THE TIMES

Sturridge teams up with Suarez to offer clinical edge

Liverpool 5 Henderson 26, Suarez 36, Sturridge 59, Gerrard 65, R Bennett 74 (og)
Norwich City 0
Referee M Oliver Attendance 44,901

Of all the adjectives that have been used to describe Liverpool during a season of consistent inconsistency, no one has accused them of being clinical. Ruthlessness has not been their forte, merely a seemingly unobtainable objective in a team flawed by their profligacy.

It may turn out that it was for one day only, but on Saturday that changed as Liverpool recorded their biggest win of the season, against Norwich City.

"Liverpool were very clinical in their finishing, they were clinical in everything they did," Chris Hughton, the Norwich manager said, perhaps justifying his own team's shortcomings as much as highlighting their opponents' precision.

Five unanswered goals tend to have that effect, particularly when the goals have been shared out and the threat has not just been limited to one or two players. From being overly reliant on Luis Suarez for far too long, the arrival of Daniel Sturridge has given Liverpool's attack an instant effectiveness and variety that it had previously lacked.

Brendan Rodgers was not about to entertain concerns about whether this could turn out to be a one-off feast against feeble opponents. Instead, the Liverpool manager saw only possibilities. He highlighted the surge in confidence that helped Jordan Henderson to strike a beautiful volley to open the scoring. He marvelled at the telepathy that allowed Suarez to race on to Lucas Leiva's pass and score after Sturridge had dummied intelligently.

He welcomed the tap-in that brought Sturridge his third goal in three matches since joining from Chelsea, eulogised the enduring brilliance of Steven Gerrard, whose strike from 25 yards gave Liverpool a fourth goal, and celebrated the slice of luck that allowed his team to add a fifth when Ryan Bennett scored a calamitous own goal in front of the Kop.

Had Norwich shown any resistance whatsoever, it would be easier to draw more positive conclusions about aLiverpool side who are showing increasing signs of playing in the style expected by Rodgers, regardless of their recent setback at Old Trafford.

Whatever the Norwich fans paid to watch their team fail to perform was too much, particularly given the appalling weather conditions that made the long trip even more arduous than normal.

There is mounting concern that they could still be dragged into a relegation battle that they had seemed set to avoid. Hughton believes that attacking reinforcements would improve Norwich's survival chances immeasurably and they have had offers rejected by Celtic and Swansea City for Gary Hooper and Danny Graham respectively.

He also has faith, however, that Norwich possess enough quality within their own ranks to survive. "The players have certainly shown that we're capable of getting enough results and getting enough points," he said. "We're on a bad run and it's about the players showing enough belief and quality to get back to winning ways.

"We want to bring in new players, but I think people don't understand how difficult it is. I see Queens Park Rangers spending big money and bringing in [Loic] Remy and that's where they are. And that's what they're able to do. There are a group of clubs that are able to do that.

"We have to do things our way.It's about trying to bring the right players in, but it's never that easy."

Strike pairing works well, says new boy

TONY BARRETT

Daniel Sturridge believes he has developed an instant understanding with Luis Suarez in a partnership that Brendan Rodgers expects to bring out the best in both players.

Both forwards scored in the 5-0 rout of Norwich City, the pair combining impressively on a number of occasions despite it being only the second game that they have been placed together since Sturridge joined Liverpoolfrom Chelsea in a [pounds sterling]12 million transfer.

"Since I signed, we have been getting on well in training and against Manchester United last weekend it all clicked," Sturridge said. "We have an understanding already and it will get better. There is a lot more to come from us, as we are still learning as a partnership. It could become as good as any other partnership, but it is just about playing as a team."

Chris Hughton, the Norwich manager, said: "If you look at what Liverpool paid for Sturridge, I would imagine that would be money well spent. All I can say about Suarez is that he's a top-class footballer probably playing as well as what he has done since he's been here. I expect him to continue that through until the end of the season."

Suarez's first-half goal took his total for the season to 20 -- three more than he scored in the whole of the previous campaign -- and his manager believes that the forward is benefiting from the fluidity of Liverpool'splay.

"All the credit for Luis and the goals he scored is down to him -- he's a big talent," Rodgers said. "He's a European-style player, so our model suits him, and a team that flows like ours suits him.

"He's a player who is great on the move, but in order to be on the move you need the team and the ball to be moving. Once you do that you open up spaces, and Luis has flourished with that. His game flourishes on that movement.

"But credit Luis because he's got to produce the movement and he's got to finish the chances, and he has been unbelievable in that. You saw against Norwich, the finish was clinical.

"This is a model we are trying to develop and create ,which is about fluidity and mobility. When you have mobile players with intelligent movement, it shifts defenders and creates the sort of space that Luis thrives in."

RATINGS

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): B Jones 6 -- A Wisdom 6, J Carragher 6, D Agger 6, G Johnson 7 -- Lucas 6 (sub: R Sterling, 69min 6), S Gerrard 9 -- S Downing 7, L Suarez 8, J Henderson 7 (sub: J Allen, 77) -- D Sturridge 8 (sub: F Borini, 69 6). Substitutes not used: P Gulacsi, J Shelvey, M Skrtel, J Robinson. Booked: Johnson.

Norwich City (4-4-1-1): M Bunn 5 -- R Martin 5, M Turner 4, R Bennett 4, J Garrido 4 -- R Snodgrass 5 (sub: A Pilkington, 86), A Tettey 5, B Johnson 5, E Bennett 4 (sub: W Hoolahan, 65 5) -- J Howson 4 -- G Holt 5. Substitutes not used: D Rudd, S Jackson, L Barnett, M Tierney, H Kane. Booked: Snodgrass.

theguardian

Gerrard says it will take time but Rodgers will revive Liverpool

Gauging Liverpool's progress under Brendan Rodgers is an inexact science but there was substance to their haul against Norwich City. It took until the final home game of last season, against a Chelsea team seemingly immersed in FA Cup celebrations, for Liverpool to record six league wins at Anfield. They reached the half-dozen on Saturday with an authority that reinforced their erratic nature under Kenny Dalglish's successor.

There are, however, signs that Rodgers is getting it right and their captain, Steven Gerrard, thinks so. "He's certainly got the backing of the owners," he said. "I think the appointment, giving him the job after Kenny, was a sign that he's going to be here for a while. I think he'll be given time to put his philosophy out there.

"It's not going to happen overnight, it is going to take time and we've been a little bit inconsistent this season. But I think the majority of the games we've shown to the supporters and to the neutrals out there that we're playing the right way. Given time, and a little bit more backing - maybe a few more players - I think it will work really well under him. I'm really happy with his appointment and how it's going so far."

Aston Villa apart, Liverpool have often contemptuously dismissed teams in the bottom half of the Premier League this term and once Jordan Henderson awoke a frozen Anfield with an opening goal as impressive as his overall performance Norwich were to be no exception. Victory over a team in the top 10 remains elusive forLiverpool but before trips to Arsenal and Manchester City the morale-sapping defeat at Manchester United was erased in emphatic style.

Henderson began the rout with an unstoppable finish past Mark Bunn. Norwich's tormentor-in-chief, Luis Suarez, scored his seventh goal in three games against them following an exquisite dummy from his new partner Daniel Sturridge, who then, with a tap-in from Stewart Downing's cross, became the first Liverpoolplayer since Ray Kennedy in 1974 to score in his first three appearances for the club.

Gerrard marked a commanding performance from central midfield - "he used every club in his bag today," remarked Rodgers - with a trademark finish from almost 30 yards before Ryan Bennett diverted the fifth and final Liverpool goal into his own net from Raheem Sterling's shot.

It was the combination of Suarez and Sturridge that offered Liverpool hope. Their understanding vindicated Rodgers' belief that Suarez's influence would not wane as a result of Sturridge occupying the central striking role. "He's a fighter," said Gerrard of Suarez. "He doesn't give up, every ball, no matter what the scoreline, he doesn't give up and that's what you want in your team."

The big worry for Liverpool now, as the captain admitted, is whether the Uruguayan is minded to stay, just as the team settles into a system. "I know he's recently signed a long-term contract and I know he's comfortable and he's happy here," said Gerrard. "But I think that's a question for Luis to answer. Only he knows what his ambitions and dreams are.

"I think he's gone on record recently and said that he's really happy and comfortable here, and hopefully we can put a fight on from now until the end of the season to finish fourth, and we make the decision for him. But Luis Suarez deserves to be in the Champions League and I think everyone has to admit that."

