Date: 28 October 2012
Opposition: Everton
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
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Everton

28 October 2012

THE TIMES

Suarez plays hero, villain and victim in dramatic derby

Everton Osman 22, Naismith 35 Liverpool Baines 14 (og), Suarez 20 Referee A Marriner Attendance 39,613 2 2 Few players divide opinion like Luis Suarez. Fewer still can polarise views in a single game like he did in the 219th playing of the Merseyside derby. Hero, villain, victim and all in the space of 90 remarkable minutes in which Everton came back from two goals down to earn a draw that their recovery deserved, even though the Uruguayan was the one left feeling hard done-by. Suarez is the first to admit that he is like two different people on the pitch. Yesterday he took his split personality to extremes. David Moyes claimed Suarez should have been sent off for scything down Sylvain Distin while Brendan Rodgers complained that he should have been the game's decisive figure - as well as its most divisive one - when he had what would have been an injury-time winner wrongly ruled out for offside.

Much more of this and Suarez will surely have to relieve Mario Balotelli of his "Why Always Me?" T-shirt. That the 25-year-old also scored one goal, created another and celebrated the latter with a dive celebration in front of Moyes, who had accused him of turning people off football, assured that he was once again the main talking point. It is hard to see that changing any time soon.

To concentrate solely on the antics of one player, though, would do a disservice to the 27 others who conspired, in moments of brilliance and of blunder, to produce a derby as compelling and as evenly matched as any seen at Goodison Park in recent years. Liverpool will feel they should have won after taking a two-goal lead inside20 minutes, Everton will feel they should have overturned a two-goal deficit against their local rivals for the first time in their history after getting back on level terms before the interval. But it was Liverpool who were left with the greater sense of grievance as Suarez - who else? - finished Sebastian Coates's headed knockdown from an onside position only for the linesman to rule otherwise.

"I was bitterly disappointed at not getting the winner," Rodgers said. "I am so disappointed it didn't count because it was an easy decision. I am not going to keep going on about officials because it has been happening to us all season. But that one at the end was quite straightforward.

"It was a free kick from deep and the ball was in the air for a long time and you could clearly see he was onside. When he put it in he was marginally level. It was a terrific finish and he could have had a hat-trick. So, instead of being a brilliant win for us, we are left feeling frustrated."

That Moyes agreed with that assessment - albeit with the rider that he felt the award of the free kick for a foul by Leon Osman on Steven Gerrard was soft at best - is unlikely to soothe Rodgers's sense of injustice. "It was a goal but I don't think it was a foul on Gerrard in the middle of the pitch," the Everton manager said. Moyes had his own causes for regret, notably that his own team opened the game so badly. "A terrible start," was how he described it, but it also carried an air of inevitability after Moyes's outspoken criticism of Suarez beforehand. Suarez claimed the opening goal and celebrated it with a belly flop in front of Moyes. "Scouse wit," Rodgers said but, regardless of the sideshow, it appeared that the goal actually belonged to Leighton Baines who diverted Suarez's shot past his own goalkeeper. There was no dispute that Suarez scored the second as he escaped Baines and Phil Jagielka to glance Gerrard's free kick past Tim Howard.

At that point, it seemed that Everton's hopes of winning would come to nothing. But Osman's well-taken goal, from Brad Jones's weak punch, and Steven Naismith's close-range finish from Marouane Fellaini's cross put them back on level terms. Key to their revival was Kevin Mirallas, who enjoyed an increasingly productive first half down the left flank.

Rodgers was at pains afterwards to praise his trio of teenagers - Raheem Sterling, Suso and Andre Wisdom - but, in whichever combination he deployed them, the Liverpool manager was unable to find one that could stop Mirallas. An injury, sustained in a challenge with Suarez, of course, curtailed his involvement at half-time. Rodgers made two changes of his own, withdrawing Suso and Nuri Sahin, and introducing Jonjo Shelvey and Coates, to make his team more robust. The adjustment was needed, but the most significant element was that it involved Rodgers temporarily abandoning his principles. Gone was his faith in youth, gone also was his favoured tactical set-up. Everton's resurgence had forced him into it. As a result, Liverpool became more solid in the second half and, although both sides had half-chances, the drama seemed to have fizzled out until Everton's growing sense of nervousness in the latter stages increased the feeling that there would be one last chance. There was and typically it fell to Suarez, only for the most contentious of decisions to go against him and ensure that while he might have been hero, villain and victim, he would not be the match-winner.

Everton (4-4-1-1): T Howard 6 - S Coleman 5, P Jagielka 6, S Distin 5, L Baines 7 - S Naismith 6 (sub: B Oviedo, 85), P Neville 6, L Osman 7, K Mirallas 8 (sub: M Gueye, 46 5) - M Fellaini 7 - N Jelavic 6. Substitutes not used: J Mucha, T Hibbert, J Heitinga, T Hitzlsperger, A Vellios. Booked: Osman, Neville, Jagielka, Coleman.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): B Jones 6 - A Wisdom 5 (sub: J Henderson, 70 6), M Skrtel 8, D Agger 7, J Enrique 6 - J Allen 6, S Gerrard 6 - R Sterling 7, N Sahin 6 (sub: S Coates, 46 6), Suso 5 (sub: J Shelvey, 46 6) - L Suarez 8. Substitutes not used: P Reina, O Assaidi, S Downing, J Carragher. Booked: Agger, Suarez, Sterling.

Moyes: striker should have been sent off tony barrett David Moyes claimed Luis Suarez should have been sent off for "topping" Sylvain Distin in the second half of Everton's 2-2 draw with Liverpool at Goodison Park.

