Date: 23 November 2013
Opposition: Everton
Competition: League

Guardian	Independent	Echo
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23 November 2013

THE TIMES

theguardian

Daniel Sturridge only played the last 11 minutes of this match but in that time he saw Romelu Lukaku give Everton the lead to complete what appeared to be a dramatic comeback, before cancelling it out with a header of his own a minute from the end. It was that sort of Merseyside derby, pulsating and full of incident. Even in the four minutes of added time, it could still have gone either way. Forget the notion that derbies are usually tense, cagey affairs. This was one of the games of the season.

"A brilliant game, it had everything," Brendan Rodgers said. "Magnificent," offered derby debutant Roberto Martínez. "It was an outstanding effort from my players, even if it was disappointing to concede three goals at dead-ball situations."

To start at the beginning, it took derby veteran Steven Gerrard under five minutes to make an impression, both supplying the 50-yard crossfield pass that Seamus Coleman headed out of play then taking the corner from which Philippe Coutinho put Liverpool ahead at the far post. Luis Suárez nudged the ball in Coutinho's direction, for the Brazilian to control smartly and shoot hard and low.

Everton needed to respond quickly and they did, getting back on terms three minutes later, when Ross Barkley touched on a Leighton Baines free-kick for Kevin Mirallas to hook in. Barkley showed some wonderful touches as Everton attacked with imagination for the rest of the half, and a more composed finish by Lukaku might have put them into the lead after Steven Pienaar had dispossessed Gerrard, yet for all their promise going forward the home side allowed themselves to be undone by another lapse of concentration in defence. First Gareth Barry gave away an unnecessary free kick by barging over Suárez, then as the Uruguayan shaped to take a shot at goal from 25 yards out Pienaar inexplicably stood a couple of feet wide of the wall. Suárez needed no further invitation and duly drove the ball through the gap, leaving Tim Howard no time to get across.

After three goals in the first 20 minutes the game settled down to a slightly more sedate pace before the interval, though Phil Dowd still had his work cut out keeping order on the pitch. Shortly after correctly booking Barkley for a dive the referee's biggest challenge arrived when Mirallas went studs up on Suárez, catching him above the knee. It looked as though the fixture was going to live up to its reputation for producing red cards, and Mirallas could have had no complaints, though after a protracted delay and lengthy discussion, with Suárez all the while writhing on the floor, Dowd opted for a lenient yellow.

If that was a stroke of luck Everton were even luckier in the second half, when Joe Allen made his contribution to derby folklore with what may well be the miss of the season. Suárez had done all the hard work, dribbling through the Everton defence so that when the ball broke to Allen in the penalty area there was no one left to stop him and only Howard to beat. Astonishingly, he managed to miss the target from 12 yards out.

Everton could have equalised when Martínez threw on Gerard Deulofeu for Baines and saw the teenager break clear to force a save from Simon Mignolet. While it was a decent stop Deulofeu should probably have done better, and the same was true of subsequent Mignolet saves from the substitute and twice from Lukaku.

Just when it appeared Everton might never find a way through, Lukaku found his range. After testing Mignolet from a free-kick the striker moved up and was in position when the ball was worked in from the left to supply a finish from near the penalty spot. At 2-2 the game would have swung Liverpool's way but for a terrific reaction save by Howard to keep out a Suárez header, then seven minutes from the end victory appeared to be Everton's when Lukaku scored a second, rising unopposed to meet a Mirallas corner.

Seven minutes is a long time in a Merseyside derby, however. Even after Sturridge equalised with a glancing header from Gerrard's free-kick with a minute of normal time left, there was still time for Suárez to bring another sharp save from Howard and the exciting Deulofeu to test Mignolet again at the other end. It was quite a game, and while a point each was only fair, both sides could reasonably claim they did enough to win. For entertainment value, it could not be faulted, and Dowd deserves credit for keeping 22 players on the pitch.

"End-to-end attacking football is what you want to see, with 11 players against 11, but Mirallas should have been sent off," Rodgers said. "The challenge was a really bad one, you could end a player's career jumping in like that."

Martínez was among those who thought the referee got it right. "It was a typical striker's tackle," he said. "I can see why Liverpool wanted a red card – had it been against one of my players I would probably feel the same – but it was not malicious and I think the referee took the emotions of a derby into account. He allowed the game to be played."

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The Mail

Sturridge is a reluctant hero as Rodgers praises 'immense' display from Flanagan

He was last to leave the pitch, having savoured the acclaim of those relieved Liverpool's supporters in Goodison Park's away end.

Daniel Sturridge's impact on the 221st Merseyside derby could not have been more dramatic, his glancing header 88th minute ensured a wonderful game of football ended 3-3, but if he expected the platitudes to continue, the England international was in for a surprise.

'It is very simple for me,' Brendan Rodgers, who introduced Sturridge as 79th minute substitute. 'With any player, you have to put yourself on the training field. If you do that, you will be in with a chance of playing. John Flanagan was immense, a young kid from the city.

'He has played in a derby that will be shown on Sky Golden in 30 years' because of his desire and will to be out there every day. If you don't do that, there is a consequence – you don't play. If you want to be a champion, you have to be ready. For this game, I just felt Daniel wasn't ready.'

Rodgers had been forced to make a big call when picking his team for the derby. Liverpool's manager was irritated with the FA that Sturridge had played 90 minutes for England against Germany without training beforehand. But, still, he wanted his £12million to be a spearhead alongside Suarez.

His hand was forced, though, after watching him at Liverpool's Melwood training base on Friday. The signals Sturridge gave – he has struggled with a dead leg – meant Rodgers had to reshuffle. Given the size of the fixture and its power to create legend, Sturridge's reticence surprised.

