

Date: 2 January 2013
 Opposition: Sunderland
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	Sunderland Echo

2 January 2013

THE TIMES

Suarez strikes twice for bold Rodgers while Sturridge waits

Liverpool 3 Sunderland 0

Ever since the last day of August, the start of January could not come soon enough for Liverpool, but even Brendan Rodgers, who boldly pledged to create "new dreams" in his programme notes, could not have wished for the second day of the new year to go as resoundingly well as it did. A commanding three-goal victory over Sunderland, as Liverpool produced arguably the most impressive display of his tenure, provided the perfect ending to a day in which the mistakes of the previous transfer deadline day and failings of past regimes began to be put right. With Joe Cole, whose [pounds sterling]92,000 basic weekly wage was a drain on resources, bound for West Ham United and Daniel Sturridge confirmed as a Liverpool player after completing his [pounds sterling]12 million transfer from Chelsea, Rodgers could afford to be effusively positive, particularly with his team showing further signs of improvement.

"The players were fantastic," he said. "You've got to give them massive credit. Their effort and quality were phenomenal. We have taken nine points from 12 over a really busy period, but maybe you only get the credit you deserve when you win, and I'm expecting us to kick on in the second half of the season if we can pick the tempo up." Sturridge's arrival may be four months overdue, but it will ease the burden on the overworked Luis Suarez. Not that the Uruguayan seems negatively affected by the responsibility he has carried throughout autumn and early winter, as emphasised by the two well-taken goals he scored in another virtuoso display that prompted Rodgers to mention him in the same breath as Lionel Messi. "I was talking with Harry Redknapp after our game with QPR and he said Luis is a Messi-type character," Rodgers said. "When I gave him a break at the start of the season, he didn't want it. He is a player that has to play two or three times a week to be on top of his game -- one game a week is no good to him. He needs to be playing." It is doubtful that Sunderland see things quite the same way. For them, last night would have been the ideal time for Suarez to be awarded a well-deserved rest. No such luck. Liverpool's talisman began their destruction in the nineteenth minute, after the visiting side had started well, putting Raheem Sterling through with a wonderfully imaginative pass despite having his back to goal. The teenager calmly lobbed the ball over the advancing Simon Mignolet to give Suarez's creativity the finish that it deserved and put Liverpool ahead. Sunderland should have been level within three minutes, but a flowing move involving James McClean, Stephane Sessegnon and Steven Fletcher was wasted when McClean shot wide with only Pepe Reina to beat. "It was a great chance," Martin O'Neill, the Sunderland manager, said. Sunderland's sense of regret intensified after 26 minutes when Suarez put Liverpool two ahead. If Suarez deserves credit for staying on his feet after being fouled by Carlos Cuellar in the build-up to the goal, then so too does Phil Dowd, the referee, who played the advantage rule to perfection. Once in possession, he unleashed a fierce shot that soared into the net via a deflection off Mignolet. Sunderland could still have got themselves back into the game after 35 minutes, when Adam Johnson picked out Matthew Kilgallon at the back post only for the defender to be brilliantly thwarted by Reina. From that point, Liverpool's stranglehold on the game became even more pronounced as their confidence grew. By the time Suarez completed the scoring after 53 minutes, Liverpool should already have put the result beyond doubt. Steven Gerrard picked out Suarez with a wonderful 60-yard through-ball that was taken advantage of. "It was one of the passes of the season," Rodgers said, without fear of contradiction.

Liverpool continued to create chances, with Joe Allen and Glen Johnson going close before Suso and Allen had goals disallowed for marginal offside decisions. Liverpool's only regret will be that they did not make the margin of their victory even more resounding. Not that it mattered as Rodgers introduced Jamie Carragher as a late substitute, allowing the veteran defender to make his 493rd league appearance, taking him to second place in the club's all-time list behind Ian Callaghan, who played for them on 640 occasions in the league. If Carragher is at the stage of his career when he begins to represent Liverpool's past, Sturridge is most definitely part of their future, although he arrives having been given no guarantees from his manager. "We are bringing in a player who knows he has to perform, as he will be playing with one of the biggest clubs in the world," Rodgers said. "He has got quality. If he wants to stay at this level, this is probably his last chance."

Payoff for West Ham-bound Cole, page 61

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): J M Reina -- A Wisdom, M Skrtel (sub: J Carragher, 73min), D Agger, G Johnson -- Lucas Leiva, S Gerrard -- R Sterling (sub: J Allen, 57), J Henderson (sub: Suso, 67), S Downing -- L Suarez. Substitutes not used: B Jones, N Sahin, J Shelvey, J Robinson.

Sunderland (4-4-1-1): S Mignolet -- C Gardner, C Cuellar, M Kilgallon, D Rose (sub: D Vaughan, 73) -- A Johnson, S Larsson (sub: J McFadden, 62), J Colback, J McClean -- S Sessegnon (sub: F Campbell, 46) -- S Fletcher. Substitutes not used: K Westwood, P Bardsley, C Wickham, T Bramble. Booked: McClean.

Referee: P Dowd.

Numbers game

5 Liverpool league wins by at least a three-goal margin this season -- the most in the Premier League

8 League games in a row in which Liverpool have scored -- their best run for two

seasons

8 Liverpool's league position -- their joint highest this season 15 Luis Suarez goals in 20 league games this season; his other

the guardian

Suarez's brilliance eases pressure on Liverpool's window shopping

Liverpool 3 Sterling 19, Suarez 26 52

Sunderland 0

January has been over-hyped as the answer to Liverpool's prayers by their intense longing for the transfer window to reopen. It is far from that, as Brendan Rodgers has been at pains to stress, but it is off to an emphatic start after the swift pounds 12m signing of Daniel Sturridge was accompanied by an eye-catching defeat of Sunderland. As has been the case since a turbulent summer window increased the responsibility on him, Luis Suarez inspired the Liverpool cause and Martin O'Neill's team could find no response. The Uruguay international, aided and abetted throughout by Steven Gerrard, created the opener for Raheem Sterling and struck twice to take his Premier League total for the season to 15. His latest fruitful display came on the night Jamie Carragher made his 493rd league outing for Liverpool to move ahead of Billy Liddell into outright second on the club's all-time league appearance list, behind Ian Callaghan on 640.

Sturridge watched from the directors' box at Anfield having completed his move from Chelsea earlier in the day and should have been salivating at the prospect of working alongside Suarez. The England international is better late than never as far as Rodgers is concerned but the prospect of finally easing the burden on Liverpool's leading goalscorer might have to wait.

The Liverpool manager drooled: "I spoke to Harry Redknapp about Luis after our game at QPR the other day and we said Luis was a Messi-type character. When I gave him a break at the start of the season he didn't want it. He is a player that has to play two or three times a week to be on top of his game. He is never in the treatment room and then he comes out and performs like that. His cleverness and intelligence finds the space and he is thriving. It will be fantastic to see him develop." Suarez set the tone against a Sunderland side that carried a threat throughout the first half - and this was not the stroll that Liverpool's previous home win over Fulham represented - before running out of ideas and energy against the Uruguayan's relentless movement, strength and penetration.

