

Date: 27 April 2013
Opposition: Newcastle United
Competition: League

Echo	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Mail	Observer	Times	Telegraph
Post	BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Chronicle

THETIMES

Newcastle lacking necessary bite to hold back red tide

Newcastle United 0 Liverpool Agger 3, Henderson 17, 76, Sturridge 54, 60, Borini 74 6 Referee A Marriner Attendance 52,351 Two managers, two teams, each seeking redemption from sin - biting an opponent, toothless against your local rivals - and when the response came, it was fierce. Liverpool brought a sense of crisis with them to St James' Park but left it there, teasing difficulty and sidestepping controversy with a savage artistry that exposed the innards of Newcastle United. If last week began with Brendan Rodgers under scrutiny for his handling of Luis Suarez, it ended with an endorsement of his philosophy and a clear statement that Liverpool stand for more than their gifted Uruguayan irritant. The new one dawns with the baton passed on and the glare fixed firmly on Alan Pardew, from whom much goodwill has seeped away.

It has been a season of endurance for Newcastle, but the past fortnight has been brutal. Sunderland's 3-0 victory on Gallowgate has been followed by the heaviest home defeat since 1925, the year that construction of the Tyne Bridge began. The combined effect has been devastating. Before that, there was brilliance against Benfica, a blissful late winner against Fulham, but that feels like a different era. Liverpool proved it is possible to alter your own narrative, playing with a rare freedom, but Newcastle's corrosion goes deeper. In immediate terms, with three games to go, it leaves them scrambling to avoid relegation. But there is something less tangible, too, because defeats like this are more than a dent to pride. The cuts go deeper and recovery takes longer. For Rodgers, it was the perfect fixture. Liverpool grasped the advantage in the third minute through Daniel Agger's looping header and, aside from one inexplicable miss from James Perch, they were never challenged. The second was gorgeous but too easy, Philippe Coutinho's threaded pass reaching Daniel Sturridge, who squared for Jordan Henderson to slot in. Newcastle took the field with two defensive midfielders, but there was no backbone or nous and if Pardew would dispute the notion that Liverpool were invited to seize the initiative, his players demonstrated otherwise. There were attacking changes at half-time, but Hatem Ben Arfa was knocked off the ball by Coutinho, who teed up Sturridge, and the striker plundered another on the hour mark.

Moments after his introduction, Fabio Borini scored after good work by Stewart Downing. And when Mathieu Debuchy was dismissed for his second bookable offence, Henderson scored direct from the resulting free kick. For all that Coutinho, who also struck the crossbar, was delicately devastating, Newcastle were negligent. "As a manager, things are just thrown at you," Rodgers said. "When you're doing your coaching courses and you're coming through as a young coach from 20 years of age, this week is not the kind of scenario you read about in the manuals. But as a football club we stay together. We're very strong as a club. I've learnt, once again, that I'm at an incredible place. And I've learnt that no matter how good a player is, you can't do what Luis did."

In terms of errant players, Newcastle outdid their opponents, because theirs was a performance without redeeming features: moribund, rudderless, shapeless and frail. In those circumstances, it comes back to Pardew. "I have no problem getting the flak, I accept that," he said. "That performance was not one of my teams'. My teams are renowned for being organised and being on the front foot. I will take responsibility for that." Only five points separates Newcastle from the relegation zone. "There is a sense we have not done our jobs," Shola Ameobi said. "We can use this to spark us, to give us a kick up the backside, to say nobody is too good to go down. We found that out last time. It's not about how talented a team you are, it's about how much you want it."

ratings Newcastle United (4-2-3-1): R Elliot 4 - M Debuchy 2, S Taylor 4, M Yanga-Mbiwa 2, M Haidara 3 - J Perch 5 (sub: H Ben Arfa, 46min 4), C Tiote 2 (sub: V Anita, 65 4) - M Sissoko 4, Y Cabaye 3, J Gutierrez 4 (sub: Y Gouffran, 46 4) - P D Cisse 4. Substitutes not used: S Harper, M Williamson, D Gosling, Shola Ameobi. Booked: Debuchy, Gutierrez, Taylor. Sent off: Debuchy.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): P Reina 6 - G Johnson 7, J Carragher 7, D Agger 7, J Enrique 7 - Lucas 7, S Gerrard 8 (sub: F Borini, 73) - S Downing 7, J Henderson 8, P Coutinho 9 (sub: Suso, 84) - D Sturridge 8 (sub: J Shelvey, 84). Substitutes not used: B Jones, S Coates, M Skrtel, A Wisdom. Booked: Sturridge, Johnson.

Pardew hopes to keep job as pressure builds george caulkin Alan Pardew is "hoping" that he retains the backing of Newcastle United's hierarchy after the club's relegation concerns deepened courtesy of Saturday's 6-0 defeat byLiverpool.

Their past two appearances at St James' Park have brought humbling and heavy defeats which, after a dismal season, have heaped scrutiny on their manager.

It leaves Newcastle sixteenth in the Barclays Premier League, three points ahead of Aston Villa and five above Wigan Athletic, both of whom have a game in hand. Their final three fixtures take them to West Ham United and Queens Park Rangers before a home game against Arsenal.

While the mood in the stadium was sour for the Liverpool match, Pardew's dismissal was not called for by supporters, but the same cannot be said for social networking sites, message boards and radio phone-ins.

In September, Pardew and his coaching staff signed eight-year contracts with the aim of encouraging stability, but the question for Mike Ashley, Newcastle's owner, and Derek Llambias, the managing director, is whether he can retrieve a difficult position. "That is out of my hands, isn't it?" Pardew said of his own situation. "My job, until I am told otherwise, is to make sure I lift this team and get this team as

good as it can be for next week and that is what I will do."

Does he expect to receive support from Ashley? "I hope so, yes," he said. "I think that is probably the heaviest defeat I have had as a manager and there were a lot of things I saw which I didn't like, but I will make sure we put it right. And that started straight after the game in the dressing room."

Newcastle are already committed to a wide-ranging review of football matters when the season is over. They have been stretched by their participation in the Europa League, but also left both domestic cup competitions at the first hurdle and their league form has been poor. No side have lost more games at home, while only Reading have amassed fewer points away.

"You can't keep changing your manager if he has a bad run - it doesn't make any sense at all," Llambias said earlier in the season. "We just want to break that mould in football. If we go through a bad period, we have to take it on the chin."

the**guardian**

Pardew admits his future is out of his hands after French quintet get lost in translation

Almost empty and eerily silent, the stadium was shutting down. Doors were being locked and lights switched off when the security man said "good night" as he ushered a late straggler out of the Milburn Stand's main reception.

"Or perhaps we'd better just make that 'night'," he added. "Nothing good about it." Liverpool fans and neutrals thrilled by Philippe Coutinho's midfield brilliance might have disagreed but for anyone connected with Newcastle United, the club's heaviest home defeat in 87 years hurt. Even worse, it leaves Alan Pardew's largely Francophone side dizzily contemplating the vertiginous drop into the Championship. Five points clear of the relegation zone, they are probably only one win from safety but have conceded nine goals against Sunderland and Liverpool in their past two games at St James' Park.

Amid much knee-jerk, social media fuelled, outrage it is important to introduce a bit of context. After all, only last month Guus Hiddink - who knows a thing or two about English football - praised Pardew's tactics to the skies and predicted that Newcastle "are so strong they must be in the Premier League's top five next season" after his Anzhi Makhachkala ensemble were knocked out of the Europa League by the Tynesiders. Little did Hiddink know that Pardew's players were about to hit a wall. When Yohan Cabaye fell to the floor at Saturday's final whistle it seemed emblematic of Newcastle's woes. The influential France midfielder is a brainy footballer capable of brilliance but he barely got a touch against Liverpool and looks burnt out. Exhausted by both the Europa League and a raft of injuries, too many of Pardew's players are running on empty. Others, meanwhile, have switched off and mentally decamped to warm beaches.

Alarmingly, experienced hands such as Cheick Tiote and Jonas Gutierrez are neglecting too many basics and suffering for it. Badly.

Tiote should be made to study DVDs of the way Lucas and Steven Gerrard controlled central midfield. These problems are exacerbated by the presence of five January imports from France's Ligue 1 who, while technically accomplished, look to have suddenly been hit by extreme culture shock.