While Rodgers and Liverpool savoured the impact of a new pounds 12m signing and Sturridge's promising partnership, the Norwich performance was a cause of understandable concern for the Norwich manager, Chris Hughton. His team have now gone six league games without a win and, with a limited attacking threat at Anfield, they lacked the quality to react to falling one goal behind. The motivation behind their attempts to sign Gary Hooper from Celtic or Danny Graham from Swansea City was evident.

"It's something that we want to do but I don't think people understand how difficult it is," the Norwich manager said. "I see QPR spending big money and bringing in Remy and that's where they are. That's what they're able to do. There are a group of clubs that are able to do that. We have to do things our way."

Hughton added: "It's about trying to bring the right player in. A player that's going to benefit what we are about and that's going to add to our squad. And we'll keep going right the way through but it's never that easy."

Man of the match Luis Suarez (Liverpool)

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 19 January 2013
Opposition: Norwich City
Competition: League

BBC	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Mail	Observer	Times	Telegraph
	Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Norwich Eve.News

19 January 2013

The Mail

Gerrard: We need fourth to keep Luis

STEVEN Gerrard has admitted Liverpool need a top-four finish to ensure that Luis Suarez spends the best years of his career at Anfield.

It had appeared a couple of months ago, given Liverpool's indifferent league form, that Suarez would have to wait till at least 2014 to play for Liverpool in the Champions League but, suddenly, the prospects of him doing so later this year in a red shirt have significantly improved.

Liverpool's 5-0 demolition of Norwich on Saturday, in which Suarez and new [pounds sterling]12million signing Daniel Sturridge both capped sparkling performances with a goal, has helped Brendan Rodgers' side close the gap on the teams above them.

Suarez's magical season on the pitch has ensured that his legion of admirers is increasing -- Bayern Munich are the latest side to be linked with the Uruguayan -- and his importance to what Liverpool are aiming to achieve cannot be underestimated.

Though Suarez has never given any indication he wants to uproot, Gerrard has accepted it is inevitable he will one day play in the Champions League.

With that in mind, Liverpool's captain has accepted the onus is on him and his team-mates to take any difficult choices away from Suarez.

'I know he's signed recently a long-term contract,' Gerrard said during an appearance on Sky's Goals on Sunday yesterday. 'I know that he's comfortable and he's happy here. But I think that's a question for Luis to answer.

'Only he knows what his ambitions and dreams are. He's gone on record recently and said he's really happy and comfortable here.

'Hopefully we can put a fight on from now until the end of the season to finish fourth, and make the decision for him. But Luis Suarez deserves to be in the Champions League. I think everyone has to admit that.' The way he played on Saturday, it was difficult to argue. Dovetailing sweetly with Sturridge -- never more so than when the new man dummied a ball from Lucas Leiva that allowed Suarez to skip clear and score Liverpool'ssecond -- the former Ajax striker tormented Norwich. Only a couple of days earlier, however, his decision to admit in an interview with Fox Sports Argentina that he had cheated in an attempt to win a penalty against Stoke had tormented Rodgers to the extent that Liverpool's manager felt he needed to issue a stinging public rebuke.

Controversy has never been far away from Suarez but Gerrard, along with another of Liverpool's elder statesmen, is ready to put a protective arm around him.

'People want to talk about the things he does wrong, but for me, I just want to praise him and how lucky we are to have him at Liverpool; hopefully we can keep him for a long time,' said Gerrard, who last night attended a tribute dinner held by the Football Writers' Association in his honour.

'He seems settled, he loves the club. He's a real family man. He is trying to deal with [the English culture], he is trying to learn.

'He's not shutting away from it. He has been really open to it [diving] and admitted to it in the interview. He'll learn from it. It's down to the likes of me and Jamie [Carragher] to help and guide him. He is still only young and learning.

'But for me, I'd rather focus on the good stuff that he does.

We'll be talking about this guy for many, many years. He's in the top five best players in the world, comfortably.'

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool must be more than flat-track bullies

Liverpool 5
Henderson 26, Suarez 36, Sturridge 59, Gerrard 66, Bennett 74og
Norwich City 0
Att: 44,901

Brendan Rodgers's Liverpool reign can be summed up thus far as a study in the art of flat-track bullying.

The noses of the Premier League leaders may remain unbloodied, but some serious punishment has started to be dished out to the rest and in Daniel Sturridge and Luis Suarez, already developing a potent partnership, Rodgers may have paired the ultimate tormentors.

Norwich City will feel especially harassed having conceded another five on top of the battering they received in their own home match earlier in the season.

Sturridge continued a streak matched by only six other Liverpool players -- scoring in his first three games for the club -- and Suarez again showed why only Robin van Persie and the sanctimonious sainthood presently stand between him and the Player of the Year award.

Pick apart the Uruguayan's character as much as you like, but if you do not enjoy watching him play, you do not like football.

Any apprehension that the South American - prolific as a lone striker - would be compromised to make way for his new partner were emphatically banished.

Sturridge's inclusion created an adaptable formation in which Steven Gerrard and Jordan Henderson, who also both scored brilliant individual goals, effectively created a four-man attack. Glen Johnson was also as much left-winger as left-back, covering the whole of one side of the pitch.

"This is a model we are trying to develop and create which is about fluidity and mobility," Rodgers said. "When you have mobile players with intelligent movement it shifts defenders and creates the sort of space that Luis thrives in. He is a European-style player, so our model suits him, and a team that flows like ours suits him."

The gulf in class left you a little perplexed as much as enthusiastic about the quality of the hosts, the lingering question being why, when Liverpool can be this good, they remain so far off the pace, still a distant hope even for a top-four place.

The answer lies in a mass of unresolved contradictions that were even reflected in the subdued atmosphere at Anfield. It is hard to remember the Kop celebrating such an emphatic victory so passively. Rarely has such an exuberant display been met with such restraint.

When Ryan Bennett concluded an afternoon of despair for Chris Hughton, deflecting in substitute Raheem Sterling's left-wing cross for Liverpool's fifth, the home supporters clapped appreciatively, chortled a bit and acknowledged a third consecutive routine home win.

There was no sense of euphoria. There were no wild proclamations that those at the top need to start looking over their shoulder. Perhaps it was the chilly conditions numbing tonsils that one would have expected to be in full voice. Most likely, that approving but reserved applause was the signal reality was finally dawning. Too much hype has attached itself to hope after previous impressive victories.

"We need to play like that against the bigger teams now," was the universal, reflective observation from the manager, directors, dressing room and stands.

"With the greatest respect to the teams we've beaten in the last three home games, they are ones we should be beating at Anfield," said Jamie Carragher, restored to the starting line-up after an indifferent period for Martin Skrtel.

"We have three tough away games coming up now, so we need to take this form into those."

Such po-faced sobriety is welcome at Anfield. What can be stated objectively is this, in every detail, was the most complete and absorbing performance of Rodgers's reign. There have been 12 goals in the last three home games in a stadium Liverpool could not win back to back in not so long ago.

You see the trend. Liverpool are getting better. They will not be good enough until one of the top four are left feeling as bruised as those who have been comprehensively dispatched recently, but in the interests of balance it is often necessary to point out Liverpool have not finished above sixth since 2009. They are presently seventh, one place above where their newest manager found them.

Liverpool play Manchester City and Arsenal in the league next - the ideal opportunity for them to start picking on someone their own size.

