

Date: 27 January 2013

Opposition: Oldham Athletic

Competition: FA Cup

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	Oldham Chronicle

27 January 2013

THE TIMES

Oldham are too tall an order for brittle Liverpool

Oldham 3

Athletic Smith 3, 45, Wabara 48

Liverpool 2

Suarez 17, Allen 80

Referee L Probert Attendance 10,295

Powerful, robust and uncompromising, Matt Smith is everything that Liverpool, a team built on the purist principles of Brendan Rodgers, are not. Yesterday, the university graduate was everything they could not handle as he bullied last season's FA Cup finalists out of this year's competition and inspired Oldham Athletic to one of the shocks of the round.

"You can't beat the magic of the FA Cup," Smith had tweeted in the hours before kick-off. By the time the towering forward was carried off on a stretcher with six minutes of the game remaining, he had conjured up one of the great upsets. On a day for braces and boots, Rodgers opted for fancy frills and no one enjoyed terrorising a frail and feeble Liverpool as much as the 23-year-old who opted for a career in professional football only after completing his education two years ago. How Liverpool must wish that he had carried on with his studies instead of exposing their shortcomings -- their collective physical weakness and propensity to wilt when opposed by teams built on grit and determination -- on a day when their hopes of winning domestic silverware were extinguished in embarrassing fashion.

The tone for what followed was established in the third minute when Oldham took the lead with a goal that owed as much to their own willingness to get at Liverpool as it did their opponents' obvious flaws. Lee Croft's mis-hit shot appeared to signal the end of a promising early attack only for Youssouf M'Changama to retrieve possession and pick out Smith, who struck his first goal at Boundary Park.

That Oldham, who had taken only one point from their previous eight matches in npower League One, had taken the lead against Liverpool was in itself a shock. They had done the same in a third-round tie at Anfield last season before succumbing to a 5-1 defeat, though, and there was a sense that Liverpool's class would prevail again.

That feeling strengthened when Luis Suarez equalised after 17 minutes, Liverpool's captain for the day taking advantage of a poor clearance from Cliff Byrne with a well-placed low shot, below . The Uruguayan then had a goal ruled out for offside before Raheem Sterling wasted a presentable opportunity to edge Liverpool in front. But, rather than be cowed by the increase in pressure, Oldham withstood it and launched offensives of their own.

Predictably, but in a good way, their attacks revolved around Smith who, at 6ft 6in, was proving an effective battering ram against Martin Skrtel and Sebastian Coates. The pair had been softened up throughout the first half and, sensing their weakness, Smith was in the right place at the right time to restore Oldham's lead after Brad Jones had spilled Reece Wabara's cross-shot.

"We didn't have enough physicality, especially considering we have got two big, strong centre halves," Rodgers said. "Smith did well but it's not like we haven't played against that big type before.

"We were too much on the back foot early on -- you have got to be aggressive. This is a different type of football from the Premier League; you have to roll your sleeves up and be strong and aggressive."

Oldham fully deserved their slender half-time advantage. They had been more determined, more ambitious and more resolute than Liverpool whatever their shortfall in talent and ability, but all of their hard work could have been undone within a minute of the restart had Fabio Borini dispatched Jack Robinson's cross instead of volleying wastefully over.

The next time the pair combined it proved even more costly to Liverpool's aspirations, as they stood and waited for one another to clear Carl Winchester's deep cross. Unlike them, Wabara attacked the ball and met it with a looping header that beat Jones via the underside of the crossbar.

It was the first time Liverpool had conceded three goals to a team outside the top two divisions since 1956. On that occasion, Liverpool escaped from Scunthorpe United with a 3-3 draw and, with 42 minutes remaining, that scoreline was again their aim. Jose Baxter, a boyhood Liverpool fan who also holds the distinction of being Everton's youngest player, could have put even that objective beyond them, but his attempted chip was tame and Jones gathered.

Rodgers then did what all Liverpool managers of the past decade have done in times of trouble, as he looked to Steven Gerrard to spare his team's blushes. Introduced as a substitute, Gerrard added guile and tenacity to Liverpool's play and his arrival lifted those around him to such an extent that a comeback seemed inevitable when Joe Allen scored his first goal for the club, via a deflection, with 11 minutes remaining.

Allen saw another attempt deflected narrowly wide before Gerrard struck the underside of the crossbar in the 90th minute with a powerful strike from 30 yards. Having started with only three players over the age of 23, Rodgers ended the game relying on one of his elder statesmen to bail him out.

This was a mess that even Gerrard could not put right, though. It was the turn of Smith to be the hero and a day for spit and sawdust to triumph over style without substance.

the guardian

Smith supplies knockout blows to fell feeble Red giants

The final whistle sounded on a shocking defeat in every sense for Liverpool and Paul Dickov was swept into an emotional embrace by Paul Gerrard, one of the few members of the Oldham coaching team not placed on gardening leave before Christmas. Dickov's backroom staff have been decimated, and his own future at Boundary Park is in jeopardy even after this glorious high, but in that touchline clinch Dickov found the FA Cup does not distinguish between the downtrodden and the aristocracy. How Oldham merited this release. Liverpool arrived having agreed an pounds 8.5m fee with Internazionale for Philippe Coutinho and a day after Brendan Rodgers's 40th birthday celebrations. They were abruptly curtailed by a tireless performance from a League One side who have slipped towards the relegation zone after taking one point from their previous eight games and are reliant on television revenue from this tie to keep going.

The on-loan Manchester City defender Reece Wabara scored what proved the winning goal but no player encapsulated the Oldham display better than the rampaging centre-forward Matt Smith. A non-league player 18 months ago, his previous brush with fame came from playing football with the comedian Jack Whitehall at university, where he studied for a degree in international business management. He will be remembered for much more in Oldham after his two first-half goals punished a lightweight, lamentable approach from the visitors from Anfield. This was Oldham's chance to impress before a national audience and, from their intent to pummel Liverpool into submission from the very start, they were evidently in the mood to seize it.

For Rodgers, this was an abject humiliation a stirring finale could not cover. The Liverpool manager selected a strong, recognisable line-up despite having trips to Arsenal and Manchester City this week, with only Steven Gerrard, Stewart Downing and Lucas Leiva of his available first choices rested on the bench. Yet they were behind before putting one pass together. Physically, they were also found wanting as Dickov's decision to deploy Robbie Simpson alongside the towering Smith allowed Oldham to dominate Sebastian Coates, Jack Robinson and Martin Skrtel in the visiting defence.

Only two minutes had elapsed when Youssouf M'Changama delivered an inviting cross towards the back post. Smith steamed in above Coates, as was to become the norm, and his downward header beat Brad Jones despite Skrtel's attempted clearance on the line. That was to be M'Changama's last contribution before his afternoon was ended by a challenge from Raheem Sterling, who received a yellow card and escaped another shortly afterwards for a pull on Jean-Yves M'Voto.

