

Date: 5 May 2014
Opposition: Crystal Palace
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THE TIMES

Palace turn the title dream into crying game for Suarez

Crystal Palace 3 Delaney 79, Gayle 81, 88
Liverpool 3 Allen 18, Sturridge 53, Suarez 55

In the space of a maddening ten minutes at a rowdy, raucous Selhurst Park last night, Liverpool's players went from dreaming the impossible dream, of winning the Barclays Premier League title on goal difference, to sinking to their knees in despair. At 9.38pm they were looking for ways to eat into Manchester City's advantage in the goal difference stakes after Joe Allen, Daniel Sturridge and Luis Suarez put them 3-0 up. By 9.48pm their crumbling defence had conceded three times as Crystal Palace produced the kind of stunning comeback that Liverpool's supporters more readily associate with their own team's heroics in the 2005 Champions League final. It required a double-take upon seeing that this solitary, meagre point had taken Liverpool to the top of the table. Their players' body language at the final whistle told that it was surely not enough. Martin Skrtel fell to his knees while Suarez was in tears, covering his face with his shirt. Steven Gerrard consoled him, urging the television cameramen to give his team-mate some space. After the way the past nine days have gone, since the moment Gerrard slipped with his team at 0-0 against Chelsea, City must feel that they have one hand on the trophy. The suspicion was always that Liverpool could not win the Premier League with a defence that creaked like this. They stood firm for 78 minutes last night, but they looked like they feared the worst from the moment that Damien Delaney's shot deflected in off the back of Glen Johnson. Three minutes later, with Liverpool too fixated on restoring their three-goal lead, Yannick Bolasie broke to set up Dwight Gayle to make it 3-2. Then, incredibly, Gayle, the substitute, equalised, having been left all alone from Glenn Murray's lay-off. Brendan Rodgers had sounded a little desperate when, responding to Manchester City's victory away to Everton, he said that Manuel Pellegrini's players might struggle at home to Aston Villa, "an incredible team on the counter-attack" and West Ham United, "a really difficult opponent". Neither of those teams, it seemed, quite had Palace's capacity to make life awkward for a titlechallenging side.

Liverpool went on the offensive from the start. It is the only way they know these days. They are so much more comfortable playing on the front foot, with Gerrard spraying passes around from the base of a midfield diamond and Raheem Sterling looking to produce through-balls from his position behind Sturridge and Suarez. There did not seem to be much space for Sterling, given that Mile Jedinak and Kagisho Dikgacoi were patrolling the area in front of the Palace defence, but the teenager has an impressive knack of finding room in which to operate. His first-half performance was excellent, his confidence and precision summed up by two outside-of-the-boot passes in the early stages, which sent Sturridge and Suarez running in the penalty area, but on both occasions a Palace defender intervened. Liverpool's desperation for an early goal was clear, particularly after Mark Clattenburg rejected their penalty appeals in the seventh minute, after Johnson appeared to be felled by Bolasie's clumsy, mistimed swing at the ball. As the ball ran loose, Lucas Leiva picked out Suarez, but the angle was too tight for the forward. Palace's defensive play was unusually poor in the opening stages. In a sign of what was to come, they left a Liverpool player unmarked from a Gerrard corner, but Mamadou Sakho sent a poor header wide of the target. Allen floated a pass over the Palace defence, with Johnson beating Julian Speroni to the ball, but the full back's header cleared the crossbar.

A Liverpool goal was beginning to feel inevitable. Sure enough, in the 18th minute, after Sturridge's shot was deflected wide, Gerrard floated a leftwing corner beyond a crowd of players and towards the far side of the six-yard box. Joe Ledley appeared to be out of position, but the Palace player's run was blocked by Lucas and Suarez, two little nudges that made a big difference as Allen was left with the straightforward task of nodding the ball past Speroni to open the scoring. Palace responded well, with Simon Mignolet forced to make two good saves as the first half went on. First he was sent low to his left to push Jason Puncheon's shot wide after the winger escaped from Jon Flanagan. Then, after a purposeful build-up involving Bolasie, Puncheon and Ledley, the goalkeeper reacted well to push Jedinak's dipping shot over.

Liverpool threatened again through Suarez, twice, as the interval approached, but their urgency increased in the second half. After 49 minutes another penalty appeal was rejected when Scott Dann blocked off Suarez with his arm. The Uruguayan was booked for his protests and, when the chance came to take out his frustration on Palace, after Sturridge's shot was tipped onto the post by Speroni, he thrashed his shot wide, to the delight of the home crowd.

That Liverpool second goal was not far away, though, nor indeed the third. From Gerrard's high ball, Sturridge showed good control, footwork and awareness, earning the lucky break that saw his shot deflect in off Delaney to make it 2-0. One aborted goal celebration later, it was 3-0 as Suarez exchanged passes with Sterling and stroked his shot between Speroni's legs.

When Sturridge had scored to make it 2-0, he stopped mid-celebration to ensure that Johnson was getting the ball from the net, with goal difference the priority. How dramatically it all changed in the closing stages as Delaney, Gayle and then Gayle again took it from 3-0 to 3-3. The celebrations among the home supporters were wild and frenzied. The celebrations up in the blue half of Manchester must have been giddier still. Liverpool are still top of the table, but they are there to be shot at. It is surely City's title now.

the guardian

Gayle force blows Liverpool's title tilt off course and hands City advantage

At one point, early in the second half, Liverpool's supporters could be heard confidently proclaiming "We're going to win the league." Their team had just gone 3-0 ahead and, once again, had looked like worthy champions. What happened next was almost inexplicable and will almost certainly make this the night Liverpool threw away any chance of ending that long 24-year wait for a championship.

At this stage of the season, a team that wants to finish as champions cannot surely get away with being this generous. Brendan Rodgers's team had led through Joe Allen's 18th-minute header and they were not far off rampant when Daniel Sturridge and Luis Suarez scored within two minutes of each other after the interval.

