

Date: 22 November 2012 Opposition: Young Boys Competition: Europa League	Times	Telegraph	Echo		22 November 2012
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THE



TIMES

Late blow leaves Liverpool rueing missed chance after Cole's joy

Liverpool 2
Young Boys 2

Liverpool's hopes of making life easy for themselves by securing early qualification for the knockout phases of the Europa League were undone by their own failings last night as Young Boys, of Berne, twice came from behind to secure a draw at Anfield.

Joe Cole's first goal for 18 months looked set to provide Liverpool with the easy passage into the last 32 that they wanted with a game to spare, but Elsad Zverotic's goal in the 89th minute earned the Swiss team a draw and put the hosts at risk of elimination.

Liverpool now need a win away to Udinese in a fortnight's time to guarantee progress and they will travel to Italy knowing that qualification should already have been secured. Having hoped to take a weakened squad on that assignment, Brendan Rodgers will now have to reassess his options and consider selecting a much stronger squad than he would have liked.

Udinese's defeat by Anzhi Makhachkala earlier meant that Liverpool entertained Young Boys knowing that victory would take them through.

Rodgers still made seven changes to the team who defeated Wigan Athletic at the weekend. With Luis Suarez left on the substitutes' bench, responsibility for leading the attack lay with Jonjo Shelvey, who was asked to perform in an unfamiliar "false 9" role.

The changes in personnel affected Liverpool in the early stages and Young Boys were the quicker to settle. Gonzalo Zarate fired over before Raphael Nuzzolo put Pepe Reina to an early test.

When improvement did occur, it came via the nimble feet of Shelvey, who showed his skills as a link player by releasing Cole, only for the out-of-favour midfielder to shoot wide from a difficult angle.

Liverpool grew in confidence after a slow start and their improvement was reflected after 33 minutes when they took the lead through Shelvey's third goal in two matches against Young Boys. The England midfielder was given the straightforward task of nodding the ball into an empty net after an intelligent give-and-go between Suso and Cole, but he once again demonstrated the knack of being in the right place at the right time that helped to bring him to Roy Hodgson's attention.

Martin Skrtel then came close to doubling Liverpool's lead when he got the final touch on Cole's shot, only to be left disappointed when Nuzzolo cleared on the goalline. The Young Boys fans then unfurled a banner stating "In Memory Of Hillsborough", a gesture that prompted a standing ovation from the appreciative Liverpool supporters. Having been taken off against Wigan for tactical reasons after only half an hour, Suso was clearly determined to remind Rodgers of his qualities and the only blot on an otherwise impressive first-half performance from the teenager was a wasteful finish.

Zverotic signalled Young Boys's intent immediately after the restart with a swerving shot from 25 yards out went wide of a post with Reina seemingly beaten.

That scare did provoke an immediate response from Liverpool as Cole's shot was saved by Marco Wolfli after more enterprising play by Suso. It was a key moment as, less than a minute later, Young Boys drew level with an outstanding goal by Raul Bobadilla, who pulled away from Henderson before deftly controlling Alexander Farnerud's lofted pass and lashing the ball past Reina on the half volley. Rodgers looked for a reaction from his team but when it was not forthcoming he turned to Suarez, who replaced the tiring Suso on the hour mark. The Uruguayan's arrival prompted a period of Liverpool dominance with Young Boys clearly cowed by the presence of the Premier League's top scorer, but the hosts struggled to show the creativity which had characterised much of their performance earlier in the game.

As ever, Liverpool needed a touch of quality from either Gerrard or Suarez and the pair combined to provide it after 72 minutes, working the ball in tandem before Cole took advantage of their interplay with a sharp turn and finish to re-establish their lead.

That should have been enough to take Liverpool into the knockout stages of the competition, but they were caught out as Zverotic exchanged passes with Michael Frey on the edge of the penalty area before beating Reina with a powerful strike.

Liverpool (4-3-3): J M Reina - A Wisdom (sub: S Gerrard, 31min), M Skrtel, J Carragher, S Downing - J Henderson, N Sahin, Suso (sub: L Suarez, 60) - J Cole (sub: R Sterling, 75), J Shelvey, O Assaidi. Substitutes not used: B Jones, J Enrique, S Coates, J Allen. Booked: Sahin. Young Boys (4-2-3-1): M Wolfli - S Sutter, A Nef, D Veskovac (sub: J Ojala, 23), J Lecjaks - E Zverotic, A Farnerud - G Zarate, C Schneuwly (sub: M Vitkieviev, 81), R Nuzzolo - R Bobadilla. Substitutes not used: Y Mvogo, A Gonzalez, M Costanzo, M Frey, P Doubai. Booked: Zverotic. Referee: A Yefet (Israel).

the

guardian

Cole joy but Liverpool not out of woods

On the day Rafael Benitez was unveiled as Chelsea manager came a reminder that not everything has changed for Liverpool since he was ushered out of the Anfield door. They continue to find ways of leaving European qualification to the last, much to the annoyance of Brendan Rodgers.

Liverpool were in the last 32 of the Europa League with two minutes remaining against Young Boys here. The script was that of a rare moment to savour in a Liverpool shirt for Joe Cole, whose fine turn and finish into the Kop goal appeared to have secured qualification with a game to spare.

Then Luis Suarez had a chance charged down on the edge of the Young Boys' area. They broke unimpeded and Elsad Zverotic brought the Swiss club level with an emphatic finish past Jose Reina. Liverpool now travel to Udinese next month knowing victory over the eliminated Italian club is required to guarantee progress.

"We have tried to navigate our way through the group with a thin squad and we were there with only a few minutes to go," Rodgers said.

