, had claimed that the pressure would be off here after last Saturday's humbling by QPR. If it was, it didn't show in the first half. It had been a quiet opening by the hosts, but after 11 minutes Charlie Adam, one of the dismissed players at White Hart Lane, surged forward and unleashed a venomous shot from 25 yards which Johnson got his head to, but only succeeded in deflecting into his own net off the inside of the far post. As Adam celebrated what proved to be an own goal, Johnson protested to referee Kevin Friend that he had been pushed by Jamie Carragher in the build-up - with some validity.

Carroll then dispatched a towering header from a corner but it failed to trouble goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey. It was not Johnson's finest half hour. Suarez beautifully turned the central defender, who has been such an astute acquisition by McCarthy, but his shot from a narrow angle was blocked by Hennessey. Carroll curled in a cross which Suarez just failed to convert. Before the interval, the Uruguayan dragged another chance wide after Stewart Downing had found him from the left.

McCarthy's men might have succeeded with an inventive training-ground routine, when Stephen Hunt played a deft free kick in front of David Edwards, but the Welsh midfielder's drive struck the wall - a fate that befell too many of Wolves' free kick attempts.

Seven minutes from the break, Jose Enrique released Suarez, who sent Christophe Berra both ways before crashing the second goal past Hennessey from close range. It was far too easy for Dalglish's side, who could have scored a third before the interval, Suarez squeezing the ball just wide of the far post.

McCarthy pitched on Fletcher and Matt Doherty after half-time, and the manager's enterprise was immediately reward when the former volleyed home powerfully after Stephen Hunt's cross had yielded the perfect invitation. It was their first goal in the league in 363 minutes. Liverpool retorted with Suarez being blocked at point-blank range by Hennessey, who performed heroics again when Downing burst through. Inbetween Carroll headed against a post.


Liverpool needed another goal because Wolves, with Fletcher alongside Kevin Doyle supplementing the visitors' attacking potential, were suddenly looking decidedly dangerous themselves. Belatedly, Wolves had identified frailties in the home rearguard and worked away at them with a series of balls into the home area.

As the sound of anxious groans accompanied the increasing number of Liverpool passes going astray, Dirk Kuyt was thrown on in place of the ineffective Jordan Henderson. He was soon followed by the appearance of Gerrard, who announced his arrival with a dipping volley which didn't dip quite enough.

At the other end there were still anxious moments, but Liverpool held on.

Star man: Luis Suarez (Liverpool) Yellow cards: Liverpool: Carroll, Kelly Wolves: Ward, Henry, Hunt, O'Hara Referee: K Friend Attendance: 44,922 Liverpool: Reina 6, Kelly 6, Carragher 6, Skrtel 6, Enrique 7, Henderson 5 (Kuyt 72min), Lucas 7, Adam 6, Downing 6, Carroll 7, Suarez 8 (Gerrard 82min) Wolves: Hennessey 7, Stearman 5 (Doherty h-t, 6), Johnson 6, Berra 5, Ward 6, Henry 6, Hunt 7 (Guedioura 82min), Edwards 6 (Fletcher h-t, 6), O'Hara 7, Jarvis 6, Doyle 7

2 The number of years since Liverpool last won a Premier League match in September. They had failed in their previous five games in that month

Date: 24 September 2011	Sunday Mail	Time	Guardian	Independent		24 September 2011
Opposition: Wolverhampton Wanderers	Telegraph	Mirror	Echo			
Competition: League	B'ham Post	Observer	Sunday Mirror	Sun Independent		

The Mail

Silky Suarez is showing Carroll the way ahead

LIVERPOOL 1 2

Johnson (11 og), Suarez (38)

WOLVES 1

Fletcher (49)

TO dwell on the perfectly decent, if unspectacular performance of Andy Carroll yesterday would be unfair on him and unfair on two other Anfield stars who were more eye-catching in a win that lifted Liverpool to fifth.

Carroll started up front, had several shots saved or blocked, worked hard and applied some deft touches in tight situations - as strikers at top Premier League clubs should, frankly.

But Luis Suarez was outstanding, scoring the second goal that proved to be decisive. The Uruguayan had enough chances for a hat-trick and his all-round contribution and workrate were tireless.

Steven Gerrard hasn't started a game since March but had an energetic 10-minute cameo as a substitute. A couple of trademark surging runs fostered hopes of his revival as winter approaches.

Gerrard, 31, was a Kop idol and club talisman long before anyone had heard of Carroll, who was only 12 when Gerrard proved so pivotal to the cup treble of 2001. At the time, Gerrard was younger than Carroll is now.

It is not Carroll's fault that Liverpool owner John W Henry paid [pounds sterling]35 million to buy him from Newcastle, nor his fault that Henry has since effectively admitted overpaying for a player who had made only a few dozen Premier League appearances for Newcastle before his January move.

The American tycoon's understandable logic was that Liverpool had pocketed a stunning [pounds sterling]50m for Fernando Torres, so why not spend a chunk of it on a player they wanted?