Yet what a comeback this was from a Crystal Palace side that looked suspiciously in end-of-season mode for three-quarters of this match. Almost out of nowhere, Damien Delaney picked out the top corner with a 79th-minute shot. Yannick Bolasie's brilliant run on the left set up Dwight Gayle to add a second two minutes later and, by the end, Liverpool's players were on the floor and Suarez was in tears. Gayle had scored a dramatic 88th-minute equaliser and the title surely now belongs to Manchester City.

The result means that no matter how Liverpool fare in their final game of season, if Manchester City win their last two matches, the Premier League title will go to the Etihad. When Allen headed them into the lead, from Steven Gerrard's corner, Lucas could be seen ignoring the celebrations to retrieve the ball and race back to the centre-circle to resume play as quickly as possible.

"Attack, attack, attack," was the cry from the Liverpool end. Realistically, however, it was always futile thinking they could catch City this way, however obliging their next game against Newcastle might appear. The aim was to ensure the pressure was loaded back on City and, in fairness, the away side quickly set about trying to get last week's defeat to Chelsea out of their system.

Tony Pulis has based Palace's resurgence on qualities of structure and resilience but there was something disjointed about their defending at times.

Mamadou Sakho had already wasted a free header from one of Gerrard's corners by the time Allen scored his first Liverpool goal, on his 50th appearance for the club, and the marking on both occasions was strangely lax.

Allen had peeled off to the back post, eluding Joe Ledley in the process, and the referee, Mark Clattenburg, did not see anything wrong despite Palace's complaints that Luis Suarez and Lucas has taken it in turns to impede their player. Allen, hardly known for his aerial prowess was inside the six-yard area as the ball found him in space.

Suarez had appeared to be struggling with illness before kick-off but Liverpool quickly settled into their rhythm. Glen Johnson's overlapping runs from right-back were a feature of the opening period. Raheem Sterling showed again that he often does his best work at the front of the midfield diamond and it was not until the half-hour mark that Palace offered any real indication of why they have avoided relegation with something to spare.

The Liverpool goalkeeper, Simon Mignolet, produced a couple of splendid saves in those late stages of the first half. The first one turned away a left-foot shot from Jason Puncheon, coming in from the right wing, but it was an even more accomplished piece of goalkeeping shortly afterwards to tip Mile Jedinak's long-range effort over the crossbar.

Liverpool, however, had produced the more refined football, with Suarez busily trying to create space in an often congested penalty area.

Early in the second half he was booked for dissent, having been aggrieved that Scott Dann had not been penalised for blocking him, and shortly afterwards he put a wild shot high and wide after Julian Speroni had turned Sturridge's shot against the post.

Then Liverpool got serious. Sturridge made it 2-0 when he took down Gerrard's long pass, turned inside Joel Ward and his shot took a slight yet decisive flick off Delaney on its way into the net.

That was the point at which Liverpool's fans started with their victory songs and the volume went up again when, in almost their next attack, Suarez wriggled away from Delaney, played a one-two with Sterling and drove in the third goal. It was almost inexplicable that Liverpool could go from this position to taking only a point. Yet the truth is they defended abysmally after Delaney's shot deflected in off Johnson.

Gayle took both his goals expertly, the first after being set up by Bolasie's run and the second when another substitute, Glenn Murray, head the ball into his path. Liverpool came back looking for a stoppage-time winner but and the lingering image was of Gerrard on his haunches and Suarez covering his face in anguish.

They knew it was over.

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The Mail

A FRIGHT NIGHT AT THE PALACE

DON'T bother telling anyone. They won't believe you. In 10 minutes at Selhurst Park, Liverpool lost a three goal lead and, probably, the title. Dwight Gayle's 87th minute goal puts Manchester City in the box seat and leaves Liverpool -- well, where, after this? There is nothing left for them to do now but play to their strengths. Attack, attack, attack, as their fans implore. They certainly can't defend. Against a Crystal Palace team that has been the model of resilience under Tony Pulis, they were coasting and had closed the goal difference gap on City to six. Then the roof fell in. By the final whistle, Brendan Rodgers had a face like thunder and some of the travelling support were fighting back tears. Luis Suarez was almost smiling at first, a hysterical reaction to one of the biggest upsets in the history of the game. Reality hit on the final whistle and he hid his face, inconsolable, distraught. Steven Gerrard waved prying cameras away from his heartbroken team-mate. Now, Liverpool can only wait for the rivals to blink. It may not be enough, Liverpool have blinked first. This morning they blink back tears. An unlikely headed goal from a set-piece by Joe Allen, a deflected shot from Daniel Sturridge and a lovely one-two completed by Suarez did the initial damage, but Liverpool can now only hope City suffer an even greater collapse. They had to win here and their collapse was as sudden as it was mystifying. 'Three-nil and you f***ed it up,' sang the home fans. Unbearably harsh, but true. Forget the idea that Palace's season was over. Pulis sends out competitive teams at every stage of the season and Liverpool took the lead here because they were better, not because the opposition did them a favour. The last 10 minutes proved that. Three goals down, their campaign petering out, Palace struck back with unbelievable venom. This really has been a remarkable season. What at first appeared to be mere consolation came in the 80th minute when a shot from Damien Delaney clipped Glen Johnson and edged clear of Simon Mignolet's despairing grasp. What turned drama into crisis for Liverpool came with a break from Yannick Bolasie two minutes later, and a square pass fed perfectly to substitute Dwight Gayle for the second. By the end, Liverpool were clinging on. Not hard enough. Glenn Murray chested the ball onto Gayle and his low finish left Mignolet no chance. Liverpool fell to the floor. It should have been so different. The game was 18 minutes old when a shot from Sturridge was steered wide off the head of defender Damien Delaney. From the resulting corner, Gerrard picked out Allen, one of the smallest players on the pitch, unmarked at the far post to head his first league goal for Liverpool. Allen It was a simple finish, but a significant one, and Allen did brilliantly to lose marker Joe Ledley, who should have got tighter rather than just try to manhandle his opponent. This modern method of grappling is no replacing for good old fashioned defending and by the time the ball arrived Allen had enough space to erect a tent let alone head a goal. Liverpool have been the best attacking force in the Premier League this season and in the space of two second-half minutes they thought the game was won. In the 54th minute along pass from Gerrard, the momentous strain of this title race seemingly etched in every line on his face, picked out Sturridge, who cut inside and ran adjacent to goal before finishing with a low shot that defeated goalkeeper Julian Speroni, having taken a slight deflection. Liverpool saved the best to last. Mamadou Sakho's upfield ball was no more than hopeful but Suarez tried to let it run with a dummy, rode his luck with a little ticker off the defender, and then played a lovely one two with Sterling, slotting the ball past Simone Mignolet. Palace were at their best when they harnessed the spirit and energy of Selhurst Park, and their worst when they channelled Chelsea's spoiling performance at Anfield nine days ago. Not that Chelsea were objectionable in their intentions, more that they have the personnel to play an extreme counter-attacking game and Palace are always likely to be more vulnerable, even with banks of four and five behind the ball. They were most effective when playing on Liverpool's own frailties as a team attempting to win the league with a defence that is no more than ordinary. Rodgers team is always at full stretch trying to keep a clean sheet and Tottenham Hotspur are the only Premier League team to have failed to score against them this season. (Manchester United drew a blank in the league matches, but not the Capital One Cup.) When Palace fell behind midway through the first-half and were forced to come out of their shell, they enjoyed their best period and kept Liverpool keeper Mignolet at full stretch. Mignolet may have lost his place in the Belgian team to Thibaut Courtois but he has been vital in Liverpool's resurgence and is shaping up as one of Rodgers best signings. Jason Puncheon, a key figure in the Palace revival fashioned magnificently by Tony Pulis, was the first to test him with a low shot from 20 yards that he appeared to see late and failed to gather cleanly. His next involvement, however, could be classed as one of the saves of the season. A nice passing move skirted the surrounds of the Liverpool penalty area, finishing with captain Mile Jedinak who unleashed a thunderous shot that dipped viciously at just the right moment. Mignolet got the merest touch -- at first glance many thought he had been beaten -- but it was enough to divert the ball over the bar. Yet the bulk of the first-half chances fell, as expected, to Liverpool. Palace were playing for pride, Liverpool for a more tangible reward and if they were to put Manchester City under pressure in their final two games nothing less than victory would do. It showed. In the eighth minute a corner from Steven Gerrard found Mamadou Sakho who buried his free header from an inviting distance into the turf at his feet. The ball bounced up, wide of its target. On the touchline,

