

Date: 4 October 2014  
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion  
 Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Observer	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Express and Star

4 October 2014

## THE TIMES

Gerrard back to his best

Liverpool 2  
 Lallana 45, Henderson 61  
 West Brom 1  
 Berahino 56 (pen)  
 Referee M Oliver Attendance 44,708

His pension had been prepared, his obituary was about to be written. In age-old football parlance, Steven Gerrard's legs had gone. Liverpool would be better off without him, presumably because they had 11 superior players. This was not just the beginning of the end, it was a full stop stabbed into the page.

As Alan Irvine departed Anfield on Saturday evening, how the West Bromwich Albion manager wished all of this was true. It wasn't though. In two different positions and in vigour as much as in presence, the 34-year-old had proved his value once again.

"Anybody that says his legs have gone needs to have a look at the time when he chased Cristian Gamboa down the wing and he stayed with him," Irvine said. "So I'm not having that -- he is a great player, has been for many years and will continue to be.

"I saw Gerard Houllier after the game and we were talking about Steven because obviously he knows him so well, and he's a terrific player. He's finding another way of playing now, and playing in that different role absolutely brilliantly, so that he's a key player for Liverpool still."

What this isn't -- and he would readily admit this himself -- is the Gerrard of five years ago. His rampaging days are over. Recovery now has to be managed rather than taken for granted. New roles have to be explored to try to stave off the day when inevitable physical deterioration smother his quality on the ball to such an extent that he stops being an asset to Liverpool.

To all intents and purposes, Gerrard, like all players of his age, is in managed decline, which is why Brendan Rodgers took his captain back to the future against West Brom by restoring him to the No 10 role in which he flourished in his prime. The change came in the 75th minute, with Liverpool holding a narrow lead through Jordan Henderson's first of the season after Adam Lallana and Saido Berahino had exchanged goals, the latter a controversial penalty. Lucas was brought on for Philippe Coutinho and asked to play defensive midfield.

As a result, the Liverpool captain was moved into an attacking role, stationed just behind Mario Balotelli, and what followed was vintage Gerrard, with passes fizzed into the Italian's feet and deft touches giving the West Brom defence a problem that they could not deal with. For Rodgers, it provided food for thought. The experiment had been successful and could be repeated.

"If I thought it would help the team, for sure," Rodgers said. "I feel he has been outstanding in that role he has been playing in. I just felt that in this game, his ability to combine with Balotelli might help us, but we needed to have the energy behind. It was the final 15 minutes and it was also his third tough game in a week.

"He has so much quality that I thought if we were under pressure defensively, there are spaces for him to cover and I might just put him in the 10 [role]. Then you see his quality. I thought he was brilliant. It was refreshing to see that cleverness and that brightness and I thought he could add something to our game. I felt it freshened up and brightened up the game for us and gave us a quality that brought us to another level."

Most importantly, the switch helped Liverpool to hobble over the finishing line on a day when they dared not fall short. Rodgers was honest enough to admit before and after that his team are still struggling to rediscover the style and fluency that characterised them last year, but after going a month without victory, their first league fixture of October was about winning and nothing else.

Had Berahino's finishing been more decisive, West Brom may have denied them, but Liverpool did just enough and will now hope that the international break is kinder to them than the previous one. At least Gerrard will not be facing the added burden of playing for his country and that, almost as much as his enduring quality, will mean that those who continue to write him off will have to wait still longer to be proved right.

### RATINGS

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): S Mignolet 6 - J Manquillo 5 (sub: G Johnson, 64min 6), M Skrtel 6, D Lovren 5, A Moreno 7 - S Gerrard 8, P Coutinho 6 (sub: Lucas Leiva, 75) - R Sterling 6, J Henderson 8, A Lallana 8 - R Lambert 6 (sub: M Balotelli, 64 6).  
 Substitutes not used: B Jones, K Toure, F Borini, L Markovic. Booked: Skrtel.  
 West Bromwich Albion (4-2-3-1): B Foster 6 - C Gamboa 7, C Dawson 6, J Lescott 6, S Pocognoli 6 - J Morrison 6 (sub: S Blanco, 80), C Gardner 6 - G Dorrans 6 (sub: Y Mulumbu, 70), S Sessegnon 6, C Brunt 6 (sub: G Samaras, 87) - S Berahino 8.  
 Substitutes not used: C Baird, C Yacob, B Myhill, G McAuley. Booked: Dawson, Lescott.