Three and queasy

Liverpool have taken just three of their 34 points - all from draws - against teams currently in the top five this season. Only three sides - Fulham, Southampton and Aston Villa - have accrued fewer.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 19 January 2013
Opposition: Norwich City
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19 January 2013

THE INDEPENDENT

New double act can inspire Liverpool

"A breath of fresh air" was how the former Liverpool captain Tommy Smith, writing in his weekend LiverpoolEcho column, described Daniel Sturridge's scoring turn as a substitute at Manchester United eight days ago. Smith voiced the hope that a club with a history of fine striking tandems - from St John and Hunt via Keegan and Toshack to Dalglish and Rush - might have found another, and this hope had real substance by the end of Sturridge's home debut, when the manner of his interplay with Luis Suarez suggested the days when it seemed the Uruguayan was single-handedly dragging Liverpool out of mediocrity were over.
Never mind a breath of fresh air, Norwich were caught in the eye of a storm. Suarez - himself a one-man tornado at times - was typically at the heart of Liverpool's best work but the presence of an able accomplice in Sturridge, this month's [pounds sterling]12m recruit from Chelsea, suggests Rodgers has just added a significant piece to the jigsaw. If Suarez could reach January as the Premier League's second-highest striker without any high-class support - "Luis has been trying to do two jobs himself for the first half of the season" was Steven Gerrard's reflection - it seems reasonable to suggest he can do even more damage alongside a fellow mobile frontman.
Saturday was the first time the pair had started together and Rodgers was rightly optimistic that their combination will flourish. "This is a model we are trying to develop and create, which is about fluidity and mobility," he said, "and when you have mobile players with intelligent movement it shifts defenders and creates the sort of space that Luis thrives in. He's a player who is great on the move, but in order to be on the move you need the team and the ball to be moving. Once you do that you open up more spaces, and Luis has flourished with that, his game flourishes on that movement."
Where frustration was Anfield's F-word of choice for much of last season, when Liverpool won just six of 19 home league fixtures, "flow" and "fluidity" were the ones rolling off Rodgers' tongue on Saturday and there was no more encouraging moment than the second goal, when Sturridge dummied a forward ball by Lucas and Suarez surged through to score his 20th goal this season. Liverpool captain Gerrard spoke of the "instant understanding between these two players" when he appeared on Sky's Goals on Sunday yesterday, though it was the "sensational" Suarez for whom he reserved particular praise.
"He did a turn yesterday in front of the away supporters [which took out defender Michael Turner]. I don't know how he did it, it was just mind-blowing. It was incredible. He uses every blade of grass, even close to the lines in the opposition area - parts of the pitch that you don't even run on. He uses everything. He turns and twists, he's impossible to mark."
Gerrard described Suarez as "probably the best player I've played with" but went on to admit that Liverpoolmay need Champions League football to keep him at Anfield. "I think he's gone on record recently and said that he's really happy and comfortable here, and hopefully we can put a fight on from now until the end of the season to finish fourth, and make the decision for him. But Luis Suarez deserves to be in the Champions League, and I think everyone has to admit that."
Talk of Champions League qualification may not be as far-fetched as it might have seemed a few months ago, given that Saturday's victory lifted Liverpool within three points of fifth-placed Everton. That said, as Gerrard admitted, their next two league assignments, at Arsenal and Manchester City, will provide a better gauge of their prospects, given their failure to beat any side above them this term. "If we can get three points in one of those fixtures, it'll give us a big boost."
As for sorry Norwich, they are still looking for a boost in the shape of a new striker of their own, having seen a bid rejected for Celtic's Gary Hooper. "It's never that easy," said the Norwich manager, Chris Hughton. "It's about trying to bring the right player in, a player that's going to benefit what we are about and add to our squad." A problem Liverpool appear to have solved.
REBUILDING
FORTRESS ANFIELD
* Last season Liverpool won just six home league games, drawing nine.
* They had to wait until 20 October for their first home league win this season, against Reading, but have now won six of their last eight.
* Liverpool have won their last three home games with an aggregate score of 12-0.
* Liverpool have kept clean sheets in five out of their last six Premier League home matches.
* The club have picked up eight more points at home (21), than away (13) in the league this season.
LIVERPOOL 5
NORWICH CITY 0
Goals: Liverpool Henderson 26, Suarez 36, Sturridge 59, Gerrard 66, R Bennett og 74. Substitutions:Liverpool Borini 6 (Sturridge, 69), Sterling 6 (Lucas, 69), Allen (Henderson, 77). Norwich Hoolahan 5 (E Bennett, 65), Pilkington (Snodgrass, 86). Bookings: Liverpool Johnson. Norwich Snodgrass. Man of the match Suarez. Match rating 7/10. Possession:Liverpool 68%. Norwich 32%. Attempts on target: Liverpool 9. Norwich 1. Referee M Oliver (Northumberland). Att 44,901.

DAILY Mirror

A 20-20 VISION IN RED

INEVITABLY, the focus afterwards was on Daniel Sturridge - and the impressive influence of what is an improbably mature partnership with Luis Suarez.
Yet if he is an important piece in the jigsaw, then it is the wider puzzle that came into focus, as the win over Norwich suggested it was finally beginning to resemble the image on the box opened at the start of the season.
Boss Brendan Rodgers spent much of the first half of the campaign trying to put that picture together with too many pieces missing, as a financial reality hit Anfield after some serious overspending before his arrival.
Rodgers has quietly shipped out some dead wood, trimming up to PS20million off the annual wage bill, even after the arrival of the four signings he was allowed to make - a startlingly small number under the circumstances.
Yet Liverpool look a different club from the one that showed relegation form in the second half of last season. They have a sense of purpose and direction, a very definite shape and identity, even if they are still a long way from challenging in the Premier League top four.
If Rodgers has achieved one thing above all others, it is to elevate Suarez to genuine world-class level, a fact confirmed both by the striker's match-winning display against Norwich, and by the words of his skipper afterwards.
Steven Gerrard believes Suarez has in recent months joined the ranks of the football elite. "He's been sensational this season," said Gerrard. "He does things that are mind-blowing.
"He did a turn in front of the Norwich supporters which was just incredible. I don't know how he did it. He uses every blade of grass, even parts of the pitch you don't even run on. He's torture to mark.
"He's in the top five best players in the world, comfortably. Outside Messi and Ronaldo, I'll argue he's as good as anyone.
"People want to talk about the things he does wrong, but I just want to praise him. How lucky we are to have him at Liverpool."
Suarez's clinical finish following Sturridge's fine dummy - which put Liverpool two up at the break - was his 20th goal of the season, three more than he scored in the whole of last term.
His trickery earlier allowed Jordan Henderson to open the floodgates with a brilliant half volley.
More importantly, Suarez looks a better player, as though his scoring talent has been unlocked, and that is where Rodgers deserves credit because he struck to a system he was adamant would bring the best out of his striker.
Rodgers took massive criticism when he refused to use Andy Carroll as an option, even when he could not sign a replacement striker in the summer.
That may have cost points early on, but ultimately, it has allowed Suarez to thrive, as Rodgers explained: "All the credit for Luis and the goals he's scored is down to him - he's a huge talent.
"But if he's playing from a second striker position, if he's playing off a second ball, off an angle or straight down the middle, then he's playing off pieces and that can be difficult.
"He's great on the move, but in order to be on the move you need the team and the ball to be moving. Once you do that you open up more spaces, and Luis has flourished with that, on that movement.
"I don't know if he'd score as many goals if he was playing off someone like Andy Carroll, it's hypothetical. But obviously this is a model we're trying to develop which is about fluidity and mobility, and when you have mobile players with intelligent movement it shifts defenders and creates the sort of space Luis thrives in."
His destruction of Norwich proved that. The Canaries were terrified into submission by a striker who has scored seven times in three games against them, and after the break a fine move ended with another Sturridge goal, then Gerrard fired in from distance and Raheem Sterling rounded things off with a shot turned into his own net by Norwich defender Ryan Bennett.
It was Liverpool's best performance of the season. But Norwich are stuck in a run of poor form that could see them sucked into the relegation battle if they are not careful.
Most worrying was their lack of appetite for a scrap.
A STURR IS BORN No Liverpool player since Ray Kennedy in 1974 has ever scored in their first three games, like Daniel Sturridge. Can he go on to be one of Anfield's greatest?TOP GOALSCORERS (all comps) Ian Rush ...346 goals (660 games) Roger Hunt . . . . . .286 (492) Gordon Hodgson . . . . . 241 (377) Billy Liddell . . . . . .228 (534) Robbie Fowler. . . . . 183 (369) Kenny Dalglish . . . . . .172 (515) Michael Owen. . . . . 158 (297) Steven Gerrard. . . . . 155 (614) LIVERPOOL v NORWICH MAN OF THE MATCH LUIS SUAREZTore the Canaries to pieces BALL POSSESSION 32% 68% SHOTS ON TARGET 1 9 SHOTS OFF TARGET 1 7 CORNERS 4 9 OFFSIDE 1 2 FOULS 8 10 CARDS 10 0 0

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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19 January 2013

LIVERPOOL ECHO

Reds make booming statement of intent with five-star Anfield show

HAVING been branded too quiet by their manager, Liverpool FC responded with a booming statement of intent. The biggest victory of Brendan Rodgers' reign was secured courtesy of an attacking masterclass which pummelled Norwich City into submission. If defeat at Old Trafford, where the wounds were self-inflicted, painfully exposed Liverpool's limitations, this dominant performance accentuated their strengths. To focus on the paucity of the Canaries' contribution to the contest would spectacularly miss the point. Chris Hughton's side were simply outclassed as the Reds maintained an intensity and tempo the visitors couldn't handle. When Rodgers took over last summer he vowed to make a trip to Anfield the longest 90 minutes of an opponent's life.