Sturridge has been brilliant for Liverpool, as a record of 22 goals in 30 games illustrates. But there is more to it than that. If he looks back through history, he will see the greatest Merseyside forwards were defined by their hunger, desire and willingness to go through the pain barrier.

'The boy has got as much talent as any striker in Europe,' said Rodgers. 'Look at his pace, power, touch and ability. This is one where I have had to make a judgement. Listen Daniel has been great for us. It was disappointing because you come here and you want your players firing.'

Yet without Sturridge, Liverpool would have been dead and buried. They looked to have crumbled during the second half, as Everton produced arguably their finest 45 minutes of attacking football since Roberto Martinez succeeded David Moyes.

Young Ross Barkley, Romelu Lukaku and Gerard Deulofeu – a second half substitute for Leighton Baines, who will be out for a few weeks after he suffered a fractured toe – were inspired by the occasion, tearing forward at every opportunity.

Some of these games have been squalid, drab affairs but this, at times, was breathless. It had everything you want from these meetings – plenty of goals, talking points, controversy and local players coming to the fore. Barkley and Flanagan, in particular, were exceptional.

'Our star man was Jon Flanagan by a country mile,' said Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard. 'I thought he was sensational. It was one of the best derby performances I have seen for many years. He is all about heart, desire, determination and fighting for the cause. He was brilliant.'

Both sides felt, justifiably, they should have won. Everton, for whom Lukaku and Kevin Mirallas shared the goals, believing they had done enough with their second half display. Liverpool argued Joe Allen's horrible miss and Phil Dowd's failure to send off Mirallas cost them.

Certainly, Mirallas, who equalised Philippe Coutinho's opener, was fortunate not to become the 12th player in 18 games to be expelled for an atrocious tackle on Luis Suarez, which left the Uruguay striker – scorer of Liverpool's second goal – with stud marks behind his knee.

'When I made the challenge the first thing I thought was that it was going to be a red card,' said Mirallas. 'I had said to Suarez soon after the kick off when we were standing close to each other "do you remember last season, you kicked me?" He laughed and said "yes, fair enough!"

'But that tackle was nothing to do with a year ago. I was genuinely going for the ball but I know I caught him on the knee and I said sorry straight away. I'm glad he wasn't injured.'

The Daily Telegraph

When the sore heads clear across Liverpool on Sunday morning – a 12.45pm kick-off always gave more scope for bar-room debate and beer – this will go down as one of the all-time great Merseyside derbies.

Everton manager Roberto Martínez, who became a father for the first time on the eve of his first involvement in this derby, may even have found time to wet the baby's head.

The champagne would have had more fizz had his team held on after hauling Liverpool back. "It's a girl [Luella]," Martínez said. "She's an Evertonian, of course."

He will have been proud, also, that Everton finished the match with four 'babies' of their own – players aged 20 and younger – on the pitch including the outstanding Ross Barkley, "a young man with Everton in his blood and his heart".

Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, claimed that his heart had "just stopped" after the final whistle and this was a contest that had everything. Goals, of course, six of them (and it could have been double that number), chances, saves, tackles and intent. It was a slug-fest at times.

And the miss of the season. And controversy. And, of course, Luis Suárez was at the centre of it.

Again he left his mark with a ninth league goal in seven league matches – but there was a mark left on him also: studs on his knee. In a bizarre passage of play – and with the Liverpool striker already hobbling with a hurt right knee – he was then challenged on that knee with Kevin Mirallas chopping at him high.

Referee Phil Dowd took an eternity – and appeared to be listening intently to his earpiece – while there was even some jostling between Gareth Barry and one of the Liverpool physios.

Finally Mirallas was cautioned, when he should have been dismissed. Then when he eventually left the field, substituted after 88 minutes, there was a standing ovation from the home supporters that will have added to Liverpool's sense of grievance. Having already scored Mirallas played a significant role in both of Romelu Lukaku's goals.

Supporters will have sore heads but Joe Allen will also be feeling sore.

Mirallas's escape may have been pivotal, but so was the moment when Allen, somehow, side-footed wide when clear through on goal. That he steadied himself before shooting, that he had Suarez to his left, also clear on goal, will have added to the trauma. Allen lost his head – and was quickly substituted.

At 3-1 Liverpool would surely have won? Maybe not. Everton created so many opportunities and while Lukaku scored twice he also missed twice. Substitute Gerard Deulofeu spurned three chances, while Liverpool's goalkeeper Simon Mignolet was outstanding, as was Everton's Tim Howard.

Six goals and both goalkeepers played well? It was that kind of encounter. "It had everything in it – quality, happy moments, disappointment," Rodgers mused, while Martínez's opening remark to the media after the game – when asked his reaction – was simply: "How long have you got?"

Well, not enough to cram every incident into this match report, as Liverpool went from going to the top of the Premier League, to surrendering local bragging rights, to saving face, while Everton went from losing at home to their bitterest rivals, to briefly jumping into the top four, to settling for a point.

It was in keeping that both teams scored in the opening eight minutes. So much for lunchtime kick-offs being slow to start, although both goals owed a great deal to rank bad defending. Somehow, from a Steven Gerrard corner, Everton neglected to mark Philippe Coutinho, who cushioned Suarez's flicked header at the far post and poked the ball home.

It was all the more bizarre as it was the first goal Everton had conceded in more than five and a half hours, but they were soon striking back.

Leighton Baines swung in a superb free-kick, Barkley headed down and there was Mirallas to hook the ball beyond Mignolet.

Liverpool responded. After Mignolet had rushed from goal to thwart Lukaku, Suarez was bundled over by Gareth Barry 25 yards from goal. From the free-kick the striker signalled his intent but still managed to squeeze his effort through the narrowest of gaps between the defensive wall and Steven Pienaar. The ball shaved the post and beat Howard's despairing dive.