Rodgers looked tense. In the 16th minute Allen, who had one of his greatest nights in a Liverpool shirt, played a quite beautiful long ball which picked out Glen Johnson, making a run into the penalty area from his position on the right. He eluded his man, got there before goalkeeper Julian Speroni, but sent his header looping over the bar. It was a chance that appeared more appealing with every replay. What of newly-crowned Football of the Year Suarez? Well not much, in the first-half at least. He worked hard, of course, as he always does, and couldn't be out of Palace's minds for even a second. Yet his range looked awry, particularly in front of goal. In the 27th minute he struck a cross which Adrian Mariappa generously returned to him with a poor clearance, Suarez deciding on a shot this time, which flew well wide. Another free-kick from distance soon after missed its target, as did a quite horrible near post finish in the 38th minute after good work from Raheem Sterling. An excellent break involving Gerrard and Allen five minutes later found Suarez on the left, but Speroni displayed a strong hand, low at the near post, and more danger was averted. The second half continued along much the same path. Sterling found Daniel Sturridge and his shot was turned onto the post by Speroni. Back it came to Suarez and, so cool for so much of the season, he lashed at his shot sending it far above the bar. He made amends soon after, mind you, as he has all season.

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool title bid wrecked by Gayle brace

Crystal Palace 3 Delaney 79, Gayle 81, 88
Liverpool 3 Allen 18, Sturridge 53, Suarez 55

Mad all over. Unbelievable. Just unbelievable. Just as Liverpool were cutting back Manchester City's superior goal difference, giving hope to their title dream, they went into meltdown, and their supporters looked on stunned by the destruction of their defence and their title hopes. Attack, attack, attack? Crystal Palace certainly did. For 55 minutes, it was Liverpool fans chanting "attack, attack, attack". Joe Allen opened the scoring, Daniel Sturridge added the second before Luis Suarez the third, making it 31 goals in the Premier League this season for the new Footballer of the Year. Those Liverpool fans with long memories will have recalled that they were also leading 3-0 against Palace after 55 minutes on Sept 12, 1989, at Anfield and went on to win 9-0. The manager that day, Kenny Dalglish, was looking on here. At 3-0 up, Liverpool could have closed up shop, taking the points, but they chased a fourth. Brendan Rodgers commanded it and they were caught out on the counter time and again. Palace raided through to score through Damien Delaney and Dwight Gayle twice, three goals in nine minutes. If the noise was deafening here, the volume would have been as loud amongst City fans. Liverpool went top but were devastated. Steven Gerrard looked close to tears. Suarez hid his face in his shirt. It was such a contrast to earlier on. Even before Allen's goal set Liverpool up for a convincing lead to eat away at City's goal-difference advantage, Liverpool had been lively. From the first whistle they were at Palace, hardly pausing for breath, just wanting goal after goal. Scarcely had the hosts' eagle stopped swooping on the pitch, then Liverpool were trying to climb back on the perch they were knocked off by Manchester United in the early Nineties. Suarez, newly installed as Footballer of the Year, almost scored but Julian Speroni blocked. From Steven Gerrard's corner, Mamadou Sakho headed down and over. For all Liverpool's momentary disappointment, the opportunity wasted by Sakho at least highlighted the surprising gaps in Palace's defence at set pieces. Liverpool kept up the pressure. Allen lifted through a long ball, a huge delivery upfield that dropped over Palace's startled defence, that fell towards the area. Glen Johnson had read Allen's intentions, speeding into the box, meeting the ball with a header over the advancing Speroni. Brendan Rodgers was off his seat, holding his arms up, believing the ball would drop into the goal but it carried over. Palace were occasionally on the front foot. Gerrard had to charge back to deal with Jason Puncheon and then Adrian Mariappa. When Lucas gifted the ball to Joe Ledley, Palace charged upfield and Simon Mignolet saved well from Yannick Bolassie. Liverpool were determined to reclaim the leadership of the Premier League from City and took the lead after 18 minutes. Sturridge's shot deflected wide off Damien Delaney, leading to a Gerrard corner. Ledley was culpable, failing to respond to Allen's clever run, taking him away from goal and then back in, now unmarked, now able to meet Gerrard's corner. Only 5ft 6in, Allen made short work of the header, placing it past Speroni. It was the least the visitors deserved. Jon Flanagan and particularly Johnson were pushing on. Allen was a real creative force, influential with his passes over small distance and long, also winning it back. Lucas does not quite seem to fit into the system, particularly in this more advanced role. Raheem Sterling was at the tip of the diamond, playing behind Suarez and Sturridge. Palace refused to be overawed. Their fans were brilliant, the noise starting in one area, down by the corner in the Holmesdale Road stand, and swiftly spreading around the ground. Even losing, Palace fans were deafening. Mile Jedinak, Joel Ward and Delaney, among others, have stood up for Palace during difficult times. Marouane Chamakh has been frequently kicked, and got an early whack from Sakho here, but kept going, providing a forward clearing house. Chamakh was also deputed to drop back and try to stop Gerrard building. Chamakh almost created a chance, passing to Puncheon who was closed down by Gerrard. Palace were suddenly busy, worrying Liverpool. The visiting fans had been chanting "attack, attack, attack", showing their desire