The former Everton trainee and boyhood Liverpool fan Jose Baxter went close from distance as Oldham combined tidy approach play with their aerial bombardment. Liverpool's response had been minimal but they were back on level terms on the first occasion Luis Suarez was afforded space to run at the home defence. Suarez, handed the captain's armband for the first time, roamed inside from the left and regained possession from Cliff Byrne following an attempted through ball into Daniel Sturridge. A measured finish sailed through the arms of Oldham's keeper, Dean Bouzanis, to give the Uruguayan international his 21st goal of the season. Briefly, the equaliser brought composure and a touch of Premier League superiority to Liverpool. Suarez thought he had scored a second with a glancing touch to a Jordan Henderson free-kick but was given offside, and Bouzanis denied Sterling following a swift exchange involving Suarez and the dreadful Fabio Borini. But then the physical threat from Oldham restarted, and Liverpool folded weakly. Jones saved Smith's header towards his top corner from Baxter's free-kick but Dickov's team continued to press throughout first-half injury time and retook the lead courtesy of a poor slip by Liverpool's stand-in keeper. Wabara, who prospered from right-back all afternoon, drove in a low but routine cross to the near post that Jones fumbled straight to Simpson. His mis-hit shot rolled across goal and perfectly for Smith, a former player with Solihull Moors, to double his tally from unmissable range. Borini immediately squandered a glorious chance to level and that assumed greater significance when Oldham extended their advantage. Carl Winchester, M'Changama's replacement, swung over a deep cross from the left and Wabara rose above Robinson to send a looping header in off the far post.

Liverpool were staring at humiliation and Rodgers responded by introducing Gerrard and Downing from the bench. Sturridge shot over from close range after Gerrard's shot had been blocked and, with Oldham losing Simpson and Smith to injury, the latter to a jarred shoulder, the home side had no outlet to relieve the pressure. It eventually told with 10 minutes remaining when Joe Allen's volley from a Gerrard corner took a huge deflection off Baxter to beat Bouzanis. Allen had another goalbound effort deflected just wide, Gerrard struck the crossbar from 30 yards and Liverpool pressed in search of a reprieve. It never came. Dickov had his day.

Man of the match Matt Smith (Oldham)

Oldham Athletic 4-4-2 Bouzanis; Wabara*, Byrne, M'voto, Grounds; Croft, Wesolowski, Baxter, M'Changama (Winchester, 10); Smith* (Mellor, 81), Simpson* (Taylor, 77). Subs not used Cisak, Brown, Tarkowski, Sutherland. Liverpool 4-2-3-1 Jones; Wisdom (Gerrard, 55), Skrtel, Coates, Robinson; Henderson, Allen; Sterling* (Shelvey, 70), Suarez, Borini (Downing, 55); Sturridge. Subs not used Gulacsi, Carragher, Lucas, Suarez.

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The Mail

FREEBIE BOYS TO GLORY BOYS; Oldham's heroes did not cost a penny but outplay megastars

THE timing, as it had been all afternoon, was immaculate. Boundary Park was awash with euphoria when the club DJ played the most appropriate song.

'Tonight's gonna be a good night,' pumped out and, on the touchline, Oldham manager Paul Dickov embraced his goalkeeping coach, Paul Gerrard, with the glee and emotion that only comes with tumultuous FA Cup results.

There may be doubts over his future but, after dumping seventime winners Liverpool out of the competition and putting the gloss on a weekend when David had Goliath's measure, Dickov should indeed have enjoyed a good night.

His striker Matt Smith -- who, like the rest of the team, did not cost Oldham a penny -- acted like a battering ram and scored twice in a thumping 3-2 success which was just as noteworthy for the indefatigable defending of Cliff Byrne and for the guile of Jose Baxter. Oldham did not play like a team 55 places below Liverpool.

True, Oldham's recent League One form has been wretched, but here was a result to change the direction of a season. They had no right to beat Liverpool but spirit, organisation and determination saw them through. Here was a unified team, playing for their manager and feeding off his constant encouragement. Each man in blue ran further, tackled harder and jumped higher than their opposites in red. It was a display that should have secured Dickov eternal gratitude.

'I hope it buys me more time,' he said, a little unconvincingly. 'I'll just get on with it regardless. Lots of things have gone on. The one thing I will always do is get on with it and roll my sleeves up.' If only Liverpool's players had done that, they would not be reflecting on their most calamitous FA Cup result since Bolton, then of the third tier, beat them 2-0 at Anfield in 1993.

With the exception of substitutes Steven Gerrard and Stewart Downing, Liverpool, to a man, were abysmal.

Though Rodgers stated Liverpool's intent by selecting Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge to spearhead his attack, other areas of the team were unbalanced and weak. Much to Rodgers's dismay, a significant number of his squad seemed ambivalent about the occasion.

'If you are going to win trophies and go far, you need to come to places like Oldham and win,' he grumbled.

'We were not good enough. We didn't have enough physicality and we didn't press the ball well enough. You can't be comfortable at Liverpool.' Oldham's opening goal perfectly illustrated that. With barely two minutes gone, Liverpool's 19-year-old left back Jack Robinson was caught napping, Youssef M'Changama fired in a cross and Smith bundled the opener past Brad Jones and Martin Skrtel, both of whom had lamentable afternoons.

Boundary Park erupted and Oldham grew in confidence. Liverpool, by contrast, were appalling. Attitude goes a long way to winning football matches and for much of this contest, Liverpool's was poor.

Too many in red simply thought all they had to do to progress was turn up. Even after Suarez had equalised on 17 minutes, sweeping a drive past Dean Bouzanis, there was no pace or purpose to their play; most worryingly of all for Rodgers, there was a distinct lack of fight.

Not so with Oldham. This proud little club -- one of the founder members of the Premier League -- has been through the mill in recent years, battling financial problems and constantly dealing with managerial upheaval.

This, then, was a much-needed break from the norm, a chance to remind the nation in front of a big television audience what Oldham used to be about. How they grasped their opportunity, pestering Liverpool to distraction and following their manager's instructions to the letter. They headed into half-time with a thoroughly deserved lead after Smith, who once played football at Manchester University with the comedian Jack Whitehall, made a laughing stock of Liverpool's defence with his second goal after goalkeeper Jones had spilled a ball in his six-yard box.

With their tails up, a looping second-half header from Reece Wabara, on loan from Manchester City, gave Oldham breathing space and from that point, they expended every bit of energy to secure the club's most famous result since the halcyon days of Joe Royle in the early 1990s.