The Liverpool striker's first telling intervention was to send Sterling clear of the dozing defenders Danny Rose and Matthew Kilgallon with an overhead kick, after Gerrard had headed back a goal-kick from Simon Mignolet. Sterling had time to steady himself before beating Mignolet with a delicate lob.

Anfield celebrations should have been cut short when Stephane Sessegnon and Steven Fletcher combined to release James McClean inside the Liverpool area. McClean dragged his shot well wide of Pepe Reina's post and had further cause to rue the miss when Suarez doubled Liverpool's lead moments later.

Again Gerrard was involved, winning a challenge and releasing play down the right, and again the Sunderland defence was found wanting as Carlos Cuellar failed to dislodge Suarez with a shoulder charge or clear when the ball fell briefly at his feet. The referee, Phil Dowd, ignored his assistant's flag and played a fine advantage as Suarez advanced into the area and swept the ball beyond Mignolet with the outside of his right foot. O'Neill's team should have reduced the deficit before the interval but Sebastian Larsson shot tamely at Reina after a Craig Gardner effort deflected into his path. The Liverpool goalkeeper also made an outstanding save low to his left to prevent Kilgallon converting a floated cross to the far post from Adam Johnson. "We needed to take our chances and didn't do that tonight," said the Sunderland manager. "The third goal put us on the back foot and after that Liverpool were really comfortable."

Sunderland had not won at Anfield since October 1983 and, with Jordan Henderson impressing against his former club, Gerrard picking off passes unchallenged and Suarez dominant, not to mention the visitors' own profligacy, there was no prospect of the drought ending here. The second half was more one-sided than the first and Sterling could have added a third when Gerrard and Suarez again combined to send him through on Mignolet's goal. This time the 18-year-old clipped his finish wide of the far post.

The telepathy between Liverpool's captain and leading goalscorer soon inflicted further punishment on the men from Wearside, however. The source was Gerrard, who delivered a stunning pass through the centre of Sunderland's central defence from deep inside the Liverpool half, and Suarez duly applied the necessary finish from close range. It was his fifth goal in five games against Sunderland. Close but correct offside calls prevented Glen Johnson and Joe Allen from adding a fourth for Liverpool.

Liverpool 4-2-3-1 Reina; Wisdom, Skrtel (Carragher, 73), Agger, Johnson; Gerrard, Lucas; Sterling (Allen, 57), Henderson (Suso, 67), Downing; Suarez.

Subs not used Jones, Shelvey, Robinson, Sahin.

Referee P Dowd

Sunderland 4-4-1-1 Mignolet; Gardner, Cuellar, Kilgallon, Rose (Vaughan, 73);

Johnson, Larsson

(McFadden, 62), Colback, McClean*; Sessegnon (Campbell, h-t); Fletcher.

Subs not used Westwood, Bardsley, Wickham, Bramble.

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The Mail

I AM STILL THE MAIN MAN, DAN; Suarez shows Sturridge who'll lead the line

HE IS rightly lauded for carrying Liverpool's goal threat almost on his own, but Luis Suarez again showed he can create them as well as finish them at Anfield last night. The Liverpool forward -- who yesterday saw another striker arrive at the club in Daniel Sturridge -- sent Raheem Sterling scampering clear for a 19th-minute opener before reverting to his more usual predatory role and taking his goals tally for the season to 18 with two typically accomplished strikes.

Sunderland had their moments, particularly in the first half when James McClean and Seb Larsson wasted clear openings, but they could not live with Liverpool's Suarez-inspired power. With Brendan Rodgers preaching consistency, the need to replicate the convincing performance last time out against Fulham was key.

Rodgers could therefore have done without a slightly nervy start that almost saw his side concede, following a fifth-minute foul by Martin Skrtel on Steven Fletcher. Skrtel's timing was awry as he slid in late on the Sunderland striker, and his team-mates fared little better with the resulting set-piece from Adam Johnson. It was only half-cleared, and when Jordan Henderson hesitated on the edge of the area, Craig Gardner unleashed a shot that was deflected just wide.

If that was an early warning, it had the desired effect, as Liverpool began turning on the slick passing style Rodgers believes will soon make them a force.

Andre Wisdom provided a sign of things to come with a rising drive that just cleared the bar in the eighth minute, and Stewart Downing went closer still from a free-kick four minutes later.

Downing was expected to play at left back, in place of the injured Jose Enrique, but was instead handed his more customary left midfield role which should have made him more confident about his long-term Anfield prospects.

He certainly looked eager to repay his manager's faith as he stepped up from 25 yards, after an uncompromising foul by Matt Kilgallon on Suarez, and curled a shot that brought a spectacular, full-length save from Mignolet.

Liverpool were warming to their task, and the breakthrough duly arrived in the 19th minute. Suarez has been noted for his predatory skills but he turned provider with a precise through ball that sent Sterling scampering clear. So immaculately measured was the pass that Sterling had time to let it bounce in front of him and steady himself before lobbing the ball over the advancing Mignolet and into an empty net. A free-flowing, eventful first half produced chances galore. Worryingly for Rodgers, they weren't all for Liverpool. Sunderland had a couple of clear opportunities to score and should have been level in the 22nd minute, after a move involving Fletcher and Stephane Sessegnon that ended with McClean through on goal.

Composure was all that was needed but the Sunderland winger dragged his shot wide. It proved a costly miss as Liverpool doubled their lead four minutes later with a typical flourish from Suarez. If it was another notable strike from the Uruguayan, it was a triumph for referee Phil Dowd too after Carlos Cuellar impeded the Liverpool striker as he broke away.

Sensing Suarez was able to continue, Dowd ignored his linesman's flag and waved play on, in a masterly piece of officiating that enabled Liverpool's leading marksman to surge clear and fire an angled drive beyond Mignolet.

Yet again, Liverpool looked nothing like as assured at the other end as Sunderland once more threatened, only to be let down again by sub-standard finishing.

Gardner's deflected shot landed at the feet of the unmarked Larsson, who should have done much better than shoot straight at a grateful Pepe Reina.

Liverpool deserved a two-goal lead at half-time but it was almost halved in the 35th minute, when Kilgallon's close-range volley, from a Johnson cross, was kept out by Reina's outstanding reflex save. Suarez's vision always seems to surprise opponents and he had Sunderland stumped with another brilliant piece of invention in the second half that almost produced a carbon copy of the opening goal. Sterling was again the beneficiary of a magnificent Suarez pass, but instead of lobbing Mignolet on this occasion, the winger tried to clip the ball round the Sunderland keeper and his effort bobbed wide. There are seldom any such errors when Suarez is on the receiving end of a pass that puts him clear on goal, and so it proved in the 53rd minute. Gerrard's through ball from inside his own half was eye-catching even by his standards, and when it dropped at Suarez's feet, 10 yards out, the rest was a formality. He took a second to bring it under control before forcing Liverpool's third goal past Mignolet to seal victory.

