

Date: 14 February 2013 Opposition: FK Zenit St Petersburg Competition: Europa League	Times	Independent	Echo		14 February 2103
	Telegraph	Mirror	Post		
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TheMail

Reds on brink as suarez blows chances

OF ALL the words Brendan Rodgers spoke during a sensitive press conference here on Wednesday, none struck a chord more than his pay- off.

'We take great pride in being a winning football club,' said the Liverpool manager, when asked about the club's traditions after dealing with questions about the spectre of racism and the concerns he had about coming to Russia.

Not any longer. Liverpool used to carry an air of invincibility in Europe but last night in St Petersburg, the fallibilities of this squad emerged again to consign them to a 2-0 defeat that leaves their hopes of Europa League glory looking improbable.

The Liverpool of old would, in all likelihood, have emerged from the first leg of this last-32 tie holding a handsome advantage. This Liverpool should have done after creating six glorious chances, four of which were carelessly spurned by Luis Suarez.

At the very least Liverpool should have secured a draw but a lack of mental steel, the absence of a killer instinct and poor defending enabled Hulk and Sergei Semak to plunder the goals that have pushed Liverpoolto the brink of elimination.

Rodgers, typically, was optimistic that Liverpool can progress at a baying Anfield, but will they be able to score three unanswered goals? Statistics suggest not: Liverpool have conceded two or more in 20 of their 41 games this season. It is a figure to alarm.

So while there may have been relief that the game passed without the slightest hint of racism from Zenit's notorious supporters -- 2,500 local police kept the home crowd in check -- the trip still ended up being unsatisfying.

'We are very disappointed,' said Rodgers. 'I thought it was a nearperfect away performance. We had chances to score and should have been in front. We looked defensively solid so to concede those goals, especially the second one, was very disappointing.' It was a night to chill the bones.

Zenit's stadium is on the banks of the River Neva and the huge expanse of water splitting St Petersburg was frozen over; temperatures plummeted to -5[degrees]C during the game.

Suarez had his hands inside his long-sleeved shirt, and blew on them furiously in an attempt to warm up. He, though, was not the only member of Liverpool's team to be caught cold as Zenit almost scored from the opening attack.

That they did not was down to a superb save from Pepe Reina, who denied Aleksandr Kerzhakov by plunging to his right. The Spaniard followed it with an impressive parry from Hulk in the fifth minute, after the Brazilian had powered through two flimsy challenges.

In between was a gilt-edged opportunity which Suarez missed to set the tone for his night. He had been picked out beautifully by Glen Johnson but, after twisting Luis Neto inside out, the Uruguayan dragged his shot wide of Vyacheslav Malafeev's far post.

The tempo was excellent.

Suarez should have put Liverpool ahead on 15 minutes yet, after intercepting a Nicolas Lombaerts pass, he dithered when running through on goal and allowed the Belgian to recover. How the score remained goalless at the break was a mystery. Zenit stayed on the front foot, asking questions of Liverpool at every opportunity.

Central to the pressure was Hulk, the [euro]60million striker who has experienced the malevolence of Zenit's ultras more than anyone.

A fake bomb was found at Zenit's training ground with a picture of him on and the words 'Hulk Out', but there was no hostility towards him during the game. He looked the most likely to score and came close on 27 minutes when hitting the post.

Yet from then, Liverpool dominated.

Only the over-elaboration of Suarez on 40 minutes, when he back-heelled a Raheem Sterling cross rather than putting his foot through the ball, prevented them taking the lead.

This was Liverpool's most assured performance in Europe this season. The emphasis at Anfield may now be on recruiting youth but there were only three starting players under 23, and the experience reflected in their play.

Encouraged by the first 45 minutes, Liverpool opened the second period in a similarly buoyant fashion. Rodgers thought his side had taken the lead when Glen Johnson motored forward on 48 minutes but his shot was diverted wide, as the manager stood with his arms aloft.

Then, on the hour, Stewart Downing drove forward but after he guided the ball to Suarez, Liverpool's No 7 watched in exasperation as his arcing shot curled past the post.