"When you are 2-1 up and through with only a few minutes left you have to control the game and show better game management. We had a chance to shoot at one end of the field and in the 87th minute we are walking back. That's what I mean by better game management. They walked through unchallenged. It was a disappointing goal to concede in every respect."

Young Boys soaked up adulation from their travelling fans and rightly so. Raul Bobadilla had also produced a stunning equaliser as Martin Rueda's team gave themselves a fighting chance of qualifying at Liverpool's expense.

Having survived an uncertain start Liverpool, with Cole, Suso and Jonjo Shelvey exerting an increasing creative influence, gained control of the first half. Cole went close when released on the right by Shelvey, his low shot evading Marco Wolfli in the Young Boys' goal but also the far post, while a delightful flick from Shelvey put Jordan Henderson clean through. Wolfli, however, refused to commit and saved well. He was powerless to prevent Liverpool taking the lead when their three most potent forward players combined superbly. Cole exchanged passes with Suso on the edge of the area and, as Wolfli advanced, clipped an intelligent cross to the far post where Shelvey arrived unopposed to head in from close range.

Liverpool missed several first-half chances for a comfortable lead and were punished at the start of the second half when Alexander Farnerud sprayed a crossfield ball towards Bobadilla lurking on the left of the Liverpool area. The centre-forward turned his back as it dropped behind Henderson - shifted to right-back following Andre Wisdom's withdrawal with a knee injury - but controlled superbly on his thigh. His next touch was equally impressive and a venomous left-foot volley gave Reina no chance.

Cole restored Liverpool's advantage from substitute Steven Gerrard's pass but, with a place in the last 32 and some personal redemption in sight, it was taken away in stunning style by Zverotic.

Liverpool 4-2-3-1
Reina; Wisdom, Skrtel, Carragher, Downing (Gerrard, 31); Henderson, Sahin*; Cole (Sterling, 75), Suso (Suarez, 60), Assaidi; Shelvey.
Subs not used
Jones, Jose Enrique, Coates, Allen.
Referee A Yefet (Isr).

Young Boys 4-1-4-1
Wolfli; Sutter, Nef, Veskovac (Ojala, 23), Lecjaks; Zverotic*; Schneuwly (Vitkieviev, 82), Zarate, Farnerud, Nuzzolo (Frey, 77); Bobadilla.
Subs not used
Mvogo, Gonzalez, Costanzo, Doubai.

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The Mail

THE ITALIAN JOB

THE managers may change but the narrative never differs. In keeping with Liverpool's European history, more last-gasp heroics are required to maintain this year's adventure.

After a 2-2 draw with BSC Young Boys, Liverpool will head to Udine on matchday six requiring a positive result if they are to reach the round of 32. Most likely Brendan Rodgers will need to bring his big guns to Italy to ensure that happens. The manager had placed his faith in a 'False 9' system, hoping his formation of not playing any strikers from the start would not prove a hindrance to their ambition of getting to nine points, but, as has been the case so often this season, missed chances returned to haunt.

Liverpool had enough opportunities to win this game but, after Joe Cole had put them 2-1 ahead, Elsad Zverotic drove in from the edge of the box. Rodgers will be asking his defence why he was allowed to get a shot away.

Any sense before the game that it would be a procession for Liverpool was expunged early on. Three times in the first five minutes the visitors threatened Pepe Reina's goal; Gonzalo Zarate went close with an overhead kick after eight seconds, while Raul Bobadilla and Raphael Nuzzolo made Reina work. The last effort appeared to be the one that triggered Liverpool into life and they began passing the ball with the fluency Rodgers demands.

It didn't take long for their first effort to arrive but Spanish midfielder Suso dragged his shot wide from 25 yards.

Moments later, Liverpool went closer. A neat back-flick from Shelvey sent Cole scampering through but, like Suso, he scuffed his shot wide of the far post. Jordan Henderson then wasted the best chance of all, shooting straight at Marco Wolfli. It is no secret Cole faces a mammoth task to salvage his Liverpool career but his attitude and application could not be faulted. After exchanging passes with Suso in the 33rd minute, the former England man darted into the area and his deft clip into the centre over Wolfli was met by Shelvey, who had the simple task of nodding in from four yards.

He almost created a second but, again, Suso's shot lacked the necessary accuracy to trouble Wolfli.

With Steven Gerrard having been introduced for the injured Andre Wisdom, Liverpool had significantly more class than their opponents. Liverpool began the second period in similarly buoyant fashion and on 51 minutes Suso played in Cole, but Wolfli was quick off his line to smother the shot.

Within seconds, Young Boys broke. Alexander Farnerud clipped a wonderful ball into Bobadilla and the forward matched the pass by cushioning the ball on his right thigh before smashing a left-foot half-volley past Reina.

It was a magnificent equaliser. Rodgers turned away with his head in his hands. Cole then struck with a close-range, leftfoot finish to ease the tension in the 72nd minute.

But there was still time for Zverotic's late intervention, and a nervous night in Italy awaits.

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool denied by stunning late equaliser

Liverpool 2
Shelvey 33, Cole 72

Young Boys 2
Bobadilla 52, Zverotic 89 Att: 37,810

Liverpool's European hopes remain in the balance after a disappointing Anfield draw with Young Boys of Switzerland.

Brendan Rodgers' side were unable to claim the win required to make their final group game in Udinese a dead rubber. Joe Cole thought he had won it with his first goal since April, 2011, but Elsad Zverotic's 89th minute equaliser keeps the group alive.

Jonjo Shelvey had earlier put Liverpool in charge with a 33rd minute header. Raul Bobadilla's superb volley early in the second half retained Swiss hopes of sneaking through, and the Zvertotic's stunning strike from 18 yards means Liverpool may have to beat Udinese to get through.

Anzhi Makhachkala's victory over Udinese meant Liverpool knew before kick-off a victory would guarantee qualification courtesy of a superior head-to-head against the Swiss.