Martínez reacted boldly, bringing on Deulofeu, and it almost reaped an immediate dividend as he outpaced Daniel Agger to reach Mirallas's incisive through ball. But his low shot lacked conviction and Mignolet saved.

Then came Allen's incredible miss followed by a yellow card as he kicked Mirallas.

By now Everton were dominant and running the midfield. Liverpool were backtracking with Suarez increasingly isolated and although Mignolet stood firm he could not stop everything. A deflected Lukaku free-kick was retrieved by Mirallas with the ball eventually running through to the powerful striker. Mignolet got a hand to the side-footed shot but could not stop it.

After Howard brilliantly pushed out Suárez's meaty header and later did the same with a fierce half-volley, Everton scored with a header of their own. This time Lukaku rose unchallenged to meet Mirallas's ball in and thumped his close-range header beyond Mignolet.

Surely that was the winning goal? But, no. Gerrard's free-kick was steered across goal and past Howard by substitute Daniel Sturridge with a deft header. Even then there was controversy with Everton claiming Gerrard had stolen yards. But then neither side wanted to cede an inch.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Brendan Rodgers plays down club-versus-country row by insisting Daniel Sturridge must learn to look after his fitness

Daniel Sturridge looks to be the subject of the latest club-versus-country row after Brendan Rodgers admitted he was not fit to start the Merseyside derby against Everton on Saturday – instead coming off the bench with 11 minutes to go to salvage a 3-3 draw for Liverpool with his ninth Premier League goal of the season.
Sturridge missed England's 2-0 defeat to Chile on the first Friday of the international break after he was deemed unfit to feature, but he played the entire match of last Tuesday's friendly against Germany despite concerns over whether he was anywhere near 100 per cent fit.
Having returned to his club, Rodgers decided that he was not in the right condition to start the weekend encounter at Goodison Park having made the decision during Friday's training session, although the Reds' boss has stopped short of putting the entire blame at the door of the Football Association. He instead admitted that Sturridge must be partly responsible for his actions and must learn to analyse his own fitness levels.
"I am looking at him in training on Friday and he is not right. Whose responsibility is that? It is the association, the player," Rodgers said. "All I can do is look and assess who will give me absolutely everything when they go out on the field.
"We have a game against a massive rival away from home. I need everyone as close to 100 per cent as I possibly can. He is clearly not. A lot of players, especially the top ones, are never 100 per cent fit.
"Suarez will never have been 100 per cent in his time here. Different personalities, different types."
Rodgers stressed the importance of having his players as close to fully fit as possible, with both Sturridge and Suarez integral to their hopes of securing a Champions League return through a top four finish.
Both have nine goals in the league this season, and they have gelled to form one of the most formidable strike-partnerships in world football – Manchester City's Sergio Aguero and Alvaro Negredo are their only real rivals in the Premier League at this time.
For Rodgers, he understands the need for Sturridge to maintain his form that has seen the Reds make a good start to the season, and he feels that unlike Suarez, who can provide a moment of magic at any time, the Englishman needs to impress in training to ensure he transfers his talent into points.
"Daniel has been a match winner for us throughout his time here but I didn't feel, because of that level of fitness, he was going to be that for us," admitted Rodgers, after he elected to bring on Sturridge in the 79th minute which resulted in his equalising goal.
"I have seen it before. There is a trend. There are some games when he hasn't played well and that has happened on the back of not training. With any player, you have to put yourself on the training field. If you do that, you will be in with a chance of playing."

DAILY Mirror

Thrilling Merseyside derby sees Sturridge score equaliser in nailbiting finish

No wonder they played Town Called Malice over the Goodison Park PA system at half-time.
This was a throwback to the days when the Merseyside derby was full of fight and spite and thrills and spills.
It was an absolute classic.
Luis Suarez spent the entire 90 minutes tormenting Everton's players with his brilliance and antagonising the home fans with his unique Uruguayan brand of bare-faced cheek.
Liverpool's No.7 left the pitch with another goal to his name and his knee bruised and bloodied by the Kevin Mirallas tackle that really should have earned the Belgian a red card.
Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers claimed that referee Phil Dowd wouldn't have been quite so understanding, had his maverick South American been the one doing the damage.
Steven Gerrard bulldozed Gareth Barry with a raised elbow that brought howls of anger from the home support, but not a single word of warning from Mr Dowd.
It was fitting that, in the final analysis, the spoils were shared because no one deserved to lose.
Twice, the Reds took the lead in the first half, through Philippe Coutinho and Suarez.
But the Blues responded both times through Mirallas and Romelu Lukaku.
And when Lukaku scored a textbook centre-forward's header to give the Toffees the lead, with just eight minutes remaining, Roberto Martinez must have been thinking that this was about to become the perfect week.
The Everton manager was at the birth of his first child, a daughter called Luella, on Thursday night.
But, just as the champagne was being put on ice, Daniel Sturridge salvaged a point for the visitors with an 89th-minute header.
"Wow!" was the first word Rodgers uttered when he entered the Goodison press room afterwards. "Oh my goodness. My heart has just stopped. It was a game that had everything. Quality, mistakes, drama.
"We are disappointed because, at 2-1, we missed a great chance to make it 3-1 and kill the game.
"But then we showed real character and mentality to take a point from one of our rivals, so I really know what this team is made of."
Indeed, if Joe Allen (right) had not wasted Suarez's exquisite approach play by shooting wide on the hour, with Everton keeper Tim Howard grounded and the goal gaping, Liverpool would surely have won.
Coutinho gave them the lead in the fourth minute with a close-range finish after Suarez had flicked on Gerrard's corner. Mirallas levelled within four minutes when he swept Ross Barkley's knock-down high past Simon Mignolet.
But when Suarez took aim from 25 yards in the 20th minute, his free-kick flew past Everton's poorly constructed defensive wall and beyond Howard's grasp.
Suarez had spent the previous 10 days flying through eight time zones to help his country qualify for the World Cup.
He looked like he had been knocked into the middle of next week when he was flattened by a studs-up Mirallas lunge, yet referee Dowd took a lenient view by only booking the Belgian.
Everton stepped up the tempo after the break. Mignolet, who had brilliantly denied Lukaku and Barkley in the first half, was even better after the break.
Substitute Gerard Deulofeu and Lukaku both failed the beat the Belgian after going clear.
Mignolet was finally beaten 18 minutes from time when Lukaku fired home after initially seeing his deflected free-kick kept out by his Belgian team-mate.
Lukaku still wasn't finished and when he rose to meet Mirallas' corner with a meaty header, his fourth goal in three games against Liverpool seemed certain to be the winner.
But the contest took another turn in the last minute when Sturridge met Gerrard's free-kick with a flicked header that flew into the top corner. There was still time for Liverpool substitute Victor Moses to head over and Howard to deny Suarez an injury-time winner.
"How long have you got?" questioned Martinez, when asked to sum up his first Mersey derby experience.
"I am so proud to have been involved in a game like that in that kind of - environment."