Everything seemed set for the visitors to go on and finish the job but when Martin Skrtel backed off in the 70th minute, he allowed Hulk an opening to drill a 25-yard drive that swerved past Reina.

If that was a brilliant strike, what followed within two minutes was anything but.

Liverpool dithered on the left and Zenit engineered an opening that led to substitute Semak sweeping in at the far post. Reina and Jamie Carragher were apoplectic, as others could have stopped the danger. Rodgers sported a look of disbelief.

'We are wondering how we lost it,' said Rodgers. Privately, however, he will know exactly why. When it mattered, Liverpool were simply not good enough.

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool's season teeters on brink as Suarez misfires

Zenit St Petersburg 2 Hulk 70, Semak 72

Liverpool 0 Att: 21,000

Liverpool are developing an unhealthy reputation for becoming one of Europe's most attractive losers.

Zenit St Petersburg discovered, just like West Bromwich Albion on Monday night, that a brief surge of momentum is all it takes to expose the soft underbelly of an idealistic but defective opponent.

"Part of our growing pains," was how Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers saw it. The agony for the club's supporters is excruciating on nights like this.

This was an exceedingly harsh defeat, but all too familiar. With two goals in two minutes in the second half, Hulk and Sergei Semak secured the kind of lead that only one of those legendary Anfield European nights can overturn.

"In six to 12 months' time we won't be making those mistakes," said Rodgers.

"We've put in some terrific performances without the results. We need to be more clinical. It's the next goal in this tie that will be important. What gives us hope is we created enough to win the game. We ended up losing when we should have won the game. It was near perfect."

Until Hulk blasted into the top corner from 25 yards in the 70th minute Rodgers would have been querying how his side were returning from St Petersburg with only a satisfactory draw in their baggage. Semak doubled Zenit's lead by dispatching Aleksandr Anyukov's cross.

Had Liverpool taken their opportunities, they would be five away goals in credit, but just as with those recent performances at the Emirates and the Etihad, looking good means nothing when you cannot find a way to win. They too often combine carelessness in attack with a yielding defence. Rodgers's frustration was accentuated by the fact the culprit in the final third was Luis Suarez.

Criticising Suarez's finishing skills this season is like battering Superman for failing to arrive at the scene of every collapsing bridge. Without the

Uruguayan, Liverpool could quite easily be struggling near the foot of the Premier League, and any hope of an Anfield revival in the near future rests on him ignoring the queue of European clubs awaiting his signature. But he will feel he owes his side after missing a sequence of chances.

His first opportunity came in the second minute, created by some trademark wizardry to exploit space in the box, but his shot drifted an inch wide. Zenit's defensive frailties were further exposed when Nicolas Lombaerts inexplicably passed straight to Suarez for his second rejection of a gift after 16 minutes. This time the South American chose to dribble past the keeper, but the bobbly pitch intervened and the ball ran harmlessly out of play.

Suarez's frustration intensified five minutes before the break when Raheem Sterling's cross presented him with a tap-in. He tried to backheel it and was again off target. The list of missed chances swelled in the second half, when Suarez was set up by Stewart Downing on the edge of the box but once more shot wide.

Shortly after, Glen Johnson ran the length of the pitch only to have his goal-of-the-season attempt thwarted by keeper Vyacheslav Malafeev. It was another tale of 'what ifs' forLiverpool.

Zenit manager Luciano Spalletti knows what is in store next week, however. "At Anfield, the host fans become monsters and the players become beasts," he said. There was at least one consolation. The scaremongering prior to the game which gave the impressionLiverpool were playing in 1950s Alabama rather than St Petersburg proved unfounded. In fact, the growling Russian police looked more threatening than any sight of the militant fans' group, Landscrona.

The only reaction of note to a Liverpool player was reserved for former Zenit defender Martin Skrtel, who was offered a generous ovation when his name was read out. Given Skrtel's culpability in both Zenit goals, he will no doubt be granted as much applause for the second leg.