It ensured Liverpool went into the fixture with tentative hopes of maintaining what is becoming a quietly efficient few months at Anfield.

With mayhem currently elsewhere in the Premier League, the opportunity presented itself for Rodgers to discreetly, diligently, and effectively build on an encouraging recent run.

He is grateful for the time to build at a sensible rate. One of the most eye-catching remarks he made ahead of the final Anfield group game was that the club's American owners were virtually apologetic for the hand he has been dealt since taking over. This first six months was always going to be the toughest as Rodgers has barely started to construct his own playing personnel yet.

He will feel that if he can get through the next five weeks still in Europe and no further away from the top four, that awkward settling-in period will have been negotiated better than he might have expected.

Luis Suarez and Steven Gerrard started on the bench. Cole - the Anfield boomerang (no matter how much he is discarded, somehow he always comes back) reappeared. So too did Stewart Downing.

Adjusting to more changes, Liverpool started sloppily and could have trailed within 10 seconds. Straight from kick-off, Raphael Nuzzolo broke down the left, and his cross was volleyed over by Gonzalo Zarate.

With their only striker on the bench, it was unsurprising Liverpool initially struggled for penetration. Cole and Jordan Henderson's tame shots from distance offered the only immediate trouble to Young Boys' keeper Marco Wolfli, and it seemed inevitable Suarez or Gerrard would eventually be summoned.

The Liverpool captain arrived early after full-back Andre Wisdom suffered a knee injury after half an hour. Two minutes later, Liverpool went ahead. Cole and Suso exchanged passes, and Shelvey headed in following the former England international's clever flick over the on-rushing keeper.

Suso almost added a second, an inch wide two minutes before the interval with his side-footed finish, but now it seemed the home side was hitting its stride. The visitors' ambitious approach was commendable, ensuring - as in their first meeting - that this was an entertaining evening. Alexander Farnerud and Zverotic issued warnings with shots from 20 yards early in the second half, reminding Liverpool there was still plenty of work left to secure qualification. Cole could have eased any concerns on 51 minutes but he was denied by Wolfli's feet. Within a minute Young Boys had revived the group by equalising through Bobadilla's brilliant backpost volley.

Suarez appeared after an hour, replacing Suso, as Rodgers desperately sought the winner to make the trip to Italy in a fortnight an irrelevance.

He immediately probed the Swiss defence, but Martin Rueda's side were showing why they had transformed the group with recent wins over Udinese.

Cole restored the lead 18 minutes from time after linking with Suarez and Gerrard. The trio exchanged passes on the edge of the box, before Cole applied the final touch He was replaced almost immediately, but after so many disappointing evenings in a red shirt, this was an evening he could cherish - until Zverotic's late intervention.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): Reina; Wisdom (Gerrard 31), Skrtel, Carragher, Downing; Sahin, Henderson; Suso (Suarez 60); Assaidi, Cole (Sterling 75), Shelvey. Subs: Jones (g), Enrrique, Coates, Allen. Booked: Sahin.

Young Boys (4-2-3-1): Wolfli; Lecjaks, Veskovac (sub Ojala 22), Nef, Sutter; Farenerud, Zverotic; Nuzzola (Frey 77), Schneuwly (Vitkieviev 81), Zarate; Bobalilla.

Subs: Mvogo (g), Gonzalez, Costanzo, Doubai. Booked: Zverotic. Referee: A Yefet (Israel).

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INDEPENDENT

Cole finally shows what he can do, but Young Boys enjoy last laugh

He may be 31 now and the hair is beginning to go but there is still something very boyish about Joe Cole. There may not be much time left for him by the Mersey but when he took Steven Gerrard's pass, turned and scored beneath the Kop, it at least gave them something more to remember him by than an astronomical salary

His first goal since April last year was not, however, enough to guarantee Liverpool's qualification for the knockout phase of the Europa League. Only a win away to Udinese, who won 3-2 at Anfield but are already eliminated, would do that.

There are plenty of permutations, including the one that sees Liverpool knocked out if both they and Young Boys lose their final game and there was a weariness in Brendan Rodgers's voice afterwards. "We have to navigate our way through this tournament with a thin squad," said the Liverpool manager. "We were in front twice and I would expect us to see it through."

With an average age of 27, Young Boys are reasonably middle-aged by football standards and there was nothing na[macron]ve about their play. Both their goals were spectacular affairs, although what angered Rodgers was that both came from Liverpool attacks that broke down and were punished on the counter. For Young Boys' second goal, there was barely a hint of a challenge. "We were walking back in the 87th minute," Rodgers reflected, wittingly. The shot that rifled past Pepe Reina from Elsad Zverotic was, however, beyond saving. It would have been outstanding from a striker, let alone a defensive midfielder.

Since his arrival two and a half years and three managers ago, Cole had impressed everyone with his enthusiasm but not, alas, with his football. His performance in the League Cup defeat here to Swansea had been so wretched that many thought it would be his last in a Liverpool shirt and Newcastle's French midfielder, Yohan Cabaye, had advised him to return to Lille, where he had spent a successful spell on loan.

However, he clung on last night as part of a three-man attack, none of whom was a recognised striker. Vicente Del Bosque had employed a similar strategy to retain the European Championship but Spain's manager had rather better midfielders than Cole, Suso and Jonjo Shelvey.

However, all three had significant chances before the interval which Liverpool ought to have gone into leading by more than a single goal. Cole, sent through expertly by Shelvey, sent his shot just wide, as did Suso. Shelvey, who had scored twice in the frenetic 5-3 victory in Switzerland with which Liverpool opened their Europa League campaign, made no such mistake, although he was beautifully set up by his partners in attack. Cole and Suso played a one-two and the former was astute enough to sent the ball over the Berner keeper, Marco Wolfli, and across the face of the goal. All Shelvey had to do was to stoop his head to score.