Gerrard's introduction gave Liverpool impetus and their onslaught late in the game yielded a goal from Joe Allen with just over 10 minutes to go but, while a shot from the England captain rattled the crossbar, Oldham did not suffer too many scares. This was their day.

'Could I believe what I was seeing? Stupidly enough, yes,' said Dickov. 'I just thought the desire the players had to win the game was the reason we did it. I've won a European medal, played for my country and scored at Wembley but, after everything that has gone on, this is right up there for me.' As Dickov said that, a smile lit up his face. Whether it will remain after his meeting with chairman Simon Corney today, though, remains to be seen. Football truly is a remarkable game.

The Daily Telegraph

Dickov facing sack despite Liverpool upset

Oldham Athletic 3
mth 3, 45, Wabara 48
Liverpool 2

Suarez 17, Allen 80 Att: 10,295

It should have been Paul Dickov's champagne moment, the highlight of his managerial career, but the Oldham Athletic manager's reward for knocking Liverpool out of the FA Cup is likely to be the sack today. Dickov is set to become the most bizarre and ill-timed of this season's managerial dismissals when he meets chairman Simon Corney at Boundary Park this morning in the aftermath of the club's biggest win for 20 years.

Oldham may have beaten Liverpool, a victory masterminded by Dickov and secured by Matt Smith's two goals and a second-half header from Reece Wabara, yet their woeful league form - one point from a possible 24 - has left the club staring at relegation to League Two. Corney left his manager hanging by a thread when asked about his future.

'It's very awkward.' Corney said. 'We will have to chat about it tomorrow. There will be fans who say, how can you get rid of him after this? Just like there were fans last week saying, how can you keep him?'

'Days like this are great, but the biggest thing is about staying in this division. Paul is the first one to say he is under pressure. He knows that, I know that, the fans know that. We have had one draw in our last eight games so there are a lot of things to think about.'

Dickov, who recruited man-of-the-match Smith from Solihull Moors on a free transfer two years ago, has worked with his hands tied at Boundary Park, losing the majority of his back-room staff to 'gardening leave' last month. Asked about this, Dickov said: 'There are two ways you can react. You can spit your dummy out and feel sorry for yourself or you can roll your sleeves up and get on with it.' While Oldham's success should be the springboard from which to build a revival, Dickov's post-match mood was that of a man facing the gallows.

'Will this be enough to keep me in a job? I don't know. Let me enjoy this first. I've just been with Simon now and it has not been mentioned at all. If anything was happening, I am sure he would have told me.'

Whether Dickov will be around to take charge of next month's fifthround tie at home to Everton remains to be seen, yet Boundary Park will do well to witness a stirring game against the blue half of Merseyside to match this one against the red.

If it is to be Dickov's final game in charge, he could not have chosen a better way to go. His players belied their poor form and lowly status by ignoring the gulf between the two clubs and daring to go on the front foot from the kick-off. It was a bold tactic which was rewarded within two minutes when the impressive Smith headed in from close range to give Oldham the lead.

Defensively, Liverpool were a shambles. Lee Croft was unchallenged as he switched the ball to Youssef M'Changama and the winger's cross picked out Smith, whose far-post header was diverted into the net by Martin Skrtel.

Smith, a doctor's son who holds a degree in business management, has clearly studied at the Kevin Davies school of forward play judging by his battering-ram approach to centrehalves, but the 23-year-old rattled Liverpool's back four and they were troubled by the 6ft 6in giant from start to finish.

Luis Suarez hauled Liverpool level on 16 minutes when he was left to run from the halfway line before scoring his 21st goal of the season after a fortuitous one-two off the shins of defender Cliff Byrne.

Another Smith header, tipped over the bar by Brad Jones, preceded Oldham's second on the stroke of half-time when more defensive uncertainty gifted the home side their goal. Goalkeeper Jones failed to hold on to Wabara's shot, but Robbie Simpson reacted quickest and his square ball gave Smith a tap-in from three yards.

It was no more than Oldham deserved, but a Liverpool fightback seemed inevitable in the second half. That appeared to hold true when Fabio Borini shot over from Jack Robinson's cross less than 20 seconds after the interval, the miss summing up Liverpool's woeful performance.

They were punished for their slack attitude when Wabara extended Oldham's lead two minutes later. The full-back, on loan from Manchester City, gave Oldham the platform for victory when his header from Carl Winchester's cross went in off the underside of the crossbar.

Just as the heavens opened to subject the pitch to a torrential downpour, Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers introduced Steven Gerrard and Stewart Downing in an effort to avoid an ignominious defeat.

Predictably, the Liverpool onslaught followed and Oldham resorted to throwing bodies at shots from Gerrard and Suarez. Their resistance held until the 80th minute when Joe Allen's volley, which deflected off Jose Baxter, reduced the deficit and gave Liverpool 10 minutes to save their skin.

Other than a Gerrard strike which hit the bar from 30 yards, Liverpool barely threatened and Oldham held on. It seems unlikely that Dickov will be able to do the same.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Oldham's warrior spirit shocks Liverpool to core

Taking their cue from the rattling of Chelsea and the debunking of Tottenham Hotspur, Oldham Athletic placed a top hat on the day of the underdog. Liverpool were spanked black and blue by a determined foe led by the son of a Hampshire doctor bought for nothing who stretches the tape a full 6ft 6in. Matt Smith, a free transfer from Solihull Moors 18 months ago, struck within three minutes and again as the tea was brewing ahead of half-time, twin shocks that utterly knocked Liverpool out of their well-upholstered stride. Though Brendan Rodgers' side rallied to within an inch of parity when Steven Gerrard rattled the bar on 90 minutes, there was something in the frigid moorland air that told of a scalping at the end of a momentous fourth round.

Twice in the not too distant past, 1990 and 1994, Oldham had travelled to the semi-final stage in this rumbustious competition, falling each time to Manchester United. In those days Oldham were a first-tier team under the leadership of Joe Royle. The reality today is somewhat different. Mired near the foot of League One on a run of one point in eight games, the hosts were billed as cannon fodder. Yet, after the stirrings at Brentford and Leeds earlier in the day, Liverpool might have known what kind of welcome was coming.

They would not, however, have reckoned on falling a goal behind so early. A cross from Youssouf M'Changama was met by Smith, a human expression of the Empire State Building, who crashed his header past Brad Jones. The goal sparked a torrid 15 minutes for the visitors, during which Oldham unleashed the warrior spirit of the underdog. The tackles flew in from both sides, costing Oldham the premature loss of M'Changama in the 11th minute. This was not the defiance of a team on its uppers but one fully engaged in pulling the gentrified tail of an institution that has won the old pot seven times. And to think the annual flirtation with relegation has had locals sharpening the guillotine for Oldham's manager, Paul Dickov, with some suggesting he would not survive the day win, lose or draw. That was before they pulled off the unimaginable.