Zenit demonstrated their attacking pedigree with a ruthlessness Liverpool crave. Pepe Reina, regularly criticised this season, was at his agile best to deny Hulk after five minutes, pushing a low drive wide. The Brazilian also scuffed a shot against the post and you would not bet against Zenit succeeding whereLiverpool failed and claiming the away goal.

When Rodgers led Liverpool into their Europa League campaign in the comforting July warmth, it felt like an inconvenient distraction. The frost left here is not just a consequence of sub-zero temperatures in the Petrovsky Stadium. Liverpool are in danger of being frozen out of the Europa League by Zenit.

Still in an unacceptable position in the league, unable to turn enterprising performances into a worthy points tally, Rodgers needs European success to ensure his debut campaign at Anfield amounts to more than unful-filled promise.

"There is no way the tie is over," insisted Rodgers.

If he can't inspire a comeback next week, the club's season probably is.

Zenit St Petersburg (4-1-2-3) Malafeev; Anyukov, Lombaerts, Luis Neto, Hubocan; Shirokov; Denisov, Witsel; Danny (Semak 54), Kerzhakov (Fayzulin 82), Hulk. Subs Zhevnov, Rodic, Lukovic, Djordjevic, Evseev. Booked Hubocan.

Liverpool (4-3-3) Reina; Enrique, Skrtel, Carragher, Johnson; Allen, Gerrard, Henderson; Sterling (Lucas 78), Downing, Suarez. Subs Jones, Coates, Borini, Suso, Shelvey, Wisdom.

Booked Skrtel.

Referee C Velasco Carbello (Spain).

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LIVERPOOL

ECHO

SO MUCH for catching Zenit St Petersburg cold.

Instead it was Liverpool who were hit by a couple of sucker punches in Russia to leave them facing an uphill battle to retain their interest in the Europa League. Fears that their last 32 first leg clash would be blighted by racial chanting proved unfounded. The atmosphere was predictably white-hot on the banks of the frozen Neva River but this was no gauntlet of hate. In fact the only problems Brendan Rodgers' side encountered were of their own making as they slipped to a painfully avoidable defeat. Rodgers had urged Liverpool to take advantage of the fact that the Russian champions hadn't played competitively for two months.

A rusty Zenit side were there for the taking but infuriatingly the Reds were unable to profit due to their wastefulness in the final third coupled with lapses in concentration at the other end.

Luis Suarez could have had a first-half hat-trick but some gilt-edged opportunities went begging. Liverpool paid a heavy price for their failure to get something tangible for their efforts as Luciano Spalletti's men finished with a flourish – netting twice in the space of three hugely damaging second-half minutes.

Hulk's stunning long-range effort broke the deadlock and then substitute Sergei Semak swept home the second. The deficit isn't insurmountable but Liverpool must show a ruthless streak which has been sadly lacking too often this season if they are to turn it around at Anfield next Thursday night.

From a position of real promise following the impressive performances against Arsenal and Manchester City, the harsh reality is that Rodgers' side have now gone five matches without a win. The manager had vowed to field a strong line up in a bid to keep Liverpool's hopes of silverware alive and the Northern Irishman was true to his word. There were just three changes following Monday's league defeat to West Brom as Martin Skrtel, Joe Allen and Raheem Sterling were handed starts. Lucas Leiva and Jonjo Shelvey dropped to the bench, while Daniel Agger was left on Merseyside.

It meant skipper Steven Gerrard and top scorer Suarez started an away European game together for the first time since the play-off round win over Hearts in August. The Zenit fans unveiled a giant banner before kick-off depicting a 19th century battle. They were vociferous but it was hardly the bearpit Liverpool had been warned to expect. In fact there was a warm reception for Skrtel on his return to the club he left five years ago. However, those courtesies didn't extend to the pitch where Zenit flew out of the blocks and pinned the Reds back.