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to whittle down City's superior goal difference, but there was plenty of defending to do. Mignolet saved from Puncheon and then did magnificently to throw up his right hand and divert Jedinak's shot over. Liverpool responded, chasing that second before the break. A wonderful flowing move, from Gerrard to Allen to Suarez was ended by Speroni's excellent save at the near post. It was only a matter of time. Palace emerged early for the second half, warming up by running around some cones but soon being caught cold. Suarez could have had a penalty when impeded by Scott Dann but Mark Clattenburg waved play on, even booking him for remonstrating. Liverpool would not be distracted, quickly scoring two more within three minutes as the SAS went to work.

After 53 minutes, Sturridge's deflected shot sneaked past the wrong-footed Speroni. Then Suarez scored a gem, exchanging passes with Sterling, before drilling his 31st Premier League goal of the season past Speroni. Liverpool were not even bothering to celebrate, racing back to the centre-circle, eager to get on with addressing those goal difference arrears. Instead of adding to their lead, Liverpool saw it attacked by Palace, who suddenly had second wind, partly because of Pulis's subs had energized the side. With 11 minutes remaining, Delaney let fly, the ball clipping Johnson and continuing into the net. Palace raised the volume even more. Two minutes later, Bolassie broke down the left, flying past Johnson and squaring to Gayle, who made it 2-3.

There was more. Gayle again blasting through, shredding Liverpool's title dream, delighting City and Palace fans alike. "Three nil and you ----- it up."



Gayle strikes as Liverpool fall victim to title ambition

It will at least go to the last day of the season on Sunday, but when the Premier League title race is this good, the only pity is that the entertainment has to end then. If the advantage belonged to Manchester City before yesterday then they surely cannot throw it away now, with a win and a draw in their final two games likely to be enough to finish as champions, starting with the game against Aston Villa tomorrow. What a race it has been and few better games than last night when Liverpool squandered a 3-0 lead in less than 10 minutes as they tried to chase down the goal difference advantage held over them by City.

Luis Suarez, the double player of the year, was in tears at the end of the game, his head buried in his shirt as he left the pitch. This is what it feels like to throw away the first chance of a title in 24 years at the club who thought that finally they might just have lifted the curse. Brendan Rodgers' team tried, three goals to the good, to reduce the nine-goal advantage held over them by City, and in doing so neglected to hold onto the points. From Damien Delaney's first goal on 79 minutes, the whole thing fell apart for Liverpool. Rodgers' chased the goals with his substitutions, as he brought on attackers for attackers, rather than defenders for attackers. Trying to whittle away City's goal difference was always going to be a tall order but, with a comfortable lead over Crystal Palace, Liverpool left themselves perilously open on the counter-attack.

There were two further goals from the substitute Dwight Gayle which levelled the game. Palace were thrilling on the counter-attack and punished Liverpool again and again. These are the kind of games that define a season and Rodgers' team did not have enough about them to dominate Palace at both ends.

At the end of a long, hard season, this was a game that took a while to get going but take away all the implications for the title race and it was a match between two of the over-achievers. The atmosphere of Selhurst Park was raucous, as usual, but there was joy too at how comfortable Tony Pulis's players have made it at this point of the season. The home fans were here to celebrate, but they also wanted a performance from their team and they got one. Liverpoolwere made to work hard for their first goal and can count themselves rather fortunate that Mark Clattenburg did not spot the surreptitious foul that was key to it all.

That was Lucas Leiva's tug at Joe Ledley as he ran to the back post to track the run of Allen at Steven Gerrard's corner on 17 minutes. The Wales international was unmarked when the ball fell to him behind the pack of players in the centre of the six-yard box and he was able to guide his header between the bodies on the line. It was the first goal from a set-piece that Palace have conceded in the Pulis era, and what an era it has been. Pulis will have been tutting at the carelessness that allowed Mamadou Sakho another free header minutes earlier, when the French defender directed his attempt on goal downwards with such force that the ball bounced over. Second time around, Lucas's foul on Ledley happened so quickly that Clattenburg had precious little chance of detecting it.

But Brendan Rodgers' team did not have it all their own way and Simon Mignolet made a fine save from a shot from the Palace captain Mile Jedinak on 34 minutes. The sharpness and power of the Palace midfield caught Liverpool and Gerrard by surprise at times although, in the first half, it was always the away team that looked more dangerous. If Suarez had been sharper there would have been more. The double player of the year did not look his usual self, putting Allen under pressure and forcing him into a judicious foul on Marouane Chamakh that earned the midfielder a booking on 24 minutes. Suarez was falling back later when he lifted a cut-back from Raheem Sterling on the right over the bar.

