Date: 8 November 2012 Opposition: Anzhi Makhac

Opposition: Anzhi Makhachkala Competition: Europa League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Post
Independent	Mail	BBC

THE TIMES

Anzhi see bright future as tepid Liverpool have only past glories Anzhi Makhachkala 1 Liverpool 0 From conquering Europe with a team who provoked continental envy, to seeing a second string humbled by a club who dream of taking their place amongst the elite, Liverpool'sdecline continues to be as rapid as it is alarming.

Anzhi Makhachkala - whose ambition of achieving in the future the success that Liverpool enjoyed in the past is best measured by the [pounds sterling]350,000 they pay Samuel Eto'o every week - gained the scalp that they hope will put them on the map as never before. But whether the sorry nature of the defeat and accompanying performance merits victory over Liverpool being regarded as such a notable accomplishment is open to question.

This was Liverpool in name but not much else, certainly not in the meek manner in which they succumbed to an Anzhi side who did little to establish their own credentials as a potential superpower other than to gain the three points. With Brendan Rodgers preferring to use the game as an opportunity to offer match practice to players on the fringes of his squad, Liverpool were a pale imitation of even their present selves and they could have no complaints about the result. A clash between one club looking to maintain their ascent with another who are trying desperately to halt their descent is always likely to provoke curiosity value, but, in a largely deserted stadium almost a thousand miles away from Anzhi's home, the game had an artificial feel.

That sense was only added to by the Liverpool starting line-up, which amounted to little more than a reserve team. Little wonder Muscovites did not feel compelled to leave the warmth of their homes in any great numbers to watch this watered-down version of a 6--club whose status as five-times European champions is usually sufficient to generate interest.

That the contest was almost a quarter of the way through before sparking into any kind of life made added sense of the thousands of empty seats inside the Stadion Lokomotiv. Even the incident that roused those present from their slumber promised more than it delivered, as Jordan Henderson tried to pick a pass instead of shooting after being released by Adam Morgan, only for Joao Carlos to intercept with ease.

Having acknowledged that this was an opportunity to stake his claim for regular first-team football, Henderson had reason to regret his lack of conviction. Given that it was also Liverpool's only real chance of the first half, it also cost his team as Anzhi grew in stature from that point on, putting the visiting team under increasing pressure.

Liverpool had already survived a couple of scares by the time that Anzhi took the lead, with Brad Jones denying Samuel Eto'o and Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez shooting over when well placed. Despite having opted for a fiveman defence, Rodgers's conservatism was not making Liverpool impermeable, as Lacina Traore demonstrated on the stroke of half-time as the Ivorian left Sebastian Coates trailing with a deft touch before calmly lofting the ball over the onrushing Jones to score.

Going behind was arguably harsh on Liverpool as Anzhi had hardly been dominant, with their threat more sporadic than continuous. It was certainly harsh on the youngsters in Rodgers's side with Conor Coady, a 19-year-old making his full debut, impressive as he recovered from a shaky start to produce a mature midfield display

If anything, it was some of the more experienced players who let Rodgers down, with Coates's naivety causing Anzhi's goal, Shelvey being occasionally wasteful in possession and Joe Cole peripheral once again. The bluntness of Liverpool's attack was put in perspective by the growing menace of the towering Traore, around whom Anzhi built the overwhelming majority of their play in the final third. Traore twice went close to doubling Anzhi's lead as he shot narrowly wide from 25 yards before directing a free header straight at Jones. But the big concern for Liverpool was that they were creating so little, a fault Rodgers tried to rectify by replacing Adam Morgan and Coady with Dani Pacheco and Suso. Cole should have equalised shortly after the double substitution but could only shoot straight at Vladimir Gabulov after the Anzhi goalkeeper had spilt Suso's effort. It was Cole's last action as he was immediately replaced by Oussama Assiaidi. The belated show of ambition from Liverpool left them increasingy stretched at the back, however, and Traore should have put the result beyond doubt after 78 minutes when he shot wide after being put through by Eto'o. Liverpool were unable to raise themselves into any kind of rousing finale and Anzhi coasted to the final whistle without their record of having never conceded a European goal at home being tested.

Anzhi Makhachkala (4-2-3-1): V Gabulov - A Logashov, C Samba, J Carlos, R Tagirbekov - O Ahmedov (sub: M Carcela-Gonzalez, 30min; S Lahiyalov, 90), Jucilei - M Boussoufa, S Eto'o, Y Zhirkov - L Traore (sub: F Smolov, 81). Substitutes not used: E Pomazan, A Gadzhibekov, K Agalarov, N Burmistrov. Liverpool (5-3-1-1): B Jones - J Flanagan, A Wisdom, S Coates, J Carragher, S Downing - J Shelvey, J Henderson, C Coady (sub: Suso, 61) - J Cole (sub: O Assaidi, 77) - A Morgan (sub: D Pacheco, 61). Substitutes not used: P Gulacsi, D Wilson, S Sama, J Robinson. Booked: Flanagan, Shelvey. Referee: D Borbalan (Spain).

theguardian

Liverpool fall to flash of skill by Anzhi Makhachkala's Lacina Traoré Brendan Rodgers on Thursday night claimed it was disrespectful to suggest selection policy was wrong after his Liverpool team lost by the only goal to Anzhi Makhachkala in the Europa League in Moscow. The Reds, who left players such as Steven Gerrard and Luis Suárez at home, were beaten by Lacina Traoré's goal seconds before half-time in Group D.