Jordan Henderson, like Cole, had been given a shot at redemption, again courtesy of Shelvey, who produced a delicious back-flick to send the boy from Sunderland through. His shot was saved two-handed and then, like Stewart Downing, he found himself pressed into service as a full back when Andre Wisdom was withdrawn with a knee injury. The fact that both were midfielders who had cost the club almost [pounds sterling]40m would not have been lost on Liverpool's accountants.

This profligacy in front goal was to be spectacularly punished. Cole had just been denied another clear opportunity when the play flowed back towards the Anfield Road End, jammed with a large, noisy and, according to some policemen on duty, quite boozy Swiss fans, who had nevertheless brought the stadium to its feet with a banner: "In Memory of Hillsborough".

Raul Bobadilla unleashed a shot that was also worthy of a standing ovation which buried itself in Reina's net. According to Twitter, which is not the most reliable of sources, the Argentine has his parents' names tattooed on his chest, although despite the brilliance of the goal it was far too cold for him to remove his shirt to prove it one way or the other. Zverotic was rather braver.

GROUP A

P W D L F A P ts

Anzhi M (Q) 5 3 1 1 6 2 10

Liverpool 5 2 1 2 10 9 7

Young Boys 5 2 1 2 11 12 7

Udinese 5 1 1 3 7 11 4

Subs:

Liverpool Gerrard (Wisdom, 31), Suarez (Suso, 60), Sterling (Cole, 75).

YB Ojala (Veskovic, 23), Frey (Nuzzolo, 77), Vitkieviev (Schneuwly, 82).

Booked:

Liverpool Sahin.

Young Boys Zverotic.

Man of the match Cole. Match rating 7/10.

Possession: Liverpool 57% Young Boys 43%.

Attempts on target: Liverpool 12 Young Boys 8.

Referee A Yefet (Isr). Attendance 37,810.

DAILY
Mirror

RODGERS LEFT TO SWEAT ON ITALIAN JOB

Liverpool 2 Young Boys 2 LIVERPOOL'S European hopes hang by a thread after another frustrating night of Anfield failure.

The Reds conceded a poor equaliser just a minute from time to leave them with a fraught final match in their Europa League group stage.

They must now beat Udinese, in Italy, to reach the knockout stages.

It left boss Brendan Rodgers angry and frustrated because his side had seemed to be strolling towards qualification after a surprise resurgence from Joe Cole looked to have sealed an important win.

Cole looked confident against hesitant Swiss opponents, with a vibrant display which provided a goal for Jonjo Shelvey in the first half, and then an impressive winner for himself after Berner had dragged themselves back into the contest after the break.

e With the scores level and the prospect of a tense final round of group stage matches on the cards, Liverpool called on their pedigree substitutes Steven Gerrard and Luis Suarez to supply Cole in the box and he turned el a pen es is n d cleverly to drill a left-foot shot into the corner. ot But then, with barely seconds left on the clock, Suarez gave the ball away, Berner moved forward, and Elsad Zverotic was given space to shoot straight through the arms of Pepe Reina into the roof of the net. y k, y, d, as ot mse Given Rodgers had selected a combination of kids and second-string veterans, there was always going to be an element of the unfamiliar d of g s n ar about this Liverpool side. Most unfamiliar of all was the formation, with Shelvey employed as a "false" No.9, coming deep to create space for Suso behind him and Cole wide to run into.

On 33 minutes, Cole was coaxed in from the right, showing an impressive fluidity to exchange inventive passes with the talented Suso to break clear and cross to allow Shelvey (inset) the simplest of tap-ins from close range.

By then, Gerrard had joined the fray, replacing the injured Wisdom.

join rei But striker Raul Bobadilla on the left of the box smashed a first-time volley that surprised Reina and flew into the far CORNER.

a th R i Cole's goal restored the Reds' lead, but Zverotic then levelled late on.

LIVERPOOL: Reina 5; Wisdom 6 (Gerrard 31, 6), Skrtel 6, Carragher 6, Downing 6; Henderson 6, Sahin 6; Assaidi 7, Suso 7 (Suarez 61, 7), Cole 8 (Sterling 75, 6); Shelvey 7. YOUNG BOYS: Wolfli 6; Sutter 6, Nef 5, Veskovic 5(Ojala 23, 6), Lecjaks 6; Zverotic 6, Farnerud 7; Zarate, Schneuwly 6, Nuzzolo 7 (Frey 77); Bobadilla 7. REFEREE: Alon Yefet (Israel) 7.

LIVERPOOL v YOUNG BOYS MAN OF THE MATCH JOE COLE Gave glimpse of better times ahead BALL POSSESSION 43% B 57% SHOTS ON TARGET 67 SHOTS OFF TARGET 8 SHS 6 CORNERS 4 13 OFFSIDE 0 7 FOULS 14 14 CARDS 11 0 0 GROUP A GT TABLE PWDL F A Pts Anzhi Makh'kala 53 11 62 10 Liverpool..... 52 12 10 9 7 Young Boys..... 52 12 1 12 7 Udinese 5 11 37 11 4

