

Date: 22 September 2013
 Opposition: Southampton
 Competition: League

BBC	Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
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22 September
2013

THE TIMES

Tactical shambles exposes Rodgers' lack of balance

Liverpool 0

Southampton Lovren 53 1

Referee N Swarbrick Attendance 44,755

There can never be a good way for an unbeaten start to the season to come to an end and for leadership of the Barclays Premier League to be given up as a result. Yet it is hard to imagine that there is a worse way than the manner in which a tactically shambolic Liverpool surrendered both in a defeat by Southampton that felt possible, if not inevitable, from the moment that Brendan Rodgers' team sheet arrived in the visiting team's dressing room.

"It raised a couple of eyebrows," Adam Lallana, whose corner set up Dejan Lovren's decisive headed goal, said.

Diplomacy in victory is admirable but on this occasion it was not required as events had already determined that Rodgers's team selection would be remembered for all the wrong reasons. After such a promising start to the campaign, this was a setback all of their own making.

The sight of four centre backs lining up across Liverpool's defence was the greatest reason for the sense of pleasant surprise that spread through the Southampton squad before kick-off. With Kolo Toure and Mamadou Sakho, who had insisted after moving from Paris Saint-Germain to Anfield that he could not play at left back, stationed in the full-back positions, Southampton felt that their chances of preventing Liverpool from playing the ball out from the back had been given a great boost. "They are a team like us who like to play out from the back and we just played a high-pressing game and felt we won the ball back in areas where we could affect the game," the impressive Lallana said. "We wanted them to play it long." The approach worked a treat, just as it had done six months earlier when Southampton inflicted Liverpool's previous defeat.

That Liverpool ended the game with only five players still in the same positions in which they started tells its own story, as does the total remodelling of their back four during the course of the 90 minutes.

Rodgers claimed that injuries left him with few options and with Glen Johnson and Aly Cissokho both injured and Jose Enrique and Martin Kelly considered short of the kind of fitness required to start, there was at least mitigation for the Liverpool manager.

There was also a feeling, though, that he had sacrificed the team shape unnecessarily and undermined his own game plan in the process. Had Rodgers wanted to play an orthodox back four, he could have done so as Andre Wisdom and Jonathan Flanagan, youngsters with Premier League experience, were both overlooked despite being available. Jordan Henderson can also operate at right back, while Raheem Sterling has recent experience in that position.

None of these options are ideal but they did exist, as did the possibility of starting Enrique, who did not seem restricted by the risk of injury after going on as a substitute. With Iago Aspas still proving too much of a like-for-like replacement for Fabio Borini, who is on loan at Sunderland, it was not only in defence where Liverpool had problems. On Saturday, the squad's lack of balance was made glaringly apparent. The decision to concentrate most of their resources on bolstering their defence during the transfer window, when Rodgers had spent most of the summer engaged in an unsuccessful quest to recruit a No 10, was made to look particularly questionable.

Tellingly, Rodgers said that the decision was a club one. "I think from the club's perspective we felt like we needed another centre back, and then there was another younger one who became available," he said. "And that was something that the club wanted to do and protect that position for a number of years. We were on the lookout for a No 10 but were unable to get one. But that's something we can't worry so much about now. We just need to work over the next few months." None of that tactical intrigue should detract from Southampton's first win at Anfield in a decade after a performance that highlighted their own growing maturity and ability to execute the strategies put in place by Mauricio Pochettino. The visiting team might not have started the game particularly well, but by the time that it ended they were in total control with Victor Wanyama, Luke Shaw, Lovrens and Lallana all particularly impressive.

"It's credit to the staff, the players and everyone who works at the club," Lallana said. "We worked hard on our game plan all week and we executed it brilliantly. The last ten or 15 minutes get a bit edgy when you're winning. You tend to drop off a little bit deeper and people get tired. But I don't remember them having a serious chance."

How quickly Liverpool will recover from such an unexpected setback will determine whether they can remain competitive at the top end of the Premier League. But if there is one certainty, it is that Rodgers will not select four centre backs again in a hurry.

RATINGS

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): S Mignolet 8 -- K Toure 6, M Skrtel 6 (sub: L Alberto, 72min), D Agger 5 (sub: J Enrique, 57 5), M Sakho 5 -- Lucas Leiva 5, S Gerrard 5 -- J Henderson 5, I Aspas 3 (sub: R Sterling, 46 5), V Moses 5 -- D Sturridge 5.

Substitutes not used: B Jones, M Kelly, J Ibe, A Wisdom. Southampton (4-5-1): A Boruc 7 -- N Clyne 7, D Lovren 7, J Fonte 6, L Shaw 8 -- P Osvaldo 7, A Lallana 8 (sub: J Ward-Prowse, 76), M Schneiderlin 7, V Wanyama 8, J Rodriguez 6 (sub: J Cork, 89) -- R Lambert 6 (sub: S Davis, 66 6). Substitutes not used: K Davis, G Ramirez, J Hooiveld, C Chambers. Booked: Clyne.

the guardian

Rodgers looks to Suarez after Southampton find frailties

It is never a good sign when the one positive a manager can find is sitting in a corporate box. Brendan Rodgers spoke with genuine relief at the end of Luis Suarez's 10-match suspension but, while the expiry date was perfectly timed, the topic was merely a diversion against Southampton. Second-best to Mauricio Pochettino's intelligent side throughout, Liverpool's part in their downfall could not be disguised.

"A bad day at the office," was the Liverpool manager's verdict and in fairness he has not overseen one since losing at Southampton in March. Rodgers had also injected reality into the optimism generated during Liverpool's unbeaten start, accepting his team rose to the top without a convincing 90-minute display. His programme notes captured perfectly the balance between Liverpool's ingrained ambition and the leap required after four seasons outside the Champions League. The team-sheet he compiled, however, lacked any such finesse. The bad day commenced in his office.

Rodgers' decision to start with four centre-halves dominated the post-match scrutiny on Liverpool, Suarez apart, and the manager was steadfast in his own defence. "It is what we had available," he argued, given injury to Glen Johnson, Martin Kelly's lack of match fitness and a knee problem for Jose Enrique that did not stop the Spaniard's introduction shortly after Dejan Lovren headed Southampton into a deserved lead.

The selection accommodated all the experienced voices and recent pounds 16m signing Mamadou Sakho in a left-back role he recently stated was not for him. More importantly, and inevitably, it disrupted Liverpool's cohesion, penetration from full-back and distribution. Southampton accepted the initiative gratefully. "It raised a couple of eyebrows," said Adam Lallana of Liverpool's line-up. "But we concentrated more on our game and forced our game-plan on them well. They are a team that likes to play out from the back, like us, so we played a high-pressing game to win the ball back in areas where we could affect the game. They had to play it long and that's what we wanted them to do. Our back four were brilliant. They were like rocks."

Victory tasted "sweet" for Lallana, the Everton-supporting Southampton captain, one of a number of vibrant performers in black. Pochettino's team were composed and disciplined from the off, from Artur Boruc in goal, Luke Shaw and Nathaniel Clyne demonstrating the value of incisive full-backs, Lovren and Jose Fonte in the heart of defence and Victor Wanyama in central midfield. They improved to a swagger on the counter-attack after the interval, encouraged by Liverpool's carelessness.

Defensive uncertainty in the home ranks proved contagious. The goalkeeper, Simon Mignolet, spread panic throughout Anfield whenever he tried to play his way out of trouble. "I play that style with the national team as well and I am very confident with doing that," he insisted. "It is not a problem." A long, awkward silence followed that answer.