While the Everton manager insisted he had no complaints about Suarez diving in front of him to celebrateLiverpool's opening goal, he was less willing to accept the Uruguayan receiving only a yellow card from Andre Marriner, the referee, for his challenge on Distin. "I thought it [the dive] was great," Moyes said. "I actually quite liked that and it's the sort of thing I'd have done if I'd have scored but I've got to say he was a very lucky man to stay on the pitch for his tackle. It was the one down the back of Sylvain's legs. He's topped him. It was definitely a red card. I've not seen the other ones but they've shown me the tackle from behind down Sylvain's leg. It's over the top, down the back of the leg."

Brendan Rodgers disagreed with Moyes's assessment, claiming that there had been no malice in Suarez's challenge. "The foul on Distin? I don't think it was a red," the Liverpool manager said. "Sometimes you get that with strikers. It's just a fraction out. He tried to play the ball." Moyes had to take his own captain to task, after Phil Neville was booked for diving in the first half. Having been outspoken about Suarez before the game, accusing the 25-year-old of putting people off football as a result of his theatrics, Moyes was embarrassed by Neville's dive and issued him with a reprimand at half-time. "I told him it was completely wrong," he said. "You don't do that and hopefully he won't do it again."

"It was an absolutely stupid thing to have done," Neville said. "I don't find myself at that end of the pitch very often. I thought Daniel Agger was going to come in behind me and I got a good kick up the backside [from the manager] at half-time and rightly so. I put myself under pressure with the yellow card and I couldn't really make the tackles in the second half."

theguardian

Suarez swoops but Liverpool fail to conquer

David Moyes was wrong on one count about Luis Suarez. Theatrics may well deter supporters from paying good money to watch a manipulated result but, for better or worse, they cannot divert their gaze from the unavoidable draw that is Liverpool's No7. There was a certain inevitability to the 219th Merseyside derby from the moment the Everton manager condemned Suarez and his "history" of diving on Friday. Namely, that it would return to bite his Scottish rear. The Uruguay international inflicted two punishing blows with a central role in the Liverpool goals that sparked a vast improvement and pulsating comeback from Everton but he could, and should, have left a deeper imprint at Goodison Park. He was prevented from giving Liverpool the first major Premier League win of the Brendan Rodgers' era only by an assistant referee's errant flag for offside in stoppage time. But Suarez being Suarez, that was not all.

Liverpool's self-illuminated spotlight also responding to Moyes' criticism with a celebratory dive in front of the Everton dugout, one that sparked mock outrage and claims of incitement afterwards. Nonsense, of course. And at least Suarez can no longer use the footballers' usual excuse of never having read the papers.

Far worse was the spiteful challenge down the back of Sylvian Distin's ankle for which he received a yellow card from referee Andre Marriner. Moyes viewed it a red card offence. Distin was simply lucky his foot was not embedded in the pitch when contact was made, and a break was avoided. All of which detracted from an uncharacteristic open and entertaining derby in which both teams exited with cause for regret and relief. Everton will rue their dreadful start and failure to punish an inexperiencedLiverpool team during a dominant, Kevin Mirallas-inspired finale to the first half. Liverpool's regrets lay in stoppage time and the inability to withstand Everton's belligerent reaction to falling two goals behind. Moyes's team began carelessly, slack passing and an exposed midfield the features of their opening, whileLiverpool appeared content to counterattack dangerously through Suarez and Raheem Sterling throughout. They opened the scoring when Marriner played a good advantage following a foul by Steven Naismith on Suso and allowed Jose Enrique to reach the byline. His low centre evaded the Everton defence, Leighton Baines nudged Sterling aside, a foul according to Rodgers, but the ball fell to Suarez at the far post and his low shot struck the left-back and flew in. Suarez headed straight for the Everton dugout where, arms folded across chest, he executed a dive in front of Moyes. A quiet word from Marriner sufficed. Six minutes later Suarez had a goal of his own when the Everton defence disintegrated at a Steven Gerrard free-kick. The Uruguayan was completely unmarked in front of goal as he glanced a header beyond Tim Howard. Everton needed an instant response to avoid another derby day spent agonising over a wasted opportunity and got one when Brad Jones punched a Baines corner straight to Leon Osman on the edge of his area. Osman drove the return through a packed goalmouth, in off Joe Allen's heel, and the contest was back on. Moyes's side dominated the rest of the opening half with Mirallas the key figure as he tormented the unprotected Liverpool right-back Andre Wisdom. A combination between the Belgians, Mirallas and Marouane Fellaini, conjured a deserved equaliser when the latter drove the ball across the Liverpool goalmouth and Naismith prodded home from close range.

Besides the goals, there was enough incident to keep rivalry aflame. There was a booking for a dive by Phil Neville, embarrassingly for Moyes given his pre-match warnings and one that earned his captain a dressing down at the interval. Sterling received a warning before and after being booked for persistent misconduct, with Howard racing from goal to demand a second yellow card for a foul on Baines. Fortunately for Wisdom, though not Everton, the injured Mirallas failed to reappear for a second half in which Rodgers switched to a three-man central defence to stifle Fellaini's aerial threat and get the full-backs to advance. The ploy succeeded defensively. Sterling squandered a glorious chance to restore

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Everton

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Liverpool's lead in a second half where they remained dangerous on the break, but Everton maintained overall control. It needed a challenge in keeping with a superb display from Martin Skrtel to prevent Nikica Jelavic converting Seamus Coleman's cross and the Croatian headed badly wide from Baines' inviting free-kick. Despite holding the edge, Everton grew nervous as full-time approached and Liverpool sensed punishment. Everyone thought it had arrived when Suarez converted from close range after Sebastian Coates headed down another Gerrard free-kick. Gerrard raced half the length of the field to celebrate before the Liverpool section on his knees, oblivious to play continuing behind him. The assistant referee had flagged for offside, not a foul by Coates as he won the header. Wrongly, it transpired, and Everton were spared.
Man of the match Martin Skrtel (Liverpool)