It does not help that several still require a translator to communicate with Pardew. Yet despite English no longer being the dominant training-ground language, a manager who would be well advised to learn French fast believes the high-intensity nature of the Premier League represents the principal stumbling block to survival. "I don't think the language barrier is so much of a problem as the lack of experience in certain scenarios," said Pardew, whose team visit West Ham and QPR before their final game at home to Arsenal. "A lot of those players will never have been beaten 3-0 at home, never mind 6-0. I think that showed; we became ragged, some of our play was naive and disorganised."

So much so that some Newcastle fans are demanding the shredding of his eight-year contract. "Well that's out of my hands," said Newcastle's commendably measured manager. "Until I'm told otherwise, my job is to lift the team and make it as good as I can." Inevitably he was asked if he expects to stave off the sack.

"Yes," said the 2012 LMA manager of the year, who remains a talented, extremely hard working coach. "I hope so. I've got to make sure I put things right. We've got to show we've got the fight for this because I think a lot of people will look at us and think we've got a great chance of being relegated. We've got to prove them wrong but I genuinely believe we've got enough quality to get the points we need." He must cope without Mathieu Debuchy at West Ham after the France right-back - who had a shocking game - was sent off for a second bookable offence; an awful challenge on Coutinho. From the ensuing free-kick Jordan Henderson - extremely impressive throughout and a great advert for Brendan Rodgers's coaching - scored Liverpool's sixth.

Immediately Steven Taylor - who had the misfortune to experience one of his worst days in a Newcastle shirt under the watching gaze of the England coach, Roy Hodgson - was summoned for a touchline tete a tete with Pardew.

Earlier Taylor - turned regularly by the excellent Daniel Sturridge, although, in mitigation, he was being asked to put out numerous fires started by his dreadful co-defenders - watched Daniel Agger head in the first goal after playing him inside. From then on it was a case of keeping count as Henderson made it two, then Sturridge scored a couple before the substitute Fabio Borini's first touch precipitated No5. "I've got to channel my anger in the right way," said Pardew. "But if I don't get a response after this I'll be deeply disappointed."

Man of the match Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool)

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The Mail

Newcastle 0 Liverpool 6: Reds sink their teeth into Pardew as Toon are humiliated

Two goals apiece from Daniel Sturridge and Jordan Henderson and one each from Daniel Agger and Fabio Borini told the sorry one-sided story of what could only be described as an abject surrender: Newcastle's biggest home defeat since 1925. In fact, even the most ardent Geordie could not have complained had the defeat had run to double figures.

Last year at this stage of the season, Newcastle were in a Champions League position. Now they are in a relegation scrap, with trips to West Ham and Queens Park Rangers followed by a visit from Arsenal.

Manager Alan Pardew admitted: 'Of course I'm worried. Liverpool were sharper, faster and better organised than us all day. We looked ragged after the third goal and I can't accept that from one of my teams. Next week we have to be a lot more disciplined than we were.'

The pre-match talk had centred on how Liverpool would perform without the banned Luis Suarez.

His replacement, Sturridge, could not have demonstrated better that the Uruguay striker may not be missed.

And Phillippe Coutinho, the 20-yearold Brazilian, was magnificent in the Liverpool midfield It took Liverpool less than three minutes to find a cure for any hangover they may have felt over the Suarez episode.

And the wonder was it took them so long!

Coutinho had opened the home defence as if it were an infant's money box and it needed a timely interception by Mapou Yanga-Mibiwa to deny Sturridge after only two minutes.

But that defence was AWOL when a cross from Stewart Downing found Agger around the penalty spot and his looping header was well out of Rob Elliot's reach. The Newcastle keeper had to race off his line to deny Sturridge three minutes later after another precision pass from Coutinho but Liverpool's embarrassing supremacy made a second goal almost inevitable.

And it was created with breathtaking skill.

Coutinho - who else? - was again at the heart of it, this time finding Sturridge with another defencesplitting pass.

The striker spurned the opportunity of having a crack himself and, instead, rolled the ball across the goal for the unattended Henderson to tap into an empty net. Newcastle should have pulled one back in the 36th minute but James Perch, given a clear opportunity by Massadio Haidara's cross, headed off target.

With Cheick Tiote having benefited from referee Andre Marriner's leniency, the arrival of Hatem Ben Arfa, for Perch, and Yoan Gouffran, for Jonas Gutierrez, gave the home fans some brief hope after the interval. But then the majestic Coutinho set up Sturridge to make it three.

The Brazilian robbed Ben Arfa wide on the left, strode forward and squeezed a great pass through two defenders for the striker to score his third goal in successive visits - the first for Bolton Wanderers, the second for Chelsea.

It was all too much for one disgruntled Newcastle fan who charged into the technical area and threw his black-and-white scarf in Pardew's direction. But the home agony was far from over. Steven Gerrard exposed the crass lack of understanding in the home defence, stroking a pass for Sturridge to grab his second and Liverpool's fourth.

And it got worse for the hosts with two more Liverpool goals in as many minutes. First, Borini hit his first Liverpool goal, having replaced Gerrard, taking a pass from Downing before slotting a shot past the helpless Elliot.

Mathieu Debuchy's second yellow card, for a crushing tackle on Coutinho, moments later was followed by Henderson curling in the free-kick.

The final whistle was greeted by severe jeering from those home fans who had not already headed for the exits and Pardew said: 'They had every right to boo. 'That performance was just not good enough today.

'Now we've got to show we have the heart for the scrap we're in because other teams certainly have. We need a win in the next two away games.

'One thing is important: we'll have our best players fit for next week. We have some who have known relegation at this club and we're going to have to lean on them. We have to roll our sleeves up and make a real fist of our last three games.'

Newcastle (0) 0 Liverpool (2) 6

Newcastle: Elliot, Debuchy, Steven Taylor, Yanga-Mbiwa, Haidara, Sissoko, Tiote (Anita 65), Cabaye,Perch (Ben Arfa 46), Gutierrez (Gouffran 46), Cisse.

Subs Not Used: Harper, Williamson, Gosling, Ameobi.

Sent Off: Debuchy (75).

Booked: Debuchy, Gutierrez, Steven Taylor.

Liverpool: Reina, Johnson, Carragher, Agger, Jose Enrique, Henderson, Gerrard (Borini 72), Lucas, Coutinho (Suso 84), Sturridge (Shelvey 84), Downing.

Subs Not Used: Jones, Coates, Skrtel, Wisdom.

Booked: Sturridge, Johnson.

Goals: Agger 3, Henderson 17, Sturridge 54, 60, Borini 74, Henderson 76.

Att: 52,351

Ref: Andre Marriner

The Daily Telegraph

Pardew: I am responsible for abject display

Newcastle United 0

Att: 52,351

Liverpool 6

Agger 3, Henderson 17, 76, Sturridge 54, 60, Borini 74

Alan Pardew has an eight-year contract at Newcastle United, but he may not last eight more weeks after this abysmal display at the end of a domestic season supporters were already describing as abject.

When Pardew signed that contract in September, he was still basking in the afterglow of leading Newcastle to a fifth-place finish last season and deservedly picking up the Manager of the Year award from his peers.

Even then he knew the document he signed would not keep him in a job if the supporters turned against him and he said as much publicly. They had begun to turn weeks ago, losing faith in their droves after the 3-0 home defeat by Sunderland, but this was worse. This was shambolic.

There have been no "Pardew Out" chants, no protests, but there is anger. Newcastle fans do not turn against their team lightly and while Pardew is being blamed for what has happened, there is also recognition now is not the time for rebellion.

Relegation is too much of a catastrophic proposition for that. 'United they stand, divided they fall' seems to sum up the mood on Tyneside for the time being.

However, it was not the size of this defeat, the fact it was their heaviest at home since 1925 or that it was the 18th loss of a hugely deflating league campaign that appears to condemn Pardew. It was the manner in which a team full of internationals effectively gave up on a football pitch. That is unforgivable. But footballers tend to get away with it because the manager takes ultimate responsibility for their shortcomings.

"I have no problem getting the flak, I accept that," said Pardew. "That performance was not one of my team's. My teams are renowned for being organised and being on the front foot and you could not say that about Saturday. I will take responsibility for that."

There is genuine support for Pardew in the boardroom. Managing director Derek Llambias remains convinced he is a good manager having a bad spell, but owner Mike Ashley is less attached, far less impressed by the team's decline and he has the final say on everything.

Ashley had to be persuaded to spend more than [pounds sterling]17million in the January transfer window on five players from France, as well as several million more in agent and signing on fees. He spent that money to avoid being sucked into the relegation quicksand. Yet three months later, Newcastle are waist deep and sinking.

The club lost [pounds sterling]500,000 a week when in the Championship four years ago. Pardew can still rescue them from relegation and financial meltdown but two of Newcastle's remaining three fixtures are away from home and they have only won once on the road this season. Their final home game of the season is against Champions League-chasing Arsenal.