Steven Gerrard, Lucas Leiva and Daniel Sturridge, all instrumental in Liverpool's unbeaten opening, all toiled and the winning goal encapsulated the Liverpool display. Kolo Toure and Martin Skrtel conspired to concede a throw-in, then a corner, and Lovren headed Lallana's delivery beyond Mignolet despite the presence of the four centre-halves. "Criminal," said Rodgers. Man of the match Adam Lallana (Southampton)

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The Mail

Reds anxious for Suarez return

LIVERPOOL 0

SOTON 1

DEFENDING was problematic for Liverpool on Saturday but, according to Kolo Toure, it wasn't as hard as it had been at Melwood in the days before Southampton's visit.

'Luis Suarez has been very difficult to play against in training,' said Toure. 'His return is going to be massive for us.' If there was any doubt about whether Suarez will be handed an instant recall against Manchester United on Wednesday, having served a 10-game ban for biting Branislav Ivanovic, it was removed by an abysmal Liverpool display, one of their worst under Brendan Rodgers (right). Liverpool have coped well while Suarez has been out but Southampton was a game too far. Inspid and lacking imagination or threat, the only positive Rodgers could draw from his side's first defeat of the campaign was about Suarez.

The truth is that Liverpool do not have enough world-class players and Southampton exposed their shortcomings. It is risible to think, then, that Rodgers will do anything other than play Suarez from the start at Old Trafford on Wednesday in the Capital One Cup. 'Suarez is a fantastic player,' Toure added. 'We have had Daniel Sturridge playing so well for us but Suarez will strengthen the team. The two of them will be a very strong partnership.'

'Will he be ready? You saw from his international appearance [for Uruguay] the other week. In the first game he'd played for a while he scored twice.' Rodgers fielded four central defenders against Southampton but the tactic backfired and the goal they conceded to Dejan Lovren was entirely of their own making. 'It [the four central defenders] raised a couple of eyebrows,' said Southampton captain Adam Lallana, a boyhood Everton fan. 'They like to play out from the back and we just played a high-pressing game. We made them play long.'

That will have been noted by United's scouting delegation. Rodgers, however, is adamant a different Liverpool will be on show on Wednesday. Suarez, after all, will make an enormous difference. Rodgers said: 'This has hurt but we've got one of the world's leading strikers coming back. That will give us a lift.'

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet 7; Toure 5, Skrtel 5 (Alberto 72min, 6), Agger 5 (Enrique 56, 6), Sakho 5; Gerrard 6, Lucas 6; Henderson 6, Aspas 5 (Sterling 46, 5), Moses 7; Sturridge 5. Subs not used: Jones, Ibe, Kelly, Wisdom.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-2-3-1): Boruc 8; Clyne 7, Lovren 7, Fonte 7, Shaw 8; Wanyama 7, Schneiderlin 7; Rodriguez 7 (Cork 89), Lallana 8 (Ward-Prowse 75, 6), Osvaldo 6; Lambert 6 (Davis 61, 6). Subs not used: Davies, Ramirez, Chambers, Hooiveld. Man of the match: Luke Shaw. Referee: Neil Swarbrick 7.

The Daily Telegraph

Cultured Saints expose Liverpool's lack of depth

Liverpool 0

Southampton 1

Lovren 53 Att: 45,755

It was an oddity of Liverpool's season heading into the weekend games that they had failed to produce the same performance in two halves of a Premier League fixture.

Against Southampton, they corrected the anomaly. They were dreadful in both. Mr Hyde had a party while Dr Jekyll took the day off.

Mauricio Pochettino's side, the last to comprehensively outplay Liverpool at St Mary's last March, repeated the trick at Anfield and in doing so exposed the fragility of Brendan Rodgers's squad.

There has been a degree of camou-flaging going at Anfield since August, despite some productive performances and their temporary position at the top. Liverpool played better football at the end of last season than they have managed at the start of this.

With the notable exception of the outstanding goalkeeper Simon Mignolet, who kept the scoreline respectable here, it has been a struggle to collate convincing evidence the summer transactions have improved the manager's options.

Rodgers has not quite paraphrased the 'I needed a table and they gave me two lampshades' analogy of one of his predecessors yet, but the lack of midfield creativity in the absence of Phillipe Coutinho must make him look in envy at the huge number of spare No10s at rival clubs. On a day when Liverpool needed to readjust to cope with the loss of the Brazilian, the manager felt he had to change his system to accommodate four centre-halves.

What followed was lamentable, fragmented and predictable.

Liverpool may have coped admirably without Luis Suarez for nine of his 10 games of exile, but they have looked devoid of intellect and ingenuity since Coutinho limped off at Swansea City. You can also trace a worrying deterioration in vitality to the moment Glen Johnson was injured versus Manchester United.

At some clubs, several personnel changes create minimal disruption.

Those on the fringes at Anfield are there for a reason.

Iago Aspas finds himself prompting a question regularly asked at Anfield at the sight of a perplexingly expensive new signing. "What exactly did the scouting report say?" It is hard to see precisely what box he ticks to a neutral eye. No pace, timidity in the tackle and a poor first touch.

Replacing Coutinho with Aspas was akin to shouting for the nearest passer-by to grab a Liverpool shirt and do a turn. One hopes for the sake of the [pounds sterling]8million signing, that he has yet to acclimatise.

He was an obvious scapegoat because he was hooked at half-time, but Victor Moses' lethargy did not make for a reassuring home debut either, while you can be certain any hype surrounding Raheem Sterling will be emphatically tempered until such time he justifies its renewal.

Over a year since his first sighting at senior level, there is cause to wonder what all the fuss is about.

However, all this too easily detracts from tactically and technically superior Southampton, brimful of outstanding contributors, from Dejan Lovran, whose headed winner was the highlight of a cultured display at centre-half, through a midfield more mobile and creative than anything the home side could offer. Adam Lallana and Victor Wanyama were not anxiously awaiting full-time, but striding forward to try to extend the lead and would have done but for Mignolet. A fair penalty shout by Daniel Sturridge in the first half was all the visitors had to worry about.

They spotted the weakness in the Liverpool line-up and exposed it, not least the sight of two centre-backs uncomfortably trying to retain possession at full-back. Kolo Toure on the right, and on the left Mamadou Sakho - preferred to Jose Enrique, who is nursing a knee injury.

"Their line-up raised a couple of eyebrows," Lallana said. "They are a team like us who like to play out from the back and we just played a highpressing game and felt we won the ball back in areas where we could affect the game."

The vagaries of the modern game leave you permanently one defeat from a setback, two consecutive losses from an inquest and three from a crisis. Liverpool travel to Old Trafford on Wednesday needing to ensure their uplifting start to the season is not rapidly transformed into little more than run of the mill.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Reds lose unbeaten streak after Dejan Lovren header gives Saint the win

As he watched the final minutes of his exile drain away, Luis Suarez would have wondered how he would have fitted into the afternoon, how he would have taken the chances squandered by others and how he would have won this game. Liverpool have endured the 10-match ban that accompanied Suarez's sinking of his teeth into Branislav Ivanovic's arm better than any dared hope. Brendan Rodgers not only kept hold of the striker, despite the Uruguayan's increasingly whiny protests that he wanted to spend quality time in London, but this was the only game of the 10 that had been lost.

It was, however, badly lost and the question now is whether Rodgers will throw Suarez back in against Manchester United in Wednesday's League Cup tie or wait until Sunday at Sunderland. Given that Paolo di Canio's side has had to endure Mezt Ozil's debut, this might be unnecessarily cruel on a club already adrift and rudderless in the Premier League.