Twice in the opening five minutes Rodgers' men were indebted to Pepe Reina for keeping them on level terms. The Spanish keeper made a smart stop to parry away Russain international Aleksandr Kerzhakov's strike after the Reds had made a hash of dealing with Hulk's cross. Skrtel then backed off, inviting Hulk to burst forward and the £43million Brazilian's low drive was tipped behind by Reina.

In between those scares, Suarez left Zenit's new signing Luis Neto trailing but dragged his effort wide. With Liverpool defending so deep, they invited trouble at times and on a pitch which cut up badly from the start they struggled to retain possession. However, by committing so many players forward, Zenit left gaping holes at the back and the Reds should have capitalised in the 16th minute.

Suarez pounced on Nicolas Lombaerts' sloppy error and found himself with only Vyacheslav Malafeev to beat. The Uruguayan rounded the keeper but with the net gaping he over-ran the ball, allowing Lombaerts to get back and hack it to safety. Having not started a league game for a month, this was Allen's opportunity to force his way back into Rodgers' plans.

But the £15million midfielder struggled to make an impression. Midway through the first half Allen was left on his backside as Hulk nonchalantly shrugged him off. The Welshman's blushes were saved by Jamie Carragher, who did brilliantly to anticipate the danger and nick the ball away before the striker could pull the trigger. Just before the half hour mark Liverpool rode their luck once again. Axel Witsel was denied but Hulk's shot beat Reina at his near post and struck the woodwork before squirming across the face of goal.

Having weathered the storm, the Reds continued to threaten on the counter-attack and five minutes before the break a glorious chance went begging.

Allen's deflected cross was cleared by Akleksandr Anyukov but only as far as Sterling. The teenage winger picked out Suarez inside the six-yard box but his first-time flick flew agonisingly wide. Suarez couldn't disguise his disgust with himself and it would prove costly. Glen Johnson's standards slipped in the defeat to West Brom but the full-back was much improved against Zenit..

Four minutes into the second half Johnson picked up possession close to halfway and drove forward. He cruised past a couple of half-hearted challenges and into the box but keeper Malafeev raced out to narrow the angle and made the block.

As the quality of their passing improved, Liverpool's grip on the contest appeared to be tightening. Suarez worked tirelessly leading the line, keeping centre-backs Lombaerts and Neto busy and bringing team-mates into play.

A slick and sweeping move involving Suarez, Gerrard and Downing ended with Suarez's right-footed curler drifting just past the post.

Zenit's threat had diminished considerably but Hulk provided the inspiration with an unstoppable 69th minute opener. The former Porto frontman picked up possession 25 yards out and unleashed a swerving drive into the top corner. That strike dashed Reina's hopes of equalling Ray Clemence's club record of 39 clean

sheets in Europe. Energised by the breakthrough, Zenit doubled their tally just three minutes later. The first goal may have been down to a piece of individual brilliance but the second was just rank bad defending. Anyukov was allowed to cross from the right and Semak stole in unmarked at the back post to tuck it past Reina. Suddenly, Liverpool were on the ropes and Rodgers responded by taking off Sterling and introducing Lucas in a bid to add some solidity in midfield. The Reds could have halved the deficit late on but Suarez's free-kick was turned away by Malafeev. Hope remains but it's a long way back from here.

Zenit St Petersburg (4-3-3): Malafeev, Anyukov, Lombaerts, Neto, Hubocan, Witsel, Denisov, Shirokov, Hulk, Kerzhakov (Fayzulin 82), Danny (Semak 54). Not used: Zhevnov, Rodic, Lukovic, Evseev, Djordjevic.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): Reina, Johnson, Skrtel, Carragher, Enrique, Allen, Henderson, Gerrard, Downing, Sterling (Lucas 78), Suarez. Not used: Jones, Coates, Lucas, Borini, Shelvey, Suso, Wisdom.

Referee: Carlos Carballo

Attendance: 21,000 Goals: Hulk 69, Semak 72. Bookings: Skrtel, Hubocan.

LIVERPOOL

DAILY POST

Reds' Europa League hopes take a blow in Russia

Liverpool conceded two goals in less than three minutes to Zenit St Petersburg to leave their Europa League campaign hanging in the balance.