To cling on to his job, Pardew needs his players to fight for him; show they still believe in him and respond to his instructions. At the core of his team are seven French players. They are all talented, but if there is one consistent criticism of Gallic sportsmen it is they lack mental strength and quickly lose heart when things go badly. Those national stereotypes seemed all too fitting as Liverpool tore them to shreds.

Liverpool were impressive. Their passing was crisp, their movement intelligent, their pressing disciplined, but they could have won comfortably playing badly.

Manager Brendan Rodgers has got them playing how he wants them to and, with or without Luis Suarez, they are a good side with the potential to get even better.

Liverpool scored six, but could have had more. They were utterly dominant.

Daniel Sturridge was superb in place of Suarez, his movement and finishing of the highest quality. Philippe Coutinho was equally as good, his passing and vision everything that English footballers of his age - he is still just 20 - seem to lack.

Liverpool are progressing in a manner which serves to highlight how far Newcastle's standards have slipped. Pardew knows he is in trouble, but he can only hope his previous achievements mean he can limp over the line this season, rejuvenate over the summer and rehabilitate at the start of next term.

"That is out of my hands," he replied when asked whether he feared the sack.

"My job is to make sure, until I am told otherwise, to lift this team and get this team as good as it can be for next week and that is what I will do. Of course I am angry, that is my heaviest defeat as a manager, but I have to channel that anger in the right way. The only way I can get that right is next week and make sure I have a team that enters the pitch at West Ham confident it is going to win."

Pardew is not in any imminent danger of the sack given there are only three games to play, but his position is likely to be reviewed in the summer.

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Sturridge fills gap to pile agony on Pardew

When they stopped counting the goals that inflicted on Newcastle their worst home defeat in a top-flight League game for 87 years, Alan Pardew's future looked more precarious than Luis Suarez's.

But as a statement of intent for their banned striker, there was no doubt what the Liverpool players thought: Daniel Agger and Lucas Leiva both dedicated the win to Suarez on Twitter. He in turn tweeted his delight at the victory.

There are few ways out of a crisis for a football club that involves one of your players biting an opponent, but facing the hapless Newcastle United in the following game would be pretty high up the wish-list of any slightly tuned-in member of the public-relations industry. Liverpool have spent a week under siege, and quite rightly so for what it is still worth, after last week's game when Suarez bit Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic and was subsequently banned for 10 games.

They have fought a self-induced storm this week, and backing their player will always raise questions given the severity of the offence. It may yet be something that historically they regret, but the club was as focused on doing it the right way yesterday as much as one of their players was focused on doing it the wrong way last weekend. That Liverpool were so good without such a talented but troubled player was also intriguing. Brendan Rodgers has nailed his colours well and truly to a precarious mast this last week in the support that has rightly or wrongly been shown to Suarez. Jamie Carragher seemed surprised to admit the performance was the best of the season. Rodgers drew issue with the notion of a one-man team and the team did the same in their performance.

The Liverpool manager called it a traumatic week and an outstanding performance and it was reassuring that a bright man was calling it correctly after the chaos that his Uruguayan forward thrust upon him. There has been all kind of arguments, many spurious, put around this week. It is still undeniable that Suarez dropped all over his manager. He has done very well to hold on to such support. The support for Rodgers came yesterday from a group of players who were so much superior that it bordered on embarrassing.

"We were absolutely brilliant today," said Rodgers. "To come to St James' Park and win six-nil is very impressive. It's been a traumatic week for the football club. We accepted that. Luis did wrong, he takes his punishment and we move on. We had to move on with a performance.

"We were so clinical. It was a terrific start for us. We were really aggressive and the pressing was really good. We talked during the week about our penetration. We have some wonderful technicians and we also have pace and youthfulness. Coutinho is a master technician. Daniel Sturridge can prove to be one of the top strikers in Europe in the next three years, you can see his pace and his power and his finishing. It's been a very difficult week, I have to say. It was a real test for us all." Yesterday was not.

From the first moment, Liverpool blew Newcastle away. The opening goal came after three minutes, when Steven Taylor failed to push out with the rest of his team-mates, allowing Agger a free header past Rob Elliot from 10 yards. The second came in the 17th minute. Sturridge and Coutinho were the architects, Jordan Henderson was the scorer, delighting in his goal by running past the corner of the Gallowgate End. These are happy times for Sunderland supporters at St James' Park. By the time the third went in, nine minutes into the second half, the white flag came from Pardew's side. Sturridge benefited from Coutinho this time, striking his shot past Elliot. The same player scored a fourth six minutes later, from closer range, with less resistance. Some supporters left. At least they had turned up. Unlike their team. Fabio Borini had been on the pitch for 35 seconds when he struck the fifth with his first touch of the game. One minute later, Mathieu Debuchy was sent off for a reckless challenge on Coutinho, his second yellow of the afternoon. From the resulting free-kick, in the 76th minute, Henderson crossed and nobody from the Newcastle side could even muster a touch as it curled into Elliot's goal. Couti nho had a shot tipped on to the bar. There could, as Rodgers said, had been a seventh, an eighth or a ninth but the humiliation was complete. For Pardew there is a week of hell to come. The Newcastle manager insisted afterwards he is still the man to lead the club forward. It is becoming increasingly less his choice. Newcastle had already conceded seven at Arsenal earlier this season. They were humiliated by Sunderland on their last outing at St James' Park before the rot continued yesterday. Pardew's standing has never been lower among Newcastle fans but he stressed there is still the resolve to turn the situation (five points above a relegation place) around. "Yes absolutely I will carry on and fight through this," he said. "We haven't become a bad staff or a bad set of players overnight. We need to roll our sleeves up and make a real good fist of these last three games but it was an awful performance."

Newcastle (4-2-3-1): Elliot; Debuchy, Taylor, Yanga-Mbiwa, Haidara; Perch (Ben Arfa, h-t), Tiot[c] (Anita, 65); Sissoko, Cabaye, Gutierrez (Gouffran, h-t); Ciss[c]. Liverpool (4-2-3-1): Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Gerrard (Borini, 73), Lucas; Downing, Coutinho (Suso, 84), Henderson; Sturridge (Shelvey 84). Referee: Andre Marriner. Man of the match: Sturridge (Liverpool)
Match rating: 6/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Liverpool put Newcastle to the sword
Newcastle United 0
Liverpool 6
Agger 3, Henderson 17 76, Sturridge 54 60, Borini 74
Att: 52,351

Contrary to what you may have thought this week, Liverpool are not a one man team. Rather than struggle in Luis Suarez's absence, Brendan Rodgers' side prospered with a performance and victory that highlighted the improvements he has overseen in his first season.

In contrast, this was a display and defeat that brutally exposed how far backwards Newcastle United have gone since last season's fifth-placed finish and they may yet find themselves falling into the Championship.

With three games to go the excuses are exhausted and the goodwill has vanished. Newcastle supporters can forgive a lot, but they cannot accept heartless, characterless and clueless performances like this.

Newcastle were not just beaten, they were humiliated and manager Alan Pardew is the man who will, eight year contract or not, take the blame. He is fighting to save his job, whether he realises it or not. He can only hope he has enough in him to guide them to safety and then hope he can persuade owner Mike Ashley he deserves to remain in charge.

Newcastle were truly awful in the first half and could have been behind inside the first minute only for Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa to arrive just in time to block Daniel Sturridge's shot.

Not that they ever managed to clear from the resulting corner. Slow to move out of their own area Stewart Downing saw the possibility of a chipped ball for someone to run on to.

Steven Taylor did not spot the danger, dawdled as he moved to join the rest of the defensive line and allowed Daniel Agger to move on to Downing's chip and glance a header past the horribly exposed Rob Elliot.

Taylor was called into the England squad last month, but with Roy Hodgson in the crowd here , mistakes like this mean it is unlikely he will be again.

Newcastle failed to rally and things went from bad to worse when they conceded a second inside the opening 20 minutes .

Philippe Coutinho picked up the ball in far too much space in the centre-circle and with the Newcastle backline flat-footed and completely bamboozled by the movement of those in red shirts, the Brazilian threaded an exquisite through ball to Sturridge who drew goalkeeper Elliot and then rolled it square to Henderson who could not miss. The former Sunderland player joyfully celebrated as Newcastle's fans screamed abuse at their own players and Pardew.

Liverpool were utterly dominant and could have scored again. Sturridge shooting straight at Elliot when well-placed before Gerrard sliced an effort from the edge of the area.