LIVERPOOL 3 Sterling 19 Suarez 26, 53

(4-2-3-1) TEAM AVERAGE 6.7

Reina 7 Wisdom 7 Agger 6 Skrtel 6 Carragher, 74 6 Johnson 6 Lucas 6 Gerrard 7 Sterling 7 Allen 57, Henderson 7 Suso, 67 6 Downing 7 Suarez 8

Subs not used Jones, Robinson, Sahin, Shelvey Manager Brendan Rodgers 8

Man of the match Luis Suarez

SUNDERLAND 0

(4-4-1-1) TEAM AVERAGE 6.2

Mignolet 7 Gardner 7 Cuellar 6 Kilgallon 6 Rose 7 Vaughan, 73 6 Johnson 7 Colback 6 Larsson 6 McFadden 62, 6 McClean 5 Sessegnon 5 Campbell 46, 6 Fletcher 7

Subs not used Westwood, Bardsley, Bramble, Wickham Manager Martin O'Neill 6 Booked McClean

Referee Phil Dowd 8

Anfield Attendance: 44,228

The Daily Telegraph

SUAREZ double is perfect cure for Liverpool

Liverpool 3

Stirling 19, Suarez 26, 52

Sunderland 0

Att: 44,228

Whatever medicine was administered to cure the sickness bug vexing Anfield over the past few days, the tonic had a reassuringly therapeutic effect. Brendan Rodgers' Liverpool team have never looked healthier than when inflicting punishment on Sunderland on what proved a torrid night for the visitors' manager, Martin O'Neill.

Luis Suarez in mesmeric form; a second consecutive Premier League win (for only the second time this season); the multimillion-pound signing of a new striker; the offloading of another wage burden in Joe Cole to West Ham; and the European places back within shooting distance.

They will be bringing out the bunting if the new year brings more nights like this in this stadium. Suarez and Raheem Sterling prolonged the festive celebrations with first-half goals against the North-East side, before the Uruguayan continued the masterclass with his 18th of the season in a comfortable 3-0 win.

Liverpool will feel they should qualify for Europe, a fact which suggests either they are better than their midtable position suggests or those above are worse, or perhaps a bit of both. Either way, having shaken off the ailment that caused him to miss the weekend win at Queens Park Rangers, Rodgers had cause to be positively beaming after a comfortable victory.

Suarez, inevitably, took centre stage but this was as complete and dominant a performance as Rodgers has seen from his new side. He promised the new year would bring more glad tidings, and this was the perfect start. It could easily have been six. Even Jordan Henderson was superb.

Where there is heightened cause for hope is in the combined force of Suarez and the Anfield youth ranks. They have excelled every week and it was appropriate that this was the lethal combination for Liverpool's first goals of the new year.

Sterling's resolution was to add goals to his repertoire of step-overs and shimmies, and the second of his Liverpool career came on 19 minutes. Suarez pounced on Steven Gerrard's headed clearance, before looping a defence-splitting pass, wrong-footing centre-halves Matt Kilgallon and Carlos Cuellar.

Sterling chipped the onrushing goalkeeper Simon Mignolet, a cool finish, and Liverpool's bright start during which Andre Wisdom and Stewart Downing also went close, was rewarded.

The lead should have lasted just three minutes, as Sunderland had their own positive moments early on. James McClean somehow missed the target when sent clear in the box by the diligent Steven Fletcher.

Suarez, whose portfolio of outstanding individual goals is bulging, punished Sunderland's carelessness on 26 minutes. Cuellar tried to barge the South American off the ball but succeeded only in losing balance. That allowed the striker to run clear and finish with the outside of his right foot, Mignolet seemingly confounded by the audacity of the attempt.

Pepe Reina denied Kilgallon with a double save before half-time, pushing wide after an instinctive block from a back-post volley as Sunderland rallied, but the lead should have been extended four minutes into the second half. Sterling was again sent through by Suarez but this time his attempted chip was tame, drifting wide.

The amnesty did not last. Suarez added his second on 53 minutes, superbly judging a 70-yard pass from Gerrard, allowing it to drift over his shoulder before nudging past Mignolet.

It was not so different from the goal against Sunderland's neighbours Newcastle earlier in the season.

Daniel Sturridge, signed for [pounds sterling]12million yesterday and watching from the stands last night, must have been licking his lips at the prospect of joining forces with the South American. It has been repeated that Suarez has been burdened with sole goalscoring responsibility, but the truth is he has thrived. He is well on course to becoming the first Liverpool striker to score 30 goals in a season since the days of Robbie Fowler.

Mignolet prevented a Suarez hat-trick with a brave save with his legs on 69 minutes after Joe Allen's clever pass, and chances kept flowing.

It remains a period of transition, but Rodgers may also note that Liverpool now need only one more win to equal the number of home victories for the whole of last season - a reminder that he did not exactly take over a club on the march. After rare back-to-back wins, Liverpool can set their sights on an even more elusive target. Three victories in succession, something they have not managed in the league yet. It should be no problem. They only have Manchester United (away) next.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Rodgers' revival gains impetus with Suarez the miracle worker

There has always been something of the revivalist preacher about Brendan Rodgers and it seemed last night that his future might just work.

Daniel Sturridge, the striker on whom the Liverpool manager has invested [pounds sterling]12 million, was looking down from the directors' box. Luis Suarez's argument to be Footballer of the Year was looking irresistible and there was one fabulous passing move that involved Stewart Downing and Jordan Henderson, men whom Anfield imagined were beyond redemption.

As the teams trotted out for the second half, the Tannoys played a song by a Manchester band whose lead singer is a fervent United supporter. The choice of The Stone Roses seemed less important than the lyrics to "I am the Resurrection". The view that Sturridge had would have been better than Demba Ba's at Stamford Bridge. His arrival was supposed to ease the pressure on Suarez, although it may just have pushed him to fresh heights.

"I was talking with Harry Redknapp after our game at Loftus Road and he said Suarez was a Messi-type character," Rodgers remarked. "When I gave him a break at the start of the season he didn't want it. He is a player that has to play two or three times a week to be on top of his game - one game a week is no good to him."

Liverpool have taken nine points from their holiday programme; sweeping aside Fulham, Sunderland and Queen's Park Rangers, who looked a shadow of the side that overcame Chelsea last night. However, in between, was the debacle at Stoke that showed the other side of Rodgers' Liverpool.

For Sunderland, this might have been a humbling evening rather than just a forgettable one. Liverpool had two second-half strikes from Suso and Joe Allen ruled out for offside while Simon Mignolet twisted acrobatically to deny Steven Gerrard's viciously deflected shot.

Searching for an adjective to describe his new club, Sturridge called it "humongous" which The Independent once described as the "one of the ugliest words ever to slither into our dictionaries".

Suarez has been the subject of every kind of adjective, from the deeply offensive to the glittering. However, with every game that passes there has been less of the flaws and more of the genius. Both the goals that gashed open Sunderland's defence before half time were brilliantly conceived. The first came from a delicious chip from Suarez that caught the Sunderland back four horribly square and sent through Raheem Sterling.

Mignolet sprinted from his line and challenged the teenager to chip him, which seemed at the time to be a lethal risk. He responded with a beautifully-measured effort that the Anfield Road End recognised was a goal from the moment it left his boot.

Then came the moment of the match, the time when the Uruguayan did not take or even look for the foul but remained on his feet and scored.