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Sloppy Reds pay price for switching off early
BRENDAN RODGERS couldn't hide his disgust on the touchline. From a position of control, this was sloppy in the extreme for Liverpool FC. Liverpool were on the brink of booking their place in the knockout stages of the Europa League as the seconds ticked away at Anfield. They appeared to have successfully reduced next month's final Group A clash away to Udinese to a dead-rubber. Their mission was so nearly accomplished. However, one lapse in concentration two minutes from time was ruthlessly punished. There was no pressure on the ball and Elsad Zverotic gleefully accepted the invitation to shoot as he unleashed a 20-yard piledriver past Pepe Reina. Suddenly, the mood was transformed. Everything is now riding on that trip to Italy on December 6 when Rodgers will have no choice but to include his big guns. Udinese are out and Anzhi have already qualified after beating the Italians 2-0 in Moscow. Liverpool will join the Russians in the last 32 if they beat the Serie A outfit. A draw will be enough if Young Boys also are held in their final game. The Reds only had themselves to blame after spurning some glorious opportunities to put the Swiss away. It was a painful end to a surreal day. Having witnessed Rafa Benitez being unveiled as Chelsea's new boss, there was then the remarkable sight of Joe Cole being afforded a standing ovation. It was richly deserved. This was arguably Cole's best performance in a Liverpool shirt as he created Jonjo Shelvey's opener and then scored himself after Raul Bobadilla had equalised. It may not be enough to extend an Anfield career blighted by injuries and poor form beyond January but even so this was some parting gift from Cole. The former England midfielder could count himself fortunate to be handed another chance by Rodgers following the paucity of his contribution in his past two appearances against Swansea City and Anzhi. But the decision to play him was vindicated. He worked tirelessly, his movement was much improved and he was a creative force on the right flank as opposed to the passenger he has been previously this term. Keen to rest his star names ahead of Sunday's league trip to Swansea City, Rodgers had made a raft of changes. There were just four survivors from the side which had beaten Wigan 3-0 at home. Pepe Reina broke Ray Clemence's club record of most appearances by a goalkeeper in Europe as he started his 81st continental clash. The services of Andre Wisdom, Martin Skrtel and Suso were also retained. But the lack of depth was once again exposed as by the end he had been forced to call upon Steven Gerrard, Luis Suarez and Raheem Sterling. Young Boys looked set to be Group A's whipping boys after being hammered 5-3 by the Reds' second string in Bern back in September but they arrived at Anfield having re-ignited their European hopes with back to back wins over Udinese. The Swiss had been indebted to Argentine striker Bobadilla who had netted twice in both games against the Italians. Rodgers had warned of Young Boys' attacking threat and it was evident from the opening minute. Straight from the kick-off, Wisdom was caught napping and the Reds were relieved to see Gonzalo Zarate's acrobatic volley fly over the bar. Bobadilla then forced a low save from Reina who was called into action again to deny Raphael Nuzzolo. With makeshift striker Shelvey asked to operate in the 'false No 9' position favoured by Spain, the Reds lacked a focal point up front with the youngster dropping deep to get involved. After a slow start Liverpool belatedly clicked into gear with Nuri Sahin's influence on proceedings growing. The chances began to come with Shelvey providing a perfectly weighted pass through to Cole who dragged his shot wide of the far post. When Cole was upended by Alain Nef, Jordan Henderson's curling free-kick was comfortably kept out by Marco Wolfli. The Reds should have broken the deadlock midway through the first half. Shelvey's clever flick from Skrtel's pass left Henderson with just Wolfli to beat but he fired too close to the keeper. Young Boys' vociferous 3,000 travelling fans received a warm ovation from the Kop after unveiling a banner which read 'In Memory of Hillsborough'. Rodgers was forced into a reshuffle just past the half hour mark when Wisdom went off with a knee injury. Gerrard was introduced in midfield with Henderson slotting into right-back. With Stewart Downing on the other side it meant Liverpool had £36million worth of talent at full-back. Liverpool's control continued to grow and 12 minutes before the break they were in front. It was a slick move as Cole found Suso before continuing his run into the area. The young Spaniard gave it back to Cole, who clipped the ball back across goal for Shelvey to nod home his fourth goal in the competition. Energised by the breakthrough, the Reds threatened to add to their tally with Suso's deflected shot beating Wolfli but dipping narrowly wide. From Gerrard's ensuing corner, Cole's shot was diverted goalwards by Skrtel but Nuzzolo hacked it off the line. Just before the interval the Reds should have had breathing space with Cole once again influential. Shelvey found Cole whose first time pass put Suso in the clear. It was a glorious opportunity for him to open his account for the Reds but he failed to hit the target. Young Boys started the second half brightly with Farnerud and Elsad Zverotic going close. The visitors continued to look vulnerable defensively but Cole was thwarted by Wolfli after Suso's intelligent through ball.

The Reds were still ruing that miss when the Swiss equalised in the 52nd minute. Bobadilla was allowed to bring down Farnerud's cross-field pass and lash an unstoppable left-footer past Reina. Henderson was the guilty party having allowed Young Boys' 14-goal top scorer to get away from him far too easily. With the Reds' qualification thrown into doubt, Rodgers turned to Suarez on the hour mark as Suso made way. The Uruguayan's impact was immediate as he helped restore the hosts' lead in the 72nd minute. Suarez picked out Gerrard and the skipper slotted the ball through to Cole, who turned expertly and fired past Wolfli. It was Cole's first goal for Liverpool since he netted in the 5-0 rout of Birmingham City in April 2011 and his joy was clear as he celebrated with his arms aloft in front of the Kop. Cole departed soon after to a standing ovation as Raheem Sterling came on but his hero status was taken away from him. Two minutes from time the Reds were left stunned as Zverotic dispatched a fierce strike past Reina from the edge of the box. Now for the Italian job. Liverpool FC (4-3-3): Reina, Wisdom (Gerrard 31), Skrtel, Carragher, Downing, Henderson, Sahin, Suso (Suarez 60), Cole (Sterling 75), Shelvey, Assaidi. Not used: Jones, Enrique, Coates, Allen. Young Boys (4-2-3-1): Wolfli, Sutter, Nef, Veskovic (Ojala 23), Lecjaks, Zverotic, Farnerud, Zarate, Schneuwly (Vitkievics 82), Nuzzolo (Frey 77), Bobadilla. Not used: Mvogo, Gonzalez, Costanzo, Doubai. Referee: Alon Yefet (Israel) Attendance: 37,810 Goals: Shelvey 33, Bobadilla 52, Cole 72, Zverotic 88. Bookings: Sahin, Zverotic.