Despite having failed to properly test goalkeeper Vyacheslav Malafeev with a number of chances the Reds seemed to be managing to hold on in their last-32 Europa League first-leg tie in the sub-zero Petrovsky Stadium.

But with 20 minutes remaining Hulk powered home a brilliant 30-yard strike before substitute Sergei Semak converted from close-range moments later.

Liverpool - and in particular top scorer Luis Suarez - will have to rediscover their shooting boots for the return leg next week otherwise their last chance of a trophy this season will be lost.

Manager Brendan Rodgers insisted he planned to give this competition due significance once they were into the knockout stage but an unexpected FA Cup exit to Oldham and a failure to pick up the pace in the Premier League made it seem even more important.

For that reason he selected virtually a full-strength side with captain Steven Gerrard starting his first away game in Europe this season.

Concern had been expressed before the match about possible racist abuse targeting Liverpool's black players - of which Glen Johnson and Raheem Sterling were included in the starting line-up - but the Zenit fans, in fact, contributed plenty to generating a good atmosphere.

There were unconfirmed reports of isolated monkey chants at pitch level but nothing which was audible up in the stands.

The Russian champions fed off the fervour of their fans and displayed a sharpness which defied their two months without a competitive match as both striker Alexander Kerzhakov and Hulk, the latter from distance, were denied early on by Jose Reina.

In between Suarez responded by turning Nicolas Lombaerts and rolling a shot past goalkeeper Malafeev and across goal but wide of the far post.

The Belgian defender was not having the best of nights as he then inexplicably passed the ball to Suarez who drove into the area, rounded Malafeev but was denied from a narrow angle as Lombaerts recovered to block.

However, Liverpool, in trying to play a cagey European-style game, sank further back into their own half and it only served to invite on the hosts who saw Danny's header easily saved and Hulk hit the post.

The Reds' attacking was sporadic at best on a pitch cutting up badly but five minutes before half-time Suarez almost pinched a cheeky goal when the Zenit defence got themselves in a mess and Suarez backheeled Sterling's low cross just wide.

Johnson had a shot blocked by Malafeev after a long, driving run early in the second half while Suarez fired wide again as Liverpool could not find a clinical edge inside the penalty area.It was a failing which cost them dearly on Monday as they were caught cold by West Brom, who scored twice late on at Anfield.

While they had not had the same dominance as they enjoyed against the Baggies they were not exactly in trouble - and that was when they were exposed.

With 20 minutes to go Jordan Henderson was dispossessed and Hulk, who had previously threatened without being worryingly dangerous, smashed one in to give Reina no chance.

But the defending for the second goal less than three minutes later raised plenty of questions as right-back Alexander Anyukov's low cross was drilled home at the far post by Semak.

Gerrard's free-kick forced a low save from Malafeev but no-one was on hand to capitalise on the rebound but Liverpool appeared to still be going backwards rather than forwards.

It encouraged Zenit to go for what would surely have been the killer third and Viktor Fayzulin saw his long-range effort deflected narrowly wide.

Liverpool will require a much-improved performance in a week's time if they are to turn around the deficit and keep their quest for silverware alive.

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BBC

Liverpool paid for wasted chances as goals from Hulk and Sergei Semak gave Zenit St Petersburg a lead in the first leg of their Europa League tie.

Luis Suarez was guilty of several misses including a shot from five yards out and a curling effort just wide.

Hulk had already hit the post in the first half but smacked in a swerving shot after 70 minutes.

And two minutes later Semak tucked in at the back post to give Liverpool an uphill task in the second leg.

Suarez, who is Liverpool's top scorer this season, also failed to test the Zenit keeper despite being clean through, and shot wide with two other chances.

It was far from one-way traffic, though, with Pepe Reina having to make several early saves.

The result was perhaps harsh on Liverpool in front of a fiercely vocal and partisan crowd, which Reds manager Brendan Rodgers praised as wonderful.