Rodgers felt the team, which contained nine Englishmen, one of them a debutant in Conor Coady, and had an average age of just under 24, had performed well. The defeat means Liverpool concede top spot in the group to Anzhi.

The manager, asked whether bringing Gerrard and the others would have made a difference, said: "Not at all. I think that is a little disrespectful to the players who are here. They have been magnificent and I thought they did really well and we just got punished for a mistake.

"That led to us losing the game but I don't think it was anything to do with Suárez, Gerrard, Joe Allen, Martin Skrtel or Daniel Agger not being here. It was just one of those things. We will take it as a team, we are disappointed but there are so many positives from tonight."

Traoré's goal came when he turned Sebastián Coates and lobbed the goalkeeper Brad Jones for his fourth goal in six matches.

Rodgers said the players know what went wrong and he felt the team he picked had justified his selection. "We are disappointed with the result. I thought the players put everything into the game," he added. "Tactically our concentration was very good. We controlled the game for 44 minutes and 50 seconds of the first half. We made a bad mistake and got punished and that is the level.

"It was more of the same [in the] second half. We had chances and there is real disappointment in the changing room and I felt for the players.

"We were up against a good side with top players and we held our own. Some of the young players were terrific and we are disappointed not to have got something from it.

"It was a mistake late on in the half. We just have to do that better, [be better] at defending it once he [Traore] has turned.

"That is something the players involved know themselves so it is nothing they need to be told."

The Anzhi manager, Guus Hiddink, was happy to gain revenge for their defeat at Anfield a fortnight ago.

"They had a young side but that does not mean they were not experienced as some of those players play frequently in the Premier League," he said. "They were good players, skilful players who were tactically good.

"They tested us but we also have some young players so it's a good result for us. "We didn't finish it off in the second half, we had two big opportunities, but it was an interesting game on a very bad pitch.

"They tested us so we have to be happy with this result."

Coady, who captained England Under-17s to their first European Championship title in 2010 and has progressed through the club's academy, played his first game in an icy-cold Lokomotiv Stadium. Adam Morgan made only his second start and was given the difficult job of leading the line.

In the first half, chances were at a premium, which made it all the more remarkable that when presented with a shooting opportunity by Morgan, Jordan Henderson declined to do so in the 23rd minute.

At the other end the former Barcelona forward Samuel Eto'o forced Jones into a good save from Yuri Zhirkov's cross.

The substitutes Suso and Dani Pacheco, on for Morgan and Coady, gave the Liverpool forward line some more youthful impetus but the hosts remained the more threatening with Jones making another good save from a Traoré header.

Opposition: Anzhi Makhachkala Competition: Europa League

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November 2012

The Hail

Traore lob enough for mega-rich Russians to leave Reds with fight to qualify If only they had a cutting edge. For all the slick passing, high pressing and sharp movement, Liverpool's journey under Brendan Rodgers will not take flight until they start taking chances.

The theme of this Europa League clash against Anzhi Makhachkala was in keeping with everything they have produced under Rodgers so far — easy on the eye but too easy on the opposition defence. It is a riddle the manager knows he must

They deserved more from a 3,200-mile round trip than to come home on the end of a 1-0 defeat, inflicted by Lacina Traore's first-half strike, but thanks to a combination of profligacy and a lapse in concentration, Liverpool's hopes of progress in this competition are back in the balance.

'I feel for the players,' said Rodgers. 'They were outstanding in the first half tactically for 45 minutes and 50 seconds. It was more of the same in the second

'We had chances throughout the game. This was a much-changed team but we still deserved something from the game. We just need to be clinical. That is something we have to improve.

'It is a great learning curve for these young players. You have to cut out those

Rodgers loaded his side with young players, as he has throughout Liverpool's adventure in Europe this season, and there were starts for academy graduates John Flanagan, Conor Coady, Andre Wisdom and Adam Morgan.

Of that quartet, it was Morgan who showed the most invention and energy. Relishing the opportunity to lead the line, his enthusiasm was apparent from the first whistle and he created an opening on 23 minutes that should have rewarded Liverpool's bright start.