There was a sense of crisis off the pitch, too, centred on the matchday pie supply. The club's catering manager could offer a maximum of only 2,500, acceptable when entertaining in League One, but not when Liverpool are in town on the occasion of the fourth round of the FA Cup. A capacity crowd of 10,295 crammed into the three operational sides of Boundary Park, 75 per cent of whom were condemned to disappointment.

More than six inches of snow fell in the early hours of Saturday, every flake of which was cleared later the same day by a platoon of volunteers.

Their reward was a playing surface as knobbly as a horse's knee or as close to perfect as a Lancastrian lawn has any right to be in January. The corner flags were bent double but there was nothing the helpers could do about the cold breath of nature whipping down Sheepfoot Lane.

It took Liverpool 17 minutes to calm the storm, and it was Luis Suarez, the skipper for the day, who stroked his team level. There was a degree of good fortune attached to the build-up, which included a rebound off the knee of Oldham's centre-half, Cliff Byrne, but Suarez was as unerring as ever when presented with a goalkeeper to beat. Dean Bouzanis even did Suarez the honour of diving without convincing anyone that he had an earthly of stopping the shot.

Ten minutes later Liverpool had the ball in the net again when Jordan Henderson's free-kick was deflected home by Suarez. In his eagerness, Suarez had drifted into an offside position and the goal was ruled out.

Liverpool continued to probe, with Suarez, Daniel Sturridge and Raheem Sterling all to the fore. Having dampened local ardour Liverpool were beginning to coast towards the break, a classic error in this environment. Jones was forced into a finger-tip save to deny Smith as the half closed and then, in added time, Smith bulldozed the ball over the line for his second after Reece Wabara had drawn Jones into a fumble.

Liverpool should have been level with their first attack of the second half, Jack Robinson escaping down the left to release Fabio Borini, who scooped his shot over the bar when the goal was far easier to locate.

How the visitors paid for that mistake. When Wabara converted Carl Winchester's speculative cross with a looping header over Jones, a sense of disbelief enveloped the ground, Oldham supporters just as flummoxed as Liverpool's by the turn of events.

Rodgers sought to retrieve his evening with the introduction of Gerrard and Stewart Downing in the 56th minute. Liverpool piled forward with greater urgency, the effort orchestrated through the willing feet of Gerrard. They encountered not only the resolve of Oldham's players but the weather, which spilled across the ground in brutal squalls.

With 11 minutes remaining, Joe Allen's volley deflected off Jose Baxter to give Liverpool hope. And then Gerrard clobbered the bar. Cue delirium and a visit from Everton in the next round.

Man of the match Smith. Match rating 8/10. Possession: Oldham 41%. Liverpool 59%. Attempts on target: Oldham 7. Liverpool 11. Referee L Probert (South Gloucs). Att 10,295.

DAILY MIRROR

LAUGHING STOCK; UNDERDOG DAY AFTERNOON

EVEN by the FA Cup's standards, Liverpool getting dumped out by a man who recently formed a forward line with comedian Jack Whitehall is some story. Yet, perhaps we shouldn't be surprised, as the Premier League side's display bordered on comic tragedy, as they were destroyed and ultimately humiliated by Oldham centre-forward Matt Smith.

The towering target man was playing at non-league Solihull Moors 18 months ago, and before that was in a Manchester University team with Whitehall, but there was nothing amateur about his two goals that sent a quite appalling Liverpool team crashing out. rpool team. As jokes go, it was up there with the best. was up there The visitors' defensive ' defensive incompetence was shocking - a bad jokewas joke in just as poor taste as anything Whitehall has come up with recently - though that shouldn't detract from Oldham's fine performance. aste n g a s h h t m e There was even the sight of Smith being carried off at the end with asuspected dislocated shoulder, soon after Oldham's victory had been confirmed en ith f at h a cated after y had med thanks to Reece eece Wabara, 21, playing possibly his last loan game for the Latics before returning to Manchester City.

This was a proper cup tie in every sense, the lowly home side defying their horrible form in recent months with a display of commitment, desire and sheer physical bravado that was too good for a feeble Liverpool team. As a tie this had everything and, most importantly for Oldham, it had a good old-fashioned unit in the form of 6ft 6in international business management graduate Smith.

So no one is better placed to calculate the impact this tie will have on the fortunes of both clubs because, for Oldham, the pay day of progress to the fifth round is not just a welcome bonus but a lifeline for the club - even as their manager faces the sack Paul Dickov's job is at risk after no wins since they beat Nottingham Forest in round three, and one point from the last 24 in League One. Boss Dickov pushed Robbie Simpson up alongside Smith to form a formidable forward line that battered the visitors for most of the afternoon. And the policy paid instant dividends as they opened the scoring within three minutes.

There is nothing better than an early goal to set these cup ties alight, and Smith provided it when a mistake by Jack Robinson allowed Youssouf M'Changama to cross from the right for the forward to bundle home.

So, the tone was set, and even when Liverpool restored parity with Luis Suarez's 17th-minute strike, the Latics refused to believe their cup dream was dying.

And as the interval approached it was Oldham who produced another seismic shock of this earthquake of a fourth round. earthquake of round.

It was a c too. Robin went m when It was a comic goal, too. Robinson again went missing and when Wabara crossed Brad Jones inexplicably dropped the ball to allow Simpson the chance to slice the loose ball to where Smith was standing conveniently to turn home.

And after the restart and Oldham were just as inspired. They again exploited Liverpool's incompetence in defence when substitute Carl Winchester floated over what was, in truth, a harmless looking cross.

With the ball hanging in the air, Robinson and Sebastian Coates hesitated and Wabara took advantage as he thumped his header into the roof of the net. Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers belatedly introduced Steven Gerrard and they started to play and, when Joe Allen's shot deflected off Baxter with 10 minutes remaining, we were set for a fantastic finale.

But, in truth, the Premier League side deserved nothing from this game, so when Gerrard's thunderous drive from 30 yards crashed off the underside of the bar in the final minute, it was as though the gods had decreed there would be a just outcome to a game that was just amazing.

Oldham: Wabara 7, Byrne 6, M'Voto 7, Grounds 6, Croft 6, Wesolowski 7, Baxter 6, M'Changama 6 (Winchester 10, 6), Smith 8 (Mellor 81), Simpson 7 (Taylor 77) LIVERPOOL: Jones 5, Wisdom 5 (Gerrard 54, 8), Skrtel 5, Coates 4, Robinson 4, Henderson 6, Allen 6, Borini 5 (Downing 54, 7), Suarez 7, Sterling 5 (Shelvey 70, 5), Sturridge 4. REFEREE: Lee Probert ATTENDANCE: 10,295

OLDHAM v LIVERPOOL MAN OF THE MATCH MATT SMITH Tore Liverpool to shreds BALL POSSESSION 62 B 38 SHOTS ON TARGET 7 7 SHOTS OFF TARGET 7 5 7 CORNERS 13 2 OFFSIDE 4 3 FOULS 10 8 CARDS 13 10

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FORGET the free lunch, this was a dog's dinner of a performance.