The game's narrative had a certain familiarity to it, coming three days after a 2-0 defeat by West Brom in which the Baggies grabbed two late goals.

Like that Premier League match, Liverpool were without the cup-tied Daniel Sturridge. On this occasion it was Hulk, rather than Romelu Lukaku, who showed Suarez how to finish with a smartly taken goal.

The Brazilian striker, who has struggled since his £32m transfer from Porto in September, tormented Liverpool in an entertaining opening 15 minutes which featured plenty of chances for both teams - despite the sub-zero temperatures.

First, Hulk crossed for Aleksandr Kerzhakov and then took a left-footed shot himself, with Reina saving well on both occasions.

In between those opportunities, Suarez had fired wide after breaking free but he should have given Liverpool the lead when he intercepted Nicolas Lombaerts's pass in the Russian defender's half, but over-ran the ball when attempting to take it around the keeper Vyacheslav Malafeev.

There were further shaky moments for both defences before the first half was done. Hulk's shot slipped through Reina's grasp and hit the post, while Suarez missed the target from five yards out after Raheem Sterling had gathered Joe Allen's floated cross.

The tricky pitch hardly helped matters, and Allen - recalled to the side in place of Lucas - struggled to control and distribute the ball in his customary fashion.

With opportunities blundered, there was a real danger for Liverpool that, having been made to pay for similar wastefulness on several occasions this season, they might suffer again.

That feeling grew early in the second half when, first, Glen Johnson made a barnstorming run from his own half only to be denied by Malafeev and then Suarez missed the target once more when he tried to curl his shot into the corner from the edge of the box.

And so it came to pass after 70 minutes. Jordan Henderson lost possession and when the ball was fed to Hulk he advanced on goal before cracking a shot into the top corner from the edge of the box.

Two minutes later, Martin Skrtel failed to clear Aleksandr Anyukov's cross from the right and Johnson was nowhere to be seen as substitute Semak converted at the back post.

Suarez tested Malafeev once more with a free-kick from the edge of the box, but despite creating so much, Liverpool again lacked a killer instinct.

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90:00+2:10Full time The referee signals the end of the game.

90:00+1:21 Short corner worked by Axel Witsel.

88:20 Foul by Viktor Faitzulin on Sanchez Jose Enrique, free kick awarded. Direct free kick taken by Sanchez Jose Enrique.

85:37 Givaldinho Hulk takes a short corner.

83:08 Shot comes in from Luis Suarez from the free kick, save by Viacheslav Malafeev.

83:08Booking Carlos Luis Neto shown a yellow card.

82:29 Carlos Luis Neto concedes a free kick for a foul on Luis Suarez.

81:53 Corner from the right by-line taken by Stewart Downing, save by Viacheslav Malafeev.

81:36Substitution SubstitutionViktor Faitzulin joins the action as a substitute, replacing Alexander Kerzhakov.

77:21Substitution SubstitutionRaheem Sterling leaves the field to be replaced by Leiva Lucas.

74:40 Givaldinho Hulk decides to take the corner short.

74:18 Givaldinho Hulk takes a inswinging corner from the right by-line to the near post, clearance made by Jamie Carragher.

71:34 The assist for the goal came from Roman Shirokov.

71:34Goal scored Goal - Sergei Semak - Zenit St P 2 - 0 LiverpoolSergei Semak finds the back of the net with a goal from close range high into the middle of the goal. Zenit St Petersburg 2-0 Liverpool.

69:02Goal scored Goal - Givaldinho Hulk - Zenit St P 1 - 0 LiverpoolGivaldinho Hulk gets on the score sheet with a brilliant goal from outside the penalty area to the top left corner of the goal. Zenit St Petersburg 1-0 Liverpool.

65:14 Stewart Downing takes a inswinging corner from the right by-line to the near post, clearance by Carlos Luis Neto.

63:29 Roman Shirokov concedes a free kick for a foul on Stewart Downing. Jamie Carragher restarts play with the free kick.

59:49 Luis Suarez has an effort at goal from just outside the box which goes wide of the right-hand upright.