Nevertheless, this was a reminder that, however impressively they may have begun, Liverpool are not yet the real thing. Southampton, who have now taken eight points with three goals, won easily and once Dejan Lovren had put them ahead, there were few moments of genuine anxiety.

With time and Anfield's patience almost exhausted, Daniel Sturridge sent a ball over the top for Raheem Sterling. He was clear on goal and, had he kept his nerve the equaliser might have been his. Instead, his first touch sent the ball scuttling towards the goalkeeper. The match finished amid empty seats and boos.

For those who imagined that the well-worked victory over Manchester United signalled Liverpool's rebirth, this was as sobering as a bucket of water tossed over a gutter-bound drunk.

Rodgers had never been among them. The Liverpool manager's programme notes had talked of: "returning the club to the pinnacle of the game, both domestically and in Europe," without suggesting that the journey would be complete by May. "We never got going. From the off, it was lethargic" said Rodgers, who had last tasted defeat in March. This was also against Southampton and it was, coincidentally, the only loss suffered by Philippe Coutinho since his arrival on Merseyside from Inter Milan. Liverpool may have missed Suarez but they missed the little Brazilian rather more.

"Yes," Rodgers agreed. "Technically it was disappointing. We looked flat and slow in our game. I would like a much stronger squad but we have what we have and we have lost a number of players, including Glen Johnson and Coutinho.

"It hurts because we haven't tasted defeat for so long but I am still optimistic for the season despite a defeat that is hard to swallow. The one bright light is that, from Wednesday, we have Suarez back."

Bizarrely, Rodgers started with no fewer than four centre-halves. One of them was Mamadou Sakho, who remarked when he signed from Paris St Germain that he should not be considered a left back. That was precisely where he found himself and, as You'll Never Walk Alone began sounding out, around the stadium he could be seen quietly praying.

Individually, both Sakho and Kolo Toure produced some smart interplay but the unit as a whole looked dreadfully ponderous. Rodgers pointed out that there was also precious little offensive threat from his back, although their habit of passing back to Simon Mignolet, who fancies himself as a sweeper, frequently threatened self-destruction.

That a side with four centre-halves lost the game to a corner, conceded after a mix-up between Toure and Martin Skrtel, was their manager reflected "criminal". His counterpart, Mauricio Pochettino, remarked caustically that: "Just because you have four centre-backs doesn't mean you are not going to concede. Over the 90 minutes we were much superior to them."

The corner from Adam Lallana was struck by Lovren with the side of his head as he fell under pressure from Daniel Agger and then hit the roof of the net as Steven Gerrard tried to clear from behind the line. Shortly afterwards Rodgers employed a specialist left-back.

A free-kick from the Liverpool captain before the interval had the closest they came to a breakthrough but, just at the second when the stadium was about to explode to celebrate the goal, Artur Boruc pushed it aside. Journalistic cliché would demand that the Southampton keeper leapt like a salmon. There are few dolphins in the various Sea Life centres dotted around the coast who could have done better.

Line-ups:

Liverpool (4-4-1-1): Mignolet, Toure, Skrtel (Luis Alberto 72), Agger, (Luis Enrique 56) Sakho; Henderson, Gerrard, Lucas Leiva, Moses; Aspas (Sterling ht); Sturridge. Substitutes: Jones, Ibe, Kelly, Wisdom.

Southampton (4-2-3-1): Boruc; Clyne, Fonte, Lovren, Shaw; Schneiderlin, Wanyama; Rodriguez, Osvaldo (Cork 89), Lallana (Ward Prowse 76); Lambert (Davis 66).

Substitutes: Davies, Ramirez, Chambers, Hooiveld.

Referee: Neil Swarbrick (Lancashire)

Attendance: 44,755

Match rating: 6/10

Man of the match: Lovren (Southampton)

DAILY MIRROR

LU NEED MORE THAN ONE MAN; Suarez is back to lift the attack, but Liverpool look short all over the pitch

LIVERPOOL 0

SOUTHAMPTON 1 Goal: Lovren 53

THE obvious thing for Liverpool to say after this defeat is that everything will be OK because youknow-who is finally back. However, that doesn't make it the right thing to say.

Because, based on this match against Southampton, Liverpool need more than the talismanic Luis Suarez to solve all their problems.

Unless Suarez can play right-back, left-back, out wide as well as in the hole behind Daniel Sturridge, then it is hard to see how even he could have won this game for Liverpool.

The Reds missed Glen Johnson and Philippe Coutinho as much as Suarez, and Kolo Toure is no attacking right-back, while Iago Aspas looks out of his depth.

Toure knows what makes a successful side from his time with Arsenal and Manchester City and says it is about the team rather than one or two talented individuals.

While he is glad to have Suarez back from his 10-match biting ban for Wednesday's clash with Manchester United, he says the Reds cannot rely on just him or Sturridge.

"Suarez is a fantastic player," said the Ivory Coast defender. "He's a top striker, who can score a goal at any time.

"But we've had Daniel Sturridge playing so well. Suarez will strengthen the team.

They will be a strong partnership, mobile and very strong. But it's important to have a strong group, not just individuals." After the progress Liverpool have made over the last six months, Saturday was a step backwards.

Artur Boruc had little to do in the Saints goal apart from saving a couple of Steven Gerrard free-kicks.

Liverpool's resolve evaporated when Dejan Lovren headed in Adam Lallana's corner on 53 minutes and Southampton were denied more when Simon Mignolet saved from Pablo Daniel Osvaldo and made a superb triple stop from Luke Shaw.

Brendan Rodgers' bizarre decision to start with four centre-halves did not help and Toure and left-back Mamadou Sakho were square pegs in round holes.

Lallana says Rodgers' team selection "raised a few eyebrows" before kick-off.

"We played a high-pressing game and felt we won the ball back in areas we could affect the game," he said.

"If they couldn't play it out from the back, they had to go long and our back four were like rocks"

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Woeful Reds suffers Saints shocker

Liverpool FC meekly surrendered their unbeaten start to the season as they crashed to a 1-0 defeat against Southampton in the Premier League at Anfield. Dejan Lovren headed home the only goal of the game early in the second half as Brendan Rodgers' side paid the price for a wretched performance.

It was the Reds' first defeat in 14 games and they could have no complaints about the outcome as they were comprehensively outfought and outplayed.

The manager made three changes from the side which drew 2-2 at Swansea on Monday as Daniel Agger, Kolo Toure and Iago Aspas replaced Andre Wisdom, Jose Enrique and the injured Philippe Coutinho.

It meant Liverpool's back four was made up entirely of centre-backs with Toure on the right and Mamadou Sakho asked to play at left-back on his home debut. It was an experiment which didn't pay off.

Southampton, who had been the last team to beat the Reds with a 3-1 triumph at St Mary's back in March, were unchanged from their 0-0 draw against West Ham with boyhood Reds fan Rickie Lambert up front alongside £13million summer signing Dani Osvaldo.

Liverpool struggled to get into their rhythm during an opening 45 minutes when the visitors pressed them high up the pitch and repeatedly forced them to concede possession.

Jordan Henderson's strike was comfortably claimed by Artur Boruc early on before Lucas Leiva tested the keeper from long range.

Midway through the first half Aspas was cynically blocked off by Jose Fonte 25 yards out. From the subsequent free-kick, Steven Gerrard's curling effort was brilliantly turned behind by Boruc.