Late leveller takes LFC's Europa League fate to the wire
RAFAEL BENITEZ manager of Chelsea. Joe Cole substituted to a standing ovation. Underwhelming disappointment at Anfield. Yesterday may not have exactly been run-of-the-mill for Liverpool supporters, but it had a depressingly familiar ending. Mere hours after Benitez was being improbably unveiled at Stamford Bridge, the Spaniard's former club threw away a chance to earn qualification for the knockout stages of the Europa League with a game to spare. A hard-earned home victory over Swiss side Young Boys seemed within the grasp of Brendan Rodgers' much-changed side thanks to the contribution from an unlikely source. Joe Cole had incurred the wrath of Rodgers after being given the hook at half-time on his last outing in the Capital One Cup defeat to Swansea City. Yet last night the 31-year-old posted arguably the finest performance of a barren, luckless Anfield career, creating Jonjo Shelvey's 33rd-minute opener before putting Liverpool back ahead 18 minutes from time with his first goal since April 2011 after Raul Bobadilla had smashed Young Boys level. However, lackadaisical Liverpool let the lead slip for a second time with Elsad Zverotic's long-range effort on 88 minutes meaning the European adventure remains in the balance for Rodgers' men. Anzhi Makhachkala's victory over Udinese earlier in the evening meant Liverpool knew victory last night would have ensured progress with a game to spare. Now Rodgers' men must beat an already-eliminated Udinese in Italy to guarantee their progress in the final group game in a fortnight, although a draw will be enough if Young Boys fail to beat an already-qualified Anzhi at home. Such is the topsy-turvy nature of the group, Liverpool could yet finish top or bottom. Not that it should be going to the final round of games. How infuriating for Rodgers, his team yet again hampered by what should be home comforts; Liverpool have won only four of 13 games at Anfield this season. Cole's display may ultimately make no difference to his future, but it was at least a glimpse of what should have been. Shelvey's strike, meanwhile, underlined his self-confessed love for the Europa League by registering his fourth goal of this season's competition. The opening group game against Young Boys in Bern back in September was the first Liverpool outing for both Andre Wisdom and Suso, the former scoring in an exhilarating 5-3 triumph. Both youngsters have subsequently cemented regular first-team places, and among an experimental starting line-up last night that saw Shelvey pushed up front in what the zeitgeist determines is known as the 'false nine' role, underlining the paucity of striking options available to Rodgers he will hope to rectify in January. With the vociferous and numerous away support bedecked in Young Boys' traditional yellow and black colours, it was as though the visitors were being backed by a swarm of bees. The Swiss signified their intent inside the opening 10 seconds when an attack directly from the kick-off ended with Gonzalo Zarate guiding an acrobatic volley over the bar. After another lightning break on five minutes ended with Raphael Nuzzolo firing at Pepe Reina, it was evident the Swiss side would replicate the attacking approach that earned surprise back-to-back victories over Udinese. Reina's appearance meant he surpassed Ray Clemence's club record for the most appearance by a goalkeeper in Europe, last night his 81st since arriving from Villarreal in the summer of 2005.

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Liverpool, though, slowly found their feet and, on 17 minutes, having been fed down the inside right channel by Shelvey, Cole struck a shot harmlessly across the face of Marco Wolfli's goal before the Young Boys goalkeeper clutched a free-kick from Jordan Henderson. They came closer still on 26 minutes when, released by a delightful backheel flick from Shelvey, Henderson's shot was turned behind by Wolfli. And Liverpool were ahead seven minutes later. A fine one-two between Cole and Suso sent the former through for a shot that, while clearing Wolfli, was dropping wide until Shelvey finished the job with his head from a matter of yards. After Suso's shot was deflected into the side-netting, the resultant corner saw Nuzzolo clear off the line from Martin Skrtel. And Suso should have done better two minutes before the break when, fed by Cole's slide-rule pass, the Spanish youngster went for placement and directed the ball wide of Wolfli's right-hand post. Both defences were disrupted by injury before the interval, Young Boys losing hamstrung centre-back Dusan Veskovic while Wisdom was replaced by Steven Gerrard with the ever-versatile Henderson switching to right-back, meaning Liverpool effectively had one goalkeeper, two defenders and eight midfielders on the pitch. Young Boys started the second half the stronger, Alexander Farnerud firing over from range and then Zverotic much closer with a similar effort. And, after Cole was denied by a decent Wolfli save, the visitors broke down the other end and equalised on 52 minutes, makeshift right-back Henderson allowing Bobadilla far too much time and space to collect Farnerud's cross at the far post and smash a shot across Reina. Enter Luis Suarez from the bench. And the Uruguayan was part of a neat passing move that ended with Gerrard finding Cole in space inside the area, the midfielder turning and then shooting under Wolfli to restore Liverpool's advantage 18 minutes from time. Young Boys sought a second equaliser, Reina clutching a long-range drive from Elsad Zverotic. But the midfielder got his sights right in the 88th minute, thumping home with an effort Reina will feel disappointed not to have kept out. MAN OF THE MATCH. Joe Cole. Scored one goal and created the other, a rare high point in the midfielder's Liverpool career LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Reina; Wisdom (Gerrard 31), Skrtel, Carragher, Downing; Sahin, Henderson; Assaidi, Suso (Suarez 61), Cole (Sterling 75); Shelvey. Subs: Jones, Enrique, Coates, Allen. BOOKING: Sahin (foul). YOUNG BOYS (4-4-1-1): Wolfli; Sutter, Nef, Veskovic (Doubai 23), Lecjaks; Schneuwly (Vitkieviev 82), Zarate, Zverotic, Zarate, Nuzzolo (Frey 77); Farnerud; Bobadilla. Subs: Mvogo, Gonzalez, Ojala, Constanzo. BOOKING: Zverotic (unsporting behaviour). REFEREE: Alon Yefet (Israel). ATT: 37,810. NEXT GAME: Swansea City v Liverpool, Barclays Premier League, Sunday 1.30pm.					