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LIVERPOOL ECHO

How to make sense of the derby which defied belief.
Kopites walked away from the Bullens Road with a heady mix of emotions as the dust settled on a remarkable contest.
There was joy, relief, pride, frustration and a sense of injustice. This was a game Liverpool should have won but one they came worryingly close to losing.
Ultimately, they were indebted to Daniel Sturridge's dramatic 89th-minute header for sparing their blushes and rescuing a point.
The super sub wrecked the Goodison party before treating the Gwladys Street to some body popping. The 221st meeting between Merseyside's finest will go down as one of the all-time greats. So much for the pre-match talk about the ideals of Brendan Rodgers and Roberto Martinez ensuring that this would be one for the purists. The intensity was staggering and the pace relentless as both sides showcased their strengths and exposed the other's glaring weaknesses.
It was like watching two lumbering heavyweights desperately trying to deliver the knockout blow but leaving themselves wide open to attack. The defending was virtually non-existent. "Wow. My goodness. My heart has just stopped," was Rodgers' initial assessment. The Liverpool boss was rightly furious at referee Phil Dowd's failure to dismiss Kevin Mirallas for his X-rated challenge on Luis Suarez before the break. There should only have been one outcome after the Belgian planted his studs in the back of the Uruguayan's knee.
It was reckless and dangerous but bizarrely Dowd brandished only a yellow card. The fact that Mirallas went on to play such a pivotal role in Everton's second-half revival served to rub salt into the wounds.
Having been wrongly denied a first derby triumph at Goodison a year earlier by an errant offside flag, Rodgers found himself thwarted once again by officialdom. However, the manager will know the Reds shouldn't have needed a numerical advantage in order to inflict Everton's first home league defeat of 2013.
Joe Allen will be having nightmares over his failure to put Liverpool 3-1 up and out of sight on the hour mark. When the ball ricocheted into his path eight yards out he simply had to score but side-footed horribly wide. It was a shocking miss.
The Welshman, who got the nod after Sturridge was deemed only fit enough for bench duty, struggled on his first Premier League start since March.
What a contrast to Jon Flanagan who flourished on the biggest afternoon of his young career. Asked to play out of position at left-back, the 19-year-old Academy graduate delivered a performance of great maturity.
It took a leap of faith by Rodgers to select him ahead of the more experienced Aly Cissokho but the decision was vindicated. Flanagan had his hands full with Mirallas charging at him but he rose to the challenge.
He snapped into tackles, used the ball intelligently and his positional play was excellent. His team-mates showed their appreciation for his efforts with a round of applause when he returned to the dressing room.
This proved to be the set-piece derby with Liverpool displaying both their threat and vulnerability from dead-ball situations during a frenetic opening. Inside five minutes Philippe Coutinho was granted the freedom of the penalty box to rifle home Gerrard's deep corner. However, the visitors' joy was shortlived as they failed to deal with Leighton Baines' delivery and Ross Barkley nodded down for Mirallas to convert. For Simon Mignolet, there was the agony of being beaten three times by fellow Belgian internationals but the keeper could hold his head high. The £9million shot-stopper didn't put a foot wrong in his first Merseyside derby as he pulled off a string of exceptional saves.
There was one vital stop at the feet of Romelu Lukaku prior to Liverpool restoring their lead in the 19th minute. Suarez was upended by Gareth Barry but picked himself up to curl a stunning 25-yard free-kick around the wall and into the bottom corner. Lucas Leiva had warned that the boo boys would only serve to inspire the prolific striker, who has scored on all of his three visits to Goodison.
Suarez had been hobbling prior to being poleaxed by Mirallas and as he lay writhing in agony Everton must have felt they had seen the back of him.
However, remarkably, he returned to carry on tormenting the Blues' backline.
This game came just 36 hours after Suarez had completed the 7,000-mile journey from Montevideo but he doesn't do fatigue. "Luis is a machine," said skipper Steven Gerrard about another relentless shift from the club's prized asset.
Liverpool deserved their lead at the break with Lucas having shone in front of the back four. Rodgers' 4-1-4-1 formation had enabled the Reds to achieve a measure of control but in the second half it was a very different story. The cloak of caution Everton wore under David Moyes has been cast aside.
Martinez was bold when he replaced the injured Baines with the talented Gerard Deulofeu, and successfully forced Liverpool on to the back foot.
The Reds got increasingly ragged as possession was carelessly tossed away and they invited pressure. The composure Rodgers had called for was nowhere to be seen. Mignolet was the sole reason they remained in front until 18 minutes from time. After Glen Johnson's error, Mirallas put Deulofeu clear but the keeper came to the rescue. Allen should have killed off the Blues' hopes before Mignolet stuck out his right hand to claw away Lukaku's effort.
Rodgers brought on Victor Moses for Allen in a bid to stem the tide but to no avail. Mignolet reacted brilliantly to keep out Lukaku's deflected free-kick but when the ball came back into the box he was helpless to prevent the big frontman from converting. It was ridiculously open and after Tim Howard somehow kept out Suarez's header from Gerrard's inviting cross, Rodgers played his ace.
Sturridge replaced Lucas but he could only stand and watch as Lukaku emphatically headed home Mirallas' corner. Goodison was rocking at the prospect of the Blues toasting their first derby triumph in seven attempts but they were swiftly silenced. The character and resilience Rodgers has instilled came to the fore as the Reds picked themselves off the canvas. Gerrard provided the perfect delivery from the right and Sturridge nodded beyond Howard.
Moses, Suarez and Deulofeu all could have won it in stoppage time but a share of the spoils seemed appropriate. This really was a game worthy of bringing out on a DVD.