* Liverpool v Southampton - rate the Reds players out of 10

There was a lack of energy and intensity about the Reds and Southampton grew in confidence. Martin Skrtel blocked a shot from Lambert and then Osvaldo fired wide after running at the back-peddling Sakho.

Daniel Sturridge was left fuming 13 minutes before the break when he appeared to be upended by Lovren's clumsy challenge inside the box. Neil Swarbrick waved away Liverpool's appeals for a spot-kick.

Victor Moses belatedly came to life and went close to breaking the deadlock. The on-loan Chelsea winger cut in off the left, burst past Nathaniel Clyne and Fonte but was denied by Boruc's save.

Rodgers replaced the ineffective Aspas with Raheem Sterling for the second half but the Reds remained sloppy and disjointed.

After Agger had given the ball away, Clyne found Adam Lallana, whose strike was parried away by Simon Mignolet.

The danger signs were there and the goal finally arrived in the 53rd minute.

Lovren benefited from some shoddy marking as he headed Lallana's corner goalwards. Gerrard was on the line but couldn't keep it out.

Jose Enrique replaced Agger and Gerrard saw another sweetly-struck free-kick parried by Boruc, but it was the visitors who continued to boss proceedings.

Only the brilliance of Mignolet kept Liverpool in the game. The Belgian denied Luke Shaw and then recovered expertly to stop Steven David from converting the rebound.

Luis Alberto came on for Skrtel with Henderson moving to right-back but there was no spirited rally from the hosts.

Their afternoon was summed up late on when Sturridge put Sterling through but the winger's awful first touch meant the chance went begging.



Woeful Reds slip to first league defeat

Usually, it's the pre-match proclamations of the opposition that are pinned to the dressing room wall to rile players into action.

On Saturday, however, the posting of the Liverpool teamsheet was all that was required to give Southampton the incentive to bring the Anfield side's unbeaten start to the season to a shuddering halt.

"It raised a couple of eyebrows," says visiting midfielder Adam Lallana. "But we concentrated more on our game and I thought we did that and forced our gameplan on them well."

Come full time, and the home supporters who remained inside a half-empty Anfield were happy to focus their minds on anything but Liverpool's performance. Wretched. Dire. Embarrassing. Pathetic. Uninspired. Dismal. Worrying. Woeful. All, and many more disparaging terms, would apply to arguably Liverpool's most insipid home display since the dark days of Roy Hodgson.

It was that bad.

So much for whispers of a title challenge. The sight of Brendan Rodgers selecting four centre-backs in his starting line-up underlined that, despite a sizeable summer transfer splurge and the position of early Premier League leaders, much work remains for Liverpool to contend at the very top.

When the Anfield manager urged his side to address their previous inability to

replicate their first-half performances after the interval, being uniformly awful for the full 90 minutes wasn't the solution he had in mind.

Of course, while supporters chastened by years of false dawns greeted the start to the campaign with cautious optimism, there will be a similar considered reaction once the dust settles on this setback.

Indeed, the manner of the defeat – only Liverpool's second in 17 Premier League games and their first since the 3-1 defeat at Southampton back in March – will not have surprised given the largely unconvincing manner in which Rodgers' men had clambered their way to the top-flight summit.

Having won seven and drawn two of the previous nine games without Luis Suarez, the final match of the Uruguayan's 10-match suspension demonstrated his return for Wednesday's Capital One Cup tie at Manchester United has come at precisely the right time.

Part of the reason Suarez's lengthy absence was not more keenly felt was the partnership between January signings Daniel Sturridge and Philippe Coutinho.

But with Coutinho now sidelined until the end of October, Liverpool needed fresh creativity from midfield. And, as happened after the Brazilian departed early in the second half at Swansea City last Monday, none was forthcoming.

Iago Aspas, striving painfully to adjust to life in English football, has thus far demonstrated little evidence he is the answer in the number 10 role, the Spaniard hooked at half-time to prompt a tactical reshuffle in an attempt to bring an isolated and increasingly frustrated Sturridge into the game.

By then, though, the momentum was with Southampton, Rodgers as culpable as his under-par players given a team selection that served to inspire the visitors and confuse his own team.

Not least with that curious backline. With Jose Enrique on the bench, why play

new man Mamadou Sakho at left-back, particularly with another central defender, Kolo Toure, already in the other full-back berth?

It hardly aided forward efforts already blunted by Coutinho's absence. Toure, though, was a rare bright spot on a day of gloom – although the sight of him as the only attacker in the Southampton area during one second-half foray was a damning indictment of Liverpool's ineffectiveness.

Even then, Toure was among those at fault for the comedy of errors that saw the home side fall behind eight minutes after the interval, Rodgers' men finally paying the price for lackadaisical play in their own final third.

Poor control from Martin Skrtel and then Toure conceded a corner on the Southampton left and, from Lallana's delivery, Dejan Lovren held off Daniel Agger to power home a header at the far post that Steven Gerrard could only clear into the top of the net.

Lovren had earlier survived a strong first-half penalty claim when he appeared to foul Sturridge inside the area, only for referee Neil Swarbrick to wave play on.

That was arguably Liverpool's best chance. Gerrard, among many to have been dragged down by the general malaise, saw two free-kicks beaten out by Artur Boruc but, one first-half save from Victor Moses apart, the Southampton goalkeeper was largely unemployed.

In contrast, but for Simon Mignolet the margin of Liverpool's defeat could have been heavier, the Belgian making a succession of fine saves as Rodgers' men threatened to fall apart in the second half.

The pick was a tremendous triple save on 69 minutes. With the Liverpool defence parting, Mignolet saved from Luke Shaw, repelled the unwitting rebound off Sakho and then cleared before Southampton substitute Steven Davis could pounce.

Saints manager Mauricio Pochettino had clearly done his homework, the visitors pressing high up the field to prevent Liverpool playing the ball out of defence and then dropping deep to frustrate the hosts with their tactical organisation.

It ensured a throwback to the first half of last season when Rodgers' men struggled to pick holes through well-drilled opposing defences.

Liverpool can do better. They must do. And with the small matter of a Capital One Cup trip to Old Trafford to come on Wednesday – and the imminent return of Suarez – they can ill afford any moping over this damaging reverse.

MAN OF THE MATCH. Simon Mignolet. His saves prevented a bad day from appearing even worse for Liverpool

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Lovren's header brings Liverpool back to earth

In these final minutes of his exile, Luis Suarez would have wondered how he would have fitted into the afternoon, how he would have taken the chances squandered by others.

Liverpool have endured the ban for Suarez's sinking of his teeth into Branislav Ivanovic better than hoped. Brendan Rodgers not only kept hold of the striker, despite the Uruguayan's protests that he wanted to spend time in London, but this was the only game of the 10 that had been lost.

It was, however, badly lost and the question is whether Rodgers will throw Suarez back in against Manchester United in Wednesday's League Cup tie or wait until Sunday at Sunderland. Given that Paolo Di Canio's side has had to endure Mezut Ozil's debut, this might be unnecessarily cruel on a club already adrift and rudderless in the Premier League.

This was a reminder that, however impressively they began, Liverpool are not yet the real deal. Southampton, who have now taken eight points with three goals, won easily and once Dejan Lovren had put them ahead, there were few moments of anxiety.

With time and Anfield's patience almost exhausted, Daniel Sturridge sent a ball over the top for Raheem Sterling. He was clear on goal and, had he kept his nerve the equaliser might have been his. Instead, his first touch sent the ball scuttling to the goalkeeper. The match finished amid empty seats and boos.