Liverpool FC's rollercoaster campaign lurched to an embarrassing low as they crashed out of the FA Cup at the hands of Oldham Athletic.

Brendan Rodgers won't have to put his hand in his pocket to fund another squad meal out any time soon after his players served up a display which for the 2,700-strong travelling Kop was difficult to stomach. It was the first time Liverpool had been knocked out of the competition by a club two leagues below them since Bolton 20 years ago. When Rodgers spoke about making history, this wasn't what he had in mind. Worryingly, this wasn't even a giant-killing tale of the underdog triumphing courtesy of a miraculous rearguard effort. The fact is Liverpool could have no complaints as they got exactly what they deserved at Boundary Park.

VIDEO: Reds reporter James Pearce on the Oldham defeat and Philippe Coutinho transfer A late rally almost forced a replay but by then the Latics should have been out of sight and were worthy winners. For far too long desire and character weren't even on the menu as the Reds allowed themselves to be bullied by a side battling against relegation from League One. Considering the FA Cup was Liverpool's best hope of silverware this season, the lack of intensity was baffling. Defensively, they were shambolic as they failed miserably to deal with the physical presence of two-goal Latics frontman Matt Smith.

An alarming lack of composure throughout the side was epitomised by Brad Jones' catalogue of errors. In the space of 90 minutes the Aussie keeper undid so much of his good work this term in establishing himself as a worthy deputy to Pepe Reina. But Jones wasn't the only one who let himself down. There was mediocrity in all departments with even Daniel Sturridge's standards nose-diving after such a bright start to his Anfield career. Some will point an accusing finger in the direction of Rodgers, who made half a dozen changes to the side which had thrashed Norwich 5-0 eight days earlier. Shuffling his pack was understandable considering Liverpool face Premier League trips to Arsenal and Manchester City over the coming week. The Reds' line up still included nine full internationals and should have been good enough to get the job done. But Rodgers will surely rue his decision to put so much faith in youth. Luis Suarez and Martin Skrtel were the only outfield players aged over 23 who started and it showed. It took the introduction of skipper Steven Gerrard and Stewart Downing early in the second half to finally breathe some life into them. But from 3-1 down there was no way back. The manager bemoaned his squad's lack of experience after the recent setback at Old Trafford and the business done in this transfer window has so far done nothing to rectify that. Owners Fenway Sports Group want to build for the future but there's no doubt Liverpool are in need of more steel for the present. The reality is the Reds look ill equipped to deal with physical battles. They rolled over at Stoke on Boxing Day and this was like watching a painful repeat.

Oldham's game plan was clear - get in Liverpool's faces and rough them up. Their feisty approach was rewarded inside three minutes. Youssouf M'Changama crossed from the left and Smith climbed above Sebastian Coates to power a header goalwards. Martin Skrtel attempted to hack clear but could only help it over the line. Sloppy in possession, Liverpool persisted in giving away a string of needless free-kicks. Jones recovered from one of his own blunders to deny Robbie Simpson, whose reckless challenge earned him a booking, before Jose Baxter slammed a 20-yarder narrowly wide. The Reds had barely got out of their own half but in the 17th minute they restored parity. Suarez, who was handed the captain's armband, latched on to Fabio Borini's pass and inadvertently played a one-two with Oldham defender Cliff Byrne before firing past Dean Bouzanis.

With Suarez playing just behind a three-pronged attack of Borini, Sturridge and Raheem Sterling, Liverpool had an abundance of firepower.

Briefly, they threatened to make it count. Suarez was offside when he turned in Jordan Henderson's free-kick and then Sterling forced a low save from Bouzanis. But momentum wasn't maintained because Liverpool looked so frail at the back. It was only Coates' second start since early November and it showed.

The Uruguayan defender looked a bag of nerves and Skrtel saved his blushes with one vital tackle on Smith. Simple high balls into the box caused panic and Jones had to turn Smith's header over the bar. On the stroke of half-time Oldham were back in front. Liverpool complained bitterly about a blatant foul on Sturridge, missed by referee Lee Probert which allowed the hosts to counter.

But there were no excuses for what followed. Reece Wabara's cross was carelessly fumbled by Jones and Lee Croft squared for Smith to convert.

The ineffective Borini should have equalised straight after the break but the Italian blazed over from eight yards. It was a costly miss as in the 48th minute the Latics grabbed a third. Substitute Carl Winchester got the better of Sterling and delivered to the back post where Jack Robinson and Borini were caught ball watching. Wabara soared above them to send a looping header in off the woodwork. It was the first time Liverpool had conceded three goals in an FA Cup tie against a team from outside the top two divisions since a 3-3 draw with Scunthorpe in 1956. Gerrard and Downing replaced Borini and Andre Wisdom, and the improvement was instant but after Gerrard's shot was blocked, Sturridge lashed wastefully over. However, it was never one-way traffic with Baxter and Simpson missing glorious chances to put the tie to bed.

With 10 minutes to go there was a ray of hope. Downing's corner was only

cleared as far as Joe Allen who opened his account for the Reds as his deflected volley nestled in the corner. Gerrard orchestrated a late flourish but his 25-yard piledriver came back off the bar and Oldham survived. As the delirious home fans invaded the pitch at the final whistle, Liverpool's misery was complete. There will be no Wembley trip this season. Not even close. The Cups which brought so much joy last term have this term yielded only heartache.



LFC lose appetite for contest

If there's one thing that could prompt Brendan Rodgers to lose his appetite, it was this. The promise of another free slap-up meal was clearly not enough for Liverpool to avoid suffering one of the most humiliating FA Cup defeats in their history. So much for the hunger of continuing an upturn in fortunes in recent months that has encouraged talk of a charge for Champions League qualification. Rodgers had promised his players another afternoon at a local Italian restaurant should they again secure three successive victories.

But after devouring Norwich City last week, Liverpool were yesterday consumed by a 6ft 6ins former Solihull Moors forward who, while studying at Manchester University for a degree in international business management, played up front alongside comedian Jack Whitehall. Nobody at Liverpool will be laughing this morning, however, as they sift through the wreckage of a hugely embarrassing setback that poses serious questions for Rodgers and Anfield owners Fenway Sports Group. Not least the policy to rely heavily on youth. A Liverpool starting line-up for whom only three players were over the age of 23 were bullied into submission by League One opponents Oldham Athletic with two-goal striker Matt Smith the terror-in-chief. Rodgers was perfectly justified to point the finger at his team's youngsters, the manager's faith misplaced as Jack Robinson, Andre Wisdom, Raheem Sterling and Fabio Borini all suffered.