LIVERPOOL DAILY POST

Roller-coaster ride of thrilling derby
Like two heavyweights punching themselves to an exhausted standstill, players from both sides were momentarily at a loss as the shrill peep of Phil Dowd's final whistle pierced the Goodison air. Such bewilderment extended to the stands as supporters paused briefly to catch breath after a remarkable, ridiculous, roller-coaster 90 minutes. And then it came, the applause thundering down from all four corners of the famous old ground, Everton and Liverpool fans united in their appreciation of an instant classic. If fortune truly does favour the brave, small wonder this incredible 221st Merseyside derby demonstrated why, on both sides of Stanley Park, eyes are fixed firmly on a bright future.
Too often a fixture crippled by the fear of losing, this was an afternoon in which those afraid should instead be the duo's fellow challengers for Champions League qualification. What in recent times has been a parochial spat is once again assuming national significance. And, boy, how this match will resonate.
Mind you, derby debutant Roberto Martinez need note they aren't always like this. But it was the Everton manager's willingness to retain faith in the passing philosophy echoed by Liverpool counterpart Brendan Rodgers that contributed to such a refreshing and uplifting occasion.
Both teams benefited from luck, but each will argue it was justified by their brave approach. Everton were fortunate Kevin Mirallas escaped with only a yellow card for a dreadful challenge on Luis Suarez and that Joe Allen etched his name in derby folklore for all the wrong reasons with an astonishing miss.
Liverpool, meanwhile, were indebted to some wayward finishing and iffy set-piece defending from their neighbours and an excellent performance from goalkeeper Simon Mignolet. While Martinez became a father for the first time less than 48 hours before kick-off, on Saturday almost everybody inside Goodison was having kittens. But when the dust settles Everton will regard this as two points lost, Liverpool as one point gained. Despite twice taking the lead in the first half, Rodgers' side spent a far greater time on the defensive as their recurring failing of falling away after half-time was married to Everton's now regular second-half Goodison surge. The Liverpool manager rightly pointed to the character his side had shown to snatch a dramatic 89th-minute equaliser through substitute Daniel Sturridge. However, that they were left in such a quandary spoke volumes for the self-belief surging through an Everton side that has still lost only one Premier League game this season and are unbeaten at home in the top-flight in 2013. It also exposed the fault lines that still run through Liverpool, despite being led only by Arsenal in the standings.
With Steven Gerrard patently not 100% and the overworked Lucas Leiva eventually unable to stem the tide, Everton were crucially allowed a period of midfield dominance in which Romelu Lukaku's brace had seemingly snatched victory. For Lukaku, it was reward for his perseverance, the on-loan Belgian having been thwarted three times by counterpart Mignolet before, in the 72nd minute, he turned in a cross from Mirallas and 10 minutes later rose above Glen Johnson to power home the same player's corner to move on to seven goals in eight Premier League outings. The influential Mirallas, though, should not have been on the pitch. Shortly after the half-hour, the winger caught Suarez with a late, high, ugly challenge referee Phil Dowd mistakenly viewed only a bookable offence.
Indeed, Mirallas led a charmed life throughout, escaping censure after later clashing again with Suarez and catching Jordan Henderson with a stray elbow.
The Belgian netted Everton's first goal, hooking in from close range after Liverpool failed to clear a deep Leighton Baines free-kick, just three minutes after Philippe Coutinho had capitalised on similarly woeful set-piece marking when unmarked at the far post from a Gerrard corner.
Suarez, relentless as ever, showed no sign of being affected by the 17,000-mile round trip to represent his country some 60 hours earlier, and produced the highlight of the match on 19 minutes when sweeping home a sumptuous free-kick from 25 yards for his ninth goal in seven Premier League games.
In contrast, strike partner Sturridge, adjudged not fit enough by a disapproving Rodgers, was left shuffling his feet on the bench until a late cameo from the bench saw him expertly glance home Gerrard's free-kick for the equaliser.
Allen and Jon Flanagan were the surprise Liverpool starters. But while Flanagan impressed hugely at left-back, Allen will forever be associated with the dire miss on the hour with only Tim Howard to beat from 12 yards that, with the visitors leading 2-1, could have changed the complexion of the match.
By then, the bold introduction of teenager Gerard Deulofeu for the stricken Baines had edged the initiative back to Everton. The on-loan Spaniard frightened