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	Independent	Mail	BBC		

BBC

90:00+2:38Full time The final whistle goes and the game is over.

90:00+1:47 Free kick awarded for a foul by Juhani Ojala on Luis Suarez. Steven Gerrard crosses the ball, Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Blocked by Alain Nef.

89:29 Foul by Raul Marcelo Bobadilla on Martin Skrtel, free kick awarded. Jose Reina takes the free kick.

89:13 Jordan Henderson sends in a cross, save made by Marco Wolffi.

88:55Booking The referee shows Elsad Zverotic a yellow card.

87:48 Assist on the goal came from Michael Frey.

87:48Goal scored Goal - Elsad Zverotic - Liverpool 2 - 2 Young BoysA goal is scored by Elsad Zverotic from just outside the penalty box high into the middle of the goal.

Liverpool 2-2 Young Boys.

85:52 Unfair challenge on Jordan Henderson by Raul Marcelo Bobadilla results in a free kick. Free kick taken by Jose Reina.

84:12 Juhani Ojala gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Steven Gerrard. Steven Gerrard has a direct shot on goal from the free kick.

83:39 Raul Marcelo Bobadilla has an effort at goal from a long way out that goes wide left.

81:51 Corner taken right-footed by Elsad Zverotic to the near post, clearance made by Jose Reina.

81:38 A cross is delivered by Michael Frey, clearance by Jordan Henderson.

81:07Substitution SubstitutionMathias Vitkievitz joins the action as a substitute, replacing Christian Schneuwly.

80:39 Elsad Zverotic takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.

80:03 Luis Suarez is caught offside. Direct free kick taken by Juhani Ojala.

78:34 Michael Frey is adjudged to have handled the ball. Stewart Downing restarts play with the free kick.

77:46 Elsad Zverotic crosses the ball from the free kick right-footed from right channel, Stewart Downing makes a clearance.

77:46Booking for Nuri Sahin for dissent.

77:37 Free kick awarded for a foul by Nuri Sahin on Gonzalo Zarate.

77:25 Martin Skrtel concedes a free kick for a foul on Juhani Ojala. Juhani Ojala takes the direct free kick.

77:02 Raheem Sterling takes a shot. Juhani Ojala gets a block in.

75:57 Marco Wolfli takes the direct free kick.

75:57Substitution SubstitutionMichael Frey is brought on as a substitute for Raphael Nuzzolo.

75:57 Raheem Sterling handles the ball and concedes a free kick.

74:25Substitution Liverpool makes a substitution, with Raheem Sterling coming on for Joe Cole.

73:27 Handball by Joe Cole. Direct free kick taken by Jan Lecjaks.

71:38 Steven Gerrard provided the assist for the goal.

71:38Goal scored Goal - Joe Cole - Liverpool 2 - 1 Young BoysGoal scored by Joe Cole from deep inside the penalty box low into the middle of the goal. Liverpool 2-1 Young Boys.

70:43 Raul Marcelo Bobadilla challenges Stewart Downing unfairly and gives away a free kick. Direct free kick taken by Jamie Carragher.

69:59 Inswinging corner taken from the left by-line by Steven Gerrard, Marco Wolffi makes a comfortable save.

69:36 Corner taken left-footed by Nuri Sahin, Juhani Ojala makes a clearance.

69:05 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Blocked by Juhani Ojala.

66:46 Raphael Nuzzolo challenges Joe Cole unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick crossed right-footed by Steven Gerrard, clearance made by Marco Wolffi. Inswinging corner taken by Jonjo Shelvey.

66:15 Christian Schneuwly concedes a free kick for a foul on Luis Suarez. Stewart Downing restarts play with the free kick.

65:52 Alexander Farnerud takes a inswinging corner from the right by-line played to the near post, Jamie Carragher makes a clearance.

64:34 Outswinging corner taken left-footed by Nuri Sahin played to the near post.

64:06 Corner taken left-footed by Nuri Sahin to the near post, clearance by Raul Marcelo Bobadilla.

63:57 Oussama Assaidi delivers the ball, Alain Nef makes a clearance.

63:33 Jonjo Shelvey decides to take the corner short.

62:37 Luis Suarez challenges Elsad Zverotic unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick taken by Marco Wolffi.

59:39Substitution SubstitutionJesus Fernandez Saez leaves the field to be replaced by Luis Suarez.

59:16 The offside flag is raised against Jonjo Shelvey. Juhani Ojala restarts play with the free kick.

58:38 Stewart Downing produces a left-footed shot from a long way out which goes wide right of the goal.

56:52 Jonjo Shelvey takes the inswinging corner, clearance by Marco Wolffi.

55:56 Gonzalo Zarate concedes a free kick for a foul on Nuri Sahin. Nuri Sahin restarts play with the free kick.

55:02 Scott Sutter takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.

52:59 Martin Skrtel gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Raul Marcelo Bobadilla. Elsad Zverotic restarts play with the free kick.

51:21 Assist on the goal came from Alexander Farnerud.

51:21Goal scored Goal - Raul Marcelo Bobadilla - Liverpool 1 - 1 Young BoysRaul Marcelo Bobadilla gets on the score sheet with a goal from inside the box to the top left corner of the goal. Liverpool 1-1 Young Boys.