For those who imagined that the victory over Manchester United signalled Liverpool's rebirth, this was as sobering as a bucket of water over a drunk. Rodgers had never been among them. The Liverpool manager's programme notes had talked of: "returning the club to the pinnacle of the game, both domestically and in Europe," without suggesting that would be done by May.

"We never got going. From the off, it was lethargic" said Rodgers, who had last tasted defeat in March. This was also against Southampton and it was, coincidentally, the only loss suffered by Philippe Coutinho since his arrival on Merseyside from Internazionale. Liverpool may have missed Suarez but they missed the little Brazilian rather more.

"Yes," Rodgers agreed. "Technically it was disappointing. We looked flat and slow in our game. I would like a stronger squad but we have what we have and we have lost a number of players, including Glen Johnson and Coutinho.

"It hurts because we haven't tasted defeat for so long but I am still optimistic for the season despite a defeat that is hard to swallow. The one bright light is that, from Wednesday, we have Suarez back."

Rodgers started with no fewer than four centre-halves. One of them was Mamadou Sakho, who remarked when he signed from Paris St Germain that he should not be considered a left back. That was precisely where he found himself and, as You'll Never Walk Alone began sounding out, around the stadium he could be seen quietly praying.

Individually, both Sakho and Kolo Tour[c] produced some smart interplay but the unit as a whole looked dreadfully ponderous. Rodgers pointed out that there was also precious little offensive threat from his back four, although their habit of passing back to Simon Mignolet, who fancies himself as a sweeper, frequently threatened self-destruction. That a side with four centre-halves lost the game to a corner, conceded after a mix-up between Tour[c] and Martin Skrtel, was their manager reflected "criminal". His counterpart, Mauricio Pochettino, remarked caustically that: "Just because you have four centre-backs doesn't mean you are not going to concede. Over the 90 minutes we were much superior to them."

The corner from Adam Lallana was struck by Lovren with the side of his head as he fell under pressure from Daniel Agger and then hit the roof of the net as Steven Gerrard tried to clear from behind the line. Shortly afterwards Rodgers employed a specialist left-back.

A free-kick from the Liverpool captain before the interval was the closest they came but, just at the second when the stadium was about to explode to celebrate the goal, Artur Boruc pushed it aside. Journalistic clich[c] would demand the Southampton keeper leapt like a salmon. There are few dolphins in the various Sea Life centres dotted around the coast who could have done better.

Liverpool (4-4-1-1): Mignolet, Tour[c], Skrtel (Luis Alberto, 72), Agger, (Luis Enrique, 56), Sakho; Henderson, Gerrard, Lucas Leiva, Moses; Aspas (Sterling, h-t); Sturridge.

Southampton (4-2-3-1): Boruc; Clyne, Fonte, Lovren, Shaw; Schneiderlin, Wanyama; Rodriguez, Osvaldo (Cork, 89), Lallana (Ward-Prowse, 76); Lambert (Davis, 66).

Referee: Neil Swarbrick.

Man of the match: Lovren (Southampton)

Match rating: 6/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Rodgers handed a reality check

Liverpool 0

Southampton 1 Lovren 53

Att: 44,755

You'll never walk alone, Liverpool supporters avow in spine-tingling harmony, and yet the sight of Luis Suarez in the Anfield stands throughout this limp defeat to Southampton strengthened impressions that Brendan Rodgers' team are little more than a one-man band.

The return of the Uruguayan, serving out the final game here of his 10-match ban for biting Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic, can hardly come soon enough if such a disjointed performance is an accurate reflection of their ills.

On this evidence, the revival plotted in recent weeks has been nothing more than illusory. The hosts, beaten convincingly by Southampton through Dejan Lovren's second-half goal, boasted little imaginative spark as both Daniel Sturridge and Victor Moses flattered to deceive. As for the ineffectual Iago Aspas, hooked after 45 minutes to make way for teenage prodigy Raheem Sterling, the Spanish striker looked more like Desdemona than Iago in turning in a first-half display of quite shocking timidity.

The last defeat for Brendan Rodgers' players had come at St Mary's Stadium in March, 13 games ago, and the marauders from the south coast turned out to be their undoing once more as they succumbed in tepid fashion.

Mauricio Pochettino, the Southampton manager, reflected: "It was an amazing effort from the entire team. It is an important win against the league leaders but we refuse to get carried away. We will still be back in training at 10am."

If his verdict sounded stilted then that is because the Argentine is still, rather surprisingly, talking via a translator after more than eight months in England. But whatever Pochettino imparted to his charges yesterday plainly resonated as Southampton punished Liverpool for a lack of ambition.

Rodgers admitted: "We just never got going - we were flat and slow from the off. This hurts, because we haven't tasted defeat for such a long time. It is hard to swallow."

In mitigation, he has had the misfortune to lose his most talismanic players at the same time. The contribution of Suarez up front is incalculable and the absence of attacking midfielder Philippe Coutinho, the nimble young Brazilian sidelined until January with a shoulder injury, also stymies Liverpool's creativity.

"The one positive from this game is that Luis is now back and available," Rodgers said of Suarez, as the two seek to repair their relationship after a prolonged summer transfer tussle.

"He is in condition, and he has been doing a lot of specific work with our fitness squad. He's a worker and a fighter. Of course as a manager I would like a stronger team, but otherwise you cannot underestimate how well these players have done. Don't forget that this is our first Premier League defeat since March." Ultimately, Liverpool were the architects of their own downfall, not least in a lamentably disjointed opening period. About the most pleasing moment of composure came when Pochettino controlled an errant ball with his Italian leather brogues. Liverpool's formation looked static - especially with a back line comprised of four centre-backs in Kolo Toure, Martin Skrtel, Daniel Agger and Mamadou Sakho - and their attacking game proved equally inert, Jordan Henderson serving as no kind of deputy for Coutinho.

Their one threat was delivered in the form of Steven Gerrard's free kicks, but Southampton goalkeeper Artur Boruc enjoyed an inspired afternoon to repel the danger. Rodgers had no option but to try to energise the attack, substituting Aspas with Sterling, deployed as a dynamic wingback to forage forward at every opportunity.

It did not work, as Lovren, the Bosnian-born centre-back who signed from Lyon during the summer transfer window, outmuscled Agger at the far post to capitalise on Liverpool's sluggish play and register his maiden Southampton goal. From there Rodgers' men were alarmingly toothless as they chased an equaliser, with Sterling and Sturridge particularly profligate.

It could have been even worse for Liverpool when an error by Agger allowed in Lallana for a glimpse of the net. Luke Shaw, aided by a couple of ricochets, also surged through the home defence to draw a fine instinctive save from Simon Mignolet.

The Belgian goalkeeper again kept out the follow-up when the ball cannoned off Sakho, fashioning a desperate clearance before Steven Davis could pounce.

Southampton, understandably, were more passive as the clock ticked down but they still comfortably closed out a fifth league win in their past seven encounters with Liverpool, who were displaced by Chelsea at the top of the table last night.

In the eyes of an impatient Kop, Liverpool remain an infuriating work in progress.

Date: 22 September 2013

Opposition: Southampton

Competition: League

BBC	Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
	Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
	Post	Sun Telegraph	Independent	South Daily Echo

22 September
2013



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Rodgers' giant error

LIVERPOOL 0

SOUTHAMPTON 1

Lovren 53

WE ALL know about the "flat back four" -- but meet the very elevated one.

Brendan Rodgers came up with a surprise, a defence entirely comprising giant players whose regular jobs are to be centre-backs.