## the guardian

Gerrard's forward thinking still has its value for Liverpool

There is life in Steven Gerrard yet. The Liverpool captain was not on the scoresheet against West Bromwich Albion but he completed his third game in a week, confounding those who thought his 34-year-old legs might be in need of more rest this season.

Gerrard said after his goal in the Merseyside derby last week it was nice to prove a point to people who had been prematurely writing him off, though that goal was from a set piece. He has been playing in a more withdrawn role as a defensive midfielder yet Brendan Rodgers believes he can still contribute in a more forward role if necessary, and could even be the key to producing the best from Mario Balotelli.

The Liverpool manager encouraged his captain to do just that towards the end of the victory at Anfield, and even suggested he might get a start in an attacking role before long. "If I thought it would help the team I could do that," Rodgers said.

"You could see his quality and his ability to combine with Balotelli straight away. Steven is a player who makes the game look simple and Mario knows he is playing with one of the greats of the game. Mario is a guy who needs certain type of passes and Steven is the sort of player who can provide them.

"He definitely added something to our game in that position, though I feel he has been outstanding in the deeper position too. It was refreshing to see the cleverness and brightness he brought, and that was his third tough game in a week."

There were two other members of the Gerrard fan club present on Merseyside on Saturday, his former manager Gerard Houllier and the West Bromwich manager Alan Irvine. "I was chatting to Gerard after the game and we both found ourselves taking about Steven Gerrard," Irvine said. "Obviously he knows him very well but we both think he is still a terrific player. Wherever he plays he is still a key player for Liverpool, and anyone who thinks his legs have gone needs to have a look at the time he chased Cristian Gamboa down the wing and stayed with him. That took some doing, so I am not having it that he is finished."

Making his debut for West Brom at right-back in place of the ineligible Andre Wisdom, Gamboa was one of the small successes for West Brom. Saido Berahino was another, and West Brom could have taken something from the game had he converted one of his first-half chances to put them in front. "Even at his very best he will still miss a few," Irvine said. "That's part of being a striker. Saido knows he needs to improve on his heading too, but he's fine. He's got a fantastic approach and great enthusiasm and he'll get better as a finisher as time goes on."

As it was Berahino scored from the penalty spot to equalise Adam Lallana's opening goal after Dejan Lovren had brought him down on the edge of the box - actually outside the area as both managers accepted when they saw the replays - but West Brom were level for only four minutes until Jordan Henderson sidefooted in with Raheem Sterling still appealing for a penalty for a shove by Craig Gardner.

Only then was Balotelli introduced from the bench, curtailing a frustrating match for Rickie Lambert, who must have been envious at seeing Lallana get off the mark with his first Liverpool goal. Despite Gerrard's best efforts when Philippe Coutinho came off for Lucas Leiva, Liverpool could not add to their lead, though West Brom's organisation deserves some of the credit for that. Liverpool were not at their best, with Sterling and Coutinho only fitfully contributing, but the visitors were much improved on the side who struggled so badly towards the end of last season.

"Raheem will always give 100%," Rodgers said. "He does his best, but from time to time he will have games where he doesn't set the world alight. His next contract is not a big issue for us. We know he is happy here, his agent understands that he is in the perfect place, so everything is calm. No one is thinking of anything other than Raheem continuing to play for Liverpool. Ian Ayre has spoken with his representatives and he is quite relaxed."

Man of the match Jordan Henderson (Liverpool)

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## The Mail

STERLING WILL STAY; But boss must tie down Henderson for good, too  
LIVERPOOL 2

WEST BROM 1

LIVERPOOL manager Brendan Rodgers is 'adamant' that Raheem Sterling will stay at the club despite reported interest from Europe's finest, but on current form it will be equally important for him to tie down Jordan Henderson for the long-term at Anfield.