There was one more opportunity, three minutes from the break when a lovely sweeping move orchestrated by Gerrard and Allen allowed Suarez to double back and shoot at Julian Speroni's post. In fact it was just starting to look like Suarez's temper was close to blowing when finally Liverpool scored twice in a couple of

minutes, the second of which came from their No 7. Before then he had been booked for what might have been simulation when he ran into Scott Dann, or could have been dissent as he demanded action from Clattenburg.

A few minutes later Suarez could not control his shot when Speroni brilliantly pushed a curling left-foot shot from Daniel Sturridge onto the post. The Argentine goalkeeper was excellent all night but he could do nothing about Liverpool's second goal. First the long ball from Gerrard with enough slice and flight to take it straight to the feet of Sturridge. He ran across the face of the box and hit a left foot shot that flicked off Delaney and in. Within two minutes Sterling and Suarez had exchanged passes in the Palace area and the latter had dispatched the ball past Speroni. Suarez became the second man in Premier League history to score 31 goals in a 38 game season. FinallyLiverpool had some momentum and then they tried to chase down the goal difference.

In the end it became so open, and Liverpool so stretched that it was Palace who took advantage. First Rodgers' team lost concentration after a substitution, when Philippe Coutinho came on for Sterling. The ball was worked left to the defender Delaney and his shot took a hefty deflection off Glen Johnson and past Mignolet. Then a fantastic break from Yannick Bolasie who seemed not to be tired at all when he left Johnson as stationary as a training cone on his way down the Palace left. Bolasie was a blur of activity but was composed enough to cross for Gayle for the second. The third came when Glenn Murray directed the ball with his chest into the path of Gayle who slipped it past Mignolet. It was a crushing blow for Liverpool from which they will struggle to recover this season.



IT'S ELEVEN AND HELL

IT COULDN'T happen. Not like that. Not when it all seemed so easy. But it did. The stuff of nightmares that left Luis Suarez in tears, Steven Gerrard grimfaced, Brendan Rodgers shaking his head in utter disbelief.

Nobody who was here, either, in the travelling Kop or the gleeful Holmesdale Road, certainly nobody with Sky Blue in their veins, will forget it.

The night Liverpool, with the title to play for, threw away a three-goal lead in the space of 11 minutes. Incredible stuff, unforgettable stuff, as Palace, three down and with nothing to play for after a quickfire double from Daniel Sturridge and Suarez had added to Joe Allen's opener, showed remarkable desire.

ro with ery g Damian Delaney smashed home from miles out before substitute Dwight Gayle made himself an instant hero with Manchester fans of every persuasion, scoring two in the space of seven minutes to change everything.

At Anfield last weekend, Liverpool were stymied by their own nerves as much as Chelsea's blue wall. ir has Last night, with the pressure as intense, they were very different, to start with at least. Controlled, purposeful, dynamic, always looking likely to win the game. Then again, Palace are not Chelsea, although they are resourceful and resilient. But not as durable as they needed to be, with Liverpool seizing the initiative and going for the jugular from the outset.

For 20 minutes or so, Rodgers might have wondered if it was going to be one of those nights. might h goin ni rtc il Ra Dani Suarez, despite requiring pre-match treatment after complaining of being ill during the warm-up, Raheem Sterling and Daniel Sturridge were pulling Palace all over the place. Initially, though, the chances went begging. After Glen Jonhson's penalty appeals were rejected, Mamadou Sakho had a free header, six yards out, from the resulting Gerrard corner, but somehow failed to hit the target. Then Johnson ran in beyond the Palace back line, beat Julian Speroni to Allen's floated diagonal pass, but saw his header drift tamely wide. Rodgers had raised his arms in premature acclaim for that one, as he did when Sturridge's shot deflected off Damien Delaney but just wide. But when Gerrard delivered the flag-kick, Suarez blocked off Joe Ledley as he attempted to track Allen's run through the box, leaving the Welshman to nod powerfully past the keeper.

A vital goal, a huge goal. Yet one that sparked Palace into attacking life. Simon Mignolet had to make important saves, first low to his left to thwart Jason Puncheon, then higher to his right to divert Mile Jedinak's effort behind.

Suarez squandered a great chance from Sterling's jet-heeled sprint and pull-back before testing Speroni at his near post. Rodgers' men already knew they would have to win this the hard way. A second was required to calm the Merseysiders - and after missing one, they scored twice in the blink of an eye.

Sterling, so direct, was the instigator of the first chance, driving from deep before finding Sturridge, whose curling leftfooter was tipped against the post by Speroni, with Suarez of all people squandering the chance as he blazed wide.

Within three minutes though that was forgotten as the SAS struck in deadly fashion. Sturridge claimed the first as Palace failed to wise up to the danger of his left foot, bringing the ball down out of the night sky, jinking past Joel Ward, and finding the back of the net via a deflection off Delaney's heel.

And straight away, Suarez ended his recent relative drought, collecting from Sakho, playing a one-two with Sterling and sliding home to score only his second in the past seven games.

It looked all over, so simple. But football is not like that. Not in the Premier League. What followed was inconceivable, even by the standards of this incredible season.

Delaney from miles out, Gayle twice allowed in far too easily, as what has long threatened to be Liverpool's Achilles heel, that lack of defensive resolve, did prove fatal. Unbelievable.

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LIVERPOOL

ECHO

title dream in tatters after late fightback

This was the night the dream died. The Premier League table will tell you that Liverpool 's fate will not be sealed until the final afternoon of the season. But the scenes of devastation at Selhurst Park told a very different story. A heartbroken Steven Gerrard sank to his haunches inside the centre circle as the shell-shocked skipper came to terms with the painful reality of the situation. Luis Suarez pulled his shirt over his eyes to shelter the tears which were running down his cheeks before being pulled to his feet by Gerrard, who shooed away the prying cameras. The outcome simply defied belief. From a position of total control, Liverpool imploded during a crazy finale.