The Mail

BACK DOWN TO EARTH

EVERTON Osman 22, Naismith 35 2 LIVERPOOL Baines 14 (og), Suarez 20 2 DAVID MOYES had suggested beforehand that Luis Suarez is in danger of turning people off football.
As the dust settled on another thrilling Merseyside derby yesterday, Everton's manager was saved from the ultimate act of revenge by the peculiar raising of a linesman's flag.
Having made one goal and scored another, Suarez had already set off on what looked set to be an elaborate and enthusiastic lap of honour when his stoppage-time toe-poke past Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard was ruled out on the advice of an assistant referee.
Only the man with the flag will know the reason that he decided -- belatedly -- to stick it in the air. Certainly Suarez was not offside when he moved on to a downward header from Sebastian Coates in front of the Gwladys Street End.
On television, Sky Sports pundit Gary Neville, never one to willingly offer a Liverpudlian his sympathy, suggested the linesman might have 'bottled it' and pointed out, quite rightly, that the flag went up far too late to be convincing.
Afterwards, Moyes himself admitted the goal should have stood. Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers, meanwhile, confessed to being rather baffled.
'I will ask for an answer and an explanation,' said Rodgers. 'But it's gone now.'
Indeed it has. The records will merely tell of a 2-2 draw and a point each. Everton remain six points clear of their rivals in the Barclays Premier League while Liverpool are yet to poke their noses into the top half of the table during Rodgers's time at Anfield. What a game this was, though. What an afternoon of cut and thrust and punch and counter-punch. Suarez was always likely to form a significant part of the narrative and certainly he played his part fully in a feisty, tetchy but compelling afternoon. There was much more to admire than just the Uruguayan, though. There was the first-half cameo of Everton's Belgian Kevin Mirallas, and the impressive scurrying and passing of the home team's central midfielder Leon Osman. IN RED, Daniel Agger and Martin Skrtel dealt manfully with the physical threat of Everton's terrific front two, Marouane Fellaini and Nikica Jelavic, while Rodgers's decision to begin the second half with three central defenders went some way to turning back a tide that had threatened to wash his team away once Everton had recovered an early two-goal deficit.
Manchester City's Roberto Mancini, so vilified for playing 3-5-2 in the Champions League last Wednesday, must have sat at home and smiled. Tactical switches are only allowed if they work, or so it seems.
Certainly Rodgers could not have wished for a better start. Everton were quick from the blocks and pressuredLiverpool with two early corners. But, in the 14th minute, Suarez saw his cross-shot deflected into the net by the thigh of Leighton Baines and, as Liverpool celebrated the lead, he presented Moyes with the perfect swan dive right in front of the dugout.
The FA may look at it today but, at the time, it was hard not to smile.
Five minutes later it was 2-0 after Steven Gerrard drifted a free-kick towards the penalty spot and Suarez ambled into acres of lush grass to nudge the ball past Howard with his forehead. Everton, such a confident team this season, looked a little stunned and no wonder. This was not how things are supposed to work on Merseyside these days. Crucially, though, they grabbed a foothold almost immediately. Liverpool goalkeeper Brad Jones advanced to punch away a corner and the Australian was still trying to regain his position when Osman's driven shot whistled past him and into the net. Belief and confidence restored, Everton dominated the rest of the first half. With Jonjo Shelvey on the bench,Liverpool looked light in central areas and, in truth, Everton ran them ragged at times.
The equaliser arrived in the 35th minute. Fellaini delivered a low cross from the left and, as Jones failed to command his six-yard box, Steven Naismith arrived to crash the ball in from close range. Had Mirallas stayed on, Everton might have won the game. But he remained in the dressing room with an ankle injury at half-time and the second period was more even.
Both sides had chances. Raheem Sterling should have scored when clean through, while Jelavic headed a clear opportunity wide at the other end.
Suarez was never far from the action, of course, and Moyes thought he should have been sent off for a foul on Sylvain Distin. It was hard to determine intent, though, and on reflection Suarez perhaps deserved the benefit of the doubt.
Had he scored the winner, Moyes would still have been complaining this morning. As it was, the Everton manager was saved that particular indignity.

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool flag up injustice at late denial