Much to Rodgers's frustration, though, Jordan Henderson could not finish a fluent move that culminated with him being ushered clean through by Morgan. The midfielder did not know whether to shoot or pass and ended up squandering a

Disciplined and organised, Liverpool's start was as encouraging as Anzhi's was inhibited. The Russians were criticised for the lack of adventure they showed at Anfield two weeks ago and they did not seem particularly intent on making home

But that changed on 36 minutes. Yuri Zhirkov capitalised on a mistake by Wisdom and crossed for Samuel Eto'o, only for Brad Jones to deny one of the greatest strikers of the modern era with a reflex save, tipping his drive over the bar. That, however, lifted the atmosphere and a spell of pressure ended with Anzhi poking their noses in front in first-half stoppage time with a brilliant goal from Traore, who lobbed Jones from 20 yards after spinning past Sebastian Coates with a deft flick.

Jones may have regretted rushing off his line to give Traore a target but there was no getting away from the fact that it was a sublime piece of skill from a player who cost Anzhi more than £15million when they signed him six months ago. Liverpool did not deserve to be behind. They had dominated possession and there had been encouraging displays from Stewart Downing and Joe Cole, two players who have been criticised to varying degrees by Rodgers.

But — and this will sound familiar — they lacked a knockout punch. With striker Luis Suarez resting back on Merseyside, retrieving the deficit was always going to be difficult and the job was made even more complicated by Anzhi producing their most dynamic football of the two games.

As Liverpool started to run out of steam, Anzhi had enough openings to seal victory long before the end.

Traore was the biggest culprit and fluffed two chances in the space of two minutes, heading one straight at Jones and dragging the other wide after he had been sent clean through.

Liverpool, to their credit, stuck to their task and kept pressing for an equaliser. Cole might have grabbed one but shot straight at Vladimir Gabulov in the 77th minute after Anzhi's keeper had fumbled a long-range drive from Suso. It was to be Liverpool's last clear opening.

Thanks to a shock result in Italy, where Young Boys beat Udinese 3-2, Liverpool can still progress. But, as Rodgers knows, that potential will disappear if possession is not turned into something more tangible.

'This group was always going to be tight but you get punished at this level if you make mistakes,' said Rodgers. 'We take positives from this game. We will approach the Young Boys game with optimism.'

MATCH FACTS

Anzhi Makhachkala: Vladimir Gabulov, Logashov, Samba, Joao Carlos, Tagirbekov, Ahmedov (Carcela-Gonzalez 19) (Lakhiyalov 90), Jucilei, Zhirkov, Eto'o, Boussoufa, Traore (Smolov 80).

Subs not used: Pomazan, Gadzhibekov, Agalarov, Burmistrov

Liverpool: Jones, Wisdom, Carragher, Coates, Flanagan, Henderson, Coady (Fernandez Saez 35), Cole (Assaidi 77), Shelvey, Downing, Morgan (Pacheco 61). Subs not used: Gulacsi, Wilson, Sama, Robinson

Booked: Flanagan, Shelvey

Attendance: 15,000 Referee: David Fernandez Borbalan (Spain)

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool's youth fail Moscow test Anzhi Makhachkala 1

Traore 45

Liverpool 0

Att: 15,000

There was no Liverpool red army marching on Moscow. It was more like the boy scouts succumbing to the mercenaries of Anzhi Makhachkala.

A solitary goal in first-half added time by Lacina Traore left Brendan Rodgers sweating on European quali-fication. It means he will have no choice but to replace the cadets with his generals for the remaining group games.

Anfield's fountains of youth were drizzled across the deserted Lokomotiv Stadium, but by full time they were awash with dejection.

It was a commendable effort by an inexperienced line-up, but having witnessed so many glorious European excursions, one could not help wonder how, and why, Liverpool have come to this. So bereft of numbers they have had to experiment with 30 players in Europe, most from the club's kindergarten unit. Rodgers added teenager Conor Coady and defender Jon Flanagan to the teenage roll call. All the youngsters acquitted themselves as well as could be expected, but the evening served only to underline how much more work needs to be done to replenish the squad.

The absence of Steven Gerrard, Luis Suarez and Joe Allen ensured that Stewart Downing and Joe Cole had yet another opportunity to salvage what is left of their reputations after their performances in the Capital One Cup. They did not

Cole bashing has become rather like giving a drowned kitten an extra soaking, but his 77 unconvincing minutes simply confirmed the fact he is a delicate financial $\,$ negotiation away from leaving Anfield.

He has invented a new position in a Liverpool shirt - the 'false 10'. He was also one of several false nines prior to his exit here. Indeed, this was a side picked for damage limitation and the strategy was working until the first minute of injury

Jordan Henderson chased a one-on-one with Anzhi goalkeeper Vladimir Gabulov on 23 minutes after Adam Morgan's through ball, but the midfielder chose to pass

A tedious first half looked to be drifting to a monotonous conclusion for the visitors until Traore's clever flick embarrassed Sebastian Coates, and he chipped the onrushing Brad Jones.