Sterling's future has been the subject of interest from the likes of Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain. The 19-year-old set up the decisive goal for Henderson as Liverpool returned to winning ways.

Liverpool know the PS30,000-a-week deal they agreed with Sterling 18 months ago is low for an international regular and, while Rodgers revealed discussions have started about a new contract, no agreement appears imminent.

'It's not a big issue for us. Ian Ayre (Liverpool's chief executive) has spoken with his representatives and he is quite relaxed,' said Rodgers. 'The club is dealing with the agent so everything is calm and the boy is remarkably happy here and there are no secondary thoughts about anything else other than continuing to play for Liverpool.'

Asked directly if he thought Sterling wanted to stay, Rodgers replied: 'Yes. Absolutely adamant. His agent is a good agent and he understands this is the perfect place for him.'

So far, the contract situation surrounding Henderson has gone under the radar. But that won't last for long when he produces man-of-the-match performances like he did at the weekend, setting up Liverpool's opener for Adam Lallana with a delightful flick and then scoring the 61st-minute winner with a low drive to earn his club their first league win since August. Henderson, 24, is inside the final two years of a PS40,000-a-week deal he signed when he joined from Sunderland in 2011.

No concrete offer has yet been made, but he will hope that changes after Daniel Sturridge signed a new five-year contract last week.

Rodgers will be glad to have Sturridge back from a thigh injury for their next fixture against QPR on October 19. In the striker's absence, he started Rickie Lambert on Saturday and sent on Mario Balotelli in the second half -- but neither could beat Albion keeper Ben Foster despite a number of attempts.

Albion have their own sharp-shooter, England Under 21 forward Saido Berahino who scored his sixth goal of the season when his penalty briefly got his side back to 1-1. Berahino had his problems last season, but manager Alan Irvine insisted: 'His approach to his job is fantastic.'

A 44,000 crowd at Anfield included the agent of ex-Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes, who has been linked with a January move to Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL (4-1-4-1): Mignolet 6.5; Manquillo 5.5 (Johnson 64min, 6), Skrtel 5.5, Lovren 6, Moreno 6; Gerrard 6; Sterling 6, Henderson 7.5, Coutinho 6 (Lucas 75, 5), Lallana 7; Lambert 5.5 (Balotelli 64, 5.5). Subs not used: Jones, Toure, Markovic, Borini. Booked: Skrtel, Gerrard. Scorers: Lallana 45, Henderson 61.

WEST BROM (4-4-1-1): Foster 6.5; Gamboa 6.5, Dawson 6, Lescott 6, Pocognoli 6; Brunt 5.5 (Samaras 86), Dorrans 6 (Mulumbu 71, 5.5), Morrison 5.5 (Blanco 80), Gardner 5.5; Sessegnon 6; Berahino 7. Subs not used: Myhill, Baird, Yacob, McAuley. Booked: Dawson, Lescott.

Scorer: Berahino 56 pen. Man of the match: Jordan Henderson. Referee: Michael Oliver 6.

SUPER STAT JUST four players have made more assists than Jordan Henderson since the start of the 2013-14 season. The Liverpool man has made 10.

## The Daily Telegraph

Adam Lallana and Jordan Henderson secure vital win for Brendan Rodgers

A rainbow appeared over Anfield at the final whistle – there is a pathetic fallacy for you. The roar of unbridled relief around the stadium betrayed it all. As did the greeting managing director Ian Ayre gave a smattering of fans outside the directors' box. "We needed that," Ayre said.

Liverpool did. They have done their pot of gold already, of course, with more than £100 million of spending in the wake of Luis Suárez's £75 million move to Barcelona but have, so far, felt pretty badly short-changed.

Finally here was a dividend. Of sorts.

With £16 million Mario Balotelli dropped to the bench, before he came on, where he sat alongside Lazar Markovic (£20 million) and with Dejan Lovren (£20 million) struggling so badly it felt like it might be another afternoon when those price tags weighed heavy on the new signings.

Even the £4 million spent on Rickie Lambert felt questionable as, with Balotelli omitted and with Daniel Sturridge still injured, he struggled to lead the line, spurning his chance. "He's desperate to score for Liverpool," manager Brendan Rodgers said of Lambert. Maybe just too desperate right now.