Experience came in the belated arrival of Steven Gerrard from the bench. And while the skipper transformed injected hope and impetus into a dire performance - denied only by the crossbar from salvaging a replay in the 90th minute - Liverpool cannot keep turning to the talismanic midfielder in their hour of need.

Incredibly, Oldham's precarious position hovering above the League One drop zone after just one point from 24 means they are expected to sack manager Paul Dickov this morning. If so, this was quite a leaving present as the Latics became the first team outside the top two divisions to scores three goals against Liverpool in the FA Cup since Scunthorpe United in 1956. The Anfield outfit escaped with a 3-3 draw that day, but not yesterday. It was a nightmare for Brad Jones who, playing through the pain of a cortisone injection in an injured shoulder, was culpable for Oldham's first two goals. But the goalkeeper wasn't alone. Smith tormented makeshift central-back duo Martin Skrtel and Sebastian Coates, the latter's alarming display casting doubt over his long-term future at the club.

How Liverpool missed the nous and organisational skills of Jamie Carragher. Influential in the previous round at Mansfield Town, he remained in cold storage on the bench, presumably spared for Wednesday's Premier League trip to Arsenal. Yet, like Gerrard, Carragher won't be around forever.

Liverpool recovered to win 5-1 having gone behind to Oldham in the third round last season, but there was no route back once their sloppy start was punished by the opener after only three minutes. A mishit shot from Lee Croft found Youssouf M'Changama on the left flank and his cross tempted Jones to wander carelessly from his line, Smith then reacting quickest with a towering header that Skrtel, in attempting to clear, could only help into the goal. Sterling's FA Cup debut made the teenager, at 18 years 50 days old, the youngest ever known Liverpool player in the competition's history. The winger, though, was one of three players booked during a tetchy opening 45 minutes in which Rodgers's men were knocked out of their stride by a physical Oldham approach. Luis Suarez, skipper for the day, levelled on 17 minutes, accepting a pass from Borini - the Italian making his first start since October - and then running at the Oldham defence before playing a rebound off centre-back Cliff Byrne and slotting home. Sterling should have done better when shooting at former Liverpool goalkeeper Dean Bouzanis having been freed by Borini's clever flick, but the visitors were behind again in first-half injury time, Jones horribly spilling a Reece Wabara cross to the feet of Croft, who then fed the ball across for Smith to tap in his second. The visitors complained of a foul on Daniel Sturridge in the build-up, but there was no excuse for the dreadful defending that followed. Borini should have equalised seconds after the interval but steered Robinson's cross wide, and it proved a costly miss as Liverpool conceded a third on 48 minutes, the defence again guilty of ball-watching as substitute Carl Winchester's deep cross was headed in via the crossbar by Wabara, on loan from Manchester City. Jose Baxter then failed to clear Jones with a chip as Liverpool threatened to collapse completely, prompting Rodgers to throw on Gerrard and Stewart Downing. Now it was Liverpool turning the screw. Gerrard had two shots charged down, the second by Baxter which fell for the disappointing Sturridge to swipe over the crossbar, while Suarez's shot from an impossible angle was ushered behind by Bouzanis.

Jonjo Shelvey, also introduced, fired over from range before Joe Allen, with his first goal for the club, gave Liverpool hope with a volley that deflected in off Baxter after Downing's corner was only cleared to the edge of the penalty area. Allen then almost saw another effort deflect in before Gerrard smashed the crossbar with a tremendous 30-yard effort in the last minute of normal time.

Date: 27 January 2013

Opposition: Oldham Athletic

Competition: FA Cup

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	Oldham Chronicle

27 January 2013

Liverpool, though, got what they deserved. Now the FA Cup is off the menu until next season.

MAN OF THE MATCH. Steven Gerrard. This says everything

OLDHAM EVENING Chronicle

Heroes all as mighty Liverpool felled

Athletic 3, Liverpool 2

DOES it get any better than this?

Smashing three goals past the seven-times FA Cup winners, at a packed-out Boundary Park, to make it into the fifth round. It's the essence of dreams.

Scorers Matt Smith and Reece Wabara have entered Athletic folklore. They helped beat the club who have been champions of Europe five times. The famous Anfield club once managed by Bill Shankly, who have a living legend in their ranks in Steven Gerrard. A club supported by millions around the globe.

Athletic earned their passage through a performance brimming with passion.

Nobody present will ever forget the moment the final whistle was blown by referee Lee Probert, signalling a pitch invasion.

Smith had never before scored on home soil for Athletic. What a day to get up and running.

When he woke yesterday morning, the player once released as a teenager by Cheltenham Town can't possibly have envisioned turning Liverpool centre-back Sebastian Coates into a quivering wreck.

Smith, who netted twice on an unforgettable early evening at a packed-out Boundary Park, was described as "unplayable" by his manager Paul Dickov. That might be a slight but understandable exaggeration.

But as he leapt to win every header — including the one for the opening goal two minutes in, dominating Coates in the air — Liverpool's defence rocked, rolled and fell apart.

Some of the visitors' hapless players, notably error-prone goalkeeper Brad Jones, have plenty of explaining to do to their manager.

Luis Suarez equalised after a slaloming run and shot through Dean Bouzanis.

But after Smith had tapped home his second, just before half-time, Wabara nodded a third and even Joe Allen's deflected volley wasn't enough to stop the biggest result for Athletic since city neighbours Everton were dispatched thanks to Gary McDonald's rocket at Goodison Park five years ago.

Athletic, 19th in the division and only a point clear of the drop zone, went ahead when Mchangama rescued a scuffed Lee Croft shot to fire in a centre which Smith headed powerfully into the turf and beyond Jones.

The touch paper was lit. Boundary Park exploded with a huge roar.

The equaliser could have pricked the bubble. But Dickov's men refused to go into their collective shell.

As the first half drew to a close, Athletic retook the lead. Smith had forced Jones to tip over the bar before he profited from a goalkeeping error.

Wabara's cross from the right looked innocuous but the ball bounced off the 'keeper's chest and out to Croft. His dug-out cross-shot was turned by Smith into an empty net.

After Wabara's superb header from Carl Winchester's cross put Athletic 3-1 up, torrential rain fell and the twin introduction of Gerrard and Stewart Downing turned up the heat.

Athletic were understandably nervy and Joe Allen reduced Liverpool's deficit to one by connecting sweetly with a volley which was deflected past Bouzanis.