Everton 2
Osman 22, Naismith 35
Liverpool 2
Baines 14 og, Suarez 20 Att: 39,613

Liverpool left with a point and a crate of evidence to support Brendan Rodgers' swelling persecution complex at the hands of match officials.
Luis Suarez as the modern reincarnation of Little Lord Fauntleroy may take a while to pull off, but Rodgers felt aggrieved that a linesman's flag wrongly denied his striker the status of Merseyside derby hero.
He was adamant it was a case of the sinner being sinned against, the disallowed 'winner' in the fourth minute of stoppage time grist to the mill following a series of unfavourable decisions.
"I'm not going to keep going on about officials because it has been happening to us all season. But that one at the end was quite straightforward," said Rodgers. "It was a freekick from deep and the ball was in the air for a long time and you could clearly see he was onside. When he put it in he was marginally level. It was a terrific finish and he could have had a hat-trick. He was not at all motivated by any comments before the game. He is motivated every day of his life.
"I was bitterly disappointed at not getting the winner. It was a brilliant game and I thought we stood up well. I am so disappointed it didn't count because it was an easy decision.
"So, instead of being a brilliant win for us, we are left feeling frustrated. At the same time I am very proud because of the way my young team performed in a real cauldron."
There was a certain irony that a booking for diving was given to an Everton player. "Do you want me to talk about Phil Neville? Don't start me," Rodgers tersely observed.
A captivating encounter was granted a suitably contentious final act. Quite where Suarez was heading after nudging Sebastian Coates' header beyond Tim Howard is now, sadly, a matter for conjecture.
After his role in Liverpool's first, most likely to go down as a Leighton Baines own goal, Suarez ran towards David Moyes and dived at his feet, evidently unimpressed by the Everton manager's highly politicised assessment of his reputation. "It's called Scouse wit," said Rodgers when asked about the striker's evidently premeditated response.
Moyes stated before kick-off he finds it hard to sleep after a derby, and he would have endured another restless night had the goal stood.
The passing of an opportunity to confirm the merit of suggestions that he now possesses a superior line-up may still cause some disturbance.
This was unfamiliar territory for the hosts. They are no longer perceived as punching above their weight, expected rather than simply willed to win such fixtures. Their inability to do so owed everything to a dire start and a failure to reassert themselves after their enforced half-time substitution and Liverpool's shift in formation.
Everton ended a frantic first half level and in command but they were permanently undermined by the premature departure of Kevin Mirallas who, until then, was defining events.
Despite their early two-goal lead, Liverpool's line-up was fragile.
Although Raheem Sterling adapted swiftly to the intensity of the occasion, Suso and Nuri Sahin were dynamic in possession but a liability without it. Sahin had assisted Suarez with the opening goal on 14 minutes, prior to the Uruguayan glancing his header from Gerrard's free-kick for the second. Leon Osman benefited from a tame punch to cut the deficit and Steven Naismith equalised after the right of Liverpool's defence went missing 10 minutes before half-time. Mirallas constantly attacked teenager Andre Wisdom until the Belgian's ankle gave way just before half time.
Liverpool responded tactically, introducing Coates and abandoning the 4-3-3 Rodgers usually defends with a religious zeal, and it worked. It was as if the Liverpool manager began the derby clinging to his romanticism before realising pragmatism is usually more productive when the cut and thrust begins.
Rodgers said he had to change to counter Everton's direct style. "My change was due to the fact that they had two guys of 6ft3ins and 6ft4ins up front and everyone kept smashing balls up to them," he said. "We needed that extra body. It can be dif-ficult, especially defending against a team that is very direct, putting loads of long balls into the box."
There was more serenity after the break. Anxiety spread in the home ranks in the final stages, Liverpoolretaining composure on the ball and benefiting from some reckless challenges.
They thought they had stolen the winner but Suarez left sporting his usual pose, both blessed and cursed. It was an afternoon that underlined why he is so endearing to his own fans, but why Moyes probably still refuses to utter his name without a mouthwash handy.

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Everton

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THE INDEPENDENT

IT'S THE LUIS SUAREZ SHOW

Love him or loathe him, Luis Suarez is a man you just cannot keep out of the limelight and so it proved once more in this pulsating Merseyside derby. A match that featured a dramatic first-half fightback by Everton - from two down after 20 minutes to 2-2 after 35 - ended with just one name on people's lips, that ofLiverpool's Uruguayan No7.

Suarez it was who celebrated Liverpool's opening goal with a Klinsmann-style swallow dive in front of David Moyes, the Everton manager who had suggested beforehand that Liverpool's South American "has got history" when it comes to taking tumbles. That was just for starters. Suarez added Liverpool's second goal and then was denied a legitimate third deep in stoppage time when he lashed a close-range finish high into the Gwladys Street net. Only after he had run away in celebration did the assistant referee raise his flag for offside - TV replays showed he was onside when Sebastian Coates flicked on a Steven Gerrard free-kick, leaving Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, to rue his side's luck.

"It is a free-kick from deep, the ball is in the air for a long time, the official is just looking across the line, he is clearly onside and when [Coates] heads it through, he is at minimum level and it is a wonderful finish. He should have had his goal and it would have been a brilliant win for us."

Evertonians might argue their team were due a big decision in a derby match - remember Jack Rodwell's red card in this fixture 12 months ago - and Moyes himself argued that it was not a foul by Leon Osman on Gerrard in the build-up. Moreover, he claimed that by that stage Suarez should not have even been on the pitch after the referee, Andre Marriner, showed him only a yellow after an incident in the 71st minute when he appeared to scrape his studs down the back of Distin's heels. "It is definitely [a red]," said the Scot.

When the dust settles, though, both managers will find cause for satisfaction from a contest that was so much more than just the Luis Suarez show - it gave us one of the most breathless first halves in the history of a fixture now 219 games old.

An Everton side seeking to underline their current supremacy on Merseyside won their first corner after 16 seconds but instead it was Liverpool who gained the early ascendancy and got in front after 14 minutes when Jose Enrique ran in behind Seamus Coleman and drove a low ball across the six-yard box. Leighton Baines blocked off Raheem Sterling as he tried to reach it but Suarez, arriving beyond the far post, picked it up and drove in a low cross-shot that deflected in off the legs of Baines. Suarez duly made a beeline for the home dugout where he threw himself to the turf in theatrical fashion. "It's called Scouse wit," said Rodgers. For his first meeting with Everton, the Liverpool manager had fielded the Reds' least-experienced derby team since November 1970, sending out five players new to this fixture in Nuri Sahin, Joe Allen, Suso, Sterling and Andre Wisdom - the last three all teenagers.