Achieving that was always going to take more than simply restoring the oldest surviving 'This is Anfield' sign in the tunnel and re-fitting the red nets. Rodgers inherited a squad who won just six of their 19 home league matches last term – the club's worst tally for 60 years.

Rather than be inspired, the pressure and expectation of performing in L4 had become a burden but times finally appear to be changing.

This was a third straight home league win with Norwich, Sunderland and Fulham sent packing by a combined tally of 12-0. Of course those are games Liverpool should be winning but the same three fixtures last term generated a miserable return of just two points. Now the challenge facing Rodgers' side is to dispel suggestions they are merely flat-track bullies – capable of hammering the Premier League's lesser lights but unable to deliver the goods against higher calibre opponents. Liverpool have yet to beat anyone in the top 10 this season. With back-to-back trips to Arsenal and Manchester City coming up after next Sunday's FA Cup tie at Oldham, they will have the opportunity to put that right.

By then Rodgers will hope to have added reinforcements to his squad. Whether he's able to convince Fenway Sports Group to be flexible with their transfer policy of investing in youth will be watched with interest.

The manager has made no secret of his desire to add an injection of experience in order to hasten the rate of progress. With the top four not out of sight and both the FA Cup and Europa League still up for grabs, a show of real ambition from the owners could reap major rewards.

What impact loosening the purse strings in January can have on a team was perfectly illustrated for Reds chairman Tom Werner, who watched from the directors box on Saturday. Daniel Sturridge has enjoyed a stunning start to his Anfield career. It's still early days but the faith shown by Rodgers in the £12million man is being repaid in style. Not since Ray Kennedy in 1974 has a Liverpool player scored in his first three appearances for the club. If he maintains that hot streak against Oldham he will be in a league of his own.

Sturridge has set about silencing his doubters with relish. His goals are a welcome addition but he's providing so much more than that with his pace, intelligent movement and ability to hold the ball up. The understanding he has already struck up with Luis Suarez is hugely promising. This was the first time they had started a game together but some of their link-up play was sublime.

When Sturridge departed to a standing ovation midway through the second half, the Kop showed their appreciation for a memorable home debut by chanting his name. It was a sign of acceptance. His body-popping goal celebration may not win universal approval but if he keeps performing at this level even that will be forgiven. Having ploughed a lone furrow for so long, Suarez finally has some support. If only the cavalry had arrived five months earlier.

Suarez flourished in a deeper role behind Sturridge, dropping off into space and wreaking havoc. There's something about the sight of canary yellow which brings out the best in the Uruguayan. This time there was no hat-trick but there was also no let-up as Norwich's backline were tormented throughout.

The front two aside, there was an abundance of positives for Rodgers. Steven Gerrard produced another display to savour as he bossed the midfield.

Hurtling into tackles to win back possession, the tireless skipper repeatedly drove the hosts forward with his exquisite range of passing.

Alongside him, Jordan Henderson grabbed his chance to shine in place of Joe Allen. It wasn't a bolt out of the blue. VIDEO: Dave Prentice on Liverpool FC 5 Norwich 0 and Phillippe Coutinho Henderson's form has improved markedly in recent months. No longer does he resemble a rabbit caught in the headlights as he did during a tough first season at Anfield. His energy and work-rate have never been in question but now the 22-year-old is demanding the ball and using it wisely rather than looking to off-load it sideways.

The England international's first Premier League goal since last May will live long in the memory. After Suarez's run was halted on the edge of the box, Henderson pounced on the loose ball and hammered an unstoppable half volley past Mark Bunn. The 26th-minute opener was crucial as a Norwich side set up to contain Liverpool had no option but to come out of their shell. The result was plenty of space in behind their backline which the Reds exploited with glee.

A second goal arrived before the break with Lucas Leiva's pass brilliantly dummied by Sturridge, who had spotted Suarez's run. The Reds' top scorer ran through and finished in style for his 20th goal of the season.

At the other end Brad Jones, deputising for the injured Pepe Reina, was rarely troubled. In front of him, the assured presence of Jamie Carragher, selected ahead of Martin Skrtel, provided the kind of organisation and authority so lacking at Old Trafford. It was only Carragher's second league start of the campaign but provided a timely reminder of his enduring worth to Liverpool.

In the second half the Reds were rampant. Just before the hour mark Henderson's clipped pass was expertly volleyed back across goal by Stewart Downing for Sturridge to convert from close range.

Gerrard then unleashed a trademark 30-yard piledriver into the bottom corner and the introduction of Raheem Sterling and Fabio Borini ensured momentum was maintained.

When Sterling burst away from Michael Turner and saw his shot turned into his own net by Ryan Bennett a five-star display was complete.

Now Liverpool need to replicate that mentality on their travels to prove Saturday was a sign of things to come rather than merely another false dawn.

Norwich Evening News 24

The game at Anfield beat the weather but the Canaries must have been wishing it had not as they were completely swept aside by their hosts.

Chris Hughton's team currently look a shadow of the side that went 10 league games unbeaten before Christmas, and though they were without key defender Sebastien Bassong, it was hardly an excuse for such a capitulation.

Ryan Bennett, who replaced Bassong, might have given City an early lead when he planted a free header straight at Liverpool keeper Brad Jones, but from the moment Jordan Henderson fired Liverpool ahead on 26 minutes, it was a virtual procession. Luis Suarez made it 2-0 after 36 minutes from a Lucas pass, and any hope of a fightback was extinguished on 59 minutes when £12m signing Daniel Sturridge scored the third from Stewart Downing's cross.

Steven Gerrard's low drive made it 4-0 after 66 minutes and the fifth came eight minutes later when Ryan Bennett diverted Raheem Sterling's effort into his own net. After their 5-2 defeat by Liverpool at Carrow Road in September, their goal difference took another battering in a totally one-sided affair.

There were four changes to the City starting line-up from the 0-0 draw against Newcastle. Defender Bassong was a surprise absentee from the squad, with Ryan Bennett brought in to partner Michael Turner in the back four.

Wes Hoolahan, Anthony Pilkington and Simeon Jackson were dropped to the bench with Jonny Howson, Elliott Bennett and skipper Grant Holt back in the side – Holt making his first start since the Boxing Day defeat by Chelsea.

Only Russell Martin, Bradley Johnson and Elliott Bennett survived from the City starting eleven in the corresponding fixture last season.

Liverpool gave a first Premier League start for the club to Sturridge as one of four changes. Sturridge, Henderson and Jamie Carragher replaced Sterling, Joe Allen and Martin Skrtel, while there was also a change in goal with Brad Jones replacing Pepe Reina, who was out with a thigh strain. Despite fears over the weather, and it was a bitterly cold day, snow had not fallen in the amounts forecast and Anfield and its surrounds were perfectly clear for the game.

Liverpool created the first opening in the third minute when Downing headed wide from a cross by Suarez after Glen Johnson had made good progress down the left. City were operating with four across midfield, Elliott Bennett taking the left-sided role, and Howson supporting Holt in the role normally given to Hoolahan. Holt won a free-kick under challenge from Gerrard and the dead-ball kick almost provided the opening goal as Snodgrass picked out the unmarked Ryan Bennett but the defender put his free header straight at Jones.

Downing fired just wide as Liverpool hit back, and with 12 minutes gone, there was a better opening as Suarez set up Sturridge for a low shot that Bunn smothered. Suarez showed some dazzling footwork to get away from Turner and tried to set up Henderson for a shot and, as the ball came back to Suarez, he produced a smart effort from a tight angle that Bunn grabbed as the second attempt. Garrido cleared at the expense of a corner, which Downing played short, but Holt was back to hammer the ball clear. Gerrard then let fly from long range from Suarez's pass but was well off target, and Bunn came out well to claim a cross from Glen Johnson. City forced their first corner when Elliott Bennett's cross was deflected out, but the kick by Snodgrass was headed away.

But it was Liverpool who went ahead on 26 minutes with a cracking goal by Henderson. Howson managed to harry the ball away from Suarez but Elliott Bennett's attempt to poke the ball away fell perfectly for Henderson to swivel and strike a powerful half-volley from 20 yards that gave Bunn no chance.

Henderson, encouraged by that success, tried another half-volley from further out on 35 minutes, but this time Bunn was right behind it.