50:56 Joe Cole takes a shot. Save by Marco Wolffi.

50:02 Jonjo Shelvey challenges Scott Sutter unfairly and gives away a free kick. Alain Nef takes the direct free kick.

49:36 Elsad Zverotic has shot on goal from just outside the penalty box which goes wide of the right-hand upright.

48:17 Shot from just outside the box by Alexander Farnerud goes over the crossbar.

47:46 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Scott Sutter by Oussama Assaidi. Marco Wolffi takes the free kick.

46:10 Free kick awarded for a foul by Juhani Ojala on Jesus Fernandez Saez. Free kick crossed right-footed by Steven Gerrard from right channel. The assistant referee flags for offside against Jonjo Shelvey. Alain Nef restarts play with the free kick.

45:01 The referee blows his whistle to start the second half.

30:22 Corner taken by Alexander Farnerud, save by Jose Reina.

30:22Substitution Liverpool makes a substitution, with Steven Gerrard coming on for Andre Wisdom.

30:22 The ball is delivered by Andre Wisdom, Jonjo Shelvey makes a clearance.

45:00+2:35Half time The referee blows for half time.

45:00+1:24 Inswinging corner taken from the left by-line by Steven Gerrard, clearance made by Raphael Nuzzolo.

45:00+1:09 The ball is delivered by Stewart Downing, Scott Sutter gets a block in.

45:00+0:07 The ball is swung over by Joe Cole, comfortable save by Marco Wolffi.

44:43 Raul Marcelo Bobadilla has a headed effort from close in and clears the bar.

42:48 Jesus Fernandez Saez produces a left-footed shot from just outside the penalty box that misses to the left of the goal.

42:15 Steven Gerrard delivers the ball, clearance made by Scott Sutter.

41:33 Centre by Jan Lecjaks, Stewart Downing manages to make a clearance.

39:34 Oussama Assaidi challenges Scott Sutter unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick crossed left-footed by Gonzalo Zarate, clearance made by Marco Wolffi.

37:51 Jan Lecjaks crosses the ball.

35:31 Jesus Fernandez Saez takes a shot. Blocked by Alain Nef. Inswinging corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the left by-line, Joe Cole takes a shot. Clearance made by Scott Sutter.

34:33 Joe Cole is ruled offside. Free kick taken by Alain Nef.

34:15 Oussama Assaidi sends in a cross, clearance made by Jan Lecjaks.

32:35 Joe Cole provided the assist for the goal.

32:35Goal scored Goal - Jonjo Shelvey - Liverpool 1 - 0 Young BoysJonjo Shelvey scores a headed goal from inside the six-yard box. Liverpool 1-0 Young Boys.

31:31 Free kick awarded for a foul by Christian Schneuwly on Stewart Downing. Free kick taken by Stewart Downing.

19:54 Inswinging corner taken right-footed by Alexander Farnerud, clearance by Martin Skrtel.

30:22 Corner taken right-footed by Jonjo Shelvey from the left by-line, save made by Marco Wolffi.

30:22Substitution SubstitutionSteven Gerrard replaces Andre Wisdom.

30:22 Andre Wisdom produces a cross, Christian Schneuwly makes a clearance.

29:41 Oussama Assaidi takes a shot. Marco Wolffi makes a comfortable save.

29:12 Jordan Henderson handles the ball and concedes a free kick. Alexander Farnerud restarts play with the free kick.

27:11 Alexander Farnerud takes a outswinging corner from the left by-line played to the near post, clearance made by Jonjo Shelvey. Juhani Ojala produces a left-footed shot from 35 yards and missed to the left of the goal.

26:24 Nuri Sahin takes the inswinging corner, save made by Marco Wolffi.

25:44 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Marco Wolffi makes a fantastic save. Corner taken by Jonjo Shelvey from the left by-line, Alain Nef makes a clearance.

24:58 Unfair challenge on Jesus Fernandez Saez by Christian Schneuwly results in a free kick. Direct free kick taken by Jesus Fernandez Saez.

24:10 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Jan Lecjaks by Andre Wisdom. Free kick taken by Elsad Zverotic.

23:45 The official flags Joe Cole offside. Marco Wolffi takes the free kick.

22:10Substitution SubstitutionDusan Veskovic goes off and Juhani Ojala comes on.

19:54 Jesus Fernandez Saez takes the inswinging corner, clearance made by Alain Nef.

19:28 Alexander Farnerud takes a shot. Martin Skrtel gets a block in.

19:05 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Stewart Downing by Christian Schneuwly. Nuri Sahin restarts play with the free kick.

17:10 Free kick awarded for a foul by Alain Nef on Joe Cole. Jordan Henderson fires a strike on goal direct from the free kick, comfortable save by Marco Wolffi.

16:07 Joe Cole has an effort from just inside the box that misses to the left of the target.

14:34 The assistant referee signals for offside against Joe Cole. Indirect free kick taken by Marco Wolffi.

13:33 Shot from just outside the box by Nuri Sahin misses to the right of the goal.

12:09 Stewart Downing takes a shot. Elsad Zverotic gets a block in.

11:11 Christian Schneuwly takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.

4:50 Raphael Nuzzolo takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.

4:15 Corner taken right-footed by Jonjo Shelvey from the left by-line to the near post, Raul Marcelo Bobadilla makes a clearance.

1:23 Foul by Joe Cole on Dusan Veskovic, free kick awarded. Alain Nef takes the direct free kick.

1:07 Raul Marcelo Bobadilla takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.

0:12 Alexander Farnerud produces a left-footed shot from inside the area that goes over the bar.

0:00 The ref blows the whistle to begin the match.