With 11 minutes remaining Brendan Rodgers' side led 3-0 courtesy of goals from Joe Allen, Daniel Sturridge and Luis Suarez and were on the brink of piling the pressure back on title rivals Manchester City. Yet once Damien Delaney pulled one back for Crystal Palace, the Reds' composure deserted them. It was a time for cool heads but instead panic, uncertainty and naivety ruled. The defensive frailties which have been papered over by Liverpool's attacking brilliance all season were embarrassingly exposed. Twice, substitute Dwight Gayle struck to leave the Reds coming to terms with a draw which felt like a crushing defeat. This was Istanbul in reverse.

The point took Liverpool back above City into top spot but their advantage is wafer-thin. Rather than being pushed to the wire, Manuel Pellegrini's side have been granted some breathing space. If City, who play their game in hand at home to Aston Villa on Wednesday night, take four points from their remaining two matches they will be champions. Even Rodgers, the eternal-optimist, admitted there was likely to be no way back for Liverpool from here.

In the days and weeks to come both staff and players should feel proud of what they have achieved this season. The Reds have surpassed all expectations en route to ending the club's five-year absence from the Champions League. But they will also know a glorious opportunity to end a painful 24-year title drought has been spurned. Just nine days ago their destiny was in their own hands. It was a night in the capital which had began so promisingly with the Reds bossing the first half. Sturridge returned at the expense of Philippe Coutinho, who dropped to the bench. Liverpool started with real intent with Raheem Sterling flourishing at the tip of Rodgers' midfield diamond.

The Reds pinned Palace back with Glen Johnson given a licence to thrill down the right flank. The full-back latched on to Martin Skrtel's incisive pass before being floored by Yannick Bolasie's wild challenge. As referee Mark Clattenburg waved away penalty appeals, Suarez latched on to the loose ball but the angle was tight and Julian Speroni denied him. Steven Gerrard's corner found Mamadou Sakho unmarked six yards out but the French defender nodded wastefully wide.

The pressure was maintained and Allen showed great vision to spot another forward burst from Johnson, who got there ahead of Speroni but sent a looping header over the bar. Sturridge unleashed a strike which deflected narrowly wide before the breakthrough Liverpool craved arrived in the 18 minute.

It came from the most unlikely of sources. Allen hadn't scored for the Reds since the Europa League tie with Zenit St Petersburg in February 2013, but he looked like a seasoned poacher as he nodded Rodgers' men in front.

The Wales international, who was making his 50 league appearance for the club, was too smart for Joe Ledley as he darted from near post to far and headed home Gerrard's inviting corner. Palace had shown little ambition but going behind stirred a response from Tony Pulis' mid-table side. Liverpool assisted their revival by dropping too deep to protect their advantage. Jason Puncheon's 20-yarder flew through Sakho's legs and forced Simon Mignolet to claw it behind.

The Belgian keeper came to the Reds' rescue once again 10 minutes before the break with a stunning save as he tipped over a dipping strike from Mile Jedinak. Mignolet has had his critics during his first season at Anfield following his £9million switch from Sunderland but he was blameless in the capital.

With Palace committing more bodies forward they left gaps for Liverpool to exploit and they nearly grabbed a second before the interval.

Sterling's mazy run ended with an intelligent pass to Suarez but as the Uruguayan slid in he skied his effort. Allen then turned provider for Suarez, who was thwarted by Speroni's reflex save at his near post. There was frustration early in the second half when Suarez was cynically blocked off by Scott Dann inside the box. All the striker received was a booking for his protests. Suarez's composure then deserted him as he lashed over after Sturridge's curler had been brilliantly touched on to the post by Speroni. However, the anxiety was soon lifted as Liverpool grabbed a quickfire double to seemingly put the result beyond doubt. Gerrard's raking pass was inch perfect for Sturridge, who skipped into space and found the bottom corner via a slight deflection off Delaney.

The England frontman initially raced towards the touchline to celebrate but then realising the chance to put a hefty dent in City's superior goal difference he beckoned his team-mates back to their own half.

The jubilant travelling Kop chanted 'attack, attack, attack' and Liverpool answered their call. By the 55 minute it was 3-0. Suarez, who had been crowned Footballer of the Year just hours earlier, outfoxed Delaney and played a neat one-two with Sterling before clinically tucking a left-footer past Speroni.

London

Evening

Standard

Luis Suarez in tears as Palace fight back from three down to all but end Reds' title hopes

Liverpool's ambitions of winning the Barclays Premier League suffered a huge blow on Monday night as they relinquished a three-goal lead to only come away with a 3-3 draw at Crystal Palace. With title rivals Manchester City winning at Everton on Saturday, the pressure was on Brendan Rodgers and his side as they travelled to Selhurst Park needing all three points to maintain any realistic chance of ending their 24-year wait for a league crown. Everything seemed to be in order as the visitors charged into a three-goal lead befitting of their domination of the game, before the Eagles mounted a spirited comeback to score three in nine minutes and seal a memorable draw. City had strolled to victory in south London eight days ago but Palace did not roll over as easily against Liverpool, who now hold just a one-point advantage at the top of the table with City's game in hand coming at home to Aston Villa on Wednesday night.

Joe Allen's first Liverpool goal was enough to give the Reds a half-time lead, with fit-again Daniel Sturridge and double player of the year Luis Suarez scoring in two early second-half minutes. But Palace have been instilled with a workmanlike attitude under Tony Pulis and, with the backing of a ferocious home crowd, miraculously clawed their way back into the game.

Substitute Dwight Gayle was the main protagonist as the hosts followed Liverpool's example by snatching two quick-fire goals.

Damien Delaney's first goal of the season started the charge before Gayle took centre stage, bagging a brace as Palace scored three in nine incredible minutes to take a share of the spoils and leave the likes of Suarez and Liverpool captain Steve Gerrard haunched over in anguish at the full-time whistle.