But one minute later it was 2-0 as Sturridge dummied a pass by Lucas, leaving Turner in his wake, and Suarez raced clear to tuck a right-foot shot past Bunn via the foot of the post. City rallied quite well and after Tettey had a shot deflected wide, Holt struck a powerful volley that Wisdom headed clear, just in front of Jones. Glen Johnson earned the day's first yellow card for bringing down Snodgrass in full flight, but Garrido's free-kick was easily cleared.

Bunn saved well in first half stoppage time from Sturridge after Suarez had put him through, just about keeping the Canaries in the game at the interval.

• Half-time: Liverpool 2, Norwich City 0

Four minutes after the break, Tettey volleyed wide from the edge of the penalty area, and at the other end Johnson wriggled through but his cross drifted across

Compiled by Graeme Riley

the six-yard box, and Bunn had to save from Gerrard, though the flag was already up for offside.
Wisdom fired horribly wide after bringing Gerrard's crossfield pass under control, to spare the keeper having to make another save.
Downing was well off target with another effort as Liverpool continued to press, but with 59 minutes gone, he had a hand in goal number three.
Henderson picked out Downing on the right and while there was a hint of offside, the winger's first-time cross eluded Bunn and Sturridge had the simple task of scoring his third goal in as many games for Liverpool.
A foul on Snodgrass gave City a free-kick on the right, but his kick was headed away by Agger, and with 25 minutes to go the first change was made as Hoolahan replaced Elliott Bennett, with Howson switching to the wide left role.
Hoolahan was on the pitch only a few seconds, however, when it was 4-0. Glen Johnson made unhindered progress on the left and squared the ball for Gerrard, who had all the time in the world to pick his spot and drill a low shot inside Bunn's right-hand post.
Liverpool made a double change with just over 20 minutes to go as Sterling and Borini replaced Lucas and Sturridge.
To their credit, the City fans who braved the journey were still in good voice but as "On the Ball, City" rang out, Liverpool scored a fifth.
Substitute Sterling got away from Turner and slipped the ball across goal where Ryan Bennett got the final touch, poking it into his own net.
With 13 minutes left, Liverpool made their final change with Allen replacing Henderson.
Snodgrass was booked for a foul on Sterling and Russell Martin needlessly conceded a corner as the afternoon continued on its grim path towards the final whistle.
With four minutes left, Snodgrass made way for Pilkington in City's second change.
City fans were congratulated by the public address announcer for their efforts in travelling to the game and wished a safe journey home – but had little reward for their loyalty.
• Liverpool: Jones; Wisdom, Carragher, Agger, Glen Johnson; Downing, Lucas (Sterling, 69), Gerrard, Henderson (Allen, 77); Sturridge (Borini, 69), Suarez. Subs (not used): Gulasci, Shelvey, Skrtel, Robinson.
• Norwich City: Bunn; Russell Martin, Turner, Ryan Bennett, Garrido; Snodgrass (Pilkington, 86), Tettey, Bradley Johnson, Elliott Bennett (Hoolahan, 65); Howson; Holt. Subs (not used): Rudd, Tierney, Barnett, Jackson, Kane.
• Referee: Michael Oliver (Northumberland)
• Attendance: 44,901
• Goals: Liverpool: Henderson (26), Suarez (36), Sturridge (59), Gerrard (66), Ryan Bennett (og 74).
• Bookings: Liverpool: Glen Johnson (42). City: Snodgrass (80)

BBC

Liverpool strikers Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge started together for the first time and both scored as the Reds thrashed Norwich at Anfield.
A classy Jordan Henderson strike put Liverpool in front and a Sturridge dummy let Suarez confidently slot in.
Grant Holt had a rare Norwich effort saved before Sturridge tapped in a Stewart Downing cross and Steven Gerrard rifled in a 25-yard strike.
Ryan Bennett put Raheem Sterling's cross into his own net for the fifth.
Sturridge's goal meant he became the first player since Ray Kennedy in 1974 to score in each of his first three games for Liverpool and the ovation he was given when substituted showed he has quickly won over fans of the Merseyside club.
There was a degree of apprehension that the 23-year-old's arrival might diminish the impact of Suarez but so far those fears appear unfounded.
Instead, the duo provided evidence they could form a prolific partnership as Liverpool put in an assured display for a sixth win in their last eight league games at home.
Norwich's containment strategy did not work and, with just one point from the last 18, they will be wary of being sucked back into the relegation battle.
The Canaries presented the Reds with a yellow wall to break down and the home side initially struggled to find a way through. The visitors could even have shocked their hosts, only for central defender Ryan Bennett to nod a free far-post header straight at keeper Brad Jones.
Sturridge and Suarez combined and the former had a shot saved before Henderson provided the flash of inspiration Liverpool needed to take the lead.
The ball broke into the midfielder's path after Suarez was tackled on the edge of the area and Henderson produced an unerring 18-yard strike. From there on, Liverpool never looked back.
Norwich continued to sit back and invite pressure and were soon punished again when Suarez, who had scored two hat-tricks in his last two games against the Canaries, struck.
Sturridge dummied a pass from Lucas Leiva to send the Uruguayan in on the visitors' goal and Suarez slotted into the bottom corner for his 20th goal of the season.
Norwich produced little in attack, Holt having a follow-up shot from the right of the area blocked by home keeper Jones, after seeing his initial header cleared.
That was almost the last meaningful action from Jones, playing in place of the injured Pepe Reina, such was Liverpool's dominance.
Sturridge stole in at the far post to mark his Anfield bow with a simple finish after Downing's low first-time cross before Gerrard sent a low, long-range strike into the bottom corner.
Liverpool had scored five against Norwich in the reverse fixture in September and repeated the trick when substitute Sterling's cross was put into his own net by centre-back Bennett.
Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers:
"It was an outstanding team performance. The first goal was going to be important and Jordan scored a fantastic goal. We've had games where we haven't got the first goal early enough and have ended up drawing.
"It [Daniel Sturridge's goal] was the type of goal he was brought in for. He is terrific outside the box but he is a real killer in it. It's three goals in three games for him and I think there will be many to come. We have played well for most of the season but Daniel coming in adds that extra threat. He has pace and power and he has got good touch and good skills.
"We are just taking each game as it comes. It is a very pleasing day but we will not get too far ahead of ourselves."
Norwich manager Chris Hughton:
"What we were up against today was an extremely good Liverpool side. They were very good and clinical.
"It's been a bad day for us and we need to dust ourselves down and make sure we are better for the next game.
"We need to get back on track. Sometimes you have to accept that, with the quality these teams have, if you have a bad day you can be well beaten."

Date: 19 January 2013
Opposition: Norwich City
Competition: League

BBC	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Mail	Observer	Times	Telegraph
	Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Norwich Eve.News

19 January 2013

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Red-hot Suarez turns the heat on Hughton

"I hope the football's going to cheer us all up. There's nothing worse than being cold and miserable." With his lugubrious tones, Anfield's stadium announcer must be as far removed as is humanly possible from Liverpoolowner John W Henry's idea of a cheerleader but his words proved entirely prescient on a hugely encouraging day for Brendan Rodgers's team.

On an afternoon of light snow flurries inside Anfield, Bill Shankly would have approved of the absence of gloves and snoods - the great Liverpool manager used to insist on his players training in shirts and shorts even in the depths of winter. But he would have taken even greater satisfaction from this fluid attacking performance by the home side, orchestrated by the outstanding Luis Suarez who helped the Merseysiders earn the biggest victory of Rodgers's reign.

As a result Liverpool climbed level on points with sixth-placed Arsenal and within three points of neighbours Everton, who both have games in hand.

The Uruguayan may have earned a public rebuke from his manager in midweek for his "unacceptable" admission of diving against Stoke City but here, as he wriggled past yellow shirts and teed up team-mates, he showed the very best of his game, as well as offering early signs of a productive partnership with home debutant Daniel Sturridge, who ended the match with his third goal in as many Liverpool appearances following his move from Chelsea.

Rodgers expressed his evident delight afterwards when he said: "Luis has done what he has done all season. He is 100 per cent every game and he combined really well with Daniel up front. I thought we had a real fluidity in our movement today at the top end of the field."

Suarez was involved in all Liverpool's good work, right from the third minute when his cross gave Stewart Downing an early headed opportunity.

And it was his persistence that helped set up Jordan Henderson's excellent opening strike after 26 minutes, Suarez holding off a challenge from Jonathan Howson on the edge of the box; although Elliott Bennett did come in with a tackle, he merely teed up Henderson for a sweetly struck half-volley that flew high past Norwich goalkeeper Mark Bunn.

"It was a terrific piece of play by Luis Suarez," said Rodgers. "He wriggled his way in and around the edge of the box and what a strike from Jordan."