When Carlos Cuellar barged into him, the linesman signalled furiously but Suarez stayed upright, the Spaniard slipped and referee Phil Dowd impeccably allowed the advantage. The result was a measured shot that swept through Mignolet's legs and into the net.

Seven minutes after the interval, came the kind of incisive long pass that is Gerrard's trademark but which has been strangely absent this season. It found Suarez, who was marked but not nearly tightly enough to prevent his 18th goal of the season - one more than he scored last season.

Those who had followed Sunderland through the years would have known long before that the result was already settled. They had not won at Anfield since 1983 under a manager, Alan Durban, whose most famous observation was: "if you want entertainment, go to the circus".

The level of entertainment on Wearside has often been pitiful this season but, lately, there have been signs - even here - that a corner might have been turned. Last night Sunderland squandered several opportunities to score before they completely lost control of the evening. James McClean almost walked through the Liverpool defence, Seb Larsson shot too tamely and a goalmouth scramble forced a fine, reaction save from Pepe Reina, whose abilities have been the subject of increasing questioning on Merseyside.

When Reina saved, Martin O'Neill punched the air with an impotent fury. This was an encounter between two Ulster managers and the man from Kilrea knew he was being badly beaten by the boy from sweet Carnloch Bay.

LIVERPOOL
 SUNDERLAND

Substitutes: Liverpool Allen (Sterling, 57), Suso (Henderson, 67), Carragher (Skrstel, 73). Sunderland Campbell (Sessgnon, h-t), McFadden (Larsson, 62), Vaughan (Rose, 73).

Booked: Sunderland McClean.

Man of the match Suarez.

Match rating 7/10.

Possession: Liverpool 61%. Sunderland 39%.

Attempts on target: Liverpool 16. Sunderland 5.

Referee P Dowd (Staffordshire).

Attendance 44,228.

DAILY MIRROR

THE BEST BAR NONE!

NEVER can a dream have been so quickly shredded.

Daniel Sturridge arrived at Anfield last night, suggesting he hopes to become an instant hero as a central striker for his new club after a PS12million move.

Yet from his viewpoint in the directors' box, as he watched Liverpool make an emphatic statement in their first game of 2013, the message is there can only be one forward star in this team - and his name is LUIS SUAREZ.

The South American took poor SUNDERLAND apart, with a display of skill, audacity and cunning, but most importantly with a gutfuelled desire that Sturridge could do well to emulate if he is to reach the summit of the game alongside his erstwhile team-mate.

Suarez scored two, created a third, and was denied a stunning hat-trick only by the brave reactions of the visitors' best player, their keeper Simon Mignolet. No matter for the little Uruguayan maestro, because his second goal - which killed off any hope of a SUNDERLAND revival - was a piece of beauty in its own right, that didn't require the extra lustre of a third.

It came on 53 minutes and confirmed the progress this exciting Liverpool team are making, in finding a balance between close passing and quick breaking. A raking, jaw-dropping near 70-yard ball from Steven Gerrard saw the striker ghost between two defenders, judge the pace and bounce of the ball to perfection, take a superb touch and finish with clinical efficiency.

Soon after, Suarez backheeled gloriously to collect a clever Joe Allen ball, and was denied by Mignolet. But by then Sturridge must have realised he is destined to play a supporting role to this incredible forward.

Liverpool will not play two up front so the new signing, for all his belief that centreforward is his best position, will have to slot into one of the wide berths in a front three - because on this form, there is not a striker in the world who could usurp Suarez. His second on the night, a fourth in two games, was his 18th of the season, and - on January 2 - takes him past his tally for the whole of last season. What that shows is that boss Brendan Rodgers knows how to get the best out of his most talented asset and hints at the advances being made now after a difficult start.

Liverpool now stand in eighth, close enough to the top four to suggest the arrival of Sturridge can provide the impetus - and goals - to make a challenge for a Champions League place a realistic aim, should the signing come off.

Certainly, the presence of Sturridge seemed enough to inspire his new team's forwards in front of goal.

Where too many times they have opened brightly but passed over a host of chances, here they were clinical when the openings arrived.

Raheem Sterling is maybe under the most immediate pressure from the new signing given his tender years and that scoring has been the one area of weakness to his burgeoning game. Yet his finish on 19 minutes was that of a clinical hit-man as he raced onto a fabulous ball from Suarez, to calmly lob the keeper as if born to it.

It was Suarez's night though, and his first goal on 26 minutes showed the desire of the striker - and in the process contradicted the idea that his first instinct is to go down under a challenge.

When Gerrard won a header in midfield, the linesman flagged for a clear foul by Carlos Cuellar, but Suarez shrugged off the challenge, raced through on goal and creamed a shot with the outside of his right foot through the defences of Mignolet.

All it needed was a dive in celebration to finish it off.

Sunderland's only chance of salvation came three minutes after Sterling's opener, but when James McClean was sent through by Steven Fletcher, he shot wide.

With Suarez in this sort of form, there was only going to be one result after that. LIVERPOOL: Reina 7, Wisdom 6, Skrtel 7 (Carragher 74, 6), Agger 6, Johnson 7, Lucas 6, Gerrard 8, Downing 7, Henderson 6 (Suso 67, 6), Sterling 7 (Allen 57, 6), Suarez 9. SUNDERLAND: Mignolet 7, Gardner 6, Cuellar 6, Kilgallon 5, Rose 5 (Vaughan 73, 6), Larsson 6 (McFadden 62, 5), Colback 6, McClean 6, A Johnson 6, Sessegnon 5, Fletcher 6. REFEREE: Phil Dowd 7. ATTENDANCE: 44,228.

LIVERPOOL v SUNDERLAND MAN OF THE MATCH LUIS SUAREZ: Showed incredible skill and desire BALL POSSESSION 34% 66% SHOTS ON TARGET 2 10 SHOTS OFF TARGET 1 10 CORNERS 5 9 OFFSIDE 0 7 FOULS 6 9 CARDS 1 0 0

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New year brings new hope for LFC

A NEW YEAR brings new hope for Liverpool FC. Resolutions were honoured at Anfield last night as Brendan Rodgers' side kicked off 2013 in style with a resounding victory over Sunderland. After an erratic December, when performances flipped from the sublime to the ridiculous, the Reds followed up their hammering of Queens Park Rangers with an equally dominant display. They triumphed with a swagger as Luis Suarez delivered another breathtaking match-winning double. The Uruguayan is operating at the peak of his powers and now boasts 15 Premier League goals this term – the best haul by a Liverpool player in a season since Fernando Torres netted 18 in 2009/10.

With 18 in all competitions, Suarez has already surpassed his tally for the last campaign and if he can maintain these standards then the coming months will be some ride. Having laid on the opener for Raheem Sterling, Suarez took centre stage with two scintillating finishes.

Both of his goals were created by the outstanding Steven Gerrard and at times their understanding bordered on telepathic.

New £12million signing Daniel Sturridge, watching on from the directors' box, nodded in approval at the show he was treated to.