It was Sterling who made arguably the biggest impact, frightening Everton's back line with his pace. And after Osman had tried once to trip him as he sped away in the middle of the pitch, the subsequent foul by the Everton man - albeit accidental-looking as he clipped his heel - led to Liverpool's second goal. Gerrard curled over the free-kick and Suarez was left free by Nikica Jelavic to nod the ball on into the far corner. Fortunately for Everton, they snatched a lifeline moments later. After Marouane Fellaini's shot was deflected behind, Brad Jones, deputising for the injured Pepe Reina, punched the resulting corner to the edge of the box where Osman took one touch and then drove the ball back through the forest of legs and into the bottom corner. It was breathless stuff and the heat was rising too as Sterling, already booked for obstructing Baines, escaped a second yellow for a clear trip on the same player. By the 35th minute it was 2-2 after Mirallas's attempted cross from the left struck his compatriot Fellaini and the big Belgian picked up the loose ball and fired it low into the six-yard box where, with Enrique ball-watching, Naismith slotted home his first goal in Everton blue.

Evertonian tails were up and it was Mirallas, with his pace and direct running down the left, who was leading the charge. One jinking run ended with a flashing shot that Jones tipped behind. "He was outstanding," Moyes said of Mirallas. "He was fantastic in that period. [For] 20 minutes up to half-time he was nearly unstoppable and a bit unlucky not to score."

Goodison roared its anger when Suarez trod on Mirallas's foot leading up to half-time and the winger's failure to reappear after half-time was "a big blow", Moyes admitted. Just as telling was Rodgers's tactical reshuffle as he withdrew Suso and Sahin and switched to a back three, with Coates joining Skrtel and Daniel Agger in central defence to help deal with Everton's aerial menace and Jonjo Shelvey coming on to bolster the midfield. Sterling now moved up front alongside Suarez and the switch almost paid immediate dividends when the 17-year-old got in behind the Everton defence but fluffed his shot. "I made the tactical change to try and help us defensively but give us a wee bit more offensive threat. I thought that worked quite well for us," said Rodgers.

An air of caution seemed to take hold but there were still openings, notably for Jelavic who missed a golden chance when glancing wide from Baines's free-kick into the box. Just when it seemed like the game would meander to a draw, that man Suarez sparked it back into life. First he caught Distin to earn his yellow card and then he found the net after Gerrard had floated in a far-post free-kick and Coates headed the ball on. A flag went up and a huge sigh of relief rolled around Goodison.

DAILY Mirror

Deja blue: Does latest derby draw prove Everton have a mental block when it comes to beating rivals Liverpool?

"So you guys know. The atmosphere in the dressing room after the game was the same as a defeat. Shows how good we all want to do."

Sylvain Distin's reaction on Twitter to Everton's 2-2 draw in the Merseyside derby perfectly sums up the mood in the Blues dressing room.

Distin didn't say so, by I suspect that subdued atmosphere was also down to Everton's disappointment at failing to beat Liverpool yet again.

It's striking that since Liverpool went into decline in 2009-10, Everton have managed to beat them just once in eight meetings.

That statistic is even more glaring, considering how bad Liverpool have been over the last two seasons when Everton have been better than them in the Premier League.

Yet their head-to-head record during the last two seasons reads three wins to Liverpool and one draw.

If ever Everton were going to improve their miserable record, it should have been yesterday.

It was all set up for them - they were at home, they had made their best start to a league campaign since finishing fourth in 2005, while Liverpool were in disarray.

OK, Everton did show great resilience in coming back from 2-0 down to level, but the longer the second half went on, the worse they looked and the more likely Liverpool looked like scoring.

And score Liverpool did, although Luis Suarez's stoppage-time effort was wrongly ruled out in one of the great officiating clangers.

I know losing Kevin Mirallas at half-time hit Everton, but they should still have been better than that.

This got me thinking about that mental block Everton sometimes display when they face Liverpool.

Last season's FA Cup semi-final is the classic example when despite Liverpool being poor, Everton managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Liverpool were hardly a side to be feared yesterday with rookies Raheem Sterling, Andre Wisdom and Suso in their starting line-up.

Jose Enrique also rivalled Mirallas as Everton's best player in the first half, and yet David Moyes' side were fortunate to escape with a draw.

It does not seem to matter who is playing for Liverpool, the sight of those red shirts and the Liverbird are enough to unsettle Everton.

For all the progress the Toffees have undoubted made this year, they still seem to have this psychological hoodoo when it comes to Liverpool.

I know Evertonians will disagree with this and insist they are not overawed by Liverpool, but until Moyes can improve on his tally of just four wins from 24 derbies - and none at Anfield - I remain to be convinced otherwise.

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Everton

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LIVERPOOL ECHO

FOR the past 35 years Kopites have had to endure the constant reminders of Clive Thomas' place in derby folklore. Evertonians' outrage at Bryan Hamilton's late strike in the 1977 FA Cup semi-final being chalked off has lingered for so long that Liverpool have picked up five European Cups since.

That burning sense of injustice has been passed down the generations, the passage of time seemingly serving only to intensity those feelings of resentment.

However, maybe now, the Blues might let it go. After all they escaped with a point from a pulsating 219th instalment of this fixture courtesy of some incompetence of the highest order. For Clive Thomas, read assistant referee Simon Bennett.

Like Thomas, Bennett is highly unlikely to ever explain his ludicrous decision to deny Liverpool a dramatic stoppage-time winner. He saw an offside that simply didn't exist. When Sebastian Coates leapt above Phil Jagielka to nod Steven Gerrard's free-kick back across goal, Luis Suarez pounced to fire into the roof of the net. For Liverpool, this was the dream finale. The outstanding Uruguayan silencing the Gwladys Street and handing Brendan Rodgers his place in the history books alongside Kenny Dalglish as the only manager in the club's 120-year history to win their first derby at Goodison Park.