The substitutions arrived with Spanish duo Suso and Dani Pacheco replacing Morgan and Coady. Suso forced Gabulov into his first meaningful action, a save from 20 yards in the 77th minute.

By then, Anzhi were offering more attacking threat, Samuel Eto'o ending a period of anonymity by testing Jones.

"We are disappointed with the result because our concentration was good and tactically we controlled the game for 44 minutes and 55 seconds." said Rodgers. "Then we make a bad mistake and get punished. It means we now have a big game next against Young Boys. The defeat had nothing to do with Suarez, Gerrard, Allen or Skrtel and Agger not being here. It's disrespectful to the players here to say that."

Anzhi (4-2-3-1): Gabulov; Tagirbekov, Carlos, Samba, Logashov; Boussoufa, Jucilei; Ahmedov (Gonzalez 30, Lakhiyalov 90), Zhirkov, Eto'o; Traore (Smolov 81). Subs: Pomazan (g), Gadzhibekov, Agalarov, Burmistrov.

Liverpool (3-5-2): Jones; Coates, Carragher, Wisdom; Downing, Henderson, Coady (Suso 61), Shelvey, Flanagan; Cole, (Assaidi 77), Morgan (Pacheco 61). Subs: Gulacsi (g), Wilson, Sama, Robinson. Booked: Flanagan, Shelvey. Referee: D Borbalan (Spain).

Date: 8 November 2012

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Guardian	Mirror	Post
Independent	Mail	ввс



8 Novembe 2012



Rodgers' reserves on retreat in Moscow

It was an odd arena in which to admire the skills of the best-paid footballer on the planet. A Europa League match, in a neutral ground, on an icy Moscow evening and a dire pitch, with much of the stadium completely empty. On nights like this, perhaps Samuel Eto'o wonders whether a salary that adds up to almost as much as Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi earn between them is worth forfeiting regular Champions League football for. Certainly, the Cameroonian, who joined Dagestani oligarch Suleiman Kerimov's Anzhi Makhachkala project in the prime of his career, did not look that interested in this game, in which his side just about edged a second-string Liverpool with a single Lacina Traore goal.

Neither side looked particularly happy to be here. For Liverpool, there was the irritation of a sappingly long flight just three days before a trip to Stamford Bridge. The few hundred Liverpool fans who had made the long and expensive journey to Moscow were greeted at the stadium not only with footage from the Hillsborough disaster on the big screens, but also news that Brendan Rodgers had left most of his senior squad at home. The Liverpool manager gave starts to Jon Flanagan, Conor Coady, Andre Wisdom and Adam Morgan, and there was also a rare outing for log Cole

For Anzhi, it was a "home" game, but since their native Dagestan is beset by an Islamic insurgency and deemed too dangerous by Uefa, they play European fixtures in Moscow in a half-empty stadium.

The opening half an hour was a turgid affair, with Liverpool failing to threaten, and Anzhi every bit as unwilling to burst into life as they were at Anfield last month. It was the 23rd minute before either side had a chance, with Morgan putting in excellent work on the right before rolling a perfectly timed ball into the box which Jordan Henderson squared into the legs of an Anzhi defender when it would have been easier to shoot. Ten minutes before half-time, Wisdom was dispossessed by Yuri Zhirkov, the former Chelsea winger's ball in found Eto'o, who blasted a shot that looked like it was heading for the top corner before Brad Jones made a fine save. It was the first and last time that the Cameroonian made an impression.

The only goal came unexpectedly in first half injury time from Traore. As both sides seemed happy to head into the dressing rooms at 0-0, the 22-year-old Ivorian picked the ball up well outside the area, flicked it over Sebastian Coates and then lobbed it over the oncoming Jones.

In the second half, Anzhi looked more dangerous, without ever giving the impression of a side that was particularly bothered about the result. Most impressive were the tricky runs down the right wing from the talented Moroccan-Belgian Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez. It was Traore who again had the best chances; an angled header from Zhirkov's cross that went straight at Jones, and a one-on-one run at goal that ended with him placing his shot just wide.

In a largely forgettable game, Liverpool showed flashes of spirit, with Jonjo Shelvey an impressive presence in midfield. Their best chance to snatch a point came when Anzhi's keeper Vladimir Gabulov spilt a long shot from substitute Daniel Pachecho into the path of the onrushing Cole, who should have scored but was denied by the keeper. Cole was substituted immediately afterwards. Rodgers said after the game he had no regrets about the unfamiliar team he had put out. "The players that are here have been magnificent. They've done really well tonight," he said. "We just got punished for a mistake in concentration." Anzhi Makhachkala Gabulov, Logashov, Samba, Joao Carlos, Tagirbekov, Ahmedov (Carcela-Gonzalez, 29, Lahiyalov, 90) Jucilei, Zhirkov, Eto'o, Boussoufa, Traore (Smolov, 80). Substitutes not used Pomazan, Gadzhibekov, Agalarov, Burmistrov. Liverpool Jones, Wisdom, Carragher, Coates, Flanagan, Henderson, Coady (Suso, 61), Cole (Assaidi, 77), Shelvey, Downing, Morgan (Pacheco, 61). Substitutes not used Gulacsi, Wilson, Sama, Robinson. Referee D Borbalan (Sp).