Twice in the first period Suarez, operating deeper than Sturridge, set up his new colleague for shots, and both were involved in the second goal after 36 minutes. It came after Lucas had played a forward pass from inside his own half that Sturridge allowed to run through his legs. The dummy took Michael Turner, the Norwich centre-back, out of the game, leaving Suarez free to bear down on Bunn's goal and find the far corner for his 20th goal of the season.

Norwich manager Chris Hughton bemoaned his side's "awful" defending but Rodgers, not surprisingly, took a different view as he reflected on the interplay between his new forward pair.

"I think it gives the opponent someone else to really worry about," he said. "We all felt Suarez has been incredible for us this season and he had some young players up there with him but you've now got a recognised goalscorer up beside him and if you look at the movement of the two, the second goal was a wonderful demonstration of how good players can link together - great vision by Daniel to see the run from Luis."

Suarez had scored hat-tricks in his previous two appearances against Norwich and this was another miserable afternoon for the East Anglian club, who have taken just one point from their last six matches. Their best moment came after six minutes when centre-back Ryan Bennett nodded a Robert Snodgrass free-kick straight at Brad Jones, deputising for the injured Pepe Reina. "Our best chance was Ryan Bennett's header and I thought he should have scored," said Hughton. "Liverpool were clinical in their finishing, but we weren't good enough today. We have to be better than that."

Norwich's defence was missing the injured S[c]bastien Bassong
and Liverpool continued to find holes in the second period. Sturridge got the third goal before the hour to become the first Liverpool player since Ray Kennedy to score on his first three appearances for the club.

Henderson played a ball out to Downing on the right and his first-time volleyed centre was turned in by Sturridge at the far post, although TV replays later suggested that the [pounds sterling]12m man was a fraction offside.

Steven Gerrard's trademark daisy-cutter made it four before substitute Raheem Sterling completed Liverpool'sthird straight handsome home victory, outpacing Turner and putting in the low ball that Ryan Bennett turned into his own net.

Liverpool have now recorded as many home League wins - six - as they managed in the whole of last season, and Anfield, despite the snow, feels a warmer place.

Liverpool: (4-2-3-1) Jones; Wisdom, Carragher, Agger, Johnson; Gerrard, Lucas (Sterling, 68); Downing, Suarez, Henderson (Allen, 77); Sturridge (Borini, 69).

Norwich City: (4-4-1-1) Bunn; Martin, Turner, R Bennett, Garrido; Snodgrass (Pilkington, 86), Tettey, Johnson, E Bennett (Hoolahan, 65); Howson; Holt.

Referee: Michael Oliver

Man of the match: Suarez (Liverpool)

Match rating: 7/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Rampant Liverpool turn back the clock

Liverpool 5 Henderson 26, Suarez 36, Sturridge 59, Gerrard 66, R Bennett 74 og
Norwich City 0 Att: 44,901

When you are trying to justify a [pounds sterling]12 million fee and win over a demanding audience, forcingLiverpool historians to update the archives is not a bad way to start.

In scoring his third goal in his first three games in this rout over Norwich, Daniel Sturridge joined an elite group of seven Liverpool players who have achieved the same feat.

The last, in 1974, was Ray Kennedy, a prolific striker who moved from London to Merseyside to be converted into an accomplished wide midfielder. There is a certain symmetry that Sturridge has moved from the capital to Anfield to make the reverse journey from the wings to central striker, having spent most of his time at Chelsea on the fringes.

After Sturridge tapped in following Stewart Downing's volleyed cross on 58 minutes, he continued a bedding-in period more comfortable than the world's snuggest eiderdown.

If another goal was not satisfying enough, the chant of 'Sturridge' from The Kop -- an echo of that usually reserved for 'Fowler' and 'Dalglish' no less - signalled the swiftness of the 23-year-old's impact.

For Brendan Rodgers, there was delight and, perhaps, a smidgen of regret in hailing the instant effectiveness of his latest recruit.

Where would Liverpool be, will be the vexing question, if Sturridge had signed last August?

"They linked very well and it's great for both of them to get on the score sheet," said Rodgers.

"Luis Suarez did what he does all season but we had a real fluidity at the top end. They are not static strikers. Daniel has pace and power, but he is also clever. It gives the opponent someone else to worry about. Suarez has been incredible but now we have a recognised goalscorer beside him. The second goal was a wonderful demonstration of how good players link together.

"I've seen it in training, the combinations are really good and then you see the form of Steven Gerrard using every club in his bag today and then scoring a trademark goal. Overall it was a wonderful performance."

As well as Sturridge and the customary brilliance of Suarez -- he struck his 20th of the season - it was the renaissance of Jordan Henderson that left a lingering impression. Henderson's classical volley from 20 yards gave Liverpool the impetus. Suarez effectively ended the game before half-time, benefiting from his new strike partner's dummy after a Lucas Leiva defence cutter.

Gerrard rammed home the fourth from 25 yards on 66 minutes, before Ryan Bennett deflected substitute Raheem Sterling's effort into his own net. Norwich, having conceded five to Liverpool earlier this season, were torn to shreds by the ultimate in flat-track bullying.

As well as eulogising his attackers, Rodgers may take as much satisfaction from the ovation given to Henderson shortly before full-time. The 22-year-old carried the demeanour of a startled bunny suffering anxiety attacks during his first season on Merseyside, so much so he suffered the ignominy of being offered to Fulham last summer. Such timidity was unrecognisable when swinging his right boot to give his side a thoroughly deserved lead on 26 minutes, not just because of the beauty of the strike, but also his interplay, desire to take possession and dynamic forward runs. This was the player Liverpool paid [pounds sterling]20million for, a youngster whose inefficiency scarred Fenway Sports Group when they assessed the initial returns, but who used correctly is displaying greater potential.

Rodgers must take credit for that, reshaping his formation to ensure Henderson was able to take possession facing goal and looking to move forward rather than take the safety first option.

It also shows how Sturridge's introduction can galvanise others, his inclusion forcing a change of shape,Liverpool playing a more narrow but also adaptable formation. Although Suarez and Sturridge played as a striking pair, Henderson took on a free role, floating behind the front two. Norwich, it must be said, were tame. "We have been well and truly beaten," said manager Chris Hughton.

"I've a good group of lads but we have underachieved and underperformed. It's never nice to be beaten. It is normal that things are said afterwards, but in the right way. Now it is important to put it behind us.

"We have to be better than that. Liverpool were excellent but this was the only game for quite some time where we have been well beaten. We need to address that."

For all their faults, Norwich could have opened the scoring on seven minutes when centre-half Bennett was left unmarked after a Robert Snodgrass free-kick. Apart from that Brad Jones, deputising for the injured Pepe Reina, was a spectator.

The league table still makes humbling reading, but Liverpool have now won as many at Anfield in this Premier League campaign as they did for the whole of last season.

Faced with facts like that, and armed with a striker already renewing the record books, the view that this club is making tentative strides forward is easier to validate.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 19 January 2013
Opposition: Norwich City
Competition: League

BBC	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Mail	Observer	Times	Telegraph
	Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Norwich Eve.News