Sunderland were comprehensively outclassed and fortunate to escape a much heavier beating. Rodgers, who returned to the touchline after being forced to miss the trip to Loftus Road due to a virus, will hope his call for some consistency is finally being answered. "The start of 2013 allows us the opportunity to create new dreams and memories," he wrote in his programme notes. "The door has closed on 2012 and we must renew our commitment to the cause in 2013."

Last season the turn of the year saw Liverpool's league campaign go off the rails. They won just five of their last 19 league matches as Kenny Dalglish's second spell at the helm came to a sad conclusion.

With progress slow in the early months of Rodgers' reign, the Reds secured a meagre 46 points in 2012 – their lowest in a calendar year since 1953.

However, with Sturridge's arrival providing an injection of firepower and more new signings on the way, there is good reason to believe that Rodgers' side will only get stronger in 2013.

Andre Wisdom was handed his first start since November as the Reds boss made two changes following the rout of QPR. The teenager slotted in at right-back with Glen Johnson switching flanks in the absence of the injured Jose Enrique.

Lucas Leiva was restored to the line up in place of Joe Allen as Rodgers once again opted to rotate his holding midfielders. The decision paid off with the Brazilian providing the platform for Gerrard and Jordan Henderson to get forward in support of the front three. Sunderland haven't won at Anfield since 1983 and they never looked like ending that long wait.

Stewart Downing's curling 25-yard free-kick was clawed behind by Simon Mignolet before the breakthrough arrived in the 19th minute.

Gerrard rose to meet Mignolet's punt forward and his header found Suarez, who expertly held off the attentions of Matt Kilgallon and hooked an inviting ball into Sterling's path. The one criticism of the gifted teenager since he burst on to the scene this season has been the lack of an end product.

However, this time there were no complaints as he ran clear and executed the perfect lob over the stranded keeper. It was Sterling's first goal for three months and the outpouring of joy showed just what it meant to him.

The Reds almost swiftly relinquished their advantage. James McClean had time to pick his spot after latching on to Steven Fletcher's pass but with just Pepe Reina to beat he dragged his shot wide. It was a costly miss as in the 26th minute Liverpool doubled their lead. With such a high defensive line, Sunderland were playing Russian roulette and Liverpool cashed in.

Once again the opening was created by Gerrard's hunger and desire. The captain made a loose ball his own in midfield and fed Suarez down the right.

Suarez stayed on his feet to make the most of it, charging into the box and bending a stunning finish into the bottom corner for his 17th goal of the season. Liverpool were rampant and Henderson, who shone against his former club, delivered an inviting cross which Downing narrowly failed to convert at the back post. Sunderland rallied towards the end of the first half but in the final third they were toothless. Sebastian Larsson fired tamely at Reina, who then kept out Fletcher's strike and reacted smartly to shovel the ball behind with Kilgallon waiting to pounce. When the Reds counter-attacked at speed Sunderland struggled to contain them. Suarez and Henderson combined to find Downing, whose left-footed piledriver was deflected just wide by Craig Gardner.

Martin O'Neill took action at the interval as he replaced Stephane Sessegnon with Fraizer Campbell and went with two up front. However, Liverpool maintained their stranglehold on proceedings and were soon out of sight.

Suarez's delightful flick put Sterling through but this time he clipped his shot wide of the far post. It mattered little as in the 52nd minute the Reds wrapped up the points thanks to their deadly duo.

Gerrard's raking 50-yard pass picked out Suarez's darting run into a hole between the two centre-backs and he finished with aplomb. It was Gerrard's eighth league assist of an increasingly impressive campaign.

Sterling made way for Allen before the hour mark with Henderson moving out to

the right flank to accommodate the Welshman's arrival.

The chances kept on coming. It took an acrobatic save from Mignolet to thwart the hosts after Glen Johnson diverted Gerrard's volley goalwards.

Henderson, who was making his 50th league appearance for Liverpool, left to a deserved ovation as Suso came on. Mignolet kept the score down, racing off his line to stop Suarez from completing a hat-trick.

Allen will still be wondering how he failed to open his account for the Reds. He appeared destined to score when the ball dropped kindly to him 12 yards out but Danny Rose diverted his shot over. Allen then side-footed wide and when he did convert the flag was up because Downing had crossed from an offside position. Suso also had a goal chalked off as Sunderland were left chasing shadows.

There was another milestone for Jamie Carragher late on as he made his 493rd league outing - overtaking Billy Liddell and moving into outright second place in the list of most league appearances for the club.

It was a night to cherish – the perfect start to a pivotal year.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): Reina, Wisdom, Skrtel (Carragher 74), Agger, Johnson, Gerrard, Lucas, Suarez (Suso 67), Downing, Suarez, Sterling (Allen 57). Not used: Jones, Sahin, Shelvey, Robinson.

Sunderland (4-2-3-1): Mignolet, Gardner, Cuellar, Kilgallon, Rose (Vaughan 73), McClean, Sessegnon (Campbell 46), Johnson, Larsson (McFadden 62), Colback, Fletcher. Not used: Westwood, Bardsley, Wickham, Bramble.

REFEREE: Phil Dowd (Staffordshire).

ATTENDANCE: 44,228. GOALS: Sterling 19, Suarez 26, Suarez 52. BOOKINGS: McClean.



Luis Suarez sets standard for Sturridge to follow

ADDRESSING supporters in the matchday programme, Brendan Rodgers declared the start of 2013 would allow the opportunity to create new dreams and memories. And with Luis Suarez in this kind of form, surely anything is possible.

While a home Premier League victory against Sunderland could rarely be hailed as fantasy football, it made for a happy New Year for an Anfield faithful starved of such delights throughout the previous 12 months.

Certainly, there was no sign of the sickness that swept through the club at the weekend and prompted Rodgers to be banished from Sunday's win at Queens Park Rangers. Of course, it'll take more than just one comprehensive win to prove the Anfield ills have been banished.

But, coming on the back of a similar dismissal of Fulham, last night's thoroughly deserved victory was at least another tentative step in the right direction.

Daniel Sturridge watched on from the directors' box having completed his long-touted £12million move from Chelsea earlier in the day.

He must be rubbing his hands at the prospect of linking up with Suarez, the Uruguayan at his devastating best here. The striker laid on Liverpool's opener for Raheem Sterling then helped himself to goals either side of half-time to take his tally to 18 for the season, already more than he netted during the whole of the last campaign. Indeed, this time last year Suarez was mere days into a lengthy suspension following his race row with Patrice Evra. His redemption, at least in the eyes of Liverpool supporters, is now surely complete.

It helped that Sunderland, as Fulham, were guilty of sitting back and letting the hosts play, Rodgers' men needing no second invitation with Suarez aided by a supporting cast that saw Steven Gerrard dictating from midfield and both Stewart Downing and Jordan Henderson impressing.

There was also time for Jamie Carragher to emerge from the bench for his 493rd league appearance, the centre-back overtaking Billy Liddell and moving into outright second place in the club's all-time list.

Despite the dismal defeat at Stoke City on Boxing Day, Rodgers will regard three wins from four as a good return over the hectic festive schedule when teams traditionally make their move in the league table.