RODGERS PAYS FOR RESTING BIG GUNS

Anzhi 1 LIVERPOOL 0 BY choosing to leave his stars behind on Merseyside, Brendan Rodgers was always playing a game of Russian roulette here in Moscow with Liverpool's Europa League chances.

And after watching his young side ultimately shoot themselves in the foot by gifting a well-balanced game to Anzhi, the Reds boss knows he has few bullets left to fire now in this competition.

There can be no margin for error when Swiss side Young Boys arrive in a fortnight. And Liverpool may well need something from their final group game - a tough visit to Udinese in Italy - to reach the next phase.

Anzhi's lame display deserved nothing, but they capitalised on the inexperience of the young Reds seconds before the interval.

Liverpool had looked so comfortable in defence, but when a hopeful ball was hit in the direction of the towering Lacina Traore, the 6ft 8in striker was inexplicably allowed to turn by Uruguayan Sebastian Coates and lob the ball over the stranded Brad Jones.

Rodgers said: "Tactically we controlled the game for 44 minutes and 20 seconds of the first half and then we made a bad mistake and it cost us the game.

"That's the level, you get punished for one mistake. I feel for the players. They are young lads and they're learning, and they put everything into it tonight. We just need to be clinical, it's something we have to improve.

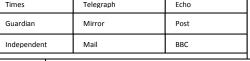
"It was a mistake. We just have to do that wee bit better in defending once he's turned. It's something the players know, they don't need to be told. Our performance level was good on a really difficult pitch."

The big guns, notably Luis Suarez may have to be wheeled out now if Liverpool want to stay in Europe.

ANZHI: Gabulov 6, Logashov 7, Samba 7, Joao Carlos 6, Tagirbekov 6, Boussoufa 7, Jucilei 6, Ahmedov 5(Carcela-Gonzalez 30, 6), Zhirkov 5, Eto'o 5, Traore 7 LIVERPOOL: Jones 7, Flanagan 5, Wisdom 7, Carragher 6, Coates 6, Downing 6, Shelvey 7, Coady 6(Pacheco 61, 6), Henderson 6, Cole 6 (Assaidi 77), Morgan 6 (Suso 61, 6) REF: David Borbalan

Date: 8 November 2012 Opposition: Anzhi Makhachkala Competition: Europa League

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Pride in performance but Reds still fall in Russia

IT was a painful reminder of how European nights have changed for Liverpool FC. On the big screens inside the Lokomotiv Stadium before kick-off the 300-strong army of travelling Kopites were treated to footage of the 2005 Champions League final triumph in Istanbul.

How the mighty have fallen. Having once become accustomed to competing with and beating the continents best, the Reds found themselves gracing Europes second tier competition with a second string side in front of a sparse crowd. Its only three and a half years since Liverpool dished out a 4-0 thrashing to Real Madrid but it seemed a great deal longer on a bitterly cold Moscow night. The outcome against Anzhi Makhachkala was painfully predictable as the Reds slipped to a defeat which dents their hopes of progressing from Europa League Group A. The character and commitment of the youngsters and fringe players sent into battle couldnt be questioned, but the lack of quality meant they embarked on the 1,600-mile journey home with nothing to show for their efforts after Lacina Traores solitary first-half strike.

Brendan Rodgers decision to rest so many ahead of Sundays trip to Chelsea was understandable. The lack of depth at the managers disposal means it would have been folly to risk his big guns against the Russian big-spenders.

Rodgers has to prioritise the Premier League as that ultimately holds the key to Liverpool achieving their ambition of returning to Europes top table.

But the team sent out in Moscow was tasked with the equivalent of trying to scale the walls of the Kremlin, which Rodgers had visited in Red Square earlier in the day. Anzhis record of having never conceded a European goal in Russia still stands as billionaire owner Suleiman Kerimov celebrated the Reds scalp.

Brad Jones and Andre Wisdom were the only survivors from the Liverpool side which drew 1-1 with Newcastle in the Premier League last weekend.

There was a debut for Academy graduate Conor Coady in midfield with full-back Jon Flanagan making his first start of the season following his recovery from an ankle injury. Striker Adam Morgan got his first taste of action since Augusts qualifying round tie with Hearts as Rodgers fielded four teenagers

The inclusion of Coady and Flanagan meant that no fewer than 30 players have featured in the Reds eight European games this season.

Liverpool were clearly set up to frustrate the hosts with three centre-backs Wisdom, skipper Jamie Carragher and Sebastian Coates flanked by wing-backs Flanagan and Stewart Downing.