19 January 2013

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Liverpool hit stride

LIVERPOOL Henderson 26, Suarez 36, Sturridge 59, Gerrard 66, R Bennett og 74 5 NORWICH 0 THIS is more like it. Three consecutive home wins for the first time in 20 months, 12 goals without reply and suddenlyLiverpool have some momentum heading into the second half of the season. Admittedly, Norwich City, Sunderland and Fulham are all opponents any Liverpool side would be expected to take care of at home, but there was a recognisable air of authority and inevitability about this annihilation. Once Jordan Henderson had given the home side the lead with a thundering volley, confidence began to course through red veins again. With Steven Gerrard dominating midfield, there was certainly a pleasing fluency to much of Liverpool's play. "We had good rhythm and flow to our game but also intensity and aggression in defence," said Brendan Rodgers,
the Liverpool manager. "I think the players are starting to enjoy playing at home again and, hopefully, the supporters are enjoying it as well."
Most of the pre-match attention had been focused on Luis Suarez after his admission of having dived against Stoke and his subsequent admonition by his manager. The Uruguayan was on his best behaviour, picking himself up off the floor whenever he went to ground and scoring his 20th goal of the season, his seventh in three games against Norwich, his whipping boys.
Two ahead by half-time, Liverpool kept up the tempo in the second half, turning a routine win into a rout. By the final whistle, Norwich were a shell of the team that had gone 10 games unbeaten in the run-up to Christmas. The wheels have come off the East Anglian bandwagon since then and, on this passive showing, the remainder of the season is more likely to be a struggle for survival.
Liverpool have been buoyed by the arrival of Daniel Sturridge, who was given his first Premier League start and scored his third goal in three games. As pleasing to Rodgers will be the way he and Suarez combined, particularly for the second goal just before halftime, when Sturridge dummied Lucas's pass to leave Suarez with time to steady himself and tuck the ball into the corner past Mark Bunn.
After shouldering the scoring responsibilities for so long, Suarez is clearly relishing the help. "He's got a recognised goalscorer alongside him now and the second goal was a wonderful demonstration of their ability to combine," said Rodgers. "It was great vision by Daniel to see the run of Luis coming from the outside, great weight of pass by Lucas, and Suarez found himself one versus one. I've seen it in training in the early part he [Sturridge] has been here. Daniel has pace and power, but he's also a very clever player. Opponents now have someone else to worry about." The transformation of Henderson was equally eyecatching.
Preferred to Joe Allen in a reshuffled Liverpool line-up, the England midfielder gave one of his most impressive performances for the club, drifting in from the left to drive a fierce volley past Bunn for the opening goal and enjoying the free role allowed him by Rodgers. When he was replaced by Allen, the Kop gave him a standing ovation. Sturridge capped a fine display with a neatly taken goal from Stewart Downing's volleyed cross. Once he and Suarez sort out their lines of attack on crosses, they will be even more formidable. A trademark low strike from long range completed Gerrard's majestic display and by the time the unfortunate Ryan Bennett had turned Raheem Sterling's cross into his own goal
for Liverpool's fifth, Norwich were chasing shadows.
"I couldn't have asked for more. The players were brilliant in their application and their game and it was a great performance," said Rodgers. "We needed to find that goal early on. Once you get that, it gives you the confidence because your opponent has to come out and that allows more spaces to open up." He was full of praise for the performance of his captain. "His passing was phenomenal and the goal he scored was trademark Steven Gerrard," he said.
After conceding 10 goals in their two games against Liverpool this season, seeing the back of their least favourite opponents will be a blessing for Norwich. "We were well and truly beaten by a very good side who were clinical in everything they did, said Chris Hughton, the Norwich manager. "We have to be better than that." Rodgers revealed that goalkeeper Pepe Reina, who missed the match because of a thigh injury, also had an operation on the broken nose he suffered at Old Trafford last week. Hughton is awaiting further developments on his attempts to bring in another striker, with Swansea's Danny Graham top of his list. "We have made bids for two players. The other clubs will have the say on whether it goes any further than that," Hughton said.
Liverpool: Jones 6, Wisdom 6, Carragher 7, Agger 6, G Johnson 6, Downing 6, Gerrard 8, Lucas 6 (Sterling 68min), Henderson 7 (Allen 77min), Suarez 7, Sturridge 7 (Borini 69min) Norwich: Bunn 6, Martin 5, R Bennett 5, Turner 6, Garrido 5, E Bennett 5 (Hoolahan 65min), B Johnson 6, Howson 6, Snodgrass 5 (Pilkington 86min), Tettey 6, Holt 5 STURRIDGE MAKES IT THREE OUT OF THREE ? Daniel Sturridge, inset, became the firstLiverpool player since Ray Kennedy in 1974 to score in each of his first three games for the club, having already struck against Mansfield in the FA Cup and in the league defeat by Manchester United since his [pounds sterling]12m move from Chelsea. ? Luis Suarez scored his seventh goal from three consecutive matches against Norwich. He hit hat-tricks in his two previous games against the side from East Anglia.Liverpool have won their past three matches against Norwich with a goal aggregate of 13-2. ? Five different players scored for Liverpool, equalling the club record of most different goalscorers in one Premier League match, which was set in January 1999 when they beat Southampton 7-1.

The Observer

Sturridge and Suarez combine to put Liverpool in perfect harmony

LIVERPOOL 5
Henderson 26 Suarez 36 Sturridge 59 Gerrard 66 R Bennett 74og
NORWICH 0
The Liverpool dressing room reverberated to the sound of Stevie Wonder's Signed, Sealed, Delivered after the rout of Norwich; an apt selection given the impact of one overdue transfer on Brendan Rodgers's team. Daniel Sturridge came with a guarantee of goals from Chelsea but it was his liberating effect on Luis Suarez that condemned Chris Hughton to another demoralising afternoon in Liverpool's company.
Eyebrows raised en masse when the Liverpool manager revealed leading goalscorer Suarez would be the one to vacate the centre ground following Sturridge's pounds 12m arrival from Stamford Bridge. They were back in place, with heads nodding in approval, as the strikers dovetailed superbly at Anfield and Suarez dismantled the Norwich defence. A week that brought the first public rebuke of the Uruguay international from Rodgers, for the admission that he dived in an attempt to win a penalty against Stoke, ended in deserved tribute. "They linked very, very well. It was a terrific performance," Rodgers said. "Luis did what he has done for us all season, gave 100% all game, and he combined really well with Daniel. There was a real fluidity to our movement at the top end of the field. Daniel gives the opponent someone else to worry about. Luis has been incredible this season but he has now got a recognised goalscorer up there alongside him." Not that Suarez, with two hat-tricks in his previous two outings against Norwich, requires much assistance in this fixture.
Hughton's team were beaten 5-2 by Liverpool at Carrow Road in September and an arduous trek towards a sixth league game without a win looked inevitable once the excellent Jordan Henderson swept the ball beyond Mark Bunn from 20 yards. Grant Holt and Jonathan Howson were never give the time, space or support in the visiting attack to suggest there was a route back against an ultimately dominant home display.
Liverpool's emphatic victory began quietly, and it was the visitors who created the first clear opening when Robert Snodgrass delivered an inviting free-kick on to the head of the unmarked Ryan Bennett. His effort was straight at Brad Jones, however, with the Australian called into the Liverpool goal after Jose Reina reported a thigh problem. "I thought he should have scored," Hughton said. "You never know what difference that could have made but we were well beaten by a very good side in the end. When you come to these quality clubs you have to turn up. We were nowhere near as good as we have been and could have been." The loss of Sebastien Bassong to a calf injury before the game was a mitigating factor in Norwich's weak defensive display.
A subdued contest and atmosphere was transformed by the breakthrough. It was a goal that enhanced the recent contribution of Henderson, who was unfortunate to lose his starting place to Joe Allen at Old Trafford last Sunday. Norwich appeared to have dealt with the nuisance of Suarez when Elliott Bennett slid in to relieve the striker of possession on the edge of the area but, reacting first to the loose ball, Henderson turned and drove a venomous shot past Bunn. His joyous reaction was justified.
Liverpool made the points safe nine minutes before the break when Suarez scored his seventh goal in three appearances against Norwich. It arrived courtesy of another telling contribution from Sturridge, who dummied a through ball from Lucas Leiva to leave Michael Turner on his backside and his strike partner through on goal. Norwich must have feared the worst given Suarez's record against them and with good reason as he converted a low left-foot finish into the far corner. Rodgers said: "That goal was a wonderful demonstration of how the two players can link together. It was great vision from Daniel."
The second half saw Liverpool prise open the Norwich defence at will and Sturridge record an early milestone in his Anfield career when he tapped in from close range following good work by Henderson and Stewart Downing. His finish, with Norwich appealing loudly but in vain for offside, marked the first time a Liverpoolplayer had scored in each of his first three appearances for the club since the great Ray Kennedy way back in 1974.
Steven Gerrard then dispatched a trademark shot into the bottom corner from over 25 yards after a surging run off the left by Glen Johnson, who also released Raheem Sterling for the fifth. The Liverpool substitute flicked the ball over the hapless Turner and, though his effort beat Bunn, the final touch came from the out-stretched boot of Ryan Bennett.
Having lamented that Liverpool "are a quiet team" in the wake of defeat at Manchester United, Rodgers witnessed a rout delivered with a minimum of fuss.
LIVERPOOL Jones; Wisdom, Carragher, Agger, Johnson (Booked); Gerrard, Lucas (Sterling 68); Downing, Suarez, Henderson (Allen 77); Sturridge (Borini 69) Subs not used Gulacsi, Shelvey, Skrtel, Robinson
NORWICH Bunn; Martin, Turner, R Bennett, Garrido; Snodgrass (Booked)(Pilkington 86), Tettey, Johnson,
E Bennett (Hoolahan 65); Howson; Holt
Subs not used Rudd, Jackson, Barnett, Tierney, Kane
Anfield 44,901
Game rating 8/10
Referee Michael Oliver