And after Gerrard had shaken the crossbar, Athletic had six minutes of additional time to negotiate.

Manfully, magnificently, they managed it.

What a day!



Matt Smith's double helped earn League One Oldham a shock win over Liverpool in a classic FA Cup fourth-round tie.

The hosts went ahead when Smith headed in Youssouf M'Changama's cross.

Liverpool skipper Luis Suarez was allowed to run at the Oldham defence as he squeezed in an equaliser.

But Smith took advantage of keeper Brad Jones's error and Reece Wabara scored a delightful back-post header as Oldham restored their advantage although Joe Allen's volley ensured a tense finish.

Steven Gerrard, who was brought on from the substitutes bench with 35 minutes remaining in attempt to turn the game around, hit the bar as nerves frayed at a wet and windy Boundary Park.

Yet Paul Dickov's side held on for a superb win over the seven-times winners on a weekend when Football League sides have caused upsets on all three days of the fourth round.

Oldham have been beset by financial problems in recent months, meaning manager Dickov has had to shed much of his coaching staff but his players produced a display which made a mockery of their lowly position in the third tier. It also completed a fantastic response to their 5-1 defeat by the five-times European champions in the FA Cup third round last season.

Despite Gerrard's omission, Liverpool were not under-strength with Suarez, Daniel Sturridge, Fabio Borini and Raheem Sterling all starting in attack.

However, they were overshadowed in the opening exchanges by superb combination play between Smith and his strike partner Robbie Simpson, who bullied Liverpool centre-backs Sebastian Coates and Martin Skrtel.

They made their mark, sometimes literally, and 23-year-old Smith showed his intentions as early as the third minute with a well-taken goal.

Lee Croft mis-cued a shot from 20 yards but it found its way out to the left where M'Changama was given time to cross and Smith beat Coates to head in despite Skrtel's effort to clear off the line.

The tie continued its ferocious start when Raheem Sterling scythed down M'Changama and Simpson followed in on Reds keeper Jones after he spilled a shot.

But as much as Oldham were on the front foot, they were also slow to retreat and they gave Suarez plenty of space to equalise when he ran from his own half and squeezed the ball in after playing an inadvertent one-two with Oldham defender Cliff Byrne.

Sterling should have given Liverpool the lead before the half-hour mark when he breezed into the box but the 18-year-old shot straight at Latics keeper Dean Bouzanis.

Jose Baxter was showing some neat touches in midfield for the hosts but it was against the run of play when Oldham went ahead once more in first-half stoppage time, although it looked as though Sturridge may have been fouled in the build-up.

There looked no danger when Wabara weakly crossed the ball from the right, but Australian keeper Jones fumbled and Croft squared the ball to Smith who tapped in from close range.

Borini could have brought the visitors level again straight from the second-half kick-off when he scooped the ball over the bar and it became a crucial miss when Wabara excellently headed in Winchester's deep cross from the left.

That was enough for Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers to bring on Gerrard, and the Liverpool skipper made an instant impact as his team created several good chances.

Superb blocks from Byrne and Baxter denied the England midfielder and although Simpson shot wide as Coates continued to struggle with his presence, the visitors got a goal back from a corner when Allen volleyed in from the edge of the box via a deflection with 12 minutes remaining.

It looked as though it would prompt a late Liverpool surge, but as Oldham clung on they recorded yet another shock on a magical FA Cup weekend.

Date: 27 January 2013

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BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
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27 January 2013



90:00+6:06 Full time The referee brings the game to a close.
90:00+1:52 Daniel Sturridge has an effort at goal from outside the area missing to the wide right of the goal.
90:00+0:54 Luis Suarez is caught offside. Dean Bouzanis takes the indirect free kick.
90:00+0:25 The ball is delivered by Stewart Downing.
89:45 Steven Gerrard has a drilled shot.
88:39 The ball is delivered by Reece Wabara.
87:15 Jack Robinson has an effort at goal from deep inside the area missing to the left of the goal.
86:37 The ball is swung over by Stewart Downing, save by Dean Bouzanis.
86:23 Corner taken by Jonjo Shelvey from the left by-line, Dean Bouzanis makes a save.
86:09 Joe Allen takes a shot. Blocked by James Wesolowski.
85:39 Corner taken right-footed by Jonjo Shelvey from the left by-line to the near post, clearance by Carl Winchester.
85:27 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Cliff Byrne gets a block in.
83:39 Inswinging corner taken left-footed by Stewart Downing, Cliff Byrne makes a clearance.
83:30 Substitution Substitution David Mellor replaces Matt Smith.
83:17 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Blocked by Cliff Byrne.
79:07 Assist by Martin Skrtel.
79:07 Goal scored Goal - Joe Allen - Oldham 3 - 2 Liverpool Joe Allen scores a goal from outside the penalty area to the bottom right corner of the goal. Oldham 3-2 Liverpool.
78:50 Corner taken by Stewart Downing from the right by-line.
78:37 Stewart Downing takes a shot. Save by Dean Bouzanis.
76:53 Substitution Substitution Robbie Simpson goes off and Daniel Taylor comes on.
76:40 Effort from the edge of the box by Robbie Simpson goes wide of the left-hand post.
76:05 Effort from just outside the area by Jonjo Shelvey goes over the target.
71:26 Sebastian Coates takes the free kick.
71:26 Substitution Substitution Raheem Sterling goes off and Jonjo Shelvey comes on.
71:26 Booking for Matt Smith for unsporting behaviour.
71:21 Matt Smith challenges Sebastian Coates unfairly and gives away a free kick.
70:49 Jose Baxter has an effort at goal from outside the area which misses left.
69:34 The ball is sent over by Steven Gerrard.
68:33 Corner from the right by-line taken by Stewart Downing, clearance made by Jonathan Grounds.
68:02 Short corner taken by Stewart Downing.
67:48 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save made by Dean Bouzanis.
67:30 Centre by Stewart Downing, Jonathan Grounds gets a block in.
66:25 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Blocked by Jose Baxter. Effort on goal by Daniel Sturridge from just inside the box goes harmlessly over the target.
66:25 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Blocked by Jose Baxter. Shot on goal by Daniel Sturridge from just inside the area clears the crossbar.
63:45 The ball is swung over by Steven Gerrard, save by Dean Bouzanis.
62:15 Inswinging corner taken from the right by-line by Stewart Downing.
62:06 Jordan Henderson crosses the ball, Carl Winchester gets a block in.
59:46 Luis Suarez is flagged offside by the assistant referee. Free kick taken by Dean Bouzanis.
59:04 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Blocked by Cliff Byrne.
59:20 Joe Allen crosses the ball, save by Dean Bouzanis.
59:04 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. James Wesolowski gets a block in.
57:18 Corner from right by-line taken by Steven Gerrard. Joe Allen takes a shot. James Wesolowski gets a block in.
56:45 Outswinging corner taken by Stewart Downing from the left by-line.
56:33 The ball is swung over by Luis Suarez, blocked by Cliff Byrne.
55:53 Raheem Sterling takes the chance to get an effort at goal. Comfortable save by Dean Bouzanis.
54:42 Substitution Substitution Stewart Downing replaces Fabio Borini.
54:42 Substitution Substitution Steven Gerrard replaces Andre Wisdom.
52:28 Sebastian Coates gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Matt Smith. Jose Baxter produces a cross, Jean Yves Mvoto has a headed effort at goal from close range which goes wide of the left-hand post.
51:19 Jose Baxter takes a shot. Comfortable save by Brad Jones.
50:24 A cross is delivered by Raheem Sterling.
49:41 Foul by Jonathan Grounds on Andre Wisdom, free kick awarded. Direct free kick taken by Raheem Sterling.
49:11 Foul by Lee Croft on Fabio Borini, free kick awarded. Jack Robinson restarts play with the free kick.
47:21 Assist by Carl Winchester.
47:21 Goal scored Goal - Reece Wabara - Oldham 3 - 1 Liverpool Reece Wabara finds the back of the net with a brilliant headed goal from close in. Oldham 3-1 Liverpool.
47:17 The ball is delivered by Carl Winchester,
45:54 Free kick awarded for a foul by Jack Robinson on Robbie Simpson. Free kick taken by Jose Baxter.
45:18 The ball is swung over by Jack Robinson, Effort on goal by Fabio Borini from inside the penalty area goes harmlessly over the bar.
45:01 The second half kicks off.
45:00+4:40 Half time The whistle is blown to end the first half.
45:00+3:18 Assist by Lee Croft.
45:00+3:18 Goal scored Goal - Matt Smith - Oldham 2 - 1 Liverpool Matt Smith gets on the score sheet with a goal from inside the six-yard box low into the middle of the goal. Oldham 2-1 Liverpool.
45:00+3:02 Centre by Reece Wabara, save by Brad Jones.
45:00+1:52 Jordan Henderson takes a outswinging corner to the near post, clearance by Jose Baxter.