Rodgers, well enough to retake his place in the dugout after being taken ill ahead of Sunday's win at Loftus Road, rotated his resources for Liverpool's fourth game in 12 days. The hamstring injury that forced Jose Enrique to limp off at the weekend meant a first start in almost six weeks for Andre Wisdom at left-back, while Lucas Leiva replaced Joe Allen in central midfield.

Henderson was rewarded for an encouraging performance at QPR with only a fourth Premier League start of the campaign against his former club.

Liverpool dominated the meeting between sides at the Stadium of Light back in September but were reliant on a late Suarez equaliser to salvage a point.

Last night, however, they were intent on capitalising on any advantage with the irrepressible Uruguayan giving Sunderland centre-back Carlos Cuellar a torrid time. It was from a Cuellar foul on Suarez that Downing fired a 12th-minute warning to the visitors, forcing a flying save from Sunderland goalkeeper Simon Mignolet with a curling free-kick.

But Liverpool only had to wait another seven minutes for the opener, Suarez showing great control and vision to create the opportunity by taking the ball on his chest on the halfway line and hooking a pass over his head into space for Sterling to chase. The 18-year-old then showed great composure to bide his time before lobbing the ball over Mignolet and into the goal.

Sterling initiated the move that earned Liverpool their second seven minutes later when challenging for a high ball near the halfway line.

Date: 2 January 2013
 Opposition: Sunderland
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	Sunderland Echo

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Gerrard leapt on the loose possession and prodded the ball forward towards Suarez, who benefited from a good advantage by referee Phil Dowd after being impeded by Cuellar and advanced into the area before finishing expertly beyond Mignolet with the outside of his right foot. It was almost three moments later, a sliding Downing almost turning in Henderson's deep cross at the far post. Sunderland were not without their chances. Shortly after going behind, Steven Fletcher found James McClean in space 10 yards from goal but the winger spurned a great opening by shooting wide. And towards the break, Reina pulled off a fine save to repel Fletcher's shot from an Adam Johnson cross before scooping the ball wide before Matt Kilgallon could pounce. Any Sunderland resistance ended on 53 minutes. Three minutes earlier, a brilliant flicked pass around the corner from Suarez put Sterling in again but the youngster was too cute with his finish and didn't trouble Mignolet. But when Gerrard's excellent long diagonal pass split the Sunderland centre-backs, there was never any doubt that once it reached Suarez, the ball would end up nestling into the Kop goal. There could have been more. A fine save from Mignolet prevented Gerrard's volley from being deflected in by Glen Johnson, with the goalkeeper's feet then denying Suarez a hat-trick. A goalbound shot from substitute Allen ricocheted off Danny Rose and flew over, with the midfielder hitting into the side-netting late on and then seeing an effort chalked off by a debatable offside flag. Maybe Liverpool supporters really can start to dream. Well, a little bit anyway. **MAN OF THE MATCH.** Luis Suarez. Brilliant.

Sunderland Echo

Poor Sunderland crash at Liverpool

LUIS SUAREZ'S double condemned Sunderland to a second successive defeat as Liverpool inflicted the joint heaviest loss of the season on the Black Cats. Poor finishing and poor defending during a pivotal opening 45 minutes cost Martin O'Neill's men, as Sunderland missed the chance to extend the four-point gap with the relegation zone. Raheem Sterling handed Liverpool the lead when he raced onto Suarez's clever hook over the top of the Sunderland back four. James McClean should have immediately equalised, but dragged his shot wide and Liverpool punished the visitors when Suarez shook off the attempted challenge of Carlos Cuellar before sliding the ball past Simon Mignolet. Again, Sunderland had a golden opportunity to get on the scoresheet, with Matt Kilgallon seeing his shot saved by Pepe Reina seven minutes before the interval. But the second half was a procession for Liverpool, who extended their advantage through Suarez and spurned several opportunities to increase the margin of victory. Danny Rose returned to the Sunderland starting line-up after the on-loan Spurs left-back was ineligible to face his parent club last weekend. Rose took John O'Shea's place in the only change by Martin O'Neill, with Matt Kilgallon moving to the centre of defence to partner Carlos Cuellar. Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers made two changes to the side with Lucas coming in for Joe Allen, who was relegated to the bench, while Andre Wisdom took the place of the injured Jose Enrique. Former Sunderland academy product Jordan Henderson started in midfield for the Merseysiders. Wisdom produced the first meaningful effort on goal in the eighth minute when Steven Gerrard knocked it square to the right-back who unleashed a drive from 20 yards that was always rising and cleared the bar by a couple of feet. Stewart Downing produced better in the 12th minute after Luis Suarez theatrically plunged to the floor under pressure from Kilgallon just outside the area. Downing curled a left-footed free-kick towards the near post, which Simon Mignolet was required to push behind for a corner with a full-length save. But with Anfield barely producing a murmur, Liverpool broke the deadlock out of nothing in the 19th minute after a piece of class from Suarez. Mignolet's goal-kick was met by the head of Gerrard and into the path of Suarez, with his back to goal on halfway. Suarez managed to chest the ball down and then hook it over the top of the Liverpool defence for Raheem Sterling to race onto. Mignolet initially hesitated and when he did race out of his goal, Sterling's mind was made up and he lifted it over the Belgian into the empty net. But Sunderland should have registered an instant equaliser after James McClean played a one-two with Steven Fletcher and received a perfectly-weighted return pass to give him a clear sight of goal six yards out. The ball fell on McClean's stronger left foot, but the Ireland international somehow managed to hook his effort a yard wide of the far post. Liverpool made the Black Cats pay with a second in the 26th minute. Kilgallon didn't get enough on his clearing header on halfway and Gerrard played a first-time cushioned volley into the path of Suarez on the right flank. Cuellar couldn't prevent Suarez going past him and the linesman raised his flag for a foul by the Spaniard.