Coady was tasked with offering protection in a deep midfield role and he rose to the challenge as he used the ball intelligently. The Reds were compact and well organised and for 45 minutes they frustrated the hosts.

There was a scare early on when Rasim Tagirbekov burst down the left but his low drive was easy for Jones. The keeper was then alert to the danger as he raced off his line to deny Traore. Flanagan had his hands full up against former Chelsea winger Yuri Zhirkov but he was equal to the challenge. It was a big night for the 19-year-old. This may have been his 16th first team appearance but it was his first taste of Europe and a first outing during Rodgers reign. With Joe Cole playing off Morgan, Liverpool struggled to pose much of a threat on a difficult playing surface. On his 31st birthday, Cole was fortunate to get another chance after being hauled off at half-time following his dismal display in the League Cup defeat to Swansea City a week earlier.

But needs must and part of the logic may have been putting him in the shop window considering Spartak Moscows interest in him back in the summer. The offers are unlikely to come flooding in.

For the most part Liverpool were sat deep soaking up pressure but they should have broken the deadlock with their first meaningful attack midway through the first half. Morgan showed great strength to hold off the attentions of Zhirkov and then composure as he slid the perfect pass into Hendersons path.

The midfielder had just Vladimir Gabulov to beat but inexplicably opted against shooting and his cut-back in search of Morgan was gratefully intercepted by Joao Carlos. Anzhi had been surprisingly cautious in their defeat at Anfield a fortnight earlier but this time Dutch coach Guus Hiddink was more adventurous as he partnered Samuel Etoo up front with Traore.

The s40million strike duo had plundered 25 goals between them already this season and as the game progressed their threat grew. Jones was played into trouble by Coadys heavy backpass but after a heavy first touch the shot-stopper was able to scramble the ball away. Substitute Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez, who had replaced the injured Odil Ahmedov, blazed over when well placed. Nine minutes before the break the Reds were indebted to Jones for keeping them on level terms.

Zhirkov raced past Wisdom and picked out Etoo in the box. The s350,000 per week frontmans strike was goal-bound before Jones tipped it over. It was a fine save from the Aussie who impressed on his sixth successive outing the best run of his Anfield career. Liverpool appeared to have weathered the storm but they were undone in stoppage time by a piece of individual brilliance from Traore. There appeared to be little danger when the 6ft 8ins Ivorian international, who cost s16million from fellow Russian side Kuban Krasnodar back in June, latched on to a pass from Carcela-Gonzalez.

But Traore left Coates trailing with a classy flick over the defender and then dispatched an exquisite lob over the stranded Jones. Early in the second half Morgan slammed a shot into the side netting from a tight angle but the Reds rarely looked like getting back on level terms. Etoos curling strike from the edge of the box was saved by Jones before Traores low left-footer whistled just past the post. Just past the hour mark Rodgers made a double change as Coady and Morgan were replaced by Suso and Dani Pacecho. Susos impact after being handed a central role was instant as he added some much needed spark in the final third. One sweetly struck strike from the young Spaniard was spilled by Gabulov but the keeper recovered to prevent Cole from netting the rebound. Cole made way for Oussama Assaidi and Troare should have put the game beyond doubt. Having planted a free header straight at Jones, Troare then wasted another glorious chance as he side footed wide with only Jones to beat. After Jucilei and substitute Fedor Smolov had gone close, Henderson could have levelled late on but he blazed over from Flanagans pull-back. Pride was in tact but no points.

ANZHI (4-4-2): Gabulov, Logashov, Samba, Joao Carlos, Tagirbekov, Boussoufa, Jucilei, Ahmedov (Carcela-Gonzalez 30 (Lahiyalov 90)), Zhirkov, Etoo, Traore (Smolov 80).

Not used: Pomazan, Gadzhibekov, Agalarov, Burmistrov

LIVERPOOL (5-3-1-1): Jones, Flanagan, Wisdom, Coates, Carragher, Downing, Henderson, Coady (Suso 61), Shelvey, Cole (Assaidi 77), Morgan (Pacheco 61).

Not used: Gulacsi, Wilson, Robinson, Sama. REFEREE: David Borbalan. ATTENDANCE: 15,000 GOALS: Traore 45. BOOKINGS: Flanagan, Shelvey.

NEXT GAME: Chelsea, away in the Premier League on Sunday (4pm).



A YOUNG Liverpool side slid to defeat in Russia as Lacina Traore's goal gave Anzhi Makhachkala a 1-0 win in Moscow. Traore struck on the stroke of half-time. leaving Group A wide open with two rounds of matches to be played. Having left a host of star names back on Mersevside. Rodgers named a somewhat experimental side, making nine changes from the team which had drawn with Newcastle in the Premier League on Sunday.