But such a price tag brings a weight of expectation.

So Dalglish is constantly being asked to justify whether Carroll was a good buy and getting annoyed by the question.

Yesterday, when asked what had pleased him about Carroll's display, he was at least able to answer with justification: 'Everything except a goal.'

Dalglish was more effusive about Suarez, saying: 'He's been outstanding since he came here. We look forward to many happy days ahead.'

Suarez, of course, cost a shade over [pounds sterling]22m from Ajax and few could disagree that he is the better value buy of the two forwards.

Carroll's best chances were a downward header from a Stewart Downing corner in the 14th minute, saved by Wayne Hennessey, and a shot that hit the post after an assist from Downing in the 52nd minute.

Suarez was more consistently threatening. After Liverpool took an 11th-minute lead courtesy of Roger Johnson redirecting Charlie Adam's wayward shot with his head into the back of the net, Suarez was a central figure.

He made it 2-0 in the 38th minute by tearing free on the left and stalling as Christophe Berra approached. Then he turned Berra, found a gap and smashed home.

On the cusp of half time, again coming in from the left, Suarez poked the ball just wide of the right post, having scuffed a shot from a similar position just before.

Suarez also went close in the 50th minute, bringing a wonderful save from Hennessey, and was an important link player as the second half wore on.

Wolves gave themselves hope not long after the break when Steven Fletcher scored following a pullback by Stephen Hunt.

'It was a difficult first half and we got better in the second,' was the succinct summary of Wolves' manager Mick McCarthy.

His side are now without a win in four matches.

Dalglish said: 'I think we deserved three points even if it was tough at times. We had a bit of fortune with the first goal going in off Johnson but maybe it was about time.'

'We probably went off the boil a bit in the second half because they put us under pressure.' Two other second-half moves stood out.

The first was a four-man, sweeping attack with Suarez and Jordan Henderson combining to feed Carroll, who picked the ball neatly out of the air and set up Lucas, but the shot was wide.

Then Gerrard came on, slalomed upfield and shot over. His class is permanent. Carroll's has yet to be sustained.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): Reina; Kelly, Skrtel, Carragher, Enrique; Henderson (Kuyt 71min), Lucas, Adam, Downing; Carroll, Suarez (Gerrard 81). Subs (not used): Doni, Coates, Spearing, Flanagan, Bellamy. Booked: Carroll, Kelly.

WOLVES (4-5-1): Hennessey; Berra, Stearman (Doherty 46), Johnson, Ward; Hunt (Guedioura 81), Henry, Johnson, Jarvis, Doyle; Edwards (Fletcher 46). Subs (not used): De Vries, Elokobi, Hammill, Milijas. Booked: O'Hara, Henry, Ward, Hunt. Referee: K Friend.

The Observer

Suarez on song but Liverpool a mix of good, bad and indifferent

LIVERPOOL 2

Johnson 11og Suarez 38

WOLVES 1

Fletcher 49

His achievements have given Kenny Dalglish a line of credit not available to the likes of UBS or Northern Rock. He could have survived an early exit from the Carling Cup and a home defeat by Wolverhampton Wanderers, which so bankrupted Roy Hodgson's regime. Instead he has won both, although with the kind of fortune that was forever denied Hodgson, Wolves might have snatched a point.

The Liverpool manager did not seek excuses for last Sunday's humbling at White Hart Lane and his side just about deserved their victory in a high-octane afternoon that featured the brief league return of Steven Gerrard, brought on to a standing ovation more than six months after he last graced Anfield.

"We played better in defeat at Stoke but we will continue to plod on," Dalglish observed, although no team who boast Luis Suarez will ever plod. Without him, Liverpool might have been ordinary.

Wolves began as if the supine surrender to Queens Park Rangers at Molineux had never been. They were sharp and inventive but very soon they were a goal down.

The shot was from Charlie Adam but the wound was self-inflicted as the Wolves captain, Roger Johnson, flung himself at the ball and succeeded in deflecting it past Wayne Hennessey.

Perhaps because of all the Yorkshire bluff that he carries with him, Mick McCarthy is not thought of as a tactically inventive manager but his double substitution during the interval transformed the game. When Steven Fletcher, who had been on the field for fewer than five minutes, drove a shot into the roof of Pepe Reina's net from Stephen Hunt's cutback, it provided Wolves with momentum that was not quite enough to tip the balance.

If there was fortune about Liverpool's first, there was none at all about the second. When Jose Enrique sent a ball down the left flank and into the area for Suarez, the angle and the presence of two old gold shirts around him suggested the threat was minimal. Instead, the Uruguayan sent Christophe Berra first left and then right and then, instinctively noticing Hennessey had left a gap between himself and his near post, he shot through it brilliantly.

At half-time the Tannoy announced in the kind of gloating manner that was utterly at odds with Liverpool's traditions that Fernando Torres had been sent off at Stamford Bridge. At least Torres had scored, which was more than Andy Carroll was to do.