It was a lively opening from Palace, buoyed on by a home crowd celebrating their top-flight survival, but the visitors soon took control of possession, slowly quietening those supporters looking to enjoy a final home game of the season. Glen Johnson felt he should have been awarded an early penalty after a wild swing at the ball from Yannick Bolasie saw the Palace winger catch him on the thigh. Mamadou Sakho then wasted the first decent chance of the game as he was picked out unmarked from a Gerrard corner but could only head into the ground and well wide. Johnson was the next to come close as he beat the offside trap to latch onto Allen's long ball into the Palace box, but the England international could only guide a header over Julian Speroni's crossbar.

With Liverpool in the ascendancy, the opening goal came on 18 minutes as the returning Sturridge saw a curled effort deflected behind off Delaney for a corner. Allen found himself in space to head the resulting set-piece back across Speroni and put the visitors ahead on his 50th league appearance for the club.

Jason Puncheon, Palace's top scorer, forced Simon Mignolet into his first save of the evening shortly afterwards as his low drive nicked off Sakho, the Liverpool goalkeeper turning the ball behind for a corner.

Mile Jedinak was the next man to test the Belgium international as he arrowed a long-range shot towards the top corner, only to see Mignolet equal to it once again as he tipped the goal-bound effort over.

Pushing forward did leave Palace susceptible to Liverpool's counter-attacking threat and Suarez almost doubled their lead after good work from Gerrard and Allen found the Uruguayan inside the penalty area, with his low shot tipped away by Speroni. The Argentinian was on hand again early in the second half to tip a bending Sturridge effort onto the post, with Suarez smashing the follow-up high and wide with a rare lack of composure. If goal difference is to decide where the title goes for the second time in three seasons, Liverpool soon looked to make a dent in City's advantage. Gerrard, looking to put his vital slip in the defeat to Chelsea behind him, picked out Sturridge with a sumptuous pass and his England colleague controlled the ball with aplomb before his deflected shot found its way into the bottom corner. Just two minutes after his strike partner had scored, Suarez was on the end of another free-flowing attack, poking home past Speroni after being found by Raheem Sterling. Sterling himself saw two shots blocked in quick succession as he looked to add a fourth.

But it was Palace who pulled a goal back with a little over 10 minutes to go as Delaney let fly with a speculative long-range effort which beat Mignolet courtesy

Date: 5 May 2014 Opposition: Crystal Palace Competition: League	Times	Independent	Echo		5 May 2014
	Guardian	Mirror	Standard		
	Telegraph	Mail	BBC		
<div><div><p>of a deflection off Johnson.</p><p>That goal seemed to unnerve the visitors and they were soon only a goal to the good as Yannick Bolasie burst through at speed and calmly picked out Gayle, who turned the ball home to bring Palace right back into the game.</p><p>A memorable comeback was completed in the 88th minute as fellow substitute Glenn Murray chested the ball past Martin Skrtel and into the path of Gayle, who showed great composure to slide a shot under Mignolet to level proceedings.</p><p>Liverpool pushed forward in the five minutes of additional time but could not find a winning goal and will now be relying on favours from both Villa on Wednesday night and West Ham on Sunday if they are to win a 19th league title.</p></div><div><div><div>BBC</div><p>Liverpool squandered a three-goal lead in the final 11 minutes at Crystal Palace to see their Premier League title hopes suffer a severe blow - and leave Luis Suarez in tears at the final whistle.</p><p>Brendan Rodgers's side looked to be maintaining the pressure on title favourites Manchester City, and reducing a gap in goal difference that remains at nine.</p><p>Joe Allen's first league goal for Liverpool and strikes from Daniel Sturridge and Suarez put the Reds in complete command as the visiting fans urged their side forward in search of more goals, with City in their sights.</p><p>Instead, their fragile defence collapsed completely at the first sign of serious pressure as Palace sent Selhurst Park wild with goals from Damien Delaney and a double from substitute Dwight Gayle.</p><p>Liverpool's point put them back on top of the table, but the sight of players on their haunches and an emotional Suarez - his face covered by his shirt as he was ushered towards the tunnel by captain Steven Gerrard and substitute Kolo Toure - told the tale.</p><p>Manchester City are now in pole position to win the title, with home games against Aston Villa and West Ham United to come.</p><p>Rodgers will be at a loss to explain how his team crumbled so badly to squander the chance to move closer to their first title in 24 years.</p><p>Palace have proved their quality against illustrious opposition before this season, but here they made a tame start and allowed the visitors to take the early initiative.</p><p>Liverpool had a clear penalty appeal rejected early on when Yannick Bolasie missed his kick completely in the area and only connected with Glen Johnson.</p><p>Referee Mark Clattenburg only awarded a corner, and Liverpool were frustrated once more when Mamadou Sakho headed Gerrard's kick off target when completely unmarked.</p><p>Johnson was causing problems down Palace's left flank, and he should have put Liverpool ahead when he found himself clear on the end of Allen's raking long pass, but his header beat home keeper Julian Speroni and the bar.</p><p>Liverpool's threat was growing and it was no surprise when they finally went ahead after 18 minutes. Allen pulled away from marker Joe Ledley to meet Gerrard's corner with space and time to head past Speroni.</p><p>Palace finally showed more ambition as half-time approached, and Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet was called into action to save from Jason Puncheon and Mile Jedinak.</p><p>Any hope of a recovery seemed to be swept away by Liverpool's dazzling start to the second half that, at that stage, looked to have put the game out of Palace's reach and ate into City's superior goal difference.</p><p>Sturridge saw his curling shot superbly turned on to the post by Speroni, only for Suarez to blaze the rebound wildly off target with the keeper still trying to recover his position.</p><p>Speroni had no such luck moments later when Sturridge's low shot from the edge of the area took a crucial deflection and trickled out of his reach.</p><p>Liverpool, sensing there were more goals to be had, surged forward and Suarez made it three with his 31st Premier League goal of the season when he beat Speroni easily after a neat exchange with Raheem Sterling.</p><p>Palace had shown little but were revived 11 minutes from time when Delaney's 25-yard shot was deflected high beyond Mignolet.</p><p>Liverpool suddenly seemed gripped by panic and Palace exposed them ruthlessly two minutes later as Bolasie squared for Gayle to score with a precise finish.</p><p>And then, with two minutes left, the visitors' misery was complete as substitute Glenn Murray chested a long ball into Gayle's path for another comprehensive finish.</p><p>As Palace players celebrated, Liverpool's reacted in a manner which suggested they believe their title challenge is finally over.</p></div></div></div>					

Date: 5 May 2014

Opposition: Crystal Palace

Competition: League

BBC

Full time Match ends, Crystal Palace 3, Liverpool 3.