But referee Phil Dowd played the advantage and Suarez burst into the box on the diagonal before sliding it coolly beyond Mignolet. It could have been three moments later when Henderson curled in a vicious cross from the right which the sliding Downing couldn't quite get enough to and his effort bobbed a couple yards wide of the post. Sunderland should have made more of Liverpool's failure to clear a corner on the half-hour mark, but their only end product was a tame shot from Seb Larsson straight at Pepe Reina from 12 yards out. Another set-piece almost provided a way back into the game for the Black Cats five minutes later. Larsson's free-kick from 25 yards was blocked by the wall but Adam Johnson looped it back into the area where Kilgallon had escaped in behind the Liverpool back-line. Kilgallon met the floated cross with a well-struck half-volley which Reina managed to block before he managed to gather the loose ball just ahead of the onrushing Fletcher. Liverpool continued to look a threat on the counter-attack though, Suarez spinning away from Kilgallon in the 38th minute and bursting forward and squaring to Downing, via Henderson, on the edge of the Sunderland area. Downing unleashed an angled left-footed drive which deflected off Craig Gardner, just beyond the far post. **HALF-TIME** Liverpool 2 Sunderland 0 O'Neill made a change at the interval with Fraizer Campbell replacing Stephane Sessegnon, who got a knock in the closing stages of the first half. Liverpool had a clearcut chance within five minutes of the re-start when Suarez cushioned a sublime first-time volley into the path of Sterling, which put the winger in behind the Black Cats defence. But with Mignolet rushing out of his goal, Sterling's attempted dink past the keeper from the right of the area lacked any pace and screwed harmlessly across the face. The reprieve was only temporary as Liverpool added a third in the 52nd minute. From midway his own half, Gerrard lifted a raking long ball over the top which bisected Gardner and Cuellar and put Suarez in on goal. The Uruguayan took a couple of touches to control before dinking it effortlessly past Mignolet. The Sunderland stopper did deny Glen Johnson in the 66th minute after Gerrard met Downing's cross from the left with a stabbed half-volley into the turf. The ball was heading well wide, but Johnson managed to re-direct it on target, only for Mignolet to tip over the top. Kilgallon's blushes were spared in the 72nd minute when the former Leeds defender failed to get enough on his attempted clearance to Downing's left-wing cross. The ball rebounded off Suarez and into the path of Allen, 12 yards out, but his shot was blocked brilliantly by a sliding challenge from Rose. Johnson then whistled a free-kick into the side netting from the left flank with 10 minutes to go after unexpectedly opting to shoot. The England full-back then almost set up a fourth with five minutes to go when his cross from the left-hand by-line picked out Allen at the near post, but he could only fire into the side netting. **FULL-TIME** Liverpool 3 Sunderland 0 **LIVERPOOL:** Reina, Wisdom, Skrtel (Carragher 74), Agger, Johnson, Lucas, Henderson (Suso 67), Gerrard, Downing, Sterling (Allen 57), Suarez. Subs not used: Jones, Sahin, Shelvey, Robinson. **SUNDERLAND:** Mignolet, Gardner, Cuellar, Kilgallon, Rose (Vaughan 73), Johnson, Larsson (McFadden 62), Colback, McClean, Sessegnon (Campbell 46), Fletcher. Subs not used: Westwood, Bardsley, Wickham, Bramble. Booked: McClean (60) Attendance: 44,228

Date: 2 January 2013
 Opposition: Sunderland
 Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	Sunderland Echo

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Luis Suarez took his Premier League tally to 15 goals for the season by scoring twice to help Liverpool ease to victory against Sunderland.

Watched by new Anfield signing Daniel Sturridge, Raheem Sterling's lobbed goal gave the Reds an early lead.

Suarez doubled Liverpool's advantage soon after, racing into the area before stabbing the ball home.

The Uruguayan then made it 3-0 early in the second half with a close-range strike from Steven Gerrard's pass.

The win means Liverpool have recorded back-to-back league victories for the second time this season and moves them up to eighth in the table.

For Sunderland it was their second successive defeat following the 2-1 loss to Tottenham at the weekend and they remain 14th.

Liverpool's attacking display would have impressed Sturridge, who completed the formalities of his move from Chelsea in the hours before kick-off.

Despite a confident start by Sunderland, it was the home side who were the first to threaten in the 11th minute when Suarez was fouled just outside the area and Stewart Downing curled the resulting free-kick towards the near post, but keeper Simon Mignolet did well to push the ball behind for a corner.

Liverpool's opening goal came eight minutes later. Suarez brought a Gerrard pass under control before expertly lofting the ball over the defence to release Sterling and the young England winger showed great composure to draw out Mignolet before lobbing the ball into the net.

The Sunderland defence were struggling to deal with Liverpool's pacy attacks and the hosts took full advantage by adding a second in the 26th minute.

Gerrard knocked the ball forward for Suarez to chase down the right and, though the Uruguayan was fouled by Carlos Cuellar, he stayed on his feet to charge towards goal and power a neat finish beyond Mignolet.

Suarez at the double

Luis Suarez's two goals against Sunderland marked his first back-to-back Premier League double, after also scoring twice against QPR

Despite the two-goal deficit, Sunderland still carried a threat when they got forward and they had a great chance to pull a goal back when Adam Johnson's deep cross found Matthew Kilgallon inside the area, but the defender's half volley was superbly denied by Pepe Reina.

Sterling and Suarez continued to combine well and cause Sunderland problems after the break, and a fine move involving the pair should have brought a third goal five minutes into the second half.

Suarez smartly clipped a Gerrard pass forward to send Sterling clear again, but this time the 18-year-old could not match the composure he showed for his goal as he fizzed a shot well wide.

Liverpool did add a third two minutes later when Gerrard delivered a pass from 60 yards for Suarez to collect and shoot beyond Mignolet from close range.

From then on, Liverpool were firmly in control and had plenty of chances to add to their advantage.

A Gerrard shot deflected off Glen Johnson towards goal but Mignolet did well to push the ball over the bar, before the Sunderland keeper raced out to deny Suarez his hat-trick.

Both Johnson and substitute Joe Allen had efforts ruled out for offside, but with the damage already done, Liverpool comfortably saw out the remainder of the game to ensure 2013 got off to the ideal start.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers said: "The star was our team. Luis Suarez got two goals and Raheem Sterling got one but that is their job and the team was brilliant.

"It was the fourth game in a short period of time and their work rate and intensity was incredible. I am very, very happy, it is another win for us and we can look forward to the next game.

"Luis has been absolutely fantastic. He moves well, he is a real threat and he is a real pleasure to work with. He is that Lionel Messi type of player in that he gets kicked all over the place but he gets up and he produces."

Sunderland manager Martin O'Neill said: "At half time in the game we felt as if we could have got a goal and we perhaps created the better chances, but we were unable to take them.

"They got the third goal and that was important. If we scored before then it would have got us back into the game but at 3-0, Liverpool are very strong.

"With the Christmas period we have had, if you had said we would get six points from four games against the teams we have played, I probably would have accepted that. It is up to us now, we have some points on board but it is still a tough old time."