58:58 Martin Skrtel restarts play with the free kick.

58:58Booking Tomas Hubocan is shown a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.

58:31 Foul by Tomas Hubocan on Steven Gerrard, free kick awarded.

58:00 Aleksandr Aniukov challenges Raheem Sterling unfairly and gives away a free kick. Martin Skrtel takes the free kick.

53:12Substitution SubstitutionSergei Semak on for Miguel Danny.

52:56 Shot by Axel Witsel from a long way out goes over the net.

51:25 Foul by Nicolas Lombaerts on Stewart Downing, free kick awarded. Steven Gerrard crosses the ball from the free kick right-footed from right wing, Roman Shirokov makes a clearance.

49:09 Corner taken by Stewart Downing from the left by-line played to the near post, Nicolas Lombaerts makes a clearance.

48:36 Glen Johnson takes a shot. Save made by Viacheslav Malafeev.

46:51 The referee blows for offside against Raheem Sterling. Free kick taken by Carlos Luis Neto.

45:01 The match restarts for the second half.

45:00+2:06Half time The referee calls an end to the first half.

45:00+1:42 Free kick awarded for a foul by Luis Suarez on Axel Witsel. Axel Witsel takes the free kick.

45:00+1:12 Givaldinho Hulk takes a shot from 30 yards. Comfortable save by Jose Reina.

44:38 Luis Suarez challenges Carlos Luis Neto unfairly and gives away a free kick. Direct free kick taken by Carlos Luis Neto.

44:09 Stewart Downing has an effort at goal from outside the box which misses left.

41:27 Jordan Henderson gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Axel Witsel. Nicolas Lombaerts restarts play with the free kick.

40:06 Axel Witsel gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Sanchez Jose Enrique. Sanchez Jose Enrique takes the direct free kick.

39:35 Glen Johnson has an effort at goal from close range which goes wide left of the target.

38:22 The ball is sent over by Carlos Luis Neto, Jose Reina makes a comfortable save.

37:01 Sanchez Jose Enrique fouled by Axel Witsel, the ref awards a free kick. Sanchez Jose Enrique takes the free kick.

27:17 Axel Witsel takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.

26:49 Axel Witsel takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.

24:27 The referee blows for offside against Luis Suarez. Igor Denisov restarts play with the free kick.

23:44 Luis Suarez gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Aleksandr Aniukov. Viacheslav Malafeev takes the free kick.

22:31 Martin Skrtel challenges Axel Witsel unfairly and gives away a free kick. Direct free kick taken by Axel Witsel.

21:10 Steven Gerrard takes the inswinging corner, Foul by Martin Skrtel on Tomas Hubocan, free kick awarded. Viacheslav Malafeev restarts play with the free kick.

18:38 The ball is sent over by Givaldinho Hulk, Jordan Henderson manages to make a clearance.

18:00 Givaldinho Hulk takes a outswinging corner to the near post, clearance made by Stewart Downing.

16:10 Free kick taken by Igor Denisov.

16:10Booking Martin Skrtel shown a yellow card.

16:02 Foul by Martin Skrtel on Roman Shirokov, free kick awarded.

11:56 Nicolas Lombaerts challenges Jordan Henderson unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick crossed by Steven Gerrard.

8:43 Givaldinho Hulk challenges Sanchez Jose Enrique unfairly and gives away a free kick. Sanchez Jose Enrique restarts play with the free kick.

5:39 The offside flag is raised against Luis Suarez. Aleksandr Aniukov takes the direct free kick.

4:52 Short corner taken by Aleksandr Aniukov.

4:29 Givaldinho Hulk takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.

2:40 Luis Suarez is flagged offside by the assistant referee. Nicolas Lombaerts takes the direct free kick.

1:59 Luis Suarez has an effort at goal from deep inside the area missing to the right of the goal.

1:02 Alexander Kerzhakov takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.

0:34 Short corner worked by Givaldinho Hulk.

0:00 The game kicks-off.