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 19 January 2013
Opposition: Norwich City
Competition: League

BBC	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Mail	Observer	Times	Telegraph
	Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Norwich Eve.News

19 January 2013

BBC

90:00+2:18Full time The final whistle goes and the game is over.
90:00+1:36 Luis Suarez is ruled offside. Mark Bunn takes the free kick.
90:00+1:01 Michael Turner fouled by Luis Suarez, the ref awards a free kick. Mark Bunn takes the free kick.
88:06 The ball is crossed by Glen Johnson, Michael Turner makes a clearance.
86:25 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Wesley Hoolahan by Stewart Downing. Alexander Tettey takes the direct free kick.
85:20Substitution SubstitutionRobert Snodgrass goes off and Anthony Pilkington comes on.
81:01 Raheem Sterling takes a short corner. Raheem Sterling produces a cross, Mark Bunn makes a comfortable save.
80:20 Luis Suarez decides to take a short corner.
79:32 Free kick crossed by Luis Suarez, clearance made by Ryan Bennett.
79:32Booking Robert Snodgrass receives a caution for unsporting behaviour.
79:28 Free kick awarded for a foul by Robert Snodgrass on Raheem Sterling.
76:36 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Jamie Carragher by Grant Holt. Steven Gerrard takes the free kick.
76:36Substitution SubstitutionJordan Henderson leaves the field to be replaced by Joe Allen.
73:52 Assist on the goal came from Raheem Sterling.
73:52Goal scored Goal - Ryan Bennett - Liverpool 5 - 0 NorwichRyan Bennett scores an own goal from 12 yards. Liverpool 5-0 Norwich.
71:52 Glen Johnson sends in a cross, Michael Turner manages to make a clearance.
70:53 Long range effort from Robert Snodgrass misses to the left of the target.
70:30 Short corner worked by Robert Snodgrass.
70:03 Jordan Henderson concedes a free kick for a foul on Wesley Hoolahan. Free kick taken by Javier Garrido.
67:48Substitution SubstitutionFabio Borini comes on in place of Daniel Sturridge.
67:48Substitution SubstitutionRaheem Sterling comes on in place of Leiva Lucas.
65:36 Assist on the goal came from Glen Johnson.
65:36Goal scored Goal - Steven Gerrard - Liverpool 4 - 0 NorwichSteven Gerrard finds the net with a goal from outside the area to the bottom left corner of the goal. Liverpool 4-0 Norwich.
64:25Substitution SubstitutionWesley Hoolahan is brought on as a substitute for Elliott Bennett.
63:31 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Robert Snodgrass by Leiva Lucas. Free kick crossed by Robert Snodgrass, clearance by Daniel Agger.
63:03 The ball is sent over by Stewart Downing, clearance made by Michael Turner.
60:44 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Alexander Tettey by Leiva Lucas. Direct free kick taken by Bradley Johnson.
60:17 Andre Wisdom crosses the ball, Alexander Tettey makes a clearance.
60:01 The ball is crossed by Alexander Tettey, save by Brad Jones.
58:02 Assist on the goal came from Stewart Downing.
58:02Goal scored Goal - Daniel Sturridge - Liverpool 3 - 0 NorwichDaniel Sturridge gets on the score sheet with a goal from close range to the bottom left corner of the goal. Liverpool 3-0 Norwich.
57:48 Glen Johnson produces a cross, clearance made by Michael Turner.
57:19 Bradley Johnson gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Leiva Lucas. Jamie Carragher takes the free kick.
55:56 Michael Turner fouled by Luis Suarez, the ref awards a free kick. Free kick taken by Ryan Bennett.
55:14 Stewart Downing has shot on goal from just outside the penalty box which goes wide of the right-hand upright.
54:29 The ball is sent over by Luis Suarez, clearance made by Javier Garrido. Stewart Downing decides to take the corner short. Inswinging corner taken left-footed by Stewart Downing, Ryan Bennett makes a clearance.
52:45 Andre Wisdom produces a left-footed shot from just outside the penalty box that goes wide left of the target.
51:38 Steven Gerrard takes the inswinging corner, Bradley Johnson makes a clearance.
50:09 Glen Johnson crosses the ball. Steven Gerrard is ruled offside. Mark Bunn restarts play with the free kick. Daniel Sturridge takes a shot. Ryan Bennett gets a block in.
49:07 The ball is sent over by Robert Snodgrass, Jamie Carragher manages to make a clearance. Alexander Tettey has a shot on goal from outside the box which misses left.
47:39 Andre Wisdom gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Elliott Bennett. Javier Garrido restarts play with the free kick.
45:34 Free kick awarded for a foul by Robert Snodgrass on Glen Johnson. Glen Johnson takes the direct free kick.
45:01 The second half begins.
45:00+0:54 Daniel Sturridge takes a shot. Mark Bunn makes a comfortable save.
45:00+1:18Half time The referee calls an end to the first half.
45:00+0:54 Daniel Sturridge takes a shot. Save by Mark Bunn.
44:14 The ball is delivered by Steven Gerrard, clearance by Michael Turner.
41:41 Free kick crossed by Javier Garrido, Steven Gerrard manages to make a clearance. Alexander Tettey gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Daniel Sturridge. Free kick taken by Daniel Agger.
41:41Booking The referee shows Glen Johnson a yellow card.
41:25 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Robert Snodgrass by Glen Johnson.
40:45 Glen Johnson has an effort at goal from outside the area missing to the wide right of the target.
38:29 Alexander Tettey fouled by Daniel Sturridge, the ref awards a free kick. Free kick crossed left-footed by Javier Garrido, clearance by Leiva Lucas. Grant Holt takes a shot. Clearance made by Andre Wisdom.
37:00 Alexander Tettey takes a shot. Jamie Carragher gets a block in. Corner taken by Robert Snodgrass played to the near post, clearance made by Stewart Downing. Corner taken left-footed by Robert Snodgrass to the near post, Daniel Agger manages to make a clearance.
35:52 Assist on the goal came from Leiva Lucas.
35:52Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Liverpool 2 - 0 NorwichGoal scored by Luis Suarez from inside the box to the bottom right corner of the goal. Liverpool 2-0 Norwich.
34:45 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Save made by Mark Bunn.
34:17 Corner taken by Stewart Downing, clearance by Ryan Bennett.
33:54 Inswinging corner taken from the right by-line by Stewart Downing, Jonathan Howson manages to make a clearance.
30:34 Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard, Andre Wisdom produces a header from inside the area that goes over the bar.
27:41 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save made by Mark Bunn.
27:10 Inswinging corner taken from the right by-line by Stewart Downing.
25:39Goal scored Goal - Jordan Henderson - Liverpool 1 - 0 NorwichJordan Henderson grabs a brilliant goal from just outside the box to the top right corner of the goal. Liverpool 1-0 Norwich.
23:41 Centre by Andre Wisdom.
20:44 Alexander Tettey concedes a free kick for a foul on Jordan Henderson. Daniel Agger restarts play with the free kick.
20:10 Robert Snodgrass takes a outswinging corner from the left by-line played to the near post, Daniel Agger makes a clearance.
19:20 Glen Johnson delivers the ball, save by Mark Bunn.
18:18 Shot from outside the area by Steven Gerrard misses to the left of the target.
17:22 Short corner taken by Stewart Downing from the right by-line.
16:30 The assistant referee flags for offside against Robert Snodgrass. Daniel Agger takes the free kick.
14:34 Andre Wisdom produces a cross, Ryan Bennett manages to make a clearance.
13:59 Free kick awarded for a foul by Grant Holt on Daniel Agger. Free kick taken by Jamie Carragher.
13:35 The ball is delivered by Luis Suarez, comfortable save by Mark Bunn.
12:50 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Blocked by Ryan Bennett.
12:19 Luis Suarez fouled by Alexander Tettey, the ref awards a free kick. Leiva Lucas restarts play with the free kick.
11:36 Daniel Sturridge takes a shot. Save made by Mark Bunn.
7:25 Stewart Downing has an effort at goal from outside the area missing to the wide right of the goal.
6:08 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Grant Holt by Leiva Lucas. A cross is delivered by Robert Snodgrass, Ryan Bennett takes a shot. Save made by Brad Jones.
3:55 Centre by Glen Johnson.
2:26 Centre by Luis Suarez, Stewart Downing has a headed effort at goal from close in which goes wide right of the target.
0:00 The match has kicked off.

Compiled by Graeme Riley