From Kolo Toure on the right to Mamadou Sakho on the left to Martin Skrtel and Daniel Agger in the middle, they loomed in a line in front of Simon Mignolet. Four tower blocks in red: you wondered if Rodgers had planning permission.

The ruse simply didn't come off. It may find itself in the same dustbin for coaching blueprints as Craig Levein's attempt to introduce 4-6-0 to Scotland or Ossie Ardiles' five up front with Tottenham.

Rodgers has done such good work at Anfield throughout 2013 and his eager side had started the season vibrantly, so there was leeway for a bad day, but this was an odd way to surrender an unbeaten record and the leadership of the Premier League.

Southampton, applauded off by all corners of a generous Anfield, should have won by more but will take this, a first away win against one of the traditional big clubs since their return to the Premier League. Last season at home they defeated Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool -- Rodgers' last top flight defeat, back in March -- and Mauricio Pochettino, their impressive young manager, hailed this result as a further step in his club's progress. "We have to keep developing a winning mentality," he said. His team moved the ball better than the hosts, who pride themselves on their passing. Southampton counter-attacked with more precision, pace and energy and even outdid Liverpool in what has arguably been Liverpool's strongest suit this season -- a pressing game.

Liverpool, without proper full-backs to drive them up the pitch from the flanks, were unusually disconnected in terms of defence, midfield and attack. Gallingly, for Rodgers, fielding a gang of stoppers did not even stop Liverpool conceding from a set-piece.

In the 54th minute, Adam Lallana gave another of his excellent deliveries, sending a corner kick deep. Dejan Lovren brushed off Agger and Toure and met it with a downward header that was too powerful for Steven Gerrard to clear off the line. Lovren, a fearsome looking Croat, grabbed the match ball after the final whistle with nobody brave enough to mention that normally, in England, only hat-trick scorers enjoy that honour.

"The fact you play many centre-backs doesn't guarantee you're not going to concede," said Pochettino, himself a former central defender. "You have to recognise Liverpool played with four centre-backs. [But] I think overall we had a very good game and were faithful to our philosophy." Rodgers, in his defence, was trying something in the face of Glen Johnson's absence, Martin Kelly's lack of match sharpness, a desire to use young Andre Wisdom carefully, and worries about overplaying Jose Enrique.

Enrique, said Rodgers, has knee issues -- though the Spaniard didn't look like he wanted a rest as he bounded on, for Agger, three minutes after the goal. By the 71st minute, Luis Alberto had replaced Skrtel and Liverpool's centre-back count was the regulation two. Having Philippe Coutinho out for six weeks -- he needs shoulder surgery -- will be an issue for Liverpool. Iago Aspas, in the second striker role, struggled to supply Daniel Sturridge.

Liverpool suffered from a general lack of technique and devilment in forward areas. The return of Luis Suarez, back from his ban to face Manchester United in midweek, is perfectly timed.

Sturridge, after goals in his five previous 2013-14 appearances, never looked like scoring here. He twice blazed hotheaded shots into the stand -- though one moment of his quality could have retrieved a point. In the final minutes a flicked pass by Sturridge sent Raheem Sterling clear but the substitute wasted his great position with a heavy touch.

Gerrard was also out of synch, although he struck two tremendous free kicks to draw top-class stops from Artur Boruc.

But Mignolet was busier, saving well from Pablo Osvaldo and Lallana when it was 0-0 and then at 1-0 foiling Luke Shaw with a double block when Shaw wove his way right down the centre of the pitch, getting inside the box to shoot despite challenges from Sterling, Gerrard and Sakho.

It was a thrilling dribble from a thrilling prospect -- and evidence of the benefit of having skilful, ball-carrying full-backs in your side. Nathaniel Clyne, at right back, was also a buccaneering threat, as natural coming forward as Toure and especially Sakho were uncomfortable.

"Today hurts," said Rodgers. "It was not ideal to have to play [the four centre backs]," he conceded. "We might have to look at a different system [if faced with a similar situation] but we have to accept we're not happy and look forward." As for Suarez? "It'll be great to have him back."

Liverpool: Mignolet 8, Toure 5, Skrtel 5 (Alberto 72min), Agger 5 (Jose Enrique 57min 6), Sakho 5, Lucas 5, Gerrard 5, Henderson 5, Aspas 4 (Sterling 46min 5), Moses 6, Sturridge 5

Southampton: Boruc 6, Clyne 7, Fonte 7, Lovren 8, Shaw 6, Wanyama 7, Schneiderlin 6, Lallana 7 (Ward-Prowse 76min), Osvaldo 6, Rodriguez 6, Lambert 6 (S Davis 66min)

Date: 22 September 2013

Opposition: Southampton

Competition: League

BBC	Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
	Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
	Post	Sun Telegraph	Independent	South Daily Echo

22 September
2013

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

Website of the Year

Lovren downs Liverpool

Dejan Lovren's first Saints goal gave his club a memorable 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Anfield.

The £8.5m Croatian centre half headed home an Adam Lallana corner early in the second period to give Mauricio Pochettino's men a well deserved victory against the team who started the day as league leaders.

It was an excellent display from Saints who once again looked assured at the back and this time put away one of several chances to bag three points which lifts them up to fifth in the early season table.

Southampton's match-winner Lovren had more than one reason to smile as he left Anfield having scored the only goal and escaped with not conceding a penalty.

The Croatia international struck in the 54th minute to end Liverpool's 12-match unbeaten league run spanning this season and last.

However, the Saints - the last team to defeat the Reds in March - may not have won 1-0 had referee Neil Swarbrick had the benefit of television replays which showed the defender had brought down Daniel Sturridge in the first half.

That incident aside, however, Liverpool did not create nearly enough chances for a team who began the day top of the table.

On this evidence the return of the watching Luis Suarez, sitting out the final match of his 10-match ban, has come not a moment too soon.

Rodgers' sprang a surprise in his line-up by experimenting in defence by selecting four centre-halves - arguably the strongest area of his squad - after naming Kolo Toure on the right and Mamadou Sakho on the left either side of the returning Daniel Agger and Martin Skrtel.

Neither options at full-back looked a success in the first half, failing to supplement their defensive duties with anything approaching the usual attacking roles expected of that position.

Saints' right-back Nathaniel Clyde got forward more than the pair of them in 45 minutes in which his side did not have the majority of possession but were not afraid to commit men to attack.

Sakho, on only his second appearance after a less-than-convincing outing in central defence in the 2-2 draw at Swansea on Monday, is seen as the long-term option in the middle but being broken in at left-back seemed almost like the Reds boss was accommodating the £16million signing from Paris St Germain for the sake of it.

The watching Jamie Carragher, who patrolled central defence so brilliantly for so many years for Liverpool before his retirement last season, will no doubt have left with plenty of ammunition for his new role as a television analyst.

Sat close to Carragher was Suarez, enduring his last punishment for biting Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic in April.

He looks set to return for the midweek Capital One Cup tie at Manchester United so this was Iago Aspas' last real chance to impress following his summer move from Celta Vigo.

The Spaniard scored 12 goals last season but has yet to score in five league games for his new club and the fact he lasted only 45 minutes told its own tale.

Liverpool created two real chances in the first half in addition to the penalty shout, a paltry return by anyone's standards.

Goalkeeper Artur Boruc's brilliant one-handed save denied Gerrard's curling free-kick after Aspas had been fouled by Jose Fonte before Sturridge, who after scoring in first four league matches had been unusually quiet, thought he had won a spot-kick.