However, the celebrations were wrongly curtailed by a flag which shouldn't have been raised. You can watch it 100 times and still be left wondering what was possibly going through Bennett's head.

Mistakes happen and the pace of modern football makes life tough for officials but this was baffling and manna from heaven for the conspiracy theorists.

“You just hope somewhere along the line that you get the rub of the green,” said Rodgers in the build up to Sunday's game. “We haven't got anything this year. I hope that this weekend we might start to get a decision that goes our way for once.” The wait for that goes on. The throw-in which referee Andre Marriner wrongly awarded to Everton prior to their second goal didn't help Rodgers' mood.

After being denied four successive derby triumphs for the first time since 1991 in such controversial fashion and having squandered a 2-0 lead, the sense of disappointment was acute. But in the cold light of day there should be a sense of pride and encouragement from the way the Reds performed in a hostile environment. Ability was coupled with character in abundance.

It's a day teenagers Raheem Sterling, Suso and Andre Wisdom will never forget. They refused to be overawed by the occasion and it will be a big step forward in their education. With Joe Allen, Nuri Sahin and Sebastian Coates also involved, the Reds had half a dozen derby debutants – the most they have fielded since 1970. Everton, flying high after a fine start to the campaign, boasted the greater experience and physical presence but Rodgers' side refused to be bullied.

When they were briefly rocking having seen their two-goal cushion wiped out, the boss' tactical switch at half-time changed the game.

By introducing Coates and switching to 3-5-2, Liverpool regained control in the second half. They were better equipped to deal with the aerial bombardment. Jonjo Shelvey added more bite in midfield after Sahin had been ineffective and with Sterling impressing in a central role alongside Suarez, the Reds went agonisingly close to grabbing a winner.

David Moyes had delivered Suarez's pre-match team talk with his scathing attack on him. His attempt to pile the pressure on Marriner by warning him not to be fooled by any theatrics, served to fire up the Reds' top scorer whose celebration after the deadlock was broken will live long in the memory.

After latching on to Jose Enrique's cross, Suarez's 14th minute strike cannoned off Leighton Baines and into the net. The striker raced towards the home dugout before performing the perfect swallow dive in front of Moyes.

The Blues boss says he fears that divers “will drive fans away from the game” so after the actions of his captain yesterday there's likely to be plenty of empty seats at Goodison over the coming weeks. Phil Neville's ridiculous attempt to con Marriner into giving a free-kick on the edge of the box deservedly earned him a booking. Buoyed by the early breakthrough, the Reds doubled their tally in the 20th minute. Skipper Steven Gerrard, who led by example as he pulled the strings in the middle, whipped in the perfect free-kick and Suarez sent a glancing header past Tim Howard. The pace and intensity of the game was relentless but from a position of dominance, Liverpool gifted the Blues a way back.

With Pepe Reina deemed not fit enough to start the game, Brad Jones kept his place in goal. The Australian had been faultless in the two previous outings but he didn't cover himself in glory with the punch from Baines' corner which Leon Osman sent back with interest into the bottom corner.

Suddenly, the atmosphere was transformed and Jones was lucky to earn a free-kick after spilling the ball under pressure from Sylvain Distin.

Energised by the goal, Everton gathered momentum. Young Wisdom faced his toughest test yet as the right-back tried to handle the lively Kevin Mirallas.

The Reds were fortunate that Mirallas didn't emerge for the second half after pulling up lame. Wisdom found substitute Magaye Gueye a much easier proposition. Glen Johnson was sorely missed at left-back and as the Blues cranked up the pressure they equalised 10 minutes before the break. It came from a throw which shouldn't have been theirs but Rodgers' side were slow to close down Marouane Fellaini and then Enrique failed to track Steven Naismith, who swept the ball home from close range.

The arrival of Shelvey and Coates for Sahin and Suso, coupled with the change of formation, successfully stemmed the tide. Sterling wasted a glorious chance to put the Reds back in front but sliced wide with just Howard to beat. The 17-year-old caused Everton plenty of problems after being put in a central role with Jagielka booked for hauling him down. The punishment could have been more severe, as was the case when Suarez stepped on Distin's Achilles, but Marriner was lenient and this time both sides kept the full complement on the pitch.

Liverpool defended bravely in the second half and with Allen running himself into the ground, they increasingly threatened on the counter-attack.

Gerrard and Sterling both went close before Suarez thought he had secured a cherished victory. Cruelly, the sense of joy was shortlived.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 28 October 2012
Opposition: Everton
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	
Independent	Mail	BBC