90:00+5:13Full time Second Half ends, Crystal Palace 3, Liverpool 3.

90:00+3:39 Attempt blocked. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is blocked. Assisted by Victor Moses.

90:00+3:10 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.

90:00+1:56 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Thomas Ince.

90:00+1:05 Attempt missed. Dwight Gayle (Crystal Palace left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Glenn Murray with a headed pass.

90:00+0:48 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool.

90:00+0:48 Joel Ward (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

89:20 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Luis Suarez.

87:24Goal scored Goal!Goal! Crystal Palace 3, Liverpool 3. Dwight Gayle (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Glenn Murray with a through ball.

85:57Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Victor Moses replaces Daniel Sturridge.

84:26 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Luis Suarez.

84:20 Attempt blocked. Glenn Murray (Crystal Palace header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Thomas Ince with a cross.

84:03Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Crystal Palace. Thomas Ince replaces Kagisho Dikgacoi.

83:25 Hand ball by Luis Suarez (Liverpool.

82:48 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

81:20 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

81:20 Foul by Dwight Gayle (Crystal Palace.

80:18Goal scored Goal!Goal! Crystal Palace 2, Liverpool 3. Dwight Gayle (Crystal Palace right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Yannick Bolasie following a fast break.

80:05 Attempt blocked. Joe Allen (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Martin Skrtel.

79:32 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Julian Speroni.

79:26 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Joe Allen.

78:19Goal scored Goal!Goal! Crystal Palace 1, Liverpool 3. Damien Delaney (Crystal Palace left footed shot from outside the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Mile Jedinak.

77:43Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho replaces Raheem Sterling.

77:20 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.

77:20 Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the right wing.

76:13 Attempt missed. Glenn Murray (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Joe Ledley.

75:38 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Scott Dann.

75:36 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Joe Allen.

75:24 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.

70:29Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Crystal Palace. Glenn Murray replaces Marouane Chamakh.

67:20 Attempt missed. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner.

66:58Booking Scott Dann (Crystal Palace is shown the yellow card.

66:50 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Julian Speroni.

66:48 Attempt saved. Glen Johnson (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal.

64:11Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Crystal Palace. Dwight Gayle replaces Jason Puncheon.

62:57 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Glen Johnson.

62:30Booking Martin Skrtel (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

62:21 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.

62:21 Marouane Chamakh (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the left wing.

60:57 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

60:57 Foul by Kagisho Dikgacoi (Crystal Palace.

58:30 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.

58:30 Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

57:22 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Jon Flanagan.

56:22 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Glen Johnson.

54:43Goal scored Goal!Goal! Crystal Palace 0, Liverpool 3. Luis Suarez (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Raheem Sterling with a through ball.

53:47 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.

53:47 Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

52:45Goal scored Goal!Goal! Crystal Palace 0, Liverpool 2. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.

50:52 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right.

50:49 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

50:00 Attempt saved. Joe Ledley (Crystal Palace left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Yannick Bolasie.

49:10Booking Luis Suarez (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

49:05 Luis Suarez (Liverpool.

49:05 (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

47:04 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.

47:04 Joel Ward (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the left wing.

45:00 Second Half begins Crystal Palace 0, Liverpool 1.

45:00+2:11Half time First Half ends, Crystal Palace 0, Liverpool 1.

45:00+1:54 Foul by Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool.

45:00+1:54 Joel Ward (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

45:00+1:50 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.

45:00+0:15 Attempt missed. Joe Allen (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Luis Suarez.

42:02 Offside, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva tries a through ball, but Luis Suarez is caught offside.

41:57 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Joe Allen.

40:52 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.

40:52 Marouane Chamakh (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the left wing.

39:52 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.

36:45 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

35:48 Attempt missed. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Marouane Chamakh with a cross.

34:33 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

34:32 Attempt saved. Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Joe Ledley.

32:19 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

32:16 Attempt saved. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Mile Jedinak.

30:12 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right from a direct free kick.

29:33Booking Adrian Mariappa (Crystal Palace is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

29:32 Hand ball by Adrian Mariappa (Crystal Palace.

28:52 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

28:52 Foul by Joe Ledley (Crystal Palace.

27:49 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.

27:49 Joe Ledley (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

24:12Booking Joe Allen (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

24:06 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.

24:06 Marouane Chamakh (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the attacking half.

23:23 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

21:52 Delay in match Martin Skrtel (Liverpool because of an injury.

21:52 Delay in match Joe Ledley (Crystal Palace because of an injury.

20:41 Offside, Liverpool. Martin Skrtel tries a through ball, but Jon Flanagan is caught offside.

19:32 Simon Mignolet (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

19:32 Foul by Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace.

18:39 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

18:39 Foul by Damien Delaney (Crystal Palace.

17:44Goal scored Goal!Goal! Crystal Palace 0, Liverpool 1. Joe Allen (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner.

17:16 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.

17:13 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Glen Johnson.

16:56 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Joe Allen.

14:52 Attempt missed. Glen Johnson (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Joe Allen with a through ball.

9:33 Foul by Marouane Chamakh (Crystal Palace.

9:33 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

8:47 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

8:10 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.

7:15 Attempt missed. Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner.

6:47 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Julian Speroni.

6:45 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Glen Johnson.

4:36 Offside, Liverpool. Glen Johnson tries a through ball, but Luis Suarez is caught offside.

0:00 First Half begins.

0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.