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90:00+2:45 Full time The referee blows for the end of the match.
 90:00+1:59 Short corner worked by Steven Gerrard, Shot on goal by Glen Johnson from long range goes harmlessly over the target.
 90:00+1:45 Jesus Fernandez Saez takes a shot. Blocked by Carlos Cuellar.
 87:22 The assistant referee flags for offside against Luis Suarez. Indirect free kick taken by Simon Mignolet.
 86:07 Stewart Downing is caught offside. Simon Mignolet restarts play with the free kick.
 84:19 Joe Allen produces a right-footed shot from deep inside the six-yard box which goes wide of the left-hand post.
 83:00 Effort from outside the box by Steven Gerrard goes wide right of the target.
 82:49 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Blocked by Carlos Cuellar.
 81:34 Inswinging corner taken by Adam Johnson from the right by-line played to the near post, Andre Wisdom makes a clearance.
 81:08 Luis Suarez gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on James McClean. David Vaughan takes the free kick.
 79:39 Glen Johnson has shot on goal from a long way out that goes wide left.
 79:17 Unfair challenge on Glen Johnson by Fraizer Campbell results in a free kick. Steven Gerrard restarts play with the free kick.
 77:48 The ball is delivered by Adam Johnson.
 75:59 Craig Gardner sends in a cross, Jose Reina makes a save.
 74:38 The referee blows for offside against Luis Suarez. Craig Gardner takes the free kick.
 73:43 The assistant referee flags for offside against Glen Johnson. Indirect free kick taken by Simon Mignolet.
 72:32 Substitution Liverpool makes a substitution, with Jamie Carragher coming on for Martin Skrtel.
 72:32 Substitution David Vaughan comes on in place of Danny Rose.
 72:22 Jesus Fernandez Saez crosses the ball, James McFadden makes a clearance.
 71:42 Steven Gerrard takes the outswinging corner, Craig Gardner makes a clearance.
 71:29 Joe Allen takes a shot. Danny Rose gets a block in.
 70:35 Luis Suarez is flagged offside by the assistant referee. Indirect free kick taken by Carlos Cuellar.
 68:42 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save by Simon Mignolet.
 67:24 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save made by Simon Mignolet.
 66:11 Substitution Jordan Henderson leaves the field to be replaced by Jesus Fernandez Saez.
 66:11 Outswinging corner taken by Stewart Downing, Headed effort from deep inside the penalty area by Daniel Agger misses to the left of the goal.
 65:51 Glen Johnson takes a shot. Save by Simon Mignolet.
 65:31 The ball is delivered by Stewart Downing, Steven Gerrard takes a shot.
 63:27 Stewart Downing is ruled offside. Simon Mignolet restarts play with the free kick.
 61:17 Substitution James McFadden joins the action as a substitute, replacing Sebastian Larsson.
 60:20 Glen Johnson sends in a cross, save by Simon Mignolet.
 59:13 Luis Suarez has an effort direct from the free kick.
 59:13 Booking The referee shows James McClean a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.
 59:00 Foul by James McClean on Luis Suarez, free kick awarded.
 58:42 Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard from the right by-line, clearance by Fraizer Campbell.
 58:04 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Jack Colback gets a block in.
 57:35 A cross is delivered by Adam Johnson, Jose Reina makes a save.
 56:58 Inswinging corner taken by Adam Johnson from the right by-line, clearance by Glen Johnson.
 56:21 Direct free kick taken by Simon Mignolet.
 56:21 Substitution Joe Allen on for Raheem Sterling.
 56:21 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on James McClean by Raheem Sterling.
 54:54 Jack Colback delivers the ball, save by Jose Reina.
 53:45 Corner taken by Stewart Downing from the right by-line, Steven Fletcher makes a clearance.
 53:38 Stewart Downing delivers the ball, clearance made by Danny Rose.
 51:59 Steven Gerrard provided the assist for the goal.
 51:59 Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Liverpool 3 - 0 Sunderland Luis Suarez fires in a goal from inside the area low into the middle of the goal. Liverpool 3-0 Sunderland.
 49:45 Raheem Sterling takes a shot.
 49:01 Glen Johnson sends in a cross, Danny Rose manages to make a clearance.
 47:56 Foul by Matthew Kilgallon on Luis Suarez, free kick awarded. Steven Gerrard takes the free kick.
 46:54 Corner taken left-footed by Stewart Downing from the left by-line, Daniel Agger takes a shot.
 46:45 The ball is swung over by Jordan Henderson, clearance made by Craig Gardner.
 45:01 The referee starts the second half.
 45:01 Substitution Stephane Sessegnon leaves the field to be replaced by Fraizer Campbell.
 45:00+1:09 Half time The half-time whistle blows.
 43:56 Leiva Lucas challenges Sebastian Larsson unfairly and gives away a free kick. The free kick is delivered right-footed by Sebastian Larsson from right channel, save by Jose Reina.
 41:26 Corner taken by Stewart Downing, Martin Skrtel has a headed effort at goal from deep inside the area missing to the right of the goal.
 40:13 Raheem Sterling fouled by Jack Colback, the ref awards a free kick. The free kick is swung in right-footed by Steven Gerrard, Craig Gardner manages to make a clearance.
 37:57 Corner taken short by Luis Suarez.
 37:42 Stewart Downing takes a shot. Craig Gardner gets a block in.
 36:16 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Simon Mignolet makes a save.

34:42 Inswinging corner taken by Sebastian Larsson from the left by-line, clearance by Daniel Agger.
 34:20 Matthew Kilgallon takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.
 33:11 Steven Fletcher fouled by Martin Skrtel, the ref awards a free kick. Shot comes in from Sebastian Larsson from the free kick.
 32:46 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Comfortable save by Simon Mignolet.
 32:04 The referee gives a free kick against Raheem Sterling for handball. Simon Mignolet takes the direct free kick.
 30:08 Sebastian Larsson takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.
 29:39 Sebastian Larsson takes an inswinging corner.
 28:22 Free kick awarded for a foul by Steven Gerrard on Stephane Sessegnon. Direct strike on goal from the free kick comes in from Craig Gardner, Leiva Lucas gets a block in.
 27:43 Close range shot by Stewart Downing misses to the left of the goal.
 25:24 Assist by Steven Gerrard.
 25:24 Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Liverpool 2 - 0 Sunderland Luis Suarez fires in a goal from the edge of the penalty box to the bottom left corner of the goal. Liverpool 2-0 Sunderland.
 24:36 Adam Johnson crosses the ball, Daniel Agger manages to make a clearance.
 24:02 Free kick awarded for a foul by Martin Skrtel on Steven Fletcher. Stephane Sessegnon takes the direct free kick.
 23:47 The ball is swung over by Luis Suarez, clearance by Carlos Cuellar.
 21:21 Shot by James McClean from deep inside the penalty area misses to the right of the target.
 18:18 The assist for the goal came from Luis Suarez.
 18:18 Goal scored Goal - Raheem Sterling - Liverpool 1 - 0 Sunderland Raheem Sterling finds the back of the net with a goal from inside the area low into the middle of the goal. Liverpool 1-0 Sunderland.
 17:34 A cross is delivered by Stewart Downing.
 15:10 Free kick awarded for a foul by Jordan Henderson on Sebastian Larsson. The free kick is delivered right-footed by Sebastian Larsson from left channel, clearance by Glen Johnson.
 12:23 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Simon Mignolet makes a save.
 12:23 Martin Skrtel takes a shot. Simon Mignolet makes a save.
 12:04 Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard played to the near post, Carlos Cuellar manages to make a clearance.
 10:56 Unfair challenge on Luis Suarez by Matthew Kilgallon results in a free kick. Stewart Downing produces a shot on goal direct from the free kick, save by Simon Mignolet.
 9:44 A cross is delivered by Stephane Sessegnon, clearance by Daniel Agger.
 8:14 Stewart Downing is caught offside. Indirect free kick taken by Simon Mignolet.
 8:06 Steven Gerrard crosses the ball, clearance made by Carlos Cuellar.
 7:04 Andre Wisdom takes a shot from inside the box clearing the bar.
 6:18 Stewart Downing crosses the ball, Matthew Kilgallon makes a clearance.
 5:44 Handball decision goes against James McClean. Free kick taken by Jose Reina.
 4:57 Corner taken right-footed by Sebastian Larsson from the left by-line to the near post, Daniel Agger makes a clearance.
 4:44 Craig Gardner takes a shot. Martin Skrtel gets a block in.
 4:06 Martin Skrtel gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Steven Fletcher. Free kick crossed by Adam Johnson, Daniel Agger manages to make a clearance.
 0:00 The game kicks-off.