Newcastle's fans responded by chanting for the introduction of substitute Hatem Ben Arfa. Those on the pitch, with shoulders slumped and heads bowed, looked like a defeated team. They may soon be a relegated one if they do not shake themselves out of their malaise. Having spent heavily on French imports in January, there are now huge questions marks hanging over the core of this team concerning their willingness to roll their sleeves up and fight in an English relegation battle.

They did gradually start to find some composure in the middle of the pitch and should have pulled a goal back when Massadio Haidara made some room for himself down the left and crossed. James Perch arrived perfectly from midfield, but five yards out and completely unmarked he headed wide.

The groan was so loud you would have been able to hear it on Newcastle's Quayside. The hum of several thousand depressed conversations was finally ended by a chorus of boos when the halftime whistle blew. The men in black and white shirts trudged dejectedly down the tunnel, Liverpool's swaggered and bounced. They had outclassed their hosts and knew it.

Pardew knew it was time to gamble and he threw on Ben Arfa and Yoan Gouffran for Perch and Jonas Gutierrez and for a few minutes Newcastle looked capable of hauling themselves back into the game. They threw themselves at Liverpool, who for the first time looked stretched, but when Ben Arfa lost possession on the halfway line, they were sliced open at the back, as Coutinho managed to squeeze a pass through to Sturridge who finished emphatically.

That knocked the stuffing out them and like a hungry predator on a feeding frenzy, Liverpool bared their teeth and moved in for the kill, Gerrard spotting another midfield run from Henderson, who returned the favour to Sturridge with a square pass which he was able to nonchalantly control before slotting into the empty net.

Newcastle disintegrated completely, substitute Fabio Borini adding a fifth before Mathieu Debuchy got himself sent off for a stupid tackle on Coutinho. Henderson completed the rout straight from the resulting free-kick.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Newcastle routed
NEWCASTLE 0 LIVERPOOL 6

Agger 3, Henderson 17, 76, Sturridge 54, 60, Borini 74

THE pre-match talk was all of one man who did not take part yesterday. After it, Luis Suarez was but an absent ghost. Instead, there was a superlative Liverpool performance to cherish and an absolutely wretched one from Newcastle United. On this showing, Liverpool need not fall apart without their talisman; Newcastle though may yet cast themselves out of the Premier League. And so Liverpool's post-Suarez life began: certainly for the next 10 games, possibly more permanently. Without him, without his moments of mercurial genius, his fearsome workrate and his supremely responsible willingness to lead the line, they area weaker team. Without Suarez's moments of unfathomable madness inadvertently wrenched from deep inside his multi-layered personality, the latest of which led to another suspension, Liverpool are, for better and for worse, a more predictable entity entirely. Even so, despite Suarez's phenomenal goalscoring, that need not mean less effective, as Newcastle would discover. With sixth place looking increasingly unlikely, manager Brendan Rodgers resisted the temptation to tinker and the Uruguayan's logical replacement, Daniel Sturridge, started. Sturridge may not be Suarez's equal in anything bar self-confidence, but the mobile forward always had too much for Steven Taylor and Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa at the heart of Newcastle's rickety defence. A year of over-achieving plenty has been followed by one of perplexing famine and Newcastle need to look over their shoulders.

Alan Pardew's side ought to survive, but complacency has long been a blood brother of hubris and history tells us Newcastle are no stranger to either. As we know, those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it and after three minutes Newcastle's defensive complacency cost them. Stewart Downing lobbed in a hopeful cross from the left, the Newcastle defence moved up as one lumbering mass as goalkeeper Rob Elliot came to collect it and then stood transfixed. Daniel Agger stepped into the gap and looped a simple header into the unguarded goal and the silence from the Gallowgate End was deafening. With Coutinho lambent in midfield; Jordan Henderson his eager water-carrying sidekick and Steven Gerrard pulling every string as England manager Roy Hodgson looked on, Newcastle were pedestrian. Papiss Cisse was marooned, but behind him Yohan Cabaye, Newcastle's most advanced midfielder, was similarly isolated. After 17 grisly minutes for the hosts, they were two down to a goal of rare beauty. Jose Reina hoofed the ball forward. Coutinho and Sturridge played two delightful one-tuos before the latter found Henderson whose first-time finish beat Elliot and Newcastle looked doomed: for the evening at least.

Sensing the grave peril his club are in rather more astutely than his charges, Pardew rang the changes at half-time. Hatem Ben Arfa and Yoan Gouffran arrived, while Cheik Tiote seemed to have been deputed to stick limpet-like to Coutinho. Yet Tiote was nowhere in the immediate vicinity when Ben Arfa dallied on the ball inside his own half. Coutinho bundled Ben Arfa to the ground, sprinted forwards and found Sturridge, who finished with a Suarez-esque glee.

Six minutes later, it was all over bar the booing when Gerrard lobbed a ball over the defence. Henderson collected and squared for Sturridge -- one of three red shirts bearing down on Elliot without a defender nearby -- to tap home. Could things get any worse for Newcastle? Yes they could. First, some penalty area finesse from Stewart Downing ended with an unmarked Fabio Borini scoring his first Premier League goal. Surely that was that. It wasn't. When Mathieu Debuchy lunged at Coutino, he was dismissed and Henderson curled the resulting free kick into goal. Newcastle were lucky to get away with the six-goal hammering, for, after a dazzling run, Coutinho's drive rattled Elliot's bar. For him, bouquets of praise: for Newcastle, pain by the bucket load. Newcastle: Elliot 4, Debuchy 4, S Taylor 4, Yanga-Mbiwa 4, Haidara 4, Sissoko 4, Perch 4 (Ben Arfa h-t, 6) Tiote 4 (Anita 65min), Gutierrez 4 (Gouffran h-t, 6), Cabaye 4, Cisse 4

Liverpool: Reina 6, Johnson 6, Carragher 6, Agger 6, Enrique 7, Gerrard 8 (Borini 72min), Lucas 7, Henderson 8, Downing 7, Coutinho 8 (Suso 84min), Sturridge 8 (Shelvey 84min)

MAGPIES TORTURE

Liverpool's 6-0 demolition of Newcastle last night, along with Sunderland's 3-0 win in the previous match at St James' Park, is the first time in Premier League history that Newcastle have conceded eight or more goals in two successive home games. Newcastle have conceded six or more goals in only four Premier League games -- two of them this season. Arsenal beat them 7-3 at the Emirates in December. ? December is not a good month for Newcastle. Their record home league defeat is 9-1 by Sunderland in the final month of 1908.

Liverpool have improved their scoring under Brendan Rodgers. They have found the net 67 times in this campaign -- 20 more than the whole of last season. Only Manchester United (78) have scored more.



Newcastle still in danger after Liverpool run riot
NEWCASTLE 0 LIVERPOOL 6 Agger 3 Henderson 17 76 Sturridge 54 60 Borini 74
Alan Pardew would probably prefer not to try to imagine what might have

happened if Luis Suarez had played. The Uruguayan's suspension for biting was supposed to make this a routine three points for Newcastle but, instead of banishing lingering relegation fears, they folded in the face of Philippe Coutinho and friends. With Coutinho midfield brilliance personified, Daniel Sturridge the striker he has long promised to be and Jordan Henderson and Stewart Downing suggesting they were not such bad Anfield buys after all, this was the brightest of spring evenings for Brendan Rodgers but a strong contender for the worst 90 minutes of his good friend Pardew's career.

Newcastle's manager had demanded a performance "worthy of the black-and-white shirt" from his players but, judging by their display, several were evidently wearing earplugs. The game had barely kicked off when Coutinho set the tone, the 20-year-old Brazilian picking out Glen Johnson on the right with the cutest of passes. The right-back - watched by the England manager, Roy Hodgson - delivered a superb low cross which Sturridge would surely have tapped in but for Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa's last-ditch, sliding intervention.

Failing to heed this reprieve, Pardew's defence foolishly stepped out following the half-clearance of a Downing corner. Moving up en masse, they left Rob Elliot horribly isolated and when the ball was looped back into the box by Downing, Daniel Agger, onside and alone in acres of space, duly planted a header well beyond the goalkeeper's grasp.

It quickly got worse for Pardew. Sturridge and Coutinho exchanged passes, the latter sending the striker racing through the middle and drawing Elliot off his line. With the goalkeeper committed, Sturridge unselfishly slipped the ball to Henderson. Arriving at pace, the former Sunderland midfielder seamlessly directed a crisp shot into the back of the net.