Everton

28 October 2012

BBC

90:00+4:51Full time The referee blows for the end of the match.
90:00+4:12 Luis Suarez has an effort at goal from deep inside the area missing to the right of the goal.
90:00+2:43 Foul by Leon Osman on Steven Gerrard, free kick awarded. The free kick is swung in right-footed by Steven Gerrard.
90:00+3:38 The referee blows for offside. Tim Howard restarts play with the free kick.
90:00+2:43 Steven Gerrard fouled by Leon Osman, the ref awards a free kick. Free kick crossed right-footed by Steven Gerrard from right channel.
90:00+1:47 Foul by Magaye Gueye on Joe Allen, free kick awarded. Free kick taken by Daniel Agger.
90:00+1:24 Bryan Oviedo delivers the ball, Sanchez Jose Enrique gets a block in.
89:52 Nikica Jelavic is caught offside. Free kick taken by Brad Jones.
88:18 Sylvain Distin concedes a free kick for a foul on Luis Suarez. Free kick crossed right-footed by Steven Gerrard.
87:37 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Sylvain Distin by Raheem Sterling. Phil Jagielka restarts play with the free kick.
86:44 Bryan Oviedo produces a cross, clearance by Jonjo Shelvey.
85:55 Daniel Agger restarts play with the free kick.
85:55Booking for Seamus Coleman for unsporting behaviour.
85:47 Raheem Sterling fouled by Seamus Coleman, the ref awards a free kick.
84:59 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Seamus Coleman by Raheem Sterling. Phil Jagielka takes the free kick.
84:39Substitution SubstitutionBryan Oviedo comes on in place of Steven Naismith.
84:30 Shot by Raheem Sterling from outside the box goes over the target.
84:21 Steven Naismith concedes a free kick for a foul on Joe Allen. Direct free kick taken by Joe Allen.
83:32 Corner taken by Steven Gerrard, Leon Osman manages to make a clearance.
83:11 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Leighton Baines gets a block in.
82:44 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Save by Tim Howard.
82:30 Corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the left by-line, Sylvain Distin manages to make a clearance.
82:17 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Blocked by Phil Jagielka.
80:34 Outswinging corner taken by Leighton Baines from the left by-line, Sylvain Distin produces a header from inside the area that goes over the bar.
80:19 Leighton Baines takes a shot. Martin Skrtel gets a block in.
79:33 Sebastian Coates challenges Marouane Fellaini unfairly and gives away a free kick. Phil Neville restarts play with the free kick.
78:25 Foul by Joe Allen on Marouane Fellaini, free kick awarded. Sylvain Distin takes the direct free kick.
77:23 Marouane Fellaini challenges Raheem Sterling unfairly and gives away a free kick. Joe Allen takes the free kick.
76:41 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Joe Allen by Steven Naismith. Daniel Agger takes the direct free kick.
76:10 Jonjo Shelvey has an effort at goal from outside the area which goes wide left of the target.
75:57 Centre by Seamus Coleman, comfortable save by Brad Jones.
75:04 Free kick awarded for a foul by Jonjo Shelvey on Sylvain Distin. Direct free kick taken by Tim Howard.
74:42 Marouane Fellaini gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Joe Allen. Free kick taken by Joe Allen.
73:49 Inswinging corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the left by-line played to the near post, clearance made by Nikica Jelavic.
73:38 Jordan Henderson sends in a cross, save by Tim Howard.
73:19 Magaye Gueye delivers the ball.
70:15 Tim Howard restarts play with the free kick.
70:15Booking for Luis Suarez.
70:10 Foul by Luis Suarez on Sylvain Distin, free kick awarded.
69:03Substitution SubstitutionJordan Henderson on for Andre Wisdom.
67:56 Leighton Baines crosses the ball in from the free kick, Sanchez Jose Enrique makes a clearance.
67:56Booking Daniel Agger booked.
67:54 Daniel Agger is penalised for a handball.
67:26 Luis Suarez is flagged offside by the assistant referee. Phil Jagielka takes the indirect free kick.
65:24 Joe Allen challenges Seamus Coleman unfairly and gives away a free kick. The ball is crossed by Leighton Baines, Header from close range by Nikica Jelavic misses to the right of the target.
63:06 Sebastian Coates concedes a free kick for a foul on Nikica Jelavic. Centre by Leighton Baines, Nikica Jelavic has a headed effort at goal from deep inside the area missing to the right of the goal.
60:55 Shot from outside the box by Leon Osman goes wide right of the target.
60:23 The ball is delivered by Seamus Coleman, Martin Skrtel gets a block in.
58:28 Seamus Coleman produces a cross, Headed effort from inside the area by Marouane Fellaini misses to the left of the goal.
58:19 Centre by Leighton Baines, clearance made by Daniel Agger.
56:37 Shot comes in from Steven Gerrard from the free kick, save made by Tim Howard.
56:37Booking Phil Jagielka booked for unsporting behaviour.
56:34 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Raheem Sterling by Phil Jagielka.
54:33 Seamus Coleman crosses the ball, Martin Skrtel makes a clearance.
52:32 Daniel Agger gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Marouane Fellaini. Direct free kick taken by Seamus Coleman.
50:13 Effort from the edge of the box by Seamus Coleman goes wide of the right-hand upright.
49:56 Nikica Jelavic takes a shot. Save by Brad Jones.
49:26 Unfair challenge on Marouane Fellaini by Jonjo Shelvey results in a free kick. Phil Jagielka takes the free kick.
48:55 Raheem Sterling produces a mishit right-footed shot from deep inside the penalty area which goes wide of the right-hand post.
47:53 The ball is delivered by Magaye Gueye, clearance made by Martin Skrtel.
47:19 Steven Gerrard concedes a free kick for a foul on Steven Naismith. Phil Jagielka takes the direct free kick.
47:09 Centre by Andre Wisdom, save made by Tim Howard.