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Liverpool with his direct running, although his finishing – twice denied by Mignolet when sent clear – betrayed his tender years.
Martinez's faith in youth extended to a full derby debut for Ross Barkley, the Scouser revelling in the occasion and one of several positives for the home side who, having finished above Liverpool in the last two seasons, have clearly banished any lingering inferiority complex regarding their neighbours.
Sure, the critics will point to the admittedly at times woeful defending and the sheer open nature of midfield as reasons for neither side being able to sustain a realistic top-four challenge. But after a first 3-3 derby in almost 84 years, nobody was complaining. Mersey pride? You bet.
EVERTON (4-2-3-1): Howard; Coleman, Jagielka, Distin, Baines (Deulofeu 50); Barry, McCarthy; Mirallas (Osman 88), Barkley, Pienaar (Stones 83); Lukaku. Subs: Robles, Heitinga, Jelavic, Naismith. BOOKINGS: Barkley (simulation), Mirallas, Barry and Distin (all fouls).
LIVERPOOL (4-1-4-1): Mignolet; Johnson, Skrtel, Agger, Flanagan; Lucas (Sturridge 79); Henderson, Gerrard, Allen (Moses 68), Coutinho; Suarez. Subs: Jones, Toure, Alberto, Sakho, Sterling. BOOKINGS: Allen, Lucas and Suarez (all fouls).
REFEREE: Phil Dowd. ATT: 39,576.

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Breathless derby given extra lift by flying Luis Suarez

The first song they played as the teams walked off for the interval was "A Town Called Malice". The last thing the players heard before they came back on was Jack Topping, an 11-year-old choirboy from Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, singing "Let it Be".
This Merseyside derby was something similar, a mixture of the brutal and the sublime but, ultimately, it was a thrilling vindication of football's values. Luis Suarez had crossed continents to make the game and it was worth the trip.
As his manager, Brendan Rodgers, pointed out, he might have travelled the 7,000 miles that separate Montevideo and Liverpool to be crippled by a challenge from Kevin Mirallas.
He played on. One of the less- remarked-on aspects of Suarez's personality is his sheer appetite for the game, something all street footballers possess whether they be Wayne Rooney or Johan Cruyff, who kicked a ball in the shadow of Ajax's old De Meer stadium, where his mother worked as a cleaner.
Given that he had flown from England to Jordan and then on to Uruguay and then back to Merseyside in a private jet belonging to the Liverpool owner, John W Henry, there would have been every excuse for Suarez missing this game. Given he has a new-born baby at home, his sleep deprivation must have been acute.
Suarez merits comparison with Cruyff, not least in his frustration with those team-mates who play their football at less exalted levels. With Liverpool leading 2-1, he wriggled his way through a blue wall of defenders to set up Joe Allen, who could have scored with eyes wide shut. Somehow, he contrived to miss and Suarez, who would have had an open goal had Allen looked up, exploded in fury. To those who ask why he is selfish, here was the answer.
Cruyff, like Suarez, could dish it out and there has been plenty of "previous" between the Liverpool striker and Mirallas, who had been injured by the Uruguayan in the last derby played at Goodison; the match in which Suarez had flung himself at David Moyes's feet after being castigated for diving in the run-up to the fixture.
There was plenty of talk between the pair and when Suarez, who was hobbling after a challenge, ran for the ball, Mirallas's studs struck the side of his knee.
This, however, was a breathless rather than a brutal derby and both managers blew hard when confronted by the microphones in the press room afterwards and asked to describe what had gone on.
Naturally, the questions focused on Suarez, who had a hand in the opening two goals. For the first he flicked on Steven Gerrard's corner for Philippe Coutinho, who controlled the ball with his thigh and then whipped it into the goal beneath the Gwladys End. James McCarthy, on the line, succeeded only in diverting it into the roof of his own net.
The second goal was all his own. Gareth Barry brought him down from behind and, naturally, Suarez took the free-kick himself. There was a gap in the Everton wall. Suarez drove the ball through it perfectly and although Steven Pienaar dashed across to close the hole, it was too late. In between, Everton had scored.
All the goals from two teams whose managers emphasise free-flowing football came from set-pieces. Leighton Baines, who was brought off with an injury just after the interval, delivered a free-kick that Mirallas pounced on.
And yet as the second half wore on, Everton looked the likeliest winner as they sort to give manager Roberto Martinez a fitting present for becoming a father on the eve of the match. Despite the loss of Baines, which saw Barry move to centre-half and Sylvain Distin to left-back, they looked stronger and fitter. The Liverpool midfield began to give way. Allen's game disintegrated after his miss. Lucas Leiva, who had held everything together, was taken off, exhausted. Simon Mignolet denied first Gerard Deulofeu and then Romelu Lukaku in one-on-ones.
Then came the breakthrough. Lukaku took a free-kick from slightly further out than Suarez's had been. The ball deflected off the wall and was brilliantly turned away by Mignolet only for another Belgian, Mirallas, to turn it back in. Barry slid in to meet it and missed. Lukaku was next and did not.
Then came another set-piece and another goal. Lukaku out-jumped Johnson to meet Mirallas's corner and Goodison stood to celebrate what was obviously the winner. Only it wasn't. Daniel Sturridge, who had come off the bench, was allowed to meet another Gerrard free-kick and the ball struck the net in almost complete, bewildered silence.
Rodgers didn't start Sturridge after criticising England for playing him for 90 minutes against Germany when not fully fit. "He was still nowhere near fit to start," said the manager. "I said to him before the game he has been a match-winner for us since he came in but he may have to do it from the bench. Thankfully he came in and got a great header."
Everton (4-2-3-1): Howard; Coleman, Jagielka, Distin, Baines (Deulofeu, 50); McCarthy, Barry; Pienaar (Stones, 83), Barkley, Mirallas (Osman, 88); Lukaku.
Liverpool (4-1-4-1): Mignolet; Johnson, Agger, Skrtel, Flanagan; Lucas Leiva (Sturridge, 79); Henderson, Gerrard, Allen (Moses, 68), Coutinho; Suarez.
Referee: Phil Dowd.
Man of the match: Lucas Leiva (Liverpool)
Match rating: 8/10

Date: 23 November 2013
Opposition: Everton
Competition: League

Guardian	Independent	Echo
Sun Independent	Mirror	Post
Telegraph	Mail	BBC

23 November 2013

BBC

Daniel Sturridge's late equaliser rescued a point for Liverpool after a classic Merseyside derby with Everton at Goodison Park.