Henderson's sudden prominence served to revive unpleasant memories of the 3-0 defeat here by Sunderland a fortnight ago and as the crowd murmured and muttered its discontent, Pardew's increasingly agitated body language painted an uneasy portrait of a man under severe stress.

It was down to their quicker brains and faster feet but it often seemed as if Liverpool possessed an extra player. As Coutinho drifted nonchalantly away from Yohan Cabaye, Pardew shook his head. When Mathieu Debuchy became sucked into a concentration-diverting running dispute with Sturridge he flapped a fist in despair. n amalgam of anger, frustration and sheer bewilderment was writ large on the Newcastle manager's face because this was a pale imitation of the side who finished fifth last season.

Twelve months ago Pardew was well on the way to coronation as manager of the year but now he was left cursing as James Perch, unmarked and six yards out, headed agonisingly wide when a Liverpool defence generally protected superbly by the excellent Lucas's deep-lying-midfield role was caught cold.

If only that chance had fallen to Papiss Cisse. Instead Pardew's lone striker was rendered virtually ineffective by lack of support from a malfunctioning midfield in which Cheik Tiote looked the faintest shadow of the warrior of old.

It was no surprise when Newcastle re-emerged for the second half with Hatem Ben Arfa - coveted by Liverpool - and Yoan Gouffran on in place of Perch and Jonas Gutierrez. Tiote, meanwhile, had clearly been instructed to attempt to stick to Coutinho like glue. The Ivorian, though, had clearly come unstuck and was nowhere to be seen as Coutinho surged forward after seizing on Ben Arfa's concession of possession. Deceiving the desperately back-pedalling Steven Taylor courtesy of an adroit step-over, Newcastle's nemesis dinked the ball to Sturridge. As the former Chelsea striker's rising shot hit the roof of the net Rodgers celebrated goal No3. Sturridge soon had a second goal. Noting that Newcastle were suddenly holding a very high defensive line, Gerrard unleashed an intelligent long pass which left Henderson played onside by Debuchy and honing in on goal. A neat, highly astute little ball to Sturridge and an ensuing shot later the score became 4-0.

Newcastle's legion of technically accomplished but suddenly brittle and naive-looking French players had surrendered and were staggering around in apparent disbelief. Next Fabio Borini used his first touch after replacing Gerrard to connect with Downing's delivery before shooting beyond Elliot. Then Debuchy, already booked, was sent off for an awful tackle on Coutinho and five down swiftly turned to six as Henderson's free-kick crept in, unchallenged, at the far post. It prefaced an intense touchline conversation between Pardew and Taylor.

"Going down," sang the Liverpool fans as all round them Newcastle supporters either booed or sat in head-in-hands mode wondering how it had come to this.

THE WORST SINCE . . .

1925

The last time Newcastle lost a top-flight home game by a margin of six was September 1925 - 7-1 to Blackburn

Yesterday's result means Newcastle and Derby are the only teams to concede six or more at home more than once in the Premier League. Derby did it four times in 2007-08 on the way to finishing bottom with a record-low 11 points.

NEWCASTLE

Elliot; Debuchy (Sent off), S Taylor (Booked), Yanga-Mbiwa, Haidara; Perch (Ben Arfa ht), Tiote (Anita 65); Sissoko, Cabaye, Gutierrez (Booked) (Gouffran ht); Cisse Subs not used Harper, Williamson, Gosling, Ameobi

LIVERPOOL

Reina; Johnson (Booked), Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Gerrard (Borini 72), Lucas, Henderson; Downing, Coutinho (Suso 84); Sturridge (Booked) (Shelvey 84) Subs not used Jones, Coates, Skrtel, Wisdom

St James' Park 52,351 Game rating 7/10 Referee Andre Marriner

Date: 27 April 2013

Opposition: Newcastle United

Competition: League

Echo	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Mail	Observer	Times	Telegraph
Post	BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Chronicle

LIVERPOOL

ECHO

Reds bare their teeth to begin life without Luis Suarez in style

SO MUCH for Liverpool FC being rendered toothless. No Luis Suarez, no drama as Brendan Rodgers’ side delivered the perfect tonic at the end of a wretched week. It was a performance which sent the doom and gloom merchants running for cover on a remarkable evening in the North East. They asked how a one-man team could possibly cope without the breathtaking talent of their 30-goal top scorer? The answer was emphatic as Liverpool inflicted Newcastle United’s heaviest home defeat since 1925. Suarez may have been out of sight as he began his 10-game ban for biting Chelsea’s Branislav Ivanovic but he certainly wasn’t out of mind. This was a show of solidarity which spoke louder than any T-shirts. A burning desire to make up for his absence, coupled with a sense of injustice at the severity of the Uruguayan’s suspension, galvanised Liverpool. “That was for you amigo”, read the message Lucas Leiva tweeted to his close friend after the final whistle. Nobody is excusing Suarez’s shameful conduct but those who know the striker best refuse to give up on him and have vowed to help him combat his demons. The support for Suarez inside the dressing room was replicated high up in the Sir John Hall Stand as the travelling Kop chanted the player’s name repeatedly. It’s that type of unwavering backing which Liverpool hope will prove significant when Suarez makes a decision over his future this summer. What will also boost the Reds’ chances of preventing the troubled frontman from turning his back on English football is convincing him he will be returning to a side in September capable of challenging for honours. Saturday was a promising step in that direction. Liverpool’s biggest away win in the Premier League since they put six past West Brom 10 years ago was achieved with the most eye-catching display of Rodgers’ reign. Of course victory must be put into context. The Reds were up against a Newcastle side who performed with scarcely believable ineptitude. But the reality is Liverpool simply didn’t allow the struggling hosts to gain a foothold in the game as they wrestled control from the opening seconds and refused to let go. As an attacking force, Rodgers’ men were irrepressible. Two-goal Daniel Sturridge led the line with aplomb as he relished the extra responsibility heaped on his shoulders following Suarez’s ban. The hosts simply couldn’t handle his pace and power as the £12million man carried on where he left off against Chelsea. Behind him was the game’s outstanding individual. Philippe Coutinho flourished in a central role as Newcastle made the grave error of gifting the young Brazilian both time and space. It was the little magician’s finest display since his January arrival from Inter Milan and that £8.5million fee continues to look like a very smart piece of business. Coutinho’s vision and range of passing tormented the hosts throughout and only the woodwork denied him the goal he deserved late on. In midfield, it was total domination. Snapping into tackles and winning back possession, Lucas provided his team-mates with a platform to play. Skipper Steven Gerrard took control and either side of him Jordan Henderson and Stewart Downing wreaked havoc. Henderson epitomised everything that was best about the Reds – invention and intelligence coupled with an unrelenting work-rate. The midfielder, who scored twice and created another, has endured some tough times at Liverpool but on his return to the North East he showcased just far how he’s come. There was also the welcome sight of Fabio Borini making a triumphant comeback after 10 weeks out with a shoulder injury as he grabbed his first Premier League goal for the club. The £10.5million striker hasn’t been able to come close to justifying Rodgers’ faith in him as injuries have wrecked his first season following his move from Roma. But with Suarez sidelined, Borini will be needed to help fill the void and this cameo will have provided a much needed boost to his confidence. Alan Pardew had demanded a response following Newcastle’s previous home game when they were routed 3-0 by bitter rivals Sunderland. Trouble had flared after with 29 fans arrested, including one on suspicion of punching a police horse. But Liverpool played at a tempo and intensity the hosts simply couldn’t live with and they led inside three minutes. Daniel Agger timed his run and leap to perfection as he nodded Downing’s cross over Rob Elliot. It was the Dane’s third league goal of the campaign and his first since December. The Reds were superior in all departments and their second in the 17th minute was wonderfully crafted. Pepe Reina’s punt was expertly laid off by Sturridge to Coutinho, who repaid the favour with a perfectly weighted defence-splitting pass. As Elliot rushed out, Sturridge unselfishly teed up Henderson for a simple tap-in. Sturridge and Gerrard threatened to add to the Reds’ tally before James Perch wasted a glorious chance at the other end when he nodded wide from six yards. It was a rare moment of concern with Jamie Carragher and Agger ensuring lone frontman Papiss Cisse wasn’t able to replicate the heroics which had settled this fixture a year earlier. Pardew introduced Hatem Ben Arfa and Yoan Gouffran in a bid to trigger a fightback but within nine minutes of the second half the Reds were out of sight. Once again it was all about Coutinho as he dispossessed Ben Arfa, burst forward and played a delightful flick through to Sturridge, who fired clinically into the roof of the net.

On the hour mark the outraged Toon army stormed towards the exits in their hundreds as the region’s concerned stallions headed for the hills. Henderson strained every sinew to get back and pick the pocket of Cheick Tiote. Alert to the opening, Henderson quickly turned and made a smart run in behind Newcastle back four. Gerrard picked him out in style and Henderson squared for Sturridge to convert from close range. It was all so easy. The only downside from a contest packed full of positives was the sight of Gerrard going off with a knock as the skipper’s proud record of playing every minute of every league game this season came to an end. Borini replaced him and within seconds he had poked Downing’s pass past Elliot – breaking a goal drought stretching back to the visit of FC Gomet to Anfield last August. Five swiftly became six as Newcastle’s humiliation grew. Full-back Mathieu Debuchy rightly picked up a second yellow for chopping down Coutinho and Henderson’s curling free-kick evaded everyone and nestled in the far corner. Liverpool’s biggest ever win at St James’ Park took them past their total points tally for last season. They want him back in the autumn but this was proof that there is life without Suarez.

DAILY POST

Reds get positive glimpse into life without Luis Suarez

DOWNING STREET was eerily quiet. There was no statement from the Prime Minister. And even Nick Clegg kept his mouth shut. Having joyfully chipped in with their two-penneth concerning matters surrounding Anfield this week, the country’s chiefs had very little to say at the weekend. But perhaps the evidence that emerged from a stunned St James’ Park was so compelling that even the Government belatedly accepted their opinions would be superfluous. Rather than wallowing in self-pity, life goes on for Liverpool without Luis Suarez. Once the outrage dissipated from first the Uruguayan’s chomp on Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic and then, at least from the Anfield outfit, the striker’s subsequent 10-game ban, debate swirled around how Brendan Rodgers’s side could cope without their talismanic 30-goal striker. Who would get the goals? Who would provide the creativity? Who would bring the devilment? The answer on Saturday came from Rodgers’s new buzz word for his players: the collective. It was always going to be impossible for one Liverpool player to fill a Suarez-shaped hole. Indeed, very few players across the globe would be capable of such an achievement. Rodgers will instead take satisfaction that among those offering a helping hand were the duo snapped up during the January sales. The only other time Liverpool stepped out for a Premier League game this season without Suarez, December’s 3-2 win at West Ham United, the concern wasn’t so much the Uruguayan’s absence but that of any senior striker altogether. The New Year acquisition of Daniel Sturridge solved that particular conundrum. Five goals in his first seven games made the England international an instant hit only for a significant dip in form to prompt familiar questions of why he underachieved at both Manchester City and Chelsea. However, if the Suarez controversy meant Sturridge’s game-changing half-time introduction was overlooked in the 2-2 draw against his former club last weekend, there was no such distraction here. The striker was in electrifying form, scoring twice, laying on another and demonstrating the appetite necessary if, as seems apparent, Liverpool require him to take the fight to the opposition at the start of next season. But even Sturridge had to cede the stellar performance to fellow January arrival Philippe Coutinho. These final months of the season were supposedly the time for Coutinho to gradually become accustomed to the unique demands of English football. Yet the diminutive Brazilian’s form has made it difficult for Rodgers to consider removing the player from the firing line for any great period. There will be bumps in the road – witness the disappointing first half against Chelsea – but Coutinho has exceeded all expectations by demonstrating pure talent will always out. And on Saturday he was magnificent, only a combination of Newcastle United goalkeeper Rob Elliot’s fingertips and the crossbar denying the midfielder the goal his performance merited. That £8.5million fee to bring him from Inter Milan already appears a steal. Yes, the home side were so unremittingly awful that many of the home crowd departed with more than half-an-hour remaining leaving Tyneside’s police horses quivering with fear. But you can only beat what is put in front of you. And, after the frustration of recent goalless draws against West Ham and Reading, Liverpool rediscovered their goalscoring touch to match their biggest-ever away win in the Premier League era and inflict Newcastle’s heaviest home defeat since 1925. This was the relegation-threatened Magpies’ first game on their own turf since being humiliated at home by local rivals Sunderland less than a fortnight earlier. Their response, however, was dismal, allowing Liverpool to dominate from first whistle to last and secure a morale-boosting victory ahead of Sunday’s Merseyside derby. Rodgers’s men were ahead inside three minutes. A period of concerted pressure during which Newcastle never truly cleared their lines ended with Stewart Downing crossing from the left and the unmarked Daniel Agger, played inside by a dismal Toon defence, looping a header over Elliot. The lead doubled on 17 minutes with the goal of the game. Sturridge brilliantly cushioned a long punt by Pepe Reina into the path of Coutinho and then sprinted into space to accept the Brazilian’s clever pass before rolling the ball across to his

27 April 2013

Date: 27 April 2013 Opposition: Newcastle United Competition: League	Echo	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent		27 April 2013
		Mail	Observer	Times	Telegraph		
	Post	BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Chronicle		

left for the simplest of tap-ins for Jordan Henderson.

A laughably wayward James Perch header from barely six yards nine minutes before the break was Newcastle’s only real threat as Liverpool cut loose in the second half.

On 54 minutes, Coutinho robbed Hatem Ben Arfa on the halfway line and progressed before flicking a perfectly-timed ball between two defenders for Sturridge to smash home.

Six minutes later, this time it was Henderson putting Cheick Tiote under pressure and then sneaking behind the Newcastle defence on to Steven Gerrard’s pass before returning the earlier compliment and providing Sturridge an easy finish. Fabio Borini, making his first appearance since February, had only been on the pitch a minute when he poked home Downing’s cut-back after good build-up play again involving Coutinho.

And after Mathieu Debuchy was rightly dismissed for almost slicing the Brazilian in half, the resultant free-kick swung in from the left by the excellent Henderson evaded everyone and nestled into the bottom corner.

This was the perfect end to a difficult week for Liverpool, who have lost only two of their last 13 Premier League games.

And having already upset the blues in power, Rodgers’ men will now turn their attentions to those across Stanley Park.

MAN OF THE MATCH. Philippe Coutinho. A brilliant display of playmaking from the in-form Brazilian

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): Elliot; Debuchy, Yanga-Mbiwa, Taylor, Haidara; Sissoko, Perch (Gouffran 46), Tiote (Anita 65), Gutierrez (Ben Arfa 46); Cabaye; Cisse. Subs: Harper, Williamson, Gosling, Ameobi. BOOKINGS: Debuchy (unsporting behaviour), Gutierrez, Cabaye and Taylor (all fouls). SENDING-OFF: Debuchy (second bookable offence).

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Lucas, Gerrard (Borini 73); Downing, Coutinho (Suso 84), Henderson; Sturridge (Shelvey 85). Subs: Jones, Coates, Skrtel, Wisdom. BOOKINGS: Sturridge (unsporting behaviour) and Johnson (foul).

REFEREE: Andre Marriner.

ATT: 52,351.

NEXT GAME: Liverpool v Everton, Barclays Premier League, Sunday 1.30pm.

ChronicleLive

Newcastle United have run out of excuses.

And they are running out of games to secure their Premier League safety. Let’s be honest, it also starting to become painfully embarrassing and humiliating for a club the size of Newcastle – not least after a public undressing against Liverpool in front of a global TV audience.

A Liverpool side that couldn’t beat struggling Reading in their last away game, no less.

You have to ask, just where has the passion gone?

There was no direction on Saturday night – unless you include an arrow potentially pointing to the Championship.

You’d like to think there are more guts in this team compared to the side that were relegated in 2009.

Back then, there appeared to be a lack of willingness to take responsibility. Well, currently some of those traits are beginning to creep into this side.

Steven Taylor was the only player prepared to come out and offer an explanation after the final whistle.

This was a call of duty for United’s black-and-white troopers and they failed to answer it.

It leaves **Alan Pardew** battling for not only top-flight survival but also scrapping for job security as the supporters walked out in disgust.

It left Newcastle fans looking towards the pitch for leaders with **Yohan Cabaye** unable to rally the troops on a day when blank expressions were rife as the goals rained in on Tyneside.

The United faithful turned up looking for actions not words, but they would be left disappointed once again.

By the end the silence was almost deafening.

The towel was thrown in and the white flag had been raised long before the hour mark against a Liverpool side who couldn’t believe the opportunity that had been presented to them.

United’s Tyne-Wear defeat against bitter rivals Sunderland had been humiliating enough.

But you could argue that this was worse.

Worse, because this was United’s first outing back on home turf since capitulating against the Wearsiders in an unacceptable manner.

Worse, because having blown several chances already to seal Premier League survival this would be the day that United finally moved on from their troubles.

This was supposed to be the opportunity to demonstrate that the loss to Sunderland had been a one-off, a blip or a temporary setback.

Definitely the chance to show the scores of people who care about their football so passionately that they at least feel the same way when it comes to the black-and-white shirt.

Well, they never came anywhere near achieving that.

Worryingly, Newcastle lacked backbone, fight, spirit, battle and bottle as Liverpool were allowed to trounce United in their own backyard.

Anyone who has followed United through the decades will know all about the ups

and downs of supporting the black-and-whites.

But even through the dark days of the Second Division when sides like Tranmere, Charlton and Bristol Rovers used to put United in their place, this was STILL the worst home performance for 87 years by any Newcastle XI, as they matched the deficit from 1925 when they were routed by Blackburn.

In the second-tier days many United fans accepted that the club could only put out a team of poor players who were trying their best.

What set the alarm bells ringing on Saturday, though, was that this is supposed to be a team packed with international stars who are being paid astronomical amounts of money. Motivation appears to be an issue.

So what was the game plan?

Unfortunately we never got the chance to see it as Liverpool dominated from the first whistle. Maybe Brendan Rodgers got his tactics off to a tee?

If it was for United’s players to come out of the blocks and get straight into the faces of Liverpool, they obviously didn’t take it on board.

This is a Liverpool team that have failed to set the world on fire this season and with elder statesmen like Jamie Carragher and Steven Gerrard in their ranks, surely a team with sights already on the golf course this summer were there to be rattled.Carragher – at 35 – was there to be attacked, but wasn’t even tested.

Instead, the Scouse duo intelligently controlled the game and used the speed and power of Philippe Coutinho and Daniel Sturridge to expose gaps in a Toon defence that had more holes in it than a piece of Swiss cheese.

The fact that Stewart Downing and Jordan Henderson – who Rodgers doesn’t have in his long-term plans at Liverpool – were made to look like world beaters also rubbed salt into open wounds. Then there is Italian striker Fabio Borini, branded a flop by even the most ardent Liverpool fan.

He’s been unable to hit a barn door in a red shirt, but here he was allowed time and space to fire home his first Premier League goal.

At the other end, Pepe Reina could have unfolded a deckchair, cracked open a San Miguel and lit a cigar as he had just one shot on target to deal with.

Perhaps the most disappointing thing was that it seemed so inevitable.

Even after the three-minute mark, Newcastle’s defence went AWOL and Daniel Agger couldn’t believe how much time he had to glance a header over Rob Elliot.

At that stage a team with fight and spirit would have at least posed a few questions of Liverpool.

Instead, a couple of poorly timed tackles was all that would follow.

And it was hardly a surprise when Sturridge and Henderson sliced open the Newcastle defence for number two.

At times like this you need a reaction.

However, all Newcastle could muster was a wayward **Jonas Gutierrez** shot just before the half-hour mark. When the Liverpool keeper was finally awoken from his slumber, James Perch headed a gilt-edged chance wide, which underlined how low confidence really is.

Many had wondered if **Hatem Ben Arfa** was ready to start a game. But after Pardew had altered his recent tactics by pushing Cabaye closer to Papiss Cisse, he was then forced to reshuffle again at the break by throwing on Ben Arfa and Gouffran for the ineffective Perch and Jonas.

The first five minutes of the second half were as good as it got for Newcastle.

They didn’t turn their pressure into a goal or even manage a clear-cut chance.

No surprises again then when the brilliant Coutinho dazzled his way down the left before conjuring up the goal that ended the game as a contest for Sturridge to grab his second. And – embarrassingly – that was the result done and dusted with just 54 minutes on the clock. Even though the game was lost, though, there was still something to play for as far as Newcastle were concerned in terms of goal difference. That, however, seemed lost on United players as they allowed Liverpool to chalk up three more goals and puncture that goal difference, to leave them on par with third-bottom Wigan. By that time Sturridge and sub Borini had been handed further gift- wrapped goals, while Mackem midfielder Henderson was allowed to rub it in even more with a fluke of a free- kick after **Mathieu Debuchy** lost his head. Pardew looked on ashen-faced as Newcastle simply collapsed. He will surely be concerned at the lack of fight from his players on a day when Premier League safety could have been all but secured.

It would be easy to say the fight goes on into the last three games, but at the minute this looks like a team dead on their knees.

They need a leader or two at West Ham on Saturday.

Fabrizio Coloccini could be one of them, while the experienced Steve Harper should also not be overlooked. Even the glimpse of familiarity from a player who has seen it all at Newcastle might reassure fans at Upton Park.

It was Joey Barton who suggested over the weekend that French players don’t do physicality. Well, perhaps they need to make a start on it because with Kevin Nolan and **Andy Carroll** heading the charge for Big Sam’s bruisers in the East End it will be no place for the faint-hearted.

Mike Williamson has come in for plenty of stick from fans, while Brits Dan Gosling and**Shola Ameobi** watched on from the bench against Liverpool – could they have done any worse? Either way, failure to pick up a result at West Ham lets in a little bit more light for escapologists Wigan.

Pardew is hurt by the criticism that has come his way in recent weeks.

However, the flak has been pretty tame in comparison to years gone by.

It is up to Pardew to turn the tide. Because Newcastle are sinking without a trace.

Ryder’s verdict: The worst performance witnessed in living memory for this seasoned hack.

Date: 27 April 2013

Opposition: Newcastle United

Competition: League

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Post	BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Chronicle

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Liverpool barely missed the banned Luis Suarez during an emphatic win against relegation-threatened Newcastle.

Daniel Agger's looping header and Jordan Henderson's cool finish in the first half set Liverpool on the way to their biggest victory of the season.

Daniel Sturridge scored twice from close range before Fabio Borini poked in his first league goal for the Reds.

Mathieu Debuchy saw red for clattering through Philippe Coutinho and Henderson curled in the subsequent free-kick.

Newcastle's loss to Liverpool is the first time the Magpies had lost a top-flight home game by a margin of six or more goals since September 1925 when Blackburn were 7-1 winners.

The spotlight had been on Suarez throughout the week, with even Prime Minister David Cameron intervening, saying the striker set "the most appalling example" to children when he bit Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic last Sunday.

It seems improbable that Liverpool's leading goalscorer, with 30 goals this season and a place on the shortlist for the PFA's Player of the Year award, will not be missed during the next nine games.

But against such obliging opponents as Newcastle, the Uruguay striker's terrier-like qualities were not needed as Coutinho and Sturridge added imagination and spark to Liverpool's attack.

Their manager Brendan Rodgers was dressed all in black for this match, but it is Alan Pardew who will be in mourning as his team suffered their heaviest Premier League defeat at St James' Park.

Pardew had described beating Liverpool as "crucial" - victory against Rodgers' men would have taken Newcastle, who were Champions League contenders last season, to 40 points and, in many people's eyes, safety.

Instead, the Magpies, five points above the bottom three, now have three games - against West Ham, Queens Park Rangers and Arsenal - to secure their Premier League status.

Newcastle's defending will have to improve in the next few weeks as the visitors dominated from the moment Coutinho's beautiful pass set Glen Johnson sprinting down the right inside the opening minute.

Chances fell Sturridge's way before Agger, all alone on the edge of the six-yard box, directed Stewart Downing's lofty cross into the net.

Liverpool quickly doubled their advantage with Coutinho the architect. The Brazilian's precise pass cut through the home defence and Sturridge unselfishly rolled the ball towards Henderson, who side-footed into the far corner.

Only a James Perch header troubled Rodgers's men and a chorus of boos greeted Newcastle's players as they trudged off the pitch at half-time.

Pardew introduced Hatem Ben Arfa and Yoan Gouffran for the start of the second half but the substitutes had little time to make an impact.

Newcastle were unable to cope with Coutinho's directness and it was a magical run and pass from the 20-year-old which allowed Sturridge to score Liverpool's third.

The sight of Steven Gerrard and Henderson combining to beat the offside trap and set up Sturridge for his second, a simple tap in, was enough to make some Newcastle fans leave the stadium with fully half an hour remaining.

It soon got even worse for those Magpies supporters who chose to remain. Borini replaced Gerrard and within 60 seconds the Italian was on the scoresheet.

Downing wriggled beyond Papiss Cisse and found Borini lurking in the box. The striker quickly adjusted his feet before finishing low beyond the diving Rob Elliot.

Newcastle were then forced to play the remaining 15 minutes with 10 men as Debuchy received his second yellow card of the match for a two-footed challenge on the impressive Coutinho.

Henderson stepped up, capitalising on poor defending by curling a free-kick into Elliot's far post, to complete the scoring and maintain Liverpool's hopes of finishing inside the top six.

27 April 2013

Date: 27 April 2013

Opposition: Newcastle United

Competition: League

Echo	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Mail	Observer	Times	Telegraph
Post	BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Chronicle

BBC

90:00+3:06Full time The game is over, as the referee blows his whistle.

90:00+2:43 Suso takes a shot. Rob Elliot makes a save.

86:42 Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa challenges Stewart Downing unfairly and gives away a free kick. Jonjo Shelvey restarts play with the free kick.

85:09 Yoan Gouffran fouled by Suso, the ref awards a free kick. Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa takes the direct free kick.

83:27Substitution SubstitutionSuso on for Philippe Coutinho.

83:27Substitution SubstitutionDaniel Sturridge leaves the field to be replaced by Jonjo Shelvey.

83:27 Papiss Cisse has an effort at goal from just inside the box that misses to the right of the target.

81:08 Philippe Coutinho produces a drilled right-footed shot from 20 yards. Save by Rob Elliot.

75:25 Assist on the goal came from Philippe Coutinho.

75:25Goal scored Goal - Jordan Henderson - Newcastle 0 - 6 LiverpoolJordan Henderson finds the net with a goal direct from the free kick from long range to the bottom right corner of the goal. Newcastle 0-6 Liverpool.

74:54Dismissal DismissalThe referee shows Mathieu Debuchy a red card for second bookable offence.

74:39 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Philippe Coutinho by Mathieu Debuchy.

74:23 Mathieu Debuchy gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Fabio Borini. Sanchez Jose Enrique takes the free kick.

73:02 Assist on the goal came from Stewart Downing.

73:02Goal scored Goal - Fabio Borini - Newcastle 0 - 5 LiverpoolFabio Borini finds the back of the net with a goal from inside the penalty box to the bottom left corner of the goal. Newcastle 0-5 Liverpool.

71:53Substitution SubstitutionFabio Borini is brought on as a substitute for Steven Gerrard.

71:30 Yohan Cabaye decides to take the corner short.

70:58 The offside flag is raised against Daniel Sturridge. Steven Taylor takes the indirect free kick.

69:06 Corner taken left-footed by Stewart Downing from the right by-line, save made by Rob Elliot.

68:37 Inswinging corner taken by Stewart Downing from the right by-line played to the near post, Massadio Haidara makes a clearance.

67:28 Inswinging corner taken by Yohan Cabaye from the left by-line, Sanchez Jose Enrique manages to make a clearance.

64:25Substitution SubstitutionVurnon Anita replaces Cheick Tiote.

63:55 The ball is swung over by Yohan Cabaye.

59:51 Jordan Henderson provided the assist for the goal.

59:51Goal scored Goal - Daniel Sturridge - Newcastle 0 - 4 LiverpoolDaniel Sturridge finds the back of the net with a goal from inside the area low into the middle of the goal. Newcastle 0-4 Liverpool.

58:16 Foul by Cheick Tiote on Daniel Sturridge, free kick awarded. Sanchez Jose Enrique restarts play with the free kick.

57:41 Yohan Cabaye produces a cross.

55:27 Hatem Ben Arfa has an effort at goal. Blocked by Jordan Henderson.

54:43 Corner taken right-footed by Yohan Cabaye, save by Jose Reina.

53:10 Phillippe Coutinho provided the assist for the goal.

53:10Goal scored Goal - Daniel Sturridge - Newcastle 0 - 3 LiverpoolGoal scored by Daniel Sturridge from the edge of the penalty box high into the middle of the goal. Newcastle 0-3 Liverpool.

48:58 Leiva Lucas fouled by Moussa Sissoko, the ref awards a free kick. Leiva Lucas restarts play with the free kick.

48:11 Yohan Cabaye delivers the ball, Yoan Gouffran takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.

47:33 Steven Gerrard challenges Cheick Tiote unfairly and gives away a free kick. Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa restarts play with the free kick.

47:08 The ball is delivered by Mathieu Debuchy, save made by Jose Reina.

45:01 The referee gets the second half started.

45:01Substitution SubstitutionHatem Ben Arfa is brought on as a substitute for James Perch.

45:01Substitution SubstitutionJonas Gutierrez goes off and Yoan Gouffran comes on.

45:00+2:13Half time The ref blows to signal half-time.

45:00+1:21 Glen Johnson challenges Jonas Gutierrez unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick crossed right-footed by Yohan Cabaye, save by Jose Reina.

43:34 Free kick taken by Daniel Agger.

43:34Booking The referee shows Steven Taylor a yellow card.

43:32 Steven Taylor challenges Daniel Sturridge unfairly and gives away a free kick.

40:51 Free kick taken by Steven Gerrard. The assistant referee signals for offside against Jordan Henderson. Rob Elliot restarts play with the free kick.

40:51Booking Glen Johnson booked.

40:50 Foul by Yohan Cabaye on Jordan Henderson, free kick awarded.

38:55 Outswinging corner taken from the right by-line by Yohan Cabaye, save by Jose Reina.

38:10 Steven Gerrard takes the free kick.

38:10Booking for Jonas Gutierrez for unsporting behaviour.

38:04 Foul by Jonas Gutierrez on Daniel Sturridge, free kick awarded.

35:34 The ball is crossed by Massadio Haidara, James Perch has a headed effort at goal from close in which goes wide of the left-hand upright.

33:57 The assistant referee flags for offside against Papiss Cisse. Jose Reina takes the free kick.

31:28 The official flags Daniel Sturridge offside. Rob Elliot restarts play with the free kick.

31:01 Outswinging corner taken by Steven Gerrard.

29:43 Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard, clearance by Steven Taylor. Outswinging corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the right by-line, clearance by Papiss Cisse.

28:43 Steven Gerrard has an effort at goal from outside the box which misses left.

27:24 Daniel Agger concedes a free kick for a foul on Papiss Cisse. Free kick taken by Rob Elliot. The assistant referee flags for offside against Papiss Cisse. Jose Reina takes the indirect free kick.

26:02 Effort from just outside the area by Jonas Gutierrez goes over the bar.

23:41 Daniel Sturridge takes the chance to get an effort at goal. Rob Elliot makes a save.

22:26 Unfair challenge on Daniel Sturridge by Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa results in a free kick. Steven Gerrard takes the free kick.

19:54 Free kick taken by Rob Elliot.

19:54Booking The referee shows Daniel Sturridge a yellow card.

19:45Booking Mathieu Debuchy receives a caution.

19:22 The official flags Daniel Sturridge offside.

17:40 Outswinging corner taken by Yohan Cabaye.

16:26 The assist for the goal came from Daniel Sturridge.

16:26Goal scored Goal - Jordan Henderson - Newcastle 0 - 2 LiverpoolJordan Henderson finds the back of the net with a goal from inside the box low into the middle of the goal. Newcastle 0-2 Liverpool.

14:30 Free kick awarded for a foul by Mathieu Debuchy on Sanchez Jose Enrique. Sanchez Jose Enrique takes the direct free kick.

13:51 Unfair challenge on Philippe Coutinho by Cheick Tiote results in a free kick. Leiva Lucas takes the direct free kick.

13:24 Massadio Haidara gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Stewart Downing. Direct free kick taken by Jamie Carragher.

11:22 The assistant referee flags for offside against Daniel Sturridge. Rob Elliot takes the free kick.

9:06 Daniel Agger gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Mathieu Debuchy. Rob Elliot takes the free kick.

8:42 Foul by Cheick Tiote on Daniel Sturridge, free kick awarded. Steven Gerrard takes the direct free kick.

2:46 Assist on the goal came from Stewart Downing.

6:24 Free kick awarded for a foul by Papiss Cisse on Glen Johnson. Direct free kick taken by Jamie Carragher.

5:14 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Moussa Sissoko by Leiva Lucas. Rob Elliot takes the free kick.

2:46 Assist by Phillippe Coutinho.

2:46Goal scored Goal - Daniel Agger - Newcastle 0 - 1 LiverpoolDaniel Agger scores a headed goal from inside the area. Newcastle 0-1 Liverpool.

2:03 Outswinging corner taken by Stewart Downing from the left by-line. Steven Gerrard takes the chance to get an effort at goal. James Perch gets a block in.

1:21 Outswinging corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the right by-line.

0:04 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Jonas Gutierrez by Steven Gerrard. Free kick taken by Rob Elliot.

0:00 The game kicks-off.