That it has come to celebrating so raucously a narrow 2-1 victory over an organised but fairly limited West Brom side – but nevertheless one with greater confidence after three victories – shows the depths of uncertainty that Liverpool have quickly slipped to as they are still to get to grips with this campaign; as they still try to get to grips with life after Suárez. Transition is the new buzz word.

The relief, the tension, the sense of risking an impending crisis were all disproportionate for a team that played with such swashbuckling élan not so very long ago. Had they failed to win before the international break it would have led to a fortnight of uninterrupted soul-searching.

West Bromwich Albion head coach Alan Irvine was right when he stated that his biggest fear was being caught on the counter-attack. At Anfield. He will rue some of the chances that the otherwise impressive, rapid Saido Berahino missed.

West Brom could have caused greater damage. It felt like a missed opportunity for the visitors.

But it is not about price tags and ambition right now for Liverpool. It is about, as Rodgers rightly pointed out, finding that way to win. Finding a way for Liverpool to work their way back into this season and, as a result, for that confidence to hopefully start to climb as they climb the table.

This could be a vital first step and while Adam Lallana claimed his first Liverpool goal – and at least helped bring some justification to his £25 million fee – the driving force was Jordan Henderson who, interestingly, Rodgers described as "the one player in the country who can dominate with his running capacity".

Henderson did that as Liverpool gained their first league win since August, ended a run of four matches without a victory. And that despite a hapless display from Lovren and with both full-backs, at times, caught out-of-position.

In fairness West Brom's goal should not have been permitted. Berahino was fouled. But he was caught, inevitably by Lovren, just outside the penalty area.

Rodgers was dismissive. "It was never a penalty," he said. But referee Michael Oliver pointed to the spot – and Berahino, such a promising talent and still just 21, lashed the ball past Simon Mignolet.

That drew West Brom level. Liverpool had gone ahead through the one outstanding moment in a first-half in which the uncertainty was all too detectable. The home fans were unsure. The Liverpool players were unsure – until, that is, Lallana showed purpose and skill, and a trick, to work his way towards the West Brom area.

He exchanged passes with Henderson, who fed him with a clever flick, and the midfielder's finish owed everything to the composure he showed to go on and shoot low across goalkeeper Ben Foster. It was Lallana's first goal for his new club. But Liverpool did not build on it. Earlier Lambert had snatched at one chance, shooting straight at Foster, had another charged down and also miscued from Lallana's cross while Berahino sent in a fierce shot that almost surprised Mignolet and then should have done better than heading over from just five yards out.

To Liverpool's credit they reacted ferociously once West Brom had equalised. Raheem Sterling collected Javier Manquillo's cut-back and was barged over by Craig Gardner. As Liverpool claimed a penalty, probably justifiably, Sterling scrambled up and found Henderson arriving in the area. His low first-time shot arced away from Foster and into the net.

It still did not settle Liverpool nerves. Berahino had another sight of goal – reaching Chris Brunt's superb whipped cross but he headed weakly into the turf and up into Mignolet's arms. Stephane Sessegnon then teed up Berahino again but he sliced wide.

Balotelli, on by now and looking more threatening, was then denied his first league goal for Liverpool as he latched onto Steven Gerrard's wonderful back-heel to drill in a low shot that Foster saved with his legs at his near post.

"We've got a way to go," Rodgers said afterwards. "But I'd rather have that now and get better and better as the season goes on – as we have done for the past two seasons. But it was a very important win for us."

It was. By then the rainbow had appeared. Liverpool will hope it is a sign.

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## THE INDEPENDENT

Adam Lallana and Jordan Henderson give Liverpool much-needed win  
Since his return to the Premier League there have been many questions asked about Mario Balotelli, most of them irrelevant. Would he let off fireworks in his hotel bathroom? Did he donate thousands of pounds to a Manchester dogs home? Only now is the question of whether he is good enough for Liverpool beginning to be addressed. The patience of the Liverpool manager, Brendan Rodgers, with a man he described as his "calculated risk" is beginning to wear thin and, following the Italian's non-performance in Switzerland on Wednesday night, Rodgers dropped the striker to the bench. Given that Daniel Sturridge will be returning after the international break, Balotelli might have to get used to the view. In terms of the naked result, the change was justified. Liverpool won their first Premier League game since Tottenham were demolished with style and a brutal panache on the last afternoon in August; the last game Sturridge started for Liverpool and the first one Balotelli played.