He cut back on the angle of the penalty area Luke Shaw and Lovren, who made contact with the striker but not the ball.

Victor Moses carved out his own chance when he collected Gerrard's throw down the left, cut in past a couple of defenders only to see Boruc turn his shot behind.

Southampton had probed in the first half without properly testing goalkeeper Simon Mignolet, who created his own problems by coming for a ball Skrtel had covered and could only watch as Adam Lallana volleyed over the open goal.

Chances seemed to be a premium for strikers at both ends as Southampton's England international Rickie Lambert had one sight of goal, from Gerrard's miscontrol, but sliced a gentle looping shot into the arms of Mignolet.

Raheem Sterling's introduction for Aspas at half-time should have injected some life into Liverpool's attack but it was the visitors who struck first in the 54th minute.

Lovren beat Agger to Lallana's corner to head down and past Gerrard on the goalline. It was a goal you sensed had been coming for a while.

The boost in confidence that gave Southampton was evident in Shaw's driving run from halfway which saw Mignolet brilliantly stop both his shot, the rebound off Sakho and then get up to prevent substitute Steven Davis poking home.

Lovren then produced a timely intervention at the other end, diverting Sterling's low cross from the byline destined for Henderson.

In the final 20 minutes Liverpool were back to two regulation centre-backs as Agger and Skrtel were replaced for more attacking options but it did little to change the outcome.

BBC

Early Premier League pacesetters Liverpool suffered their first defeat of the season as a Dejan Lovren goal gave Southampton victory at Anfield.

The Croat might have conceded a penalty for a challenge on Reds striker Daniel Sturridge in the first half.

But early in the second half he held off Daniel Agger to steer in a header from Adam Lallana's corner.

Liverpool struggled to create chances as the visitors easily held on for a second league win of the season.

Saints had been the last team to beat Liverpool in the league - a 3-1 win at St Mary's in March - and the relative comfort with which they repeated the feat provided a reality check for the Merseyside club after a promising start to their campaign.

Southampton manager Mauricio Pochettino had highlighted the importance of cutting off the supply to the prolific Sturridge - a scorer in his side's previous five games - and while the visitors were assisted by the absence of the Reds' injured Brazilian playmaker Philippe Coutinho, they stuck meticulously to their manager's plan.

Even so, Liverpool were the first to go close, Steven Gerrard's 25-yard free-kick being palmed wide by keeper Artur Boruc at full stretch.

And the home side gradually began to exert some pressure, with Reds forward Iago Aspas releasing Victor Moses, but left-back Luke Shaw intervened with a well-timed tackle as the former Chelsea man prepared to chip the on-rushing Boruc.

The hosts then thought they should have had a penalty when centre-back Lovren appeared to clip Sturridge in the area, before Moses went close when he nutmegged centre-back Jose Fonte, only to see his poked shot saved by Boruc.

But when Reds defender Agger gave the ball away early in the second half - a mistake that saw Lallana played in for an effort that keeper Simon Mignolet had to save - it signalled the start of some sloppy play by Liverpool.

The Reds needlessly conceded a corner and Lovren, who signed for the south coast club from Lyon in the summer, outmuscled Agger to nod Southampton in front.

It very nearly got worse for Liverpool when Shaw, helped by a couple of ricochets, broke through the home defence to produce an impressive save from Mignolet.

The Belgian keeper also kept out a follow-up effort when the ball rebounded off Liverpool defender Mamadou Sakho, then punched away the loose ball before Southampton's Steven Davis could get to it.

The visitors sat back more in the closing stages but comfortably protected their lead to secure a fifth league win in their past seven games against Liverpool, who will now be even more glad to welcome Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez back at the end of his 10-game suspension for biting.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers:

"We were very subdued. Technically we were not very good and gave away a poor goal. It is one of the few poor days we have had.

"We just need to recover. We were not so good with the ball and technically nowhere near the level we have been at.

"Luis Suarez being available is a positive as he has now served his ban and we can bring someone as good as him back."

Southampton boss Mauricio Pochettino:

"We are very pleased - the effort the players put in was amazing. We were up against the leaders and I am delighted.

"Overall, we had an amazing game, especially in the second half. It's really good that one of our defenders got on the scoresheet.

"We are just thinking ahead to the next game and nothing else. I've been in football too many years to be carried away."

BBC

90:00+3:12 Full time The game is over, as the referee blows the whistle.

90:00+2:12 Clearance made by Dejan Lovren.

90:00+2:10 Centre by Raheem Sterling.

90:00+2:00 Luke Shaw makes a clearance.

90:00+1:01 Victor Wanyama makes a clearance.

89:34 Clearance by Jordan Henderson.

88:27 Simon Mignolet takes the free kick.

88:16 Substitution Substitution Jay Rodriguez leaves the field to be replaced by Jack Cork.

87:43 The referee blows for offside against Jay Rodriguez.

87:23 Clearance made by Kolo Toure.

86:08 Dejan Lovren manages to make a clearance.

86:07 Clearance by Jose Fonte.

86:06 Luis Alberto has an effort at goal and missed to the left of the target.

82:50 Shot by Steven Davis. Simon Mignolet catches the ball.

82:48 Clearance by Mamadou Sakho.

82:44 Clearance by Steven Gerrard.

82:42 Corner from the left by-line taken by James Ward-Prowse.

82:16 Raheem Sterling manages to make a clearance.

82:14 The ball is swung over by Morgan Schneiderlin.

81:49 Jay Rodriguez takes a shot. Blocked by Jordan Henderson.

80:18 Nathaniel Clyne receives a yellow card.

Date: 22 September 2013 Opposition: Southampton Competition: League	BBC	Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph	22 September 2013
		Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror	
		Post	Sun Telegraph	Independent	South Daily Echo	