In the finest meeting between these two sides in years, Everton and Liverpool traded blows almost from the first whistle before sharing a point at its conclusion.

Philippe Coutinho gave the visitors an early lead but Kevin Mirallas - who should have been sent off for a shocking first half-tackle on Luis Suarez - quickly equalised.

Suarez restored Liverpool's advantage before half-time but Everton, playing with the attacking intent manager Roberto Martinez is determined to introduce, responded in style.

Romelu Lukaku, who had twice been thwarted by Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet, sidefooted home the equaliser before a towering header from Mirallas' corner put the hosts ahead with eight minutes left.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers had introduced Sturridge for Lucas with 15 minutes left and the move paid dividends in the 89th minute as he rose to head Steven Gerrard's free-kick beyond home keeper Tim Howard.

The list of chances was almost endless as, even in stoppage time, Howard saved from Suarez, and Mignolet blocked Everton substitute Gerard Deulofeu as both teams went for the winner.

They earned a standing ovation at the final whistle and rightly so after a thrilling 90 minutes.

Liverpool could only put Sturridge on the bench after he struggled with a thigh injury on England duty - but Suarez was available after flying back from Uruguay aboard owner John W Henry's private jet following their World Cup qualification on Thursday.

And it was inevitable that Suarez would be involved in most of the major talking points of an eventful first half.

The Reds were ahead inside five minutes in a manner that would have left Toffees manager Martinez aghast, as his side left Coutinho unmarked at the far post to score from Gerrard's corner, despite the efforts of James McCarthy on the line.

Martinez's counterpart Rodgers will not have felt any better as Everton equalised three minutes later, Mirallas pouncing to score after Martin Skrtel could not clear a Leighton Baines free-kick.

A free-flowing game looked certain to produce further goals. And so it proved as Suarez restored Liverpool's advantage in the 19th minute. He was fouled by Gareth Barry 25 yards out before inflicting further punishment by curling a low free-kick past the left hand of Howard.

Suarez was a central figure once more when he was felled by a shocking high challenge from Mirallas - referee Phil Dowd taking his time to make a decision as Liverpool's striker received lengthy treatment, before producing only a yellow card.

Mirallas, who was injured by a challenge from Suarez in last season's Merseyside derby, was fortunate to stay on the pitch after what looked a clear red card.

The hosts were dealt a blow just after half-time when Baines limped off, but Martinez felt bold enough to introduce gifted youngster Deulofeu, on loan from Barcelona, instead.

And he should have scored within moments when he was sent clear by Mirallas, but Mignolet was off his line quickly to block.

Lukaku had been a growing threat after a quiet start and twice Mignolet thwarted the giant striker as he looked poised to bring Martinez's men level.

It was Liverpool, however, who had the best opportunity - and contrived to waste it.

Suarez somehow ran a slalom through a number of home defenders and the ball fell to Joe Allen, but the midfielder, alone and eight yards out with only Howard to beat, sidefooted wide.

Everton were throwing everything forward and were rewarded when Mirallas crossed for Lukaku to finally beat Mignolet, who got a hand to his shot from eight yards but could not keep it out.

And the striker then soared above Reds defender Jon Flanagan in a mismatch in Liverpool's penalty box to head in a corner from the influential Mirallas.

Liverpool were not to be denied a point though and Sturridge earned it for them. He had the ball in the net again in injury time but was well offside, while the visitors' substitute Victor Moses also headed wide.

But Everton fully deserved something from this game and final whistle blew just after McCarthy had seen a shot blocked in the area.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 23 November 2013
Opposition: Everton
Competition: League