After all the speculation that he would feature for his club two days after being declared unfit for England's forthcoming Euro 2016 qualifiers against San Marino and Estonia, Sturridge did not even make the squad. Rodgers said only: "I hoped he would be fit but he wasn't." The most damning comment made by Steven Gerrard after the Champions League defeat in Basel on Wednesday was that Liverpool had been prepared to settle for a point against "an OK team".

In terms of the Premier League, West Bromwich Albion are an OK team and, although this was a better performance than the one they delivered in Switzerland, Liverpool's season will not be defined by results against OK teams. "The depth of honesty in the squad gives me hope," said Rodgers, who pointed out that in both his seasons on Merseyside, the second half of the campaign had been better than the first. "As we work, the quality of our game will improve and we had to find a way to win against a team that is confident, keeps clean sheets and is difficult to beat." Nevertheless, the match turned on two lovely touches from Jordan Henderson. The first created Adam Lallana's debut goal in a Liverpool shirt while the second, a beautiful, sidefooted shot into the net beneath the Kop, settled the match. Those who wonder what Rodgers can do for Balotelli might like to remember that when he took charge of his first match as Liverpool manager – a 3-0 defeat at The Hawthorns – the only questions asked about Henderson were about how Liverpool could possibly find a club willing to pay the £20million Kenny Dalglish appeared to have squandered on the midfielder.

Dalglish was one of two former Liverpool managers in the crowd – the other was Gerard Houllier – and here he saw Henderson as the player he imagined him to be when buying him from Sunderland. First, there was a neat flick as, having received the ball from Lallana on the edge of the area, he gave it back with interest. Lallana drove his shot past Ben Foster and appeared overcome by the emotion of scoring his first goal at Anfield. That it came seconds before the interval was important but the timing was doubly so. As David Moyes's assistant at Everton, the Albion manager, Alan Irvine, would have gone to Anfield many times. "Midway through the first half, the mood in the crowd was starting to swing and it might have turned," he said. "But the goal changed things."

Like Rodgers, the highlight of Irvine's season thus far had been a win at White Hart Lane and West Brom went into this match in rather better form than their opponents.

"I was a bit disappointed with the way we used the ball," Irvine said. "We needed more self-belief and courage. We were not brave enough before the break. Afterwards, we were much better and my fear was we would be done on the counter-attack, which isn't something you expect to happen too much at Anfield." West Brom deserved their equaliser, although the manner of it was questionable since Dejan Lovren's foul on Saido Berahino seemed to be just outside the area. Irvine's first question to the fourth official, Jon Moss, when Berahino fell was: "Was it inside?"

Berahino rather likes the autumn. At the end of September last year, he had sealed West Brom's first victory at Old Trafford since 1978. The penalty smashed past Simon Mignolet yesterday was his fourth goal in three matches and ensured Liverpool's defensive record stands at one clean sheet in 16.

It should probably have given West Brom a point but the penalty appeared to galvanise Liverpool and six minutes later they might have had one of their own when Craig Gardner bundled over Raheem Sterling, whose touch appeared to have deserted him. The referee, Michael Oliver, waved play on, the ball broke to Henderson and Liverpool were back in front.

Two minutes later, Balotelli appeared. There were a couple of shots and rather more appearances in the opposition penalty area than he had managed in Basel but it was not remotely heroic. Sturridge's return will be welcomed in Roy Hodgson and Rodgers's households, rather less in the corridors Balotelli paces.

### Line-ups:

**Liverpool (4-2-3-1):** Mignolet; Manquillo (Johnson 63), Skrtel, Lovren, Moreno; Henderson, Gerrard; Sterling, Lallana, Coutinho (Lucas 75); Lambert (Balotelli 63).

**West Brom (4-4-1-1):** Foster; Gamboa, Dawson, Lescott, Pocognoli; Dorrans (Mulumