Date: 1 September 2013
Opposition: Manchester United
Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
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1 September 2013

THE TIMES

Moyes unable to remove United's Anfield hoodoo

Liverpool 1 Sturridge 4
Manchester United 0 Referee A Marriner Attendance 44,411

It is doubtful that David Moyes truly believes that he witnessed a performance worthy of champions from Manchester United yesterday afternoon, but his post-match interview unwittingly served as a reminder of one thing: that even in winning the Barclays Premier League title in five of the past seven seasons, they seldom played well at Anfield. Inhibited in the first half, not incisive enough in the second, this was the type of performance that United's fans have come accustomed to watching from the Anfield Road End on their visits to Merseyside. Sometimes, somehow, they snatched a point or more against a highly energised Liverpool team, as they should have done yesterday when opportunity knocked for Robin van Persie in the final minutes. Only the identity of the man wearing the United blazer on the touchline was different.

This is what Moyes is up against. Every time he loses a match, every time that lightweight midfield is overrun, there will be whispers -- or in some quarters hysterical screams -- that this would never have happened on Sir Alex Ferguson's watch. In fact, substandard performances at the home of their fiercest rivals were almost an annual event towards the end of Ferguson's tenure. United's players just seem not to like the place. If the first few weeks of the new season are anything to go by, Anfield might just be starting to regain some of its fear factor for visiting teams. A combative performance against United is nothing new, particularly for Steven Gerrard, but there was something impressive about the way that Liverpool, so flaky when they started out under Brendan Rodgers 12 months ago, retained their discipline and stood firm after Daniel Sturridge's fourth-minute goal put them on course for a third consecutive 1-0 win in the Premier League. Rodgers was asked whether, with his team top of the table, we might be seeing the beginnings of a stealthy title challenge. He snorted with mock derision. "We won't be getting carried away," the Liverpool manager said. "The initial challenge is to get into the top four. We can't look beyond that."

It would be dangerous for anyone associated with Liverpool to be saying anything different -- although confirmation today of deals to sign Mamadou Sakho, Thiago Ilori and Victor Moses will strengthen them -- but, to put their start to the Premier League campaign into context, last season it took them until November to record their third win. This victory was founded on the type of aggressive, high-tempo start that seemed essential if they were to stop Michael Carrick and United settling into their rhythm. Led by Gerrard and Lucas Leiva, they pressed in the manner that Rodgers demands. United were struggling to clear the danger from their own half of the field in the fourth minute when Ashley Young was caught in possession by Glen Johnson, who set up Sturridge for a shot that was deflected wide. From the resulting corner, Gerrard's cross was headed goalwards by Daniel Agger, rising above Rio Ferdinand, and Sturridge reacted smartly to divert the ball past David De Gea from inside the six-yard box. Anfield erupted and you could almost sense the home supporters thinking that their team had only to hang on for 86 minutes, plus stoppage time. That was pretty much how it turned out.

Philippe Coutinho impressed in possession and Sturridge led the line with a maturity that would have seemed unimaginable not so long ago, but, 1-0 up, they ceased to attack in numbers, playing with a pragmatism that seemed to be beyond them in their early days under Rodgers. It helped that Martin Skrtel and Agger, both with a point to prove as Sakho and Ilori sat in the stands, and indeed Johnson and Jose Enrique were defending with a focus and tenacity that, again, was nowhere to be seen 12 months ago. Agger also seemed to be trying hard to antagonise Van Persie, who, starved of service in the first half, was shown a yellow card for a late challenge on the defender as half-time approached.

With no Wayne Rooney, absent with a head injury, and Shinji Kagawa left out of the 18-man squad, United were far too predictable. Carrick does not relish games such as these, when the tempo is being set by the opposition, and neither, at 39, does Giggs. Marouane Fellaini is few people's idea of the archetypal United midfield player, but if he arrives before this evening's transfer deadline he would at least bring a toughness that this team lack beyond Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic. Young, like the rest of the United team, asserted himself more at the start of the second half, but it was not enough to prevent his replacement by Nani. Carrick was enjoying more possession now, with Iago Aspas no longer hustling him in possession, but it was not until the final 20 minutes that United raised their game to another level as Simon Mignolet was forced into saves by a header from Ryan Giggs and a stinging shot from Nani.

Only once, though, did United truly threaten. After 87 minutes Javier Hernandez, a substitute, threaded a pass into the space behind Skrtel and Agger, sending Van Persie clear, but the forward, having taken aim, sent his shot at least two yards wide of the near post. In that moment, belief drained from United's players and Liverpool's resolve increased as they prepared for five minutes of stoppage time. Rodgers justifiably looked thrilled as the final whistle heralded his sweetest victory as Liverpool manager. That it came on what would have been Bill Shankly's 100th birthday was not so much poignant as a reminder of the standards to which he and the club must rise. For Moyes, following in the footsteps of greatness is even more intimidating. If anything, this was a result that demonstrated the feeling, expressed at the time, that Ferguson, by sheer virtue of being Ferguson, helped to paper over a number of shortcomings in this squad in recent seasons. Even under him there were days like this, particularly at Anfield.

theguardian

Sturridge gives Anfield the sweet taste of success over United

Bill Shankly's name reverberated around Anfield before and after a fitting occasion to fall on the eve of what would have been his 100th birthday. The Liverpool performance in between was too backs-to-the-wall to represent a tribute in his image. It did not matter. "If you are first, you are first. If you are second, you are nothing," Shankly once said, and first always tastes sweeter in these parts at the expense of Manchester United.

An early goal from Daniel Sturridge on his 24th birthday maintained Liverpool's 100% start to the Premier League season, their best since 1994, and preserved David Moyes's winless record at Anfield in the process. It is now 13 visits to the red side of Stanley Park without a victory for the United and former Everton manager and this time his thin excuse of working with fewer resources than Liverpool was redundant. Liverpool's bench was full of inexperienced youthful promise. Moyes could throw on Antonio Valencia, Nani and Javier Hernandez but could not arrest a careless and unimaginative display from the visitors, who dominated possession but toiled in the final third. Robin van Persie was particularly off-key. Shankly's maxim clearly holds little weight with his compatriot in the United dug-out. "I thought we played very well," Moyes argued. "We gave away a bad goal in the opening few minutes but with the exception of that it was probably the best we've played this season." The observing Roy Hodgson once said a similar thing after a lame Liverpool defeat at Goodison Park and fooled no one. Beyond argument this is United's worst start to a season in five years and, on this evidence, Everton's chairman, Bill Kenwright, should hold his old friend to ransom over Marouane Fellaini. With Wayne Rooney on the sidelines with a head injury "for a few weeks", according to Moyes, Van Persie enduring an off-day and Danny Welbeck ineffective, United failed to disturb a commanding Liverpool defence. One-nil wins are becoming a habit for Brendan Rodgers' team in the league - this was their third in three - but the defensive resilience on show was vastly superior to previous outings.

It was inspired from the front, a time-honoured Liverpool tradition, by the impressive Sturridge and encapsulated by imperious central defenders, Daniel Agger and Martin Skrtel. Considering Skrtel was brought in from the cold only because of an injury to Kolo Toure, his focus and professionalism were outstanding. With Tiago Ilori, Mamadou Sakho and Victor Moses present before their proposed moves from Sporting Lisbon, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea respectively, momentum appears set to continue.

Liverpool's industry brought further disruption to United who, with Ryan Giggs a surprise inclusion on the right wing, oddly lacked composure. The game opened at a breathless pace and remained at a high intensity, with challenges and temperatures to match. Patrice Evra and Ashley Young immediately took the game to Liverpool but it was the home side who dealt the telling early blow with a goal that epitomised their work-rate and intelligence.

Jordan Henderson pressed Young into submission near the United penalty area. The ball broke for Sturridge and, though Rio Ferdinand read the striker's shot to deflect wide, he was not so alert at the resulting corner. Agger twisted and turned to steal a yard on Ferdinand and headed Steven Gerrard's corner goalwards. Sturridge, showing supreme awareness, stepped forward off the goalline to back-flick a header between Evra and Tom Cleverley. Anfield erupted and the England international sprinted into an embrace with Rodgers in celebration of his fifth goal in four matches this season. Van Persie almost equalised immediately with an overhead kick from Evra's header but sent the effort skywards. It was to be the start of a frustrating, fortunate afternoon for the Dutchman, who was unable to convert Young's corner when it flashed across the face of the Liverpool goal shortly afterwards. Welbeck, frequently on the end of a verbal bashing from Giggs, also missed a fine chance when he stepped inside Skrtel and took a split-second too long to let fly, allowing Glen Johnson to block. The ball struck the right-back's arm but there were no appeals from United. The visitors were patient in possession but, with Philippe Coutinho, Iago Aspas and Henderson dropping back into a compact Liverpool midfield, they rarely sensed a route through. Giggs and Van Persie were the worst offenders with a loose final ball when opportunities did arrive and discipline was also a problem following Phil Jones's exit with an ankle injury. Cleverley scythed down Coutinho as Liverpool refused to stop play with Jones writhing in agony. That responsibility belongs only to the referee and Andre Mariner deservedly showed the United midfielder the first yellow card of the day. He then booked Van Persie for a cynical foul on Agger. In the same passage of play the United forward had dived over Lucas's challenge. Not content with testing Mariner's patience, Van Persie raised an arm to Skrtel in first-half stoppage time for an alleged elbow by the Slovakian. United's focal point could have been dismissed by a stricter referee. Valencia's introduction for Jones, and a shift from 4-4-2 to 4-2-3-1, injected urgency to the United attack and the visitors carried the greater threat in the second half, without forcing Simon Mignolet into one demanding save until the 78th minute. Welbeck was rightly refused a penalty when he tumbled under an innocuous Aspas touch and Valencia finally stretched the Liverpool keeper with a powerful drive. With three minutes remaining, Hernandez played Van Persie into space behind the Liverpool defence. Anfield held its breath, United sensed a reprieve and the striker hit the advertising hoardings. The champions must now find the target on transfer deadline day.

Man of the match Martin Skrtel (Liverpool)

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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The Mail

MOYES STILL A KOP FLOP

LIVERPOOL 1 Sturridge 4

MAN UTD 0

ROY HODGSON may have found his seat was not befitting of an England manager but no-one appeared more uncomfortable than David Moyes amid the clamour of Anfield. It was Moyes, not Hodgson, who craved a cushion going into the international break. Instead, his Manchester United team have four points from three games and trail all of those expected to be their title rivals.

Daniel Sturridge saw to that with an early strike for Liverpool which United never really looked capable of overturning.

They were neither dangerous on the break nor especially creative in possession and Moyes blamed this on the absence of Wayne Rooney, out with a head injury. Others will blame it on the absence of Sir Alex Ferguson, unfair as it seems.

On Twitter, #moyesout trended, undoubtedly fuelled by those of an anti-United persuasion but the only trend to concern Moyes is his long-running issue against the biggest teams. It was a reputation gained at Everton and which will continue to nag him at Old Trafford after a goalless draw against Chelsea and this defeat at Liverpool. He has been to Anfield 13 times without a win and perhaps this prompted his outburst about the early fixtures, which he claimed were United's hardest in 20 years. Moyes was determined to stay composed after a painful first defeat as Ferguson's successor and, as Liverpool celebrated their best Premier League start since 1994, he remained upbeat.

'Probably the best we've played this season,' said Moyes. In truth, Liverpool looked a little sharper from the outset and seized the lead from a corner in the fourth minute. Daniel Agger beat Rio Ferdinand to the ball and headed it towards goal, where Sturridge displayed wonderful instinct, drifting off the line to divert the ball into the net with a deft header.

It was a fifth goal in four games this season for a striker who was celebrating his 24th birthday and had been an injury doubt after picking up a thigh injury in the Capital One Cup in midweek. More impressive still, it was his 16th in 20 games for Liverpool since moving from Chelsea in January. With Luis Suarez banned, he has taken responsibility and grown in stature from the sulking young man unhappy with his Chelsea role. Sturridge always thought he had more to offer and perhaps he was right. He has certainly struck a fine understanding with Philippe Coutinho and Hodgson will hope the striker is fit for England.

It was a bad day for Hodgson, who found he was not mingling with the VIPs at Anfield on a day they produced a stirring tribute to Bill Shankly. He feared this fixture was badly scheduled a day before his squad were due to congregate for the World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Ukraine -- and his prediction was right. Moyes confirmed Rooney would miss the England games while Phil Jones and Glen Johnson limped out of the squad after picking up ankle injuries.

Sturridge is also a doubt. Johnson's injury in the second half came after a loose pass from England captain Steven Gerrard, which allowed Patrice Evra to steal possession and drive forward. Jones went off before half time after a tangle with Coutinho which left United players incensed. They felt the Brazilian had nudged the defender slyly as he leapt to win a header. Jones lost his balance and twisted an ankle on landing.

Tom Cleverley took Coutinho out at the expense of a free-kick and a yellow card and the usual animosity washed back into this rivalry. Moments later, Robin van Persie was booked for a lunge at Agger and the United player was locked in a skirmish with Martin Skrtel, whom he had accused of throwing an elbow.

When Danny Welbeck fell under a nudge from Iago Aspas and saw his penalty appeal ignored, Liverpool players swarmed around Andre Marriner, recommending a yellow card for a dive. Marriner resisted but he did book Ashley Young seconds later for pulling back Jordan Henderson.

Here was the pattern of the second half, with Liverpool playing on the break as United failed to unlock a tight defensive unit. Rodgers did not allow his full backs to be so adventurous after the break and keeper Simon Mignolet was rarely left exposed. Gerrard and Lucas Leiva patrolled on the toes of centre halves Agger and Skrtel while Henderson galloped up and down the right wing. Rodgers drooled about his team's 'togetherness', 'kinship' and 'concentration'.

He expects to sign two defenders today. United were restricted to set pieces and shots from the edge of the area. Mignolet kept out a glancing header by Ryan Giggs and denied Nani with a more eye-catching stop. The Liverpool keeper saved low from Cleverley and dashed from his line to confront Van Persie, who sliced wide. Anfield exploded into noise andLiverpool finished the game on top. David de Gea turned a fierce drive from Raheem Sterling over the bar deep in stoppage time. A splendid save from his goalkeeper will provide little comfort for Moyes.

The Daily Telegraph

Shankly spirit sparks defeat of the old foe

Liverpool 1 Sturridge 4

Manchester United 0 Att: 44,411

Anfield celebrated today's centenary of Bill Shankly's birthday with a performance that embodied the late, great manager's ethos of everyone at Liverpool bonded by a common purpose, of a "holy trinity of players, manager and supporters" giving everything in their different ways for victory. With a nod to the past, Liverpool look positively towards the future.

Even after their best start since 1994, predictions of Liverpool joining the title race may be too premature but Anfield is undeniably awash with optimism.

The most important element of the holy trinity, the players, excelled here, particularly Martin Skrtel, Daniel Agger, Steven Gerrard, Jordan Henderson, Philippe Coutinho and Daniel Sturridge. Against lacklustre champions sorely missing Wayne Rooney's spark, Skrtel and company concentrated ceaselessly and closed down tirelessly. They kept the shape and discipline and deservedly prevailed. Skrtel's immense display at centrehalf brought to mind one of Shankly's famous quotes about Ron Yeats that "with him in defence, we could play Arthur Askey in goal''. Liverpool have the highly capable shot-stopper Simon Mignolet but he was well protected by Skrtel. In constantly frustrating Robin van Persie through anticipation or physical strength, Skrtel highlighted why so many clubs would like to sign him, why Kolo Toure's recruitment was slightly strange, beyond deepening the squad. Liverpool have added other defenders, Mamadou Sakho and Tiago Ilori, but that Skrtel-Agger axis will take some breaking.

Liverpool's supreme work-rate also underpinned the movement of Sturridge, who harried United's defenders relentlessly and took his early goal superbly on his 24th birthday. Shankly memorably advised Ian St John to put the ball in the net first "and then we'll discuss the options afterwards", an approach that defined Sturridge's instinctive header. The second element of the holy trinity, Brendan Rodgers, got his tactics right, using a 4-2-3-1 system with Gerrard and Lucas commanding central midfield. Rodgers's tweaking of Gerrard's position is paying off. At 33, Gerrard is slightly deeper than in his barnstorming pomp but remains a huge influence. Tom Cleverley resembled an apprentice in comparison to the master. Rodgers's pressing game unsettled United while he has clearly been drilling the defence successfully. The one negative was Iago Aspas, the No 9 who looked overwhelmed by the manic nature of the most important fixture in the English calendar. Rodgers is making Liverpool feared again, making the "This is Anfield" sign put up by Shankly even more of a statement of intent. "This is to remind our lads who they're playing for and to remind the opposition who they're playing against,'' Shankly had said of the sign above the steps en route from the dressing-room to the pitch.

When Rodgers's players emerged on to the field, they were greeted rapturously. The most numerous section of the holy trinity, the fans, certainly played their part, forming a mosaic of Shankly on the Kop, exhorting Liverpool throughout and finishing with a deafening You'll Never Walk Alone as old foe were defeated.

United's August was always going to be arduous. David Moyes never has any joy here and this was the former Everton manager's 13th visit without a win.

Moyes spoke afterwards of his pleasure in his team's display, but this was surely the old Sir Alex Ferguson trick of shielding the players from gusts of criticism. It is hoped that Moyes is more candid with his players in private. Too many individual mistakes scarred their performance.

These are early days in Moyes's tenure, far too soon for any judgments, but he needs to inject some life into the flanks again, where Ashley Young was unconvincing, and particularly spend quickly and heavily to install urgency, authority and creativity into central midfield. Marouane Fellaini cannot arrive from Goodison Park soon enough. Shinji Kagawa must wonder what he must to do to convince Moyes that he can bring some vibrancy to the final third.

Van Persie laboured without any service of note. Moyes was unlucky that Rooney, the man who can provide touch and vision, was absent, having had his forehead accidentally sliced open in training by Phil Jones.

Roy Hodgson looked slightly forlorn at times at Anfield yesterday, learning that Rooney was out of the World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Ukraine, and then seeing Jones and Glen Johnson limp off and out of his squad. Shoehorned into the scouts' section, Hodgson was not sitting comfortably, partly because a clerical error by Liverpool meant he was denied access to the directors' box and the boardroom. It will have crossed Hodgson's mind that this could have been some form of revenge by someone at the club for his unsuccessful stint here as manager. Hodgson briefly considered leaving at half-time but eventually stayed for 85 minutes.Liverpool, whose American owners are big on etiquette, apologised "profusely" to Hodgson and were clearly embarrassed by the oversight. One Liverpool fan mused on whether Hodgson "should apologise to us for Poulsen and Konchesky" but this was a time forLiverpool to honour a past manager in Shankly and salute the current one in Rodgers.

His team started strongly, scoring after four minutes. Gerrard curled a corner across, Rio Ferdinand was too sluggish and Agger angled a header towards the far post. Sturridge intervened, meeting the ball, heading it past Cleverley on the line. Cleverley, anticipating the direction of Agger's header, failed to react to Sturridge's interception, almost ducking out of the way.

Liverpool largely controlled the first half, particularly when the ball was enjoying the company of the elegant Coutinho. The Brazilian glided around Cleverley but shot wide. Gerrard went close with a shot and a free-kick. For United, Danny Welbeck momentarily worried Mignolet.

The fixture's usual hand-bagging broke out. Van Persie and Agger had a staring match. Van Persie and Ryan Giggs took it in turns to bring down Coutinho. Cleverley clattered Coutinho. Van Persie nailed Agger with a late challenge in front of an enraged Kop. The sour atmosphere continued with Michael Carrick catching Aspas and the half ending with Van Persie accusing Skrtel of an elbow and Liverpool claiming a punch thrown.

The second half was an advertisement for United's shortage of ideas and

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Liverpool's abundance of defensive excellence. Van Persie and Young had shots blocked and Mignolet made a good save from Nani. Down the other end, Raheem Sterling was denied by David De Gea and, shortly afterwards, the final whistle confirmed Liverpool's victory and brought an unbelievable roar from the Kop. Shankly would have approved.

THE INDEPENDENT

Sturridge on song again as the spirit of Shankly fires Anfield

The problem with remembering Bill Shankly - as Liverpool did yesterday for a legend who would have been 100 today - is the sense it creates of how far they have fallen from the years when he ruled with impunity. But this was an Anfield occasion befitting a man for whom a mosaic was lifted up on the Kop and a piper's Amazing Grace sounded out, offering a reminder that fortunes can change quickly in football. The latest man to carry the torch which Shankly laid down - Brendan Rodgers - had said before the game that Sir Alex Ferguson's departure provided grounds for optimism and the chasm which has divided these two clubs was not so apparent. There will also be many who point to David Moyes' record here - no wins in 13 league visits and just four wins and 19 goals in 26 games in all competitions - but it was his inheritance which looked like the problem yesterday.

Liverpool were busier, bolder and better, in a way which called to mind Shankly's old mantra about football being a collegiate business. The team ethic was written through their afternoon's work. As Rodgers wrote in his programme notes, Shankly wanted to be the man remembered for building "a family of people who could hold their heads up high and say - we are Liverpool".

That's why their Luis Suarez dependency has run so much against the grain of the club. But in truth they haven't looked to be in such great need of him after all. They've won six and drawn one since the Uruguayan's biting incident here with Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic took him out of the picture.

It's very early days, of course, but this win, which sealed Liverpool's first three-game winning start to a season since 1994 and only their second of the Premier League era, provides more fragile evidence that the Anfield club have bought wisely enough to find a way back, after the profligacy of the Kenny Dalgish era. United were bereft of any legal means of containing the Brazilian livewire Philippe Coutinho while the matchwinner, Daniel Sturridge, celebrated his 24th birthday in style, becoming only the second Liverpool player, after Robbie Fowler, to score in each of the opening three Premier League games of a season.

Only the angelic-looking new signing Iago Aspas looks in need of acclimatisation to the physicality of this competition. For United, there was evidence of why Moyes, whose last minute arrival up the tunnel and brief left-handed wave to his supporters did not look like a call to arms, wants to break with club custom and buy a 30-year-old in Daniele de Rossi to hold the club's midfield.

The player Moyes is most likely to bring in by the time the transfer window closes tonight though is his former Everton charge Marouane Fellaini, whose agent was seen in conversation with United chief executive Ed Woodward.

But events on the pitch suggested an individual capable of winning and keeping possession and driving the side forward is United's prime requirement, not a physical midfielder with an aerial presence. Moyes didn't appear to see things that way, insisting last night that his midfield had performed in a way which had not demanded reinforcements, it was "the best we've played all season" and that "I can see now why they're champions". Note the shift between 'we' and 'they', characteristic of Moyes in these early weeks, as if he's not quite got to grips with the idea that they're his team now. The strategy of total denial is familiar to those who have witnessed his press conferences after defeat at Everton, though that strategy will be subject to far closer scrutiny now.

It just didn't bear scrutiny last night and was no reflection of what had just unfolded on the pitch. Out there, Liverpool's midfield was undeniably superior, especially during a first half during which Tom Cleverley was profligate in possession, Robin van Persie hopelessly isolated and no one was capable of providing a game-affecting contribution in a Manchester United shirt.

Luis Nani offered the only flicker of menace with a 25-yard shot 15 minutes after arriving as a substitute around the hour mark, which launched Kop goalkeeper Simon Mignolet into his only exertion of the afternoon.

But with Shinji Kagawa in the stands, rendering Sir Alex Ferguson's old claim that he was as good a Number 10 bet as Wayne Rooney rather dubious, there seemed few options. Liverpool's more defence-minded approach after the interval mirrored the way they clung on to what they had at Aston Villa a week ago.

But they were first and fastest to everything before then in a period which wound up with three United players - Cleverley, Michael Carrick and Van Persie - booked in the space of seven minutes and Van Persie flirting with a red card as his frustration drew him to push Daniel Agger. Their flat tone was set in the way they fell behind inside three minutes - Carrick's slack ball out of defence, Ashley Young's failure to hold it against the intensity of Jordan Henderson's challenge and a moment of panic as Henderson fed Sturridge to release a shot that deflected wide off Rio Ferdinand. It was from the resulting Steven Gerrard corner that Agger stepped forward to power a header, which Sturridge navigated in off the back of his own head. The same concession of the ball was evident in the second half. David de Gea was forced to block Glen Johnson when Carrick and Nemanja Vidic feebly tried to ferry the ball back to him. And the game's last act was young Raheem Sterling's shot, parried over by De Gea. The United fans chanted "23 years" as the teams processed off, reminding Liverpool of their long wait for title glory. But for once, that song was ringing hollow.

LIVERPOOL V MAN UTD

THE KEY NUMBERS

1994-95 The last time Liverpool started a season with three straight wins. 1 Manchester United wins in last six games against Liverpool at Anfield. 11 Goals for Daniel Sturridge in his last nine Liverpool appearances.

DAILY Mirror

UNLUCKY 13

IT may be unlucky for some, but for David Moyes yesterday, a 13th visit to Anfield without victory had little to do with misfortune. The Manchester United boss never won here in his previous employment with Everton, and employment nt nt nt with Everton, and despite his protestations, Liverpool were comfortable winners of a contest that rarely set the pulse racing, despite its combustible history. But for Moyes there were far more worrying statistics to come out of this defeat, as the start he feared when the fixture list was announced has materialised. If last week's first 0-0 draw for United in 83 matches did not set the alarm bells ringing, then a failure to score in successive games for the first time in six years - certainly has. failure to score in successive games for the first time in six years - certainly has. United have the best record of any visiting team to Anfield in the Premier League era, having won this fixture more often than their hosts. Under Sir Alex Ferguson, the champions lost just twice on the road last term, so the lame manner UNITED have the best record of any visiting team to Anfield in the Premier League era, having won this fixture more often than their hosts. Under Sir Alex Ferguson, the champions lost just twice on the road last term, so the lame manner in which they stumbled to defeat here will be of huge concern to the new boss.

So too will four points from the opening three games, leaving Moyes less room for error as the season progresses. Perhaps the biggest worry though, was that United created so little, even when Liverpool lost their way in the second half having dominated the first. Brendan Rodgers seemed almost reluctant to praise his side despite an impressive result that gives them their best start in almost 20 years. He may have been concerned with the way a team whose style is based on passing gave away possession so easily after the break. But he will take heart from the win, given the last time Liverpool took nine points from their opening three Premier League games - the 1994-95 campaign - they finished fourth and United had a rare trophyless season.

almost reluctant t side despite an result that gives thestart in almost 20 y have been concern way a team whose s on passing gave a sion so easily after But he will take he win, given the Liverpool took nine their opening thr League games - t campaign - they fin and UNITED had a less se For Moyes, it is a defeat that heaps on pressure, particularly with the transfer window about to close. He will have to give fresh consideration to a bid beyond PS26million for Marouane Fellaini that could be as ularly with the tranabout to close. He give fresh considerbeyond PS26million fFellaini that co necessary as it will be embarrassing, given he could have signed the Everton man for PS23.5m a month ago. United need more strength in midfield, where Liverpool dominated in the first half to give themselves the platform for victory. They sat back after the break, content to defend the lead earned by Daniel Sturridge and did so comfortably enough. United also need more imagination in attack. One of the few criticisms levelled at Moyes during his time with Everton was that they were predictable going forward. That was the case here. The visitors created so little the Liverpool defence were never out of their comfort zone. Simon Mignolet had only one real save to make, when he brilliantly denied a vicious leftfoot shot from Nani with time ticking down. The Belgian stayed big in the dying moments when Robin Van Persie raced clear, his presence enough to force the usually deadly striker into slicing wide. Moyes, who has also never won in the league at Chelsea or Arsenal - or Old Trafford either - put on a brave face afterwards.

He described the performance as United's "best of the season". If this is the best they can do, then they will have real problems. Liverpool have no such worries. Even with a subdued display they dominated early on and Sturridge always posed a threat. His winner was a case in point. Daniel Agger headed Steven Gerrard's fourth-minute corner towards goal and Sturridge reacted quickest to glance home. That made it three goals in three league games and 16 in 20 for Liverpool since scoring on his league debut . . against United last season. Most impressive of all though, is the way Liverpool have adapted to win in a variety of ways this term and put to bed the notion Rodgers has just one way of playing. On the eve of the 100th anniversary of Bill Shankly's birth, it is encouraging to see a manager insisting on an attractive passing game . . with a hint of steel beneath.

LIVERPOOL: Mignolet 8, Johnson 7 (Wisdom 78), Skrtel 8, Agger 7, Enrique 6, Lucas 8, Gerrard 7, Henderson 7, Aspas 6 (Sterling 60, 5), Coutinho 6 (Alberto 84), Sturridge 7. MANCHESTER UNITED: De Gea 7, Jones 5 (Valencia 38, 5), Ferdinand 6, Vidic 6, Evra 6, Cleverley 7, Carrick 6, Giggs 6 (Hernandez 73), Wellbeck 6, Young 6 (Nani 63, 5), Van Persie 5. REFEREE: Andre Marriner 7.

LIVERPOOL v MAN UTD Liverpool have won their opening three games of a Premier League season for the first time since the 1994-95 campaign MATCH STATS 44% BALL POSSESSION 56% 5 SHOTS ON TARGET 43 SHOTS OFF TARGET 2 2 CORNERS 71 OFFSIDE 015 FOULS 15 20 CARDS 40 MAN OF THE MATCH LUCAS: Dominated the midfield battle

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1 September 2013

LIVERPOOL ECHO

Sturridge celebrates birthday in style as his early goal helps Reds clinch 1-0 victory over Manchester United

Daniel Sturridge celebrated his 24 birthday in style as his early goal helped Liverpool secure a cherished 1-0 win over Manchester United in the Premier League at Anfield.

The striker turned home Daniel Agger's header early on and Brendan Rodgers' side dug deep to hold on as the Reds extended their perfect start to the new campaign.

Victory represents the most significant win of Rodgers' reign as David Moyes' wretched record at Anfield continues.

It was Liverpool's first league win over United since Dirk Kuyt's hat-trick back in March 2011.

Before kick-off there was a minute's applause for Bill Shankly on the eve of the 100 anniversary of his birth. There was also a mosaic on the Kop paying tribute to the legendary Liverpool boss.

Rodgers made just one change to the side which won at Aston Villa a week earlier as Martin Skrtel replaced Kolo Toure who was ruled out with a groin problem.

United were without Wayne Rooney after he suffered a head injury in training. Ryan Giggs and Ashley Young were recalled by Moyes with Antonio Valencia dropping to the bench.

Liverpool enjoyed a dream start as they led inside four minutes. Steven Gerrard's corner was headed goalwards by Agger and Sturridge diverted it home from close range. It was the in-form striker's fifth goal in just four appearances this season.

Liverpool rumour mill - all the latest transfer deals.

There was a scare soon after when Robin van Persie volleyed over after Patrice Evra had got away from Glen Johnson at the back post.

Danny Welbeck then tested Simon Mignolet with a low drive from the edge of the box before the England international was thwarted by a timely block from Johnson.

The pace and movement of Sturridge and Philippe Coutinho caused United plenty of problems in the first half.

This was Coutinho's first taste of this fixture and he was the victim of some rough treatment as the visitors resorted to kicking lumps out of the little Brazilian. Coutinho's curler was kept out by David de Gea who then gathered Gerrard's 25-yard free-kick low to his right.

Tom Cleverley was cautioned for clattering Coutinho with Aspas also going into the book after waving an imaginary card in the direction of referee Andre Marriner.

Phil Jones limped off and was replaced by Valencia before Van Persie and Michael Carrick were both booked for fouls as United lost their discipline.

In the second half Moyes' side improved and pressed forward in search of an equaliser. It took some last-ditch defending from the Reds to keep them at bay. Van Persie's strike was deflected behind by Skrtel and then Young's goal-bound effort was blocked by Johnson.

Welbeck went down in the box after a tangle with Aspas but to Liverpool's relief Marriner pointed for a goal-kick.

On the hour mark Rodgers took off the ineffective Aspas and replaced him with Raheem Sterling. Coutinho was moved to a central role with Sterling out on the left wing. United brought on Nani and Javier Hernandez for Young and Giggs.

The visitors dominated possession and territory but did precious little with it as Mignolet parried away Nani's 20-yard piledriver.

Liverpool suffered a blow when Johnson limped off with a foot injury after a crunching challenge on Patrice Evra with Wisdom forced into action at right-back. However they defended bravely during a nervy finale as Van Persie fired wastefully wide.

DAILY POST

From Shankly to Sturridge - LFC inspired to third straight win

They came to salute the anniversary of a Liverpool legend – and left celebrating the birthday of a striker wasting no time in etching his own name in Anfield folklore.

On the eve of what would have been Bill Shankly's 100th birthday, Brendan Rodgers saw his side register the most significant victory of his tenure by leaning on many of the qualities that helped the Scot transform what was an ailing club. Along with one that is fast becoming a regular sight for Liverpool supporters.

For the third successive Premier League match, Daniel Sturridge netted the only goal to maintain the Anfield outfit's 100% start to the season with a first top-flight victory over bitter North West rivals Manchester United since March 2011.

Sturridge, 24 yesterday, now has 16 goals in 20 appearances since arriving from Chelsea in January.

None, though, have been met with the deafening roar that greeted his fourth-minute strike that ultimately ensured Liverpool their best start to a campaign since 1994.

They ended that season in fourth place. And the early signs suggest Rodgers' men are determined to at least replicate such an achievement and seal Champions League qualification.

Having won only one of 14 games against the top-eight finishers last season, this was a victory to be cherished, not just as it opened up a five-point lead on the champions.

This wasn't Liverpool at their best. As at Aston Villa the previous weekend, they were forced to dig deep for long periods and, on the rare occasion their rearguard was breached, goalkeeper Simon Mignolet stood firm to earn only a second shut-out against United in 16 top-flight games.

In keeping clean sheets in each of this first three league games, Mignolet has now matched the record of Billy McOwen in 1893 and Pepe Reina in 2005.

The heroes for Liverpool, though, were in front of the Belgian. Glen Johnson paid for a series of heroic blocks and tackles by leaving the stadium on crutches while Daniel Agger, who played a part in Sturridge's winner, helped keep Robin van Persie in check.

Outshining all, however, was Martin Skrtel. Making his first appearance of the season in place of the stricken Kolo Toure, and with prospective new centre-back signings Tiago Ilori and Mamadou Sakho watching from the directors' box, the Slovakian posted a timely reminder of his wares.

Indeed, it was Skrtel's performance in the 2-1 defeat at Old Trafford in January that saw him lose his regular starting role.

So continues the hoodoo for David Moyes, who failed to win in 12 visits to Anfield as Everton manager.

Rodgers hinted beforehand of a change of attitude at Old Trafford given the departure of Sir Alex Ferguson.

But while United still possess depth in their ranks – compare and contrast the two benches yesterday – they lacked the quality and, yes, belief to prise open Liverpool's defence, the visiting midfield often outmuscled by Lucas Leiva, Steven Gerrard and the busy Jordan Henderson.

Anybody fearing a chess match similar to United's drab stalemate against Chelsea at Old Trafford last Monday had those preconceptions blown away by a fearsome opening.

Anfield was still becoming accustomed to the sight of Moyes standing in the United dugout when Liverpool, hustling their visitors from the first whistle, went ahead after only four minutes from a corner earned by goalscorer Sturridge.

From Gerrard's right-wing delivery, Agger beat Rio Ferdinand to head goalwards and Sturridge, having retreated unattended from the goalline, glanced the ball beyond Tom Cleverly, who had bizarrely elected to duck.

The stadium exploded. Yet it was United who reacted strongest, despite missing Wayne Rooney, the absent striker having suffered a cut on the head Moyes was convinced he had now got right after the ongoing speculation of a move to Chelsea.

Van Persie struck an ambitious overhead kick too high and then, from Ashley Young's inswinging corner, neither he nor Danny Welbeck could provide the finishing touch.

With Liverpool's midfield temporarily struggling to track runners from deep, Welbeck ghosted into a goalscoring shot beyond Skrtel only for Johnson to produce a fine block to deny his eventual shot.

United, though, began to lose their cool as Liverpool reimposed their authority. A flurry of bookings followed before the interval, culminating in van Persie going through Agger and initiating a spat that continued through to the teams walking off at half-time.

But the visitors, disrupted by Phil Jones hobbling off, were galvanised immediately after the interval, with Liverpool forced to dig deep.

Skrtel and Johnson again threw themselves at the ball to block shots from van Persie and Young but, other than clutching a glanced Ryan Giggs header from a corner, Mignolet was well protected.

Indeed, the Belgian's first real action came with 13 minutes remaining when United substitute Nani wriggled free on the edge of the area and fired in an effort the Liverpool goalkeeper leapt to his left to beat out.

A stretching van Persie fired wide having been played into space by Javier Hernandez but the nearest either side came in an elongated injury time was when substitute Raheem Sterling drew a fine save from David de Gea.

Early days, of course. But Rodgers will know his side, with only one defeat in 15 Premier League games, are on the right track. To quote the inscription on the Shankly statue that stands outside the Kop, they are making the people happy again.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet; Johnson (Wisdom 79), Skrtel, Agger, Enrique; Lucas, Gerrard; Henderson, Aspas (Sterling 60), Coutinho (Alberto 84); Sturridge. Subs: Jones, Ibe, Kelly, Flanagan. BOOKINGS: Aspas (unsporting behaviour) and Lucas (foul).

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): de Gea; Jones (Valencia 37), Ferdinand, Vidic, Evra; Giggs (Hernandez 73), Carrick, Cleverly, Young (Nani 63); Welbeck; van Persie. Subs: Lindergaard, Anderson, Smalling, Buttner. BOOKINGS: Cleverly, van Persie, Carrick and Young (all fouls).

REFEREE: Andre Marriner.

ATT: 44,411.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 1 September 2013
Opposition: Manchester United
Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	MEN

1 September 2013

Manchester Evening News

It was unlucky 13 for David Moyes as he failed to break his Anfield hoodoo in his first visit as United manager.

Daniel Sturridge's fourth minute header was enough to settle an engrossing clash that leaves the Premier League champions looking up at the rivals Sir Alex Ferguson had so famously knocked off their perch.

Moyes had managed to usurp Liverpool in his own way at Everton – finishing above the red half of Merseyside in his final two seasons at Goodison.

But defeat extended a personal record that had seen him draw seven and lose five of his previous 12 visits to the Kop. A first defeat with United leaves him five points adrift of Liverpool and with only one win to his name – albeit only three games into the campaign. But it was nonetheless a wounding result for Moyes, whose concerns about United's daunting start to the season are beginning to be realised. "I always knew it was going to be a tough ask, no matter if it was Sir Alex sitting here, to play these games," he said in the aftermath of a match he claimed proved why United were champions. He was right in his assertion that Liverpool were reduced to only minimal chances after Sturridge's strike. But more concerning was United's own lack of cutting edge – even in the absence of the injured Wayne Rooney. United did improve after a first half in which their midfield was swarmed by the youthful vim of Philippe Coutinho and Iago Aspas – but a long-range effort from Nani and late chance for Robin van Persie was the extent of their own threat. In a game that they were forced to chase for 86 minutes, they mustered precious little in the way of openings against the superb Daniel Agger and Martin Skrtel. It gave jubilant Liverpool supporters the chance to bask in a 100 percent start to the season – and made Moyes' own praise of his team sounding hollow, to say the least.

"I think if you look at the three games – Swansea, Chelsea and today, I think you'd have to say we've played well," he said. "Maybe we scored all our goals in the first game – in the last two all we've missed are the goals, really. "I think we've limited both teams to very little opportunities so I'm pleased with that side of it.

Defensively we've looked quite solid and strong. "Wayne would've made a difference today. We didn't have him because of the injury. We just lacked a little bit of something different at times. But I think we've tried and we know that Robin will get us goals and we will continue to score and win games."

The sheer lack of service for Van Persie was one of the most notable aspects of the game. The Dutchman has rarely cut such a frustrated figure in a United shirt – forced into petty squabbles with Agger and Steven Gerrard in a first half that he looked in danger of leaving prematurely after picking up a booking.

The manner in which he snatched at the late chance presented to him by substitute Javier Hernandez was also indicative of his frustrations.

Rooney would almost certainly have given United an added dimension if not for thehead injury, picked up in an accidental training ground clash with Phil Jones.

But it was Liverpool's ability to force the visitors into errors that stood out in the first 45 minutes, with Michael Carrick, Tom Cleverley and Ryan Giggs forced into errors. The desire for Liverpool to collect a third straight win this season was also intensified on a day when the club commemorated the eve of what would have been Bill Shankly's 100th birthday. Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers paid his own respects to the Anfield legend in his programme notes, saying: "There is no one more fitting of the phrase 'greatness'â€¦ his influence is as strong today as it has ever been." Moyes is learning about living in the shadows of greatness having succeeded Sir Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford during the summer.

His cause has not been helped facing Chelsea, Liverpool and City in the opening weeks of the season. A goalless draw against Jose Mourinho's side was creditable – but it was a result that would take on a different context depending on how United fared at Anfield. Giggs started in place of Rooney, with Shinji Kagawa not even named on the bench. In Rooney's absence, it was another England striker who took the chance to leave an impression on the watching Roy Hodgson.

Sturridge continued his fine goal-scoring run by heading Liverpool into a fourth-minute lead. Agger managed to evade the attentions of Rio Ferdinand from a Gerrard corner – directing a header goalwards, which Sturridge flicked into the roof of the net from point blank range. It was the worst possible start for United, who simply couldn't cope with the energy and movement of their opponents in the opening stages. Coutinho and Aspas hassled and harried with Cleverley and Carrick booked along with Van Persie to emphasise United's struggles to stamp their authority. United's best chances came when Van Persie fired well over with an overhead kick – and later the Dutchman failed to get a shot away when a corner was allowed to run straight through the six yard box.

Jones was replaced by Antonio Valencia after 38 minutes when the defender sustained an injury. United emerged with more purpose in the second half – forcing Liverpool to retreat towards their own third as they pressed higher up the pitch. But still they struggled to create clear cut openings for Van Persie despite their greater possession and territorial advantage.

Ashley Young's half volley from the edge of the area was blocked by Glen Johnson six minutes after the interval – and it wasn't until Nani came on for the England winger just after the hour that Simon Mignolet had a serious save to make.

The Portuguese international's pile driver on 76 minutes was at a good height for the Liverpool goalkeeper, who parried the effort to safety.

Another substitute in Javier Hernandez came on to set Van Persie up for United's best chance of the match with three minutes to go. Van Persie was stretching to meet the Mexican's through ball, but still should have hit the target instead of firing wide. Despite five 'Moyes minutes' at the end, it was Liverpool who came closest to extending their lead, sub Raheem Sterling forcing David de Gea to tip over. The United keeper had been asked to do little else following Sturridge's early strike – but that will have been of little comfort to supporters heading back along the East Lancs Road.

BBC

Liverpool secured their best start to a Premier League season since 1994-95 with victory over champions Manchester United at Anfield.

Daniel Sturridge celebrated his 24th birthday with his third successive winner of the season by steering in a close-range header in the third minute.

Liverpool deserved their latest single-goal victory, a result that also maintained new United manager David Moyes' miserable record at Anfield.

Moyes hoped for better luck with United after 12 games without victory as Everton manager - but his team came up short despite enjoying plenty of possession in the second half after being outplayed before the break.

The visitors were without Wayne Rooney after he suffered a head wound in training,which also keeps him out of England's World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Ukraine. How they missed his creativity.

Robin van Persie squandered United's best chance late on but otherwise it was a relatively comfortable afternoon for Liverpool's new goalkeeper Simon Mignolet, who has yet to concede a Premier League goal since his £9m summer move from Sunderland.

And it was a fitting victory for Liverpool as Anfield celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of their legendary Scottish manager Bill Shankly.

Current incumbent Brendan Rodgers will surely settle for fourth place this season and the early evidence hints at great promise, with suspended striker Luis Suarez still to return.

As for United, this was a performance lacking in inspiration, purpose and threat and once again underlined the urgency for transfer business to be done in the closing hours of the transfer window.

Everton's Marouane Fellaini looks one certain arrival but Moyes, who also saw United held to a draw by Chelsea at Old Trafford on Monday, needs even more of a spark in a midfield that looked laboured by this team's standards.

Having suffered the loss of Rooney just as he had returned to the fold, Moyes' mood will not have improved as Liverpool took the lead in the third minute.

Ashley Young's ill-advised attempt to dribble out of danger ended in a corner and when Steven Gerrard's delivery was headed goalwards by Daniel Agger, Sturridge deflected it home from virtually on the line.

United's initial response was bright, with Young's corner drifting untouched across the six-yard area and Van Persie just unable to keep an overhead kick down.

Moyes was forced into a first-half reshuffle when Phil Jones, watched by England manager Roy Hodgson ahead of World Cup qualifiers with Moldova and Ukraine, limped off and was replaced by Antonio Valencia.

But as the half progressed, Liverpool's pressure and high-tempo passing game increased United's frustration and it threatened to boil over on the stroke of half-time when Van Persie, who had already been booked, was involved in angry verbal exchanges with several Liverpool players, particularly Gerrard.

United began with more purpose in the early phase of the second half and Liverpool were grateful for Glen Johnson's crucial block from Young's goalbound shot.

It was the disappointing Young's final contribution as he was replaced by Nani shortly after Liverpool had introduced Raheem Sterling for Iago Aspas.

United were having more possession but a sign of the effectiveness of Liverpool's defence was that it took the visitors 76 minutes to force Mignolet into serious action, when he dived to punch away a shot from substitute Nani.

There was another worry for Liverpool, and watching England boss Hodgson, when Johnson limped off with 13 minutes left.

Van Persie wasted United's best chance with three minutes left when he was played in by substitute Javier Hernandez but could not find the target with an angled finish.

BBC

90:00+5:36Full time The referee brings the game to a close.
90:00+5:19 Short corner taken by Luis Alberto.
90:00+4:39 Raheem Sterling takes a shot. David De Gea turns it away with a finger tip save.
90:00+4:08 Martin Skrtel restarts play with the free kick.
90:00+3:33 Tom Cleverley challenges Daniel Sturridge unfairly and gives away a free kick.
90:00+2:04 Free kick taken by Steven Gerrard.
90:00+1:34 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Raheem Sterling by Michael Carrick.
90:00+0:27 The ball is crossed by Tom Cleverley.
90:00+0:14 Jordan Henderson manages to make a clearance.
90:00+0:14 Tom Cleverley makes a clearance.
90:00+0:08 Clearance by Jordan Henderson.
90:00 Sanchez Jose Enrique manages to make a clearance.
89:57 Robin van Persie crosses the ball in from the free kick.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 1 September 2013
Opposition: Manchester United
Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	MEN

1 September 2013

89:18 Leiva Lucas receives a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.
89:18Booking
88:59 Leiva Lucas gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Tom Cleverley.
88:05 Raheem Sterling makes a clearance.
88:02 Centre by Patrice Evra.
87:56 Antonio Valencia sends in a cross.
87:55 Martin Skrtel makes a clearance.
87:54 Javier Hernandez delivers the ball.
87:42 Shot by Daniel Sturridge. Rio Ferdinand gets a block in.
87:33 Rio Ferdinand makes a clearance.
86:57 Robin van Persie takes a shot and missed to the right of the target.
85:45 Rio Ferdinand manages to make a clearance.
85:43 Patrice Evra makes a clearance.
84:32 Luis Nani crosses the ball in from the free kick.
84:05 Handball decision goes against Raheem Sterling.
83:24 Rio Ferdinand restarts play with the free kick.
83:17Substitution SubstitutionLuis Alberto on for Phillippe Coutinho.
82:40 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Tom Cleverley by Leiva Lucas.
81:54 Clearance by Patrice Evra.
81:35 Shot by Javier Hernandez. Simon Mignolet safely holds on.
80:57 Andre Wisdom takes the free kick.
80:37 Patrice Evra challenges Jordan Henderson unfairly and gives away a free kick.
79:47 Clearance by Patrice Evra.
79:27 Centre by Luis Nani.
79:14 Clearance made by Andre Wisdom.
78:52 Michael Carrick takes the free kick.
78:42 Free kick awarded for a foul by Jordan Henderson on Danny Welbeck.
78:24 Clearance by Patrice Evra.
77:58Substitution SubstitutionGlen Johnson leaves the field to be replaced by Andre Wisdom.
76:22 Martin Skrtel makes a clearance.
76:19 The ball is delivered by Antonio Valencia.
76:12 Shot by Luis Nani. A parry by Simon Mignolet prevents the goal.
74:07 Phillippe Coutinho makes a clearance.
73:44 Clearance made by Nemanja Vidic.
73:28 Martin Skrtel takes the free kick.
73:07 Unfair challenge on Steven Gerrard by Robin van Persie results in a free kick.
72:59 Clearance by Nemanja Vidic.
72:26Substitution SubstitutionJavier Hernandez comes on in place of Ryan Giggs.
71:37 David De Gea manages to make a clearance.
71:13 Clearance made by Martin Skrtel.
71:11 The ball is sent over by Luis Nani.
69:06 Michael Carrick restarts play with the free kick.
68:35 Raheem Sterling gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Antonio Valencia.
68:04 Chance falls to Ryan Giggs who heads at goal. Simon Mignolet safely holds on.
68:03 Corner from the left by-line taken by Luis Nani.
65:51 Clearance by Leiva Lucas.
64:25 Rio Ferdinand manages to make a clearance.
64:00 Michael Carrick takes the free kick.
63:53 Foul by Phillippe Coutinho on Michael Carrick, free kick awarded.
62:32 Rio Ferdinand restarts play with the free kick.
62:19Substitution SubstitutionLuis Nani comes on in place of Ashley Young.
62:06 The assistant referee signals for offside against Daniel Sturridge.
59:55Substitution Liverpool makes a substitution, with Raheem Sterling coming on for Iago Aspas.
59:16 Martin Skrtel takes the free kick.
58:53 Ashley Young booked.
58:53Booking
58:39 Ashley Young gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Jordan Henderson.
58:18 Free kick taken by Patrice Evra.
58:11 Glen Johnson gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Patrice Evra.
56:30 Jordan Henderson manages to make a clearance.
56:29 Patrice Evra delivers the ball.
56:09 Patrice Evra takes a shot. Martin Skrtel gets a block in.
56:08 Daniel Agger manages to make a clearance.
56:05 Ashley Young delivers the ball.
54:46 Martin Skrtel manages to make a clearance.
54:41 David De Gea restarts play with the free kick.
54:21 Glen Johnson concedes a free kick for a foul on Ashley Young.
54:14 Clearance by Nemanja Vidic.
54:10 Free kick taken by Daniel Agger.
53:40 Danny Welbeck challenges Steven Gerrard unfairly and gives away a free kick.
52:54 Corner taken by Ryan Giggs.
52:27 Sanchez Jose Enrique makes a clearance.
52:26 Centre by Antonio Valencia.
52:11 Clearance made by Leiva Lucas.
52:09 The ball is delivered by Ashley Young.
50:43 Leiva Lucas manages to make a clearance.
50:39 Clearance made by Daniel Agger.
50:38 Ashley Young takes the chance to get an effort at goal. Blocked by Glen Johnson.
50:36 Clearance made by Steven Gerrard.
50:33 Corner taken by Ryan Giggs.
50:16 Daniel Sturridge manages to make a clearance.
50:14 Michael Carrick sends in a cross.
50:12 Clearance by Daniel Agger.
50:09 Corner from the left by-line taken by Ashley Young.
49:51 Robin van Persie takes a shot. Martin Skrtel gets a block in.
49:50 Sanchez Jose Enrique manages to make a clearance.
48:38 Daniel Agger takes the chance to get an effort at goal and missed to the right of the goal.
48:37 Steven Gerrard crosses the ball in from the free kick.
47:54 Unfair challenge on Iago Aspas by Michael Carrick results in a free kick.
47:12 Clearance by Patrice Evra.
46:40 Corner from the left by-line taken by Ashley Young.
46:22 Glen Johnson manages to make a clearance.
46:19 Ryan Giggs sends in a cross.
46:04 Martin Skrtel makes a clearance.
46:01 The ball is crossed by Patrice Evra.
45:56 Free kick taken by Patrice Evra.
45:46 Unfair challenge on Ashley Young by Glen Johnson results in a free kick.
45:15 Clearance made by Danny Welbeck.
45:12 Clearance made by Nemanja Vidic.
45:01 The referee blows the whistle to start the second half.
45:00+2:33Half time The half-time whistle blows.
45:00+0:58 The ball is crossed by Ashley Young.
43:40 Martin Skrtel makes a clearance.
43:38 Ashley Young makes a clearance.
43:26 Ashley Young manages to make a clearance.
41:37 Clearance by Daniel Agger.
41:26 Clearance made by Martin Skrtel.
41:21 Clearance by Michael Carrick.
41:17 Daniel Agger takes the free kick.
40:54Booking
40:54 Michael Carrick goes into the book for unsporting behaviour.
40:42 Michael Carrick gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Iago Aspas.
40:40 Daniel Agger makes a clearance.
40:37 A cross is delivered by Ashley Young.
39:36 Free kick taken by Sanchez Jose Enrique.
39:22 Daniel Sturridge fouled by Antonio Valencia, the ref awards a free kick.
39:12 Clearance by Antonio Valencia.
39:09 Simon Mignolet takes the free kick.
38:35Booking
38:35 for Robin van Persie for unsporting behaviour.
38:29 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Daniel Agger by Robin van Persie.
38:00 Free kick taken by Nemanja Vidic.
37:46 Glen Johnson challenges Patrice Evra unfairly and gives away a free kick.
37:44 Unfair challenge on Michael Carrick by Glen Johnson results in a free kick.
37:00Substitution SubstitutionAntonio Valencia comes on in place of Phil Jones.
36:31 Clearance made by Rio Ferdinand.
36:21 Martin Skrtel makes a clearance.
35:43 Phillippe Coutinho shoots direct from the free kick and goes left of the target.
34:30 Iago Aspas is given a yellow card.
34:30Booking
34:02 Tom Cleverley receives a caution for unsporting behaviour.
34:02Booking
33:27 Tom Cleverley challenges Phillippe Coutinho unfairly and gives away a free kick.
33:16 Clearance by Phil Jones.
32:44 The ball is sent over by Phil Jones.
31:02 Tom Cleverley restarts play with the free kick.
30:57 Unfair challenge on Phil Jones by Iago Aspas results in a free kick.
30:41 Centre by Robin van Persie.
28:26 Rio Ferdinand takes the free kick.
28:15 Tom Cleverley fouled by Phillippe Coutinho, the ref awards a free kick.
28:04 Clearance by Phil Jones.
28:04 Jordan Henderson sends in a cross.
27:24 Michael Carrick makes a clearance.
27:13 Rio Ferdinand manages to make a clearance.
26:50 Shot comes in from Steven Gerrard from the free kick. David De Gea safely holds on.
26:02 Foul by Michael Carrick on Glen Johnson, free kick awarded.
25:56 Clearance by Ryan Giggs.
25:32 Clearance by Daniel Agger.
25:29 Free kick taken by Nemanja Vidic.
24:57 Foul by Iago Aspas on Patrice Evra, free kick awarded.
23:53 Glen Johnson makes a clearance.
23:51 Clearance by Daniel Agger.
23:05 Patrice Evra manages to make a clearance.
22:18 Clearance made by Sanchez Jose Enrique.
22:05 Clearance made by Daniel Agger.
21:13 Clearance made by Robin van Persie.
20:51 Phillippe Coutinho takes a weak shot. David De Gea safely holds on.
20:19 Nemanja Vidic manages to make a clearance.
20:17 Free kick crossed by Steven Gerrard.
19:22 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Phillippe Coutinho by Ryan Giggs.
18:18 Clearance by Nemanja Vidic.
17:52 Sanchez Jose Enrique takes the free kick.
17:42 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Phillippe Coutinho by Phil Jones.
15:57 Clearance made by Michael Carrick.
15:21 Corner taken by Ryan Giggs.
14:41 Sanchez Jose Enrique makes a clearance.
14:38 Danny Welbeck takes the chance to get an effort at goal. Blocked by Glen Johnson.
14:34 Leiva Lucas makes a clearance.
14:12 Clearance made by Martin Skrtel.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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13:22 Steven Gerrard restarts play with the free kick.
13:04 Unfair challenge on Daniel Sturridge by Patrice Evra results in a free kick.
12:52 Iago Aspas manages to make a clearance.
12:46 Clearance made by Rio Ferdinand.
12:23 Patrice Evra manages to make a clearance.
12:20 Clearance made by Nemanja Vidic.
12:17 Michael Carrick manages to make a clearance.
11:37 Corner taken by Ashley Young.
11:13 Clearance by Martin Skrtel.
11:10 A cross is delivered by Ashley Young.
10:22 Free kick awarded for a foul by Leiva Lucas on Ashley Young.
10:12 Daniel Agger manages to make a clearance.
10:10 Clearance made by Martin Skrtel.
9:41 Steven Gerrard has an effort at goal. David De Gea safely holds on.
9:07 Danny Welbeck takes a shot. Simon Mignolet makes a block.
8:39 Clearance by Ryan Giggs.
8:35 Daniel Agger makes a clearance.
8:33 The ball is swung over by Tom Cleverley.
8:25 Sanchez Jose Enrique makes a clearance.
8:22 The ball is swung over by Phil Jones.
8:10 Clearance by Martin Skrtel.
7:19 Rio Ferdinand manages to make a clearance.
7:19 Sanchez Jose Enrique crosses the ball.
7:11 Clearance made by Iago Aspas.
6:36 Phillippe Coutinho has an effort at goal and missed to the left of the target.
6:01 Nemanja Vidic makes a clearance.
5:34 Robin van Persie takes a shot and goes over the bar.
5:28 Free kick crossed by Ryan Giggs.
4:51 Danny Welbeck fouled by Sanchez Jose Enrique, the ref awards a free kick.
3:05 The assist for the goal came from Daniel Agger.
3:05Goal scored Goal - Daniel Sturridge - Liverpool 1 - 0 Man UtdDaniel Sturridge scores. Liverpool 1-0 Man Utd.
3:03 Corner from the right by-line taken by Steven Gerrard.
2:35 Daniel Sturridge takes a shot. Rio Ferdinand gets a block in.
2:26 Nemanja Vidic makes a clearance.
2:15 Clearance made by Nemanja Vidic.
1:45 Steven Gerrard makes a clearance.
1:15 Clearance by Jordan Henderson.
0:52 Patrice Evra manages to make a clearance.
0:20 Ryan Giggs produces a cross.
0:19 Clearance made by Daniel Agger.
0:16 The ball is swung over by Ashley Young.
0:00 The referee gets the match started.