Guardian	Independent	Echo
Sun Independent	Mirror	Post
Telegraph	Mail	BBC

23 November 2013

BBC

Full time Match ends, Everton 3, Liverpool 3.
90:00+4:22Full time Second Half ends, Everton 3, Liverpool 3.
90:00+4:18 Attempt blocked. James McCarthy (Everton left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Seamus Coleman.
90:00+3:24 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
90:00+3:22 Attempt saved. Gerard Deulofeu (Everton right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by James McCarthy.
90:00+2:56 Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.
90:00+2:55 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.
90:00+2:17 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tim Howard.
90:00+2:13 Attempt saved. Luis Suárez (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Simon Mignolet.
90:00+1:00 Attempt missed. Victor Moses (Liverpool header from very close range is too high. Assisted by Luis Suárez with a cross following a set piece situation.
90:00+0:05 Foul by Gareth Barry (Everton.
90:00+0:05 Victor Moses (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
88:21Goal scored Goal!Goal! Everton 3, Liverpool 3. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a set piece situation.
88:10Booking Sylvain Distin (Everton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
88:00 Foul by Sylvain Distin (Everton.
88:00 Victor Moses (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
87:38Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Everton. Leon Osman replaces Kevin Mirallas.
86:14 Hand ball by Gerard Deulofeu (Everton.
85:23 Attempt saved. Kevin Mirallas (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Romelu Lukaku with a headed pass.
83:50 Foul by Gareth Barry (Everton.
83:50 Victor Moses (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
82:51Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Everton. John Stones replaces Steven Pienaar.
81:44Goal scored Goal!Goal! Everton 3, Liverpool 2. Romelu Lukaku (Everton header from the centre of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Kevin Mirallas with a cross following a corner.
81:25 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
81:24 Attempt saved. Gerard Deulofeu (Everton right footed shot from the left side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Gareth Barry.
81:10 Attempt saved. Gerard Deulofeu (Everton left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Kevin Mirallas.
80:02 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Victor Moses.
78:44Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Lucas Leiva.
78:27Booking Luis Suárez (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.
78:00 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tim Howard.
77:59 Attempt saved. Luis Suárez (Liverpool header from the left side of the six yard box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross.
76:53 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Phil Jagielka.
75:16 Foul by Kevin Mirallas (Everton.
75:16 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
74:41 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
74:41 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
74:34 Gareth Barry (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
74:34 Foul by Victor Moses (Liverpool.
73:30 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.
72:22 Foul by Phil Jagielka (Everton.
72:22 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
71:12Goal scored Goal!Goal! Everton 2, Liverpool 2. Romelu Lukaku (Everton right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by James McCarthy.
70:58 Attempt saved. Romelu Lukaku (Everton left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner.
70:11 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.
70:11 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
69:23 Attempt saved. Romelu Lukaku (Everton right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Ross Barkley with a through ball.
67:50Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Victor Moses replaces Joe Allen.
67:36 Attempt missed. Ross Barkley (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by James McCarthy.
66:51Booking Lucas Leiva (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
66:34 Steven Pienaar (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.
66:34 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
66:09 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
66:09 Foul by Luis Suárez (Liverpool.
65:01 Foul by Sylvain Distin (Everton.
65:01 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
63:09 Attempt saved. Gareth Barry (Everton left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Kevin Mirallas.
61:37 Attempt missed. James McCarthy (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right.
61:05Booking Joe Allen (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
60:55 Kevin Mirallas (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
60:55 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.
59:57 Foul by Kevin Mirallas (Everton.
59:57 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
59:03 Attempt missed. Joe Allen (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Luis Suárez.
57:11 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Glen Johnson.
53:36 Offside, Liverpool. Glen Johnson tries a through ball, but Jordan Henderson is caught offside.
53:15 Attempt saved. Gerard Deulofeu (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Kevin Mirallas with a through ball.
52:06 Offside, Everton. Kevin Mirallas tries a through ball, but Gareth Barry is caught offside.
50:24 Sylvain Distin (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
50:24 Foul by Luis Suárez (Liverpool.
49:39Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Everton. Gerard Deulofeu replaces Leighton Baines.
49:07 Foul by Seamus Coleman (Everton.
49:07 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
46:40 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick on the right wing.
46:40 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
45:48 Gareth Barry (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.
45:48 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool.
45:14 Phil Jagielka (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
45:14 Foul by Luis Suárez (Liverpool.
45:00 Second Half begins Everton 1, Liverpool 2.
45:00+3:05Half time First Half ends, Everton 1, Liverpool 2.
45:00+2:10 Attempt missed. Leighton Baines (Everton left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Steven Pienaar.
45:00+1:15 Offside, Liverpool. Glen Johnson tries a through ball, but Luis Suárez is caught offside.
45:00+0:48 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Sylvain Distin.
45:00+0:18 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Seamus Coleman.
44:36 James McCarthy (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
44:36 Foul by Luis Suárez (Liverpool.
43:56 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.
42:18 Gareth Barry (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
42:18 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool.
38:55 Foul by James McCarthy (Everton.
38:55 Jon Flanagan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
35:48 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
35:47Booking Kevin Mirallas (Everton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
33:44 Delay in match Luis Suárez (Liverpool because of an injury.
33:06 Foul by Kevin Mirallas (Everton.
33:06 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
30:38Booking Ross Barkley (Everton is shown the yellow card.
30:34 Ross Barkley (Everton has gone down, but that's a dive.
28:06 Attempt missed. Ross Barkley (Everton left footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Romelu Lukaku.
26:55 Steven Pienaar (Everton wins a free kick on the left wing.
26:55 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
25:55 Attempt missed. Kevin Mirallas (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left.
22:27 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Sylvain Distin.
21:26 Foul by Sylvain Distin (Everton.
21:26 Daniel Agger (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
20:51 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
20:48 Attempt saved. Ross Barkley (Everton right footed shot from long range on the left is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Leighton Baines.
20:12 Steven Pienaar (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
20:12 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool.
18:27Goal scored Goal!Goal! Everton 1, Liverpool 2. Luis Suárez (Liverpool from a free kick with a right footed shot to the bottom right corner.
17:30 Foul by Gareth Barry (Everton.
17:30 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
10:42 Foul by Ross Barkley (Everton.
10:42 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
10:20 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Jordan Henderson.
8:54 Offside, Liverpool. Daniel Agger tries a through ball, but Luis Suárez is caught offside.
7:41Goal scored Goal!Goal! Everton 1, Liverpool 1. Kevin Mirallas (Everton right footed shot from very close range to the top right corner following a set piece situation.
6:58 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.
6:58 Phil Jagielka (Everton wins a free kick on the right wing.
4:18Goal scored Goal!Goal! Everton 0, Liverpool 1. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box to the centre of the goal following a corner.
4:17 Attempt blocked. Luis Suárez (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross.
3:42 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Seamus Coleman.
3:08 Foul by James McCarthy (Everton.
3:08 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
0:00 First Half begins.
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.

Compiled by Graeme Riley