45:00+1:09 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Lee Croft by Jordan Henderson. Direct free kick taken by Dean Bouzanis.
45:00+0:48 The offside flag is raised against Jonathan Grounds. Free kick taken by Brad Jones.
45:00+0:20 Inswinging corner taken by Jonathan Grounds from the right by-line, Raheem Sterling manages to make a clearance.
44:28 Martin Skrtel gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Matt Smith. Jose Baxter delivers the ball, Matt Smith takes a shot. Save by Brad Jones.
43:21 The referee blows for offside. Dean Bouzanis takes the free kick.
42:25 The ball is crossed by Robbie Simpson, Jean Yves Mvoto takes a shot. Save by Brad Jones.
41:52 Inswinging corner taken right-footed by Jose Baxter from the left by-line, clearance made by Sebastian Coates.
41:44 A cross is delivered by Robbie Simpson, blocked by Sebastian Coates.
38:24 Carl Winchester fouled by Joe Allen, the ref awards a free kick. Free kick taken by Dean Bouzanis.
35:41 Robbie Simpson has an effort at goal from just outside the box which goes wide of the left-hand upright.
32:54 Long range effort from Jose Baxter misses to the left of the target.
31:12 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Jean Yves Mvoto gets a block in.
29:57 The ball is sent over by Reece Wabara, Sebastian Coates makes a clearance.
28:53 Raheem Sterling takes a shot. Save by Dean Bouzanis.
27:55 Foul by James Wesolowski on Luis Suarez, free kick awarded. Sebastian Coates restarts play with the free kick.
24:37 Luis Suarez has an effort at goal from just outside the penalty box which goes wide of the left-hand post.
22:49 Free kick crossed right-footed by Jordan Henderson from left channel. Luis Suarez is ruled offside. Dean Bouzanis takes the indirect free kick.
22:49 Booking The referee shows Reece Wabara a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.
22:42 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Luis Suarez by Reece Wabara.
22:27 Luis Suarez decides to take the corner short.
20:15 Unfair challenge on Jean Yves Mvoto by Raheem Sterling results in a free kick. Jose Baxter crosses the ball in from the free kick, clearance by Jordan Henderson.
16:33 Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Oldham 1 - 1 Liverpool Luis Suarez scores a goal from deep inside the penalty box to the bottom right corner of the goal. Oldham 1-1 Liverpool.
14:37 The referee blows for offside. Brad Jones restarts play with the free kick.
14:25 Lee Croft delivers the ball, Jack Robinson gets a block in.
13:22 Jack Robinson challenges Cliff Byrne unfairly and gives away a free kick. Dean Bouzanis restarts play with the free kick.
12:54 Effort from outside the penalty box by Jose Baxter goes wide right of the target.
12:00 The referee blows for offside. Martin Skrtel takes the free kick.
11:08 Lee Croft fouled by Jack Robinson, the ref awards a free kick. Lee Croft takes the free kick.
10:55 A cross is delivered by Reece Wabara, Sebastian Coates makes a clearance.
10:19 Free kick awarded for a foul by Fabio Borini on Jose Baxter. Free kick taken by Dean Bouzanis.
10:01 Short corner worked by Jordan Henderson.
9:29 Substitution Substitution Carl Winchester comes on in place of Youssouf M'Changama.
8:59 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Joe Allen by Matt Smith. Jordan Henderson takes the free kick.
8:01 Free kick taken by Brad Jones.
8:01 Booking Robbie Simpson receives a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.
7:40 Foul by Robbie Simpson on Brad Jones, free kick awarded.
7:21 Lee Croft takes a shot. Brad Jones makes a save.
5:10 Jonathan Grounds takes the free kick.
5:10 Booking The referee shows Raheem Sterling a yellow card.
5:01 Free kick awarded for a foul by Raheem Sterling on Youssouf M'Changama.
4:38 Corner taken right-footed by Jordan Henderson, clearance made by Jean Yves Mvoto.
4:24 The ball is swung over by Raheem Sterling, clearance by Cliff Byrne.
3:24 Luis Suarez produces a cross, clearance by Reece Wabara.
2:10 Assist by Youssouf M'Changama.
2:10 Goal scored Goal - Matt Smith - Oldham 1 - 0 Liverpool Matt Smith finds the back of the net with a headed goal from close range. Oldham 1-0 Liverpool.
1:52 Lee Croft sends in a cross. A cross is delivered by Youssouf M'Changama,
0:06 Robbie Simpson concedes a free kick for a foul on Joe Allen. Direct free kick taken by Sebastian Coates.
0:00 The match has kicked off.