Dalglish, who had accused the media on Merseyside of "obsessing" about the Premier League's most expensive Englishman, noted in the press room that there had been no questions about Carroll "because he had performed well".

Up to a point. There was a free header from a Stewart Downing corner met without power or purpose. Then came a fabulous diagonal ball across the face of the Wolves goal that Suarez just failed to slide home. It was followed by a wayward pass and then a header against the post. Finally, having been set up by Gerrard, Carroll took three touches too many and ended the match flat on his back in front of the Kop. There was good, there was bad and there was indifferent.

LIVERPOOL Reina; Kelly (Booked), Carragher, Skrtel, Jose Enrique; Henderson (Kuyt 71), Lucas, Adam, Downing; Carroll (Booked), Suarez (Gerrard 81)

Subs not used Doni, Coates, Spearing, Flanagan, Bellamy


WOLVES Hennessey; Stearman (Doherty ht), Johnson, Berra, Ward (Booked); Hunt (Booked) (Guedioura 81), Henry (Booked), Edwards (Fletcher ht), O'Hara (Booked), Jarvis; Doyle

Subs not used Elokobi, Hammill, Milijas, De Vries

Anfield 44,922

Game rating 7/10

Referee Kevin Friend

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BIRMINGHAM POST

Liverpool returned to winning ways but made hard work of it at home to Wolves as defensive frailties and equally-fragile confidence levels were almost exposed for a third successive week.

Everything appeared to be going to plan as a Roger Johnson own goal, diverting in Charlie Adam's shot, and another magical Luis Suarez strike appeared to have put the Reds in the [comfort](#) zone at half-time.

But substitute Steven Fletcher pulled one back within minutes of the second half starting to ratchet up the pressure on the hosts, who were guilty of missing a number of opportunities to make the victory easier than it turned out to be. Having lost back-to-back matches at Stoke and Tottenham, where they were humiliated 4-0, it was understandable nerves would be shaky.

And with the Reds keen to avoid a third successive defeat, which would have been their worst run since 2003, the pressure to secure a victory - especially with the Merseyside derby and the visit of Manchester United around the corner - was all-important.

What was equally key to Kenny Dalglish's side's fortunes this season was captain Steven Gerrard making his first Barclays Premier League appearance since March having recovered from a groin operation.

Wolves had actually started the brighter, aided by their hosts' penchant for conceding free-kicks outside their own penalty area.

Their best chance fell to Jamie O'Hara when an ill-judged backpass from Martin Kelly, returning to the side in the absence of the injured Daniel Agger, saw the midfielder shoot weakly at Jose Reina.

A couple of Adam corners caused some difficulties for the Wolves defence but not as much as the midfielder's 11th-minute long-range shot.

Stewart Downing's lay-off saw the Scotland midfielder unleash a 25-yard shot which was diverted past Wayne Hennessey by Johnson's diving header.

Andy Carroll, still the subject of intense debate about his place in the side, should have silenced his critics with a free header from Downing's corner but planted the ball straight at the goalkeeper.

In his favour, however, the England international's [performance](#) offered plenty apart from a goal.

But it was Suarez who, once again, was providing the major threat up front with the Wolves centre-backs struggling to contain the Uruguay forward.

Johnson was left bewildered when Suarez brought down Reina's kick and turned the defender inside the penalty area only for his cross to be cut out.

Two further half-chances fell to the South American before he finally got his desserts in the 38th minute with a goal which owed everything to his movement and Jose Enrique's vision.

The Liverpool left-back lifted a ball over the top of the defence and his team-mate timed his run perfectly to collect, turn Christophe Berra inside then out before firing a shot inside the near post.

Just before the break - during which the third biggest cheer of the afternoon greeted news of former Reds striker Fernando Torres' sending-off for Chelsea - Suarez poked another shot just wide of the far post.

But Liverpool's defensive record this season - they have kept only one clean sheet - meant the third goal would be crucial and it fell to Wolves.

Four minutes after coming on for the start of the second half boyhood Reds fan Fletcher smashed home a shot from Stephen Hunt's cut-back after Reina and Martin Skrtel had got in the way of each other trying to clear their lines.

But Wolves almost crumbled in the aftermath as Hennessey produced his most important save of the game to block Suarez's effort at close quarters from Carroll's knockdown.

Carroll headed against a post while Hennessey made yet another vital block to deny Downing, who should have scored after Liverpool broke quickly on the counter-attack.

Wolves recovered their composure and turned the tables with an extended spell of pressure which caused some consternation amid the massed Red ranks and almost saw Berra equalise with a far-post header.

The long-awaited appearance of Gerrard, who made a brief substitute appearance in the Carling Cup in midweek, finally arrived in the 81st minute when the England midfielder replaced Suarez, who had run himself into the ground.

When the ball dropped to the Reds captain 25 yards out he did not need a second invitation to unleash a dipping volley but there was no fairytale Anfield comeback as the ball bounced wide.

There were a few worrying moments before the end but Dalglish's side saw them out to get back on the winning track.