<p>80:18Booking 79:30 Clearance made by Kolo Toure. 79:27 The ball is swung over by James Ward-Prowse. 79:14 Clearance made by Jordan Henderson. 79:11 Corner taken by James Ward-Prowse. 78:44 Pablo Osvaldo takes the chance to get an effort at goal. Kolo Toure gets a block in. 77:44 Daniel Sturridge takes a shot and cleared the goal. 77:31 Short corner taken by Victor Moses from the left by-line. 76:46 Clearance by Jose Fonte. 76:45 Sanchez Jose Enrique produces a cross. 75:19 Simon Mignolet restarts play with the free kick. 75:18Substitution SubstitutionJames Ward-Prowse is brought on as a substitute for Adam Lallana. 74:05 Pablo Osvaldo is ruled offside. 72:32 Dejan Lovren makes a clearance. 71:31Substitution SubstitutionLuis Alberto on for Martin Skrtel. 71:05 Jose Fonte makes a clearance. 70:28 Corner taken short by Pablo Osvaldo. 69:54 Clearance by Dejan Lovren. 69:49 Dejan Lovren makes a clearance. 69:47 Victor Moses produces a cross. 69:33 Morgan Schneiderlin makes a clearance. 69:31 Corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the right by-line. 68:05 Victor Wanyama manages to make a clearance. 68:05 Corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the right by-line. 67:39 Jose Fonte manages to make a clearance. 67:19 Clearance by Kolo Toure. 67:17 Corner from the left by-line taken by Adam Lallana. 66:50 Clearance made by Simon Mignolet. 66:41 Luke Shaw takes a shot. Simon Mignolet parries the ball but the danger is not over. 66:30 Clearance by Martin Skrtel. 65:53Substitution Southampton makes a substitution, with Steven Davis coming on for Rickie Lambert. 64:16 Morgan Schneiderlin manages to make a clearance. 64:11 Clearance by Victor Wanyama. 64:00 Luke Shaw manages to make a clearance. 63:58 Jordan Henderson crosses the ball in from the free kick. 63:30 Raheem Sterling fouled by Dejan Lovren, the ref awards a free kick. 62:10 Free kick taken by Leiva Lucas. 62:07 Leiva Lucas fouled by Morgan Schneiderlin, the ref awards a free kick. 61:29 Clearance by Luke Shaw. 61:26 Raheem Sterling produces a cross. 59:41 Clearance made by Mamadou Sakho. 59:06 Steven Gerrard shoots direct from the free kick. Artur Boruc parries the ball away. 58:07 Victor Moses fouled by Adam Lallana, the ref awards a free kick. 57:41 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Blocked by Jose Fonte. 56:30Substitution SubstitutionDaniel Agger goes off and Sanchez Jose Enrique comes on. 55:03 Mamadou Sakho produces a cross. 54:57 Dejan Lovren makes a clearance. 54:56 Mamadou Sakho crosses the ball. 54:17 Dejan Lovren makes a clearance. 54:08 Pablo Osvaldo takes a shot. Simon Mignolet parries the effort to safety. 52:56 Assist on the goal came from Adam Lallana. 52:56Goal scored Goal! - Dejan Lovren - Liverpool 0 - 1 Southamp'nDejan Lovren scores a headed goal. Liverpool 0-1 Southampton. 52:54 Corner from the left by-line taken by Adam Lallana. 51:03 Artur Boruc restarts play with the free kick. 50:34 Clearance made by Nathaniel Clyne. 50:31 The referee blows for offside against Victor Moses. 49:50 The ball is sent over by Mamadou Sakho. 49:26 Clearance by Victor Wanyama. 49:25 A cross is delivered by Daniel Sturridge. 48:24 Free kick taken by Mamadou Sakho. 48:24 Adam Lallana challenges Mamadou Sakho unfairly and gives away a free kick. 48:04 Simon Mignolet restarts play with the free kick. 47:39 The assistant referee flags for offside against Rickie Lambert. 47:23 Clearance made by Raheem Sterling. 47:21 A cross is delivered by Adam Lallana. 46:46 Adam Lallana takes a shot. Simon Mignolet parries the ball but the danger is not over. 46:03 Jay Rodriguez takes a shot. Simon Mignolet catches the ball. 45:44 Martin Skrtel makes a clearance. 45:41 Adam Lallana crosses the ball in from the free kick. 45:22 Mamadou Sakho concedes a free kick for a foul on Victor Wanyama. 45:01 The referee gets the second half underway. 45:01Substitution SubstitutionRaheem Sterling replaces Iago Aspas. 45:00+1:16Half time The half-time whistle blows. 45:00+0:09 Header by Daniel Sturridge goes harmlessly over the bar. 45:00+0:06 Centre by Steven Gerrard. 44:56 Jose Fonte makes a clearance. 44:54 Corner taken by Steven Gerrard. 43:35 Simon Mignolet takes the free kick. 43:14 Adam Lallana is caught offside. 42:54 Free kick taken by Victor Wanyama. 42:34 Daniel Sturridge is caught offside. 42:22 Jose Fonte restarts play with the free kick.</p>	<p>42:10 Free kick awarded for a foul by Victor Moses on Adam Lallana. 40:25 Clearance made by Nathaniel Clyne. 40:20 Free kick taken by Morgan Schneiderlin. 39:57 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Adam Lallana by Steven Gerrard. 38:33 Victor Wanyama takes the free kick. 38:26 Unfair challenge on Victor Wanyama by Steven Gerrard results in a free kick. 37:17 The ball is sent over by Pablo Osvaldo. 36:32 Corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the right by-line. 36:01 Victor Moses takes a shot. Artur Boruc parries the effort to safety. 35:14 Daniel Sturridge takes a brilliant shot and cleared the goal. 31:00 Free kick crossed by Steven Gerrard. 30:28 Victor Wanyama challenges Victor Moses unfairly and gives away a free kick. 29:43 Free kick taken by Jordan Henderson. 29:37 Foul by Jose Fonte on Steven Gerrard, free kick awarded. 29:34 Clearance by Daniel Agger. 29:31 The ball is swung over by Adam Lallana. 29:29 Steven Gerrard makes a clearance. 29:25 Corner taken by Adam Lallana. 28:31 Clearance made by Martin Skrtel. 28:29 Centre by Nathaniel Clyne. 27:42 Free kick taken by Artur Boruc. 27:17 The referee blows for offside. 27:05 Martin Skrtel manages to make a clearance. 26:13 Pablo Osvaldo takes a shot and went wide right of the net. 25:42 Kolo Toure manages to make a clearance. 25:41 Rickie Lambert takes a shot. Simon Mignolet catches the ball. 25:39 The ball is swung over by Adam Lallana. 25:33 Luke Shaw restarts play with the free kick. 25:08 Unfair challenge on Jay Rodriguez by Kolo Toure results in a free kick. 24:17 Clearance made by Luke Shaw. 23:52 Jose Fonte makes a clearance. 22:47 Clearance by Victor Wanyama. 22:45 Free kick taken by Simon Mignolet. 22:22 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Daniel Agger by Pablo Osvaldo. 22:00 Clearance by Kolo Toure. 21:26 Clearance made by Morgan Schneiderlin. 21:25 Corner from the left by-line taken by Steven Gerrard. 20:48 Steven Gerrard produces a shot on goal direct from the free kick. A parry by Artur Boruc prevents the goal. 19:32 Free kick awarded for a foul by Jose Fonte on Iago Aspas. 18:21 A cross is delivered by Rickie Lambert. 18:05 Clearance by Leiva Lucas. 18:02 The ball is swung over by Rickie Lambert. 14:19 Rickie Lambert takes a shot and went wide of the left-hand post. 13:51 Dejan Lovren manages to make a clearance. 13:19 Centre by Nathaniel Clyne. 12:33 Clearance made by Simon Mignolet. 12:26 Clearance by Martin Skrtel. 12:25 Adam Lallana produces a cross. 10:34 Morgan Schneiderlin delivers the ball. 10:17 Clearance by Kolo Toure. 7:51 Jose Fonte makes a clearance. 7:50 Jordan Henderson produces a cross. 7:05 Dejan Lovren makes a clearance. 5:30 Kolo Toure makes a clearance. 5:05 Martin Skrtel makes a clearance. 4:39 Shot by Leiva Lucas. Artur Boruc catches the ball. 4:36 Clearance by Luke Shaw. 4:34 The ball is delivered by Jordan Henderson. 4:23 Jordan Henderson manages to make a clearance. 4:18 Adam Lallana crosses the ball in from the free kick. 3:34 Unfair challenge on Nathaniel Clyne by Victor Moses results in a free kick. 3:15 Free kick taken by Kolo Toure. 3:01 Clearance by Martin Skrtel. 2:59 The official flags Rickie Lambert offside. 2:39 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Artur Boruc catches the ball. 2:03 Adam Lallana has an effort at goal and missed to the right of the goal. 2:02 Martin Skrtel manages to make a clearance. 1:17 Clearance made by Victor Wanyama. 1:14 Free kick taken by Simon Mignolet. 0:47 Iago Aspas fouled by Victor Wanyama, the ref awards a free kick. 0:17 Mamadou Sakho makes a clearance. 0:00 The game begins.</p>
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