45:01 The second half has started.
45:01Substitution SubstitutionMagaye Gueye is brought on as a substitute for Kevin Mirallas.
45:01Substitution SubstitutionJonjo Shelvey on for Jesus Fernandez Saez.
45:01Substitution SubstitutionSebastian Coates is brought on as a substitute for Nuri Sahin.
45:00+3:16Half time It is the end of the first-half.
45:00+2:14 Shot from just outside the box by Steven Gerrard goes over the bar.
45:00+1:50 Direct free kick taken by Brad Jones.
45:00+1:09Booking Phil Neville is shown a yellow card.
45:00+0:18 Luis Suarez gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Leighton Baines. Tim Howard takes the free kick.
45:00+0:06 Free kick awarded for a foul by Kevin Mirallas on Jesus Fernandez Saez. Direct free kick taken by Nuri Sahin.
44:16 Effort on goal by Seamus Coleman from just outside the penalty area goes harmlessly over the target.
44:06 Outswinging corner taken left-footed by Leighton Baines from the left by-line.
43:28 Leighton Baines takes the outswinging corner, Sylvain Distin takes a shot. Clearance made by Martin Skrtel.
43:16 Kevin Mirallas takes a shot. Martin Skrtel gets a block in.
42:33 Unfair challenge on Joe Allen by Kevin Mirallas results in a free kick. Joe Allen takes the free kick.
41:29 Sylvain Distin is ruled offside. Free kick taken by Brad Jones.
40:27 Luis Suarez gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Kevin Mirallas. Leighton Baines crosses the ball from the free kick left-footed from left wing, clearance by Daniel Agger.
38:28 Leon Osman produces a left-footed shot from just outside the penalty box that goes wide left of the target.
38:11 Corner taken by Leighton Baines played to the near post, Steven Gerrard manages to make a clearance.
37:55 Kevin Mirallas takes a shot. Save by Brad Jones.
35:52 A cross is delivered by Raheem Sterling.
34:34 Assist by Marouane Fellaini.
34:34Goal scored Goal - Steven Naismith - Everton 2 - 2 LiverpoolSteven Naismith fires in a goal from inside the six-yard box to the bottom left corner of the goal. Everton 2-2 Liverpool.
34:32 Centre by Marouane Fellaini,
34:12 A cross is delivered by Steven Gerrard, Leon Osman makes a clearance.
32:03 Nikica Jelavic is caught offside. Brad Jones restarts play with the free kick.
30:53 Leighton Baines fouled by Raheem Sterling, the ref awards a free kick. Tim Howard restarts play with the free kick.
30:03 Unfair challenge on Joe Allen by Kevin Mirallas results in a free kick. Free kick taken by Andre Wisdom.
29:27 Kevin Mirallas crosses the ball, save by Brad Jones.
29:01 Kevin Mirallas produces a cross, clearance by Andre Wisdom.
28:28 Free kick taken by Leighton Baines.
28:28Booking Raheem Sterling is shown a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.
28:24 Leighton Baines fouled by Raheem Sterling, the ref awards a free kick.
27:45 Free kick awarded for a foul by Nuri Sahin on Kevin Mirallas. Sylvain Distin takes the free kick.
26:02 Luis Suarez produces a left-footed shot from outside the penalty box and misses right.
25:13 The ball is swung over by Kevin Mirallas, Unfair challenge on Brad Jones by Sylvain Distin results in a free kick. Free kick taken by Brad Jones.
25:02 Kevin Mirallas decides to take a short corner.
24:48 A cross is delivered by Kevin Mirallas, clearance made by Martin Skrtel.
23:27 Phil Neville delivers the ball, Martin Skrtel manages to make a clearance.
22:36 Raheem Sterling challenges Leighton Baines unfairly and gives away a free kick. Leighton Baines takes the free kick.
21:29 Assist by Leighton Baines.
21:29Goal scored Goal - Leon Osman - Everton 1 - 2 LiverpoolLeon Osman fires in a goal from the edge of the penalty box to the bottom left corner of the goal. Everton 1-2 Liverpool.
21:17 Corner taken left-footed by Leighton Baines, Brad Jones makes a save.
20:59 Marouane Fellaini takes a shot. Blocked by Daniel Agger.
19:50 Assist by Steven Gerrard.
19:50Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Everton 0 - 2 LiverpoolLuis Suarez finds the back of the net with a headed goal from inside the area. Everton 0-2 Liverpool.
19:10 The ball is swung over by Steven Gerrard,
19:10Booking Leon Osman is shown a yellow card.
19:07 Unfair challenge on Raheem Sterling by Leon Osman results in a free kick.
17:49 Free kick awarded for a foul by Marouane Fellaini on Daniel Agger. Free kick taken by Daniel Agger.
17:20 Foul by Jesus Fernandez Saez on Steven Naismith, free kick awarded. Free kick taken by Seamus Coleman.
13:54 Assist on the goal came from Luis Suarez.
13:54Goal scored Goal - Leighton Baines - Everton 0 - 1 LiverpoolAn own goal is scored by Leighton Baines. Everton 0-1 Liverpool.
13:52 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Leighton Baines gets a block in.
11:19 Nuri Sahin is caught offside. Tim Howard takes the indirect free kick.
9:21 Corner taken by Leighton Baines, Headed effort from inside the area by Nikica Jelavic misses to the left of the goal.
9:11 Inswinging corner taken by Kevin Mirallas from the left by-line, Brad Jones makes a save.
8:55 The ball is sent over by Kevin Mirallas, clearance by Martin Skrtel.
6:49 Unfair challenge on Nuri Sahin by Steven Naismith results in a free kick. Sanchez Jose Enrique takes the free kick.
4:51 Jesus Fernandez Saez crosses the ball, save by Tim Howard.
4:27 The ball is swung over by Marouane Fellaini, clearance made by Daniel Agger.
3:43 Nuri Sahin crosses the ball.
3:13 Steven Gerrard takes the inswinging corner, Phil Neville makes a clearance.
3:04 Steven Gerrard produces a cross, Steven Naismith gets a block in.
2:41 Short corner taken by Steven Gerrard.
0:33 Inswinging corner taken from the right by-line by Leighton Baines, clearance made by Daniel Agger.
0:15 The ball is swung over by Nikica Jelavic, Martin Skrtel manages to make a clearance.
0:00 The referee gets the game started.

Compiled by Graeme Riley