Brad Jones and Andre Wisdom were the only survivors, as Rodgers handed a senior competitive debut to Conor Coady in midfield, with teenager Adam Morgan leading the line in attack. A third Academy graduate, Jon Flanagan, also started, in a side skippered by Jamie Carragher. And the youngsters began well, passing the ball confidently and retaining good shape. It took 23 minutes for the first real opening to be fashioned, with Morgan playing in Jordan Henderson with a neat reverse pass. The England U21 captain, however, opted to look for a square pass rather than a shot on goal, allowing Joao Carlos to intercept. At the other end, Jones was forced to make a fine save to deny Samuel Eto'o ten minutes before half time, after Yuro Zhirkov had robbed Wisdom down the left, but the home side were rarely able to place any sustained pressure on their more callow visitors. Joe Cole glanced Stewart Downing's free kick wide as the half drew to a close, while Wisdom's brilliant cross narrowly evaded the lurking Morgan. But in first-half stoppage time, Anzhi found a way through. Mbark Boussoufa fired a pass into the feet of Lacina Traore, who flicked the ball over Sebastian Coates with his first touch and then expertly lifted past the advancing Jones with his second from just outside the penalty area.

After the break Morgan drilled an effort into the sidenetting from an acute angle, and then was snuffed out by Joao Carlos as he looked to take Flanagan's pass in his stride. Jones, meanwhile, comfortably fielded Eto'o's curling effort, whilst Traore drilled a 25-yard effort wide after nutmegging Henderson on the hour mark. Rodgers made a double change on 61 minutes, replacing Coady and Morgan with Suso and Dani Pacheco, but the visitors struggled to create any clear-cut chances, despite plenty of possession.

Jones kept out Traore's point-blank header, before Suso's 30-yard strike was spilled by Vladimir Gabulov, who recovered in time to deny Cole's follow up. That was Cole's last act, as he was replaced by Oussama Assaidi immediately. Traore then missed a golden chance to wrap up the game, racing clear on to Jucilei's through ball, but sliding his effort wide.

It turned out not to be a costly miss, as Anzhi, despite Liverpool's best efforts, were able to see out the closing stages, with Henderson shanking the best chance well off target in the final minute. Liverpool face Young Boys of Bern at Anfield in their next Group A game, before finishing with a trip to Udinese.

ANZHI MAKHACHKALA: Gabulov, Samba, Joao Carlos, Tagirbekov, Logashov (Lakhiyalov 90), Boussoufa, Jucilei, Zhirkov, Ahmedov (Gonzalez 30), Eto'o, Traore (Smolov 80)

Substitutes: Pomazan, Gadzhibekov, Agalarov, Burmistrov

Goals: Traore (45)

LIVERPOOL: Jones, Wisdom, Coates, Carragher, Flanagan, Coady (Suso 61), Henderson, Downing, Shelvey, Cole (Assaidi 77), Morgan (Pacheco 61)

Substitutes: Gulacsi, Sama, Wilson, Robinson

Cards: Flanagan, Shelvey Referee: David Borbalan

with)

Date: 8 November 2012

Opposition: Anzhi Makhachkala Competition: Europa League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Post
Independent	Mail	BBC



90:00+3:31Full time The final whistle goes and the game is over.

90:00+3:13 Jonjo Shelvey produces a cross.

90:00+1:17Substitution SubstitutionShamil Lakhiyalov on for Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez. 89:21 Jon Flanagan sends in a cross, Jordan Henderson has an effort at goal from the edge of the box that misses to the right of the target.

88:43 Unfair challenge on Jordan Henderson by Fedor Smolov results in a free kick. Jordan Henderson takes the free kick.

87:42 Indirect free kick taken by Christopher Samba

87:42Booking Caution for Jonjo Shelvey.

87:37 Silva Jucilei fouled by Jonjo Shelvey, the ref awards a free kick.

85:41 Effort from outside the area by Jonjo Shelvey goes wide right of the goal.

 $86:\!36$ Jonjo Shelvey has an effort at goal from outside the penalty area which goes wide right of the goal.

85:34 Arseni Logashov challenges Oussama Assaidi unfairly and gives away a free kick. Jordan Henderson takes the free kick.

85:02 Fedor Smolov takes a shot. Save made by Brad Jones.

 $83:\!16$ The assistant referee signals for offside against Daniel Pacheco. Free kick taken by Vladimir Gabulov.

82:26 Silva Jucilei takes a shot. Blocked by Jamie Carragher.

82:00 Daniel Pacheco takes a short corner.

81:43 Stewart Downing crosses the ball, Rasim Tagirbekov makes a clearance.

79:31Substitution SubstitutionFedor Smolov is brought on as a substitute for Lacina Traore.

 $79:31\ Shot\ from\ just\ outside\ the\ area\ by\ Jordan\ Henderson\ misses\ to\ the\ right\ of\ the\ target.$

77:35 Effort from the edge of the box by Lacina Traore goes wide of the right-hand upright.

75:50 Joe Cole takes a shot. Save made by Vladimir Gabulov. Corner taken short by Daniel Pacheco.

75:50Substitution SubstitutionOussama Assaidi on for Joe Cole.

75:50 Jesus Fernandez Saez takes a shot from 18 yards. Save by Vladimir Gabulov.

75:15 The ball is crossed by Arseni Logashov, Lacina Traore has a headed effort at goal, Brad Jones makes a save.

 $74:01\ Jesus\ Fernandez\ Saez\ challenges\ Samuel\ Eto'o\ unfairly\ and\ gives\ away\ a\ free\ kick.$ Arseni\ Logashov\ takes\ the\ direct\ free\ kick.

73:35 The ball is sent over by Stewart Downing, Pinto Joao Carlos makes a clearance. 72:32 Unfair challenge on Arseni Logashov by Daniel Pacheco results in a free kick. Christopher Samba takes the free kick.

70:32 Free kick awarded for a foul by Lacina Traore on Jamie Carragher. Jamie Carragher takes the free kick.

69:19 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Jordan Henderson by Mbark Boussoufa. Jamie Carragher takes the indirect free kick.

68:15 Jonjo Shelvey gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Lacina Traore. Mbark Boussoufa restarts play with the free kick.

64:06 Free kick taken by Pinto Joao Carlos.

64:06Booking Caution for Jon Flanagan.

64:01 Jon Flanagan gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Rasim Tagirbekov. 63:30 Yury Zhirkov produces a left-footed shot from just outside the box that misses to the right of the target.

60:18Substitution SubstitutionJesus Fernandez Saez is brought on as a substitute for Conor Coady.

60:18Substitution SubstitutionDaniel Pacheco is brought on as a substitute for Adam Morgan.

60:18 Jamie Carragher fouled by Lacina Traore, the ref awards a free kick. Jamie Carragher takes the indirect free kick.
59:12 Lacina Traore has a shot on goal from outside the area which misses left.

57:16 Shot by Samuel Eto'o. Save made by Brad Jones.

 $54\!:\!31$ Christopher Samba fouled by Jon Flanagan, the ref awards a free kick. Pinto Joao Carlos takes the indirect free kick.

54:01 Stewart Downing delivers the ball, Pinto Joao Carlos manages to make a clearance.
51:18 Effort from deep inside the area by Adam Morgan misses to the left of the target.

All:52 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Lacina Traore by Conor Coady.

Mbark Boussoufa takes the indirect free kick.

46:17 The referee blows for offside against Joe Cole. Free kick taken by Vladimir Gabulov.

45:01 The referee gets the second half underway.

45:00+2:13Half time The whistle is blown to end the first half.

45:00+0:48 Mbark Boussoufa provided the assist for the goal.

45:00+0:48Goal scored Goal - Lacina Traore - Anzhi Mak 1 - 0 LiverpoolLacina Traore gets on the score sheet with a goal from just inside the penalty area high into the middle of the goal. Anzhi Makhachkala 1-0 Liverpool.

44:07 Andre Wisdom crosses the ball.

41:51 Unfair challenge on Joe Cole by Pinto Joao Carlos results in a free kick. Stewart Downing produces a cross, Header by Joe Cole from deep inside the penalty area misses to the left of the target.

40:26 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Save made by Vladimir Gabulov.

39:57 The ball is sent over by Jordan Henderson, clearance by Christopher Samba.

35:39 Corner taken by Mbark Boussoufa.

35:37 Free kick awarded for a foul by Jon Flanagan on Rasim Tagirbekov. Mbark Boussoufa takes the direct free kick.

35:12 Effort on goal by Samuel Eto'o from 12 yards. Save made by Brad Jones. 29:56 Effort on goal by Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez from just inside the area clears the crossbar.

29:36 Lacina Traore takes a shot. Blocked by Jamie Carragher.

28:35 Free kick crossed right-footed by Mbark Boussoufa.

28:35Substitution SubstitutionMehdi Carcela-Gonzalez replaces Odil Ahmedov.

28:35 Jamie Carragher gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Mbark Boussoufa.

27:39 The ball is swung over by Jonjo Shelvey, comfortable save by Vladimir Gabulov. 22:55 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Lacina Traore by Andre Wisdom. Free kick taken by Rasim Tagirbekov.

20:18 The ball is swung over by Stewart Downing, clearance made by Christopher

16:31 Lacina Traore produces a cross, Brad Jones makes a save.

10:31 The referee blows for offside. Pinto Joao Carlos restarts play with the free kick.

9:19 Jordan Henderson gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Odil Ahmedov. Free kick taken by Christopher Samba.

8:54 Stewart Downing delivers the ball.

7:38 Free kick awarded for a foul by Pinto Joao Carlos on Joe Cole. Jordan Henderson takes the indirect free kick.

4:52 Rasim Tagirbekov takes a shot. Save by Brad Jones.

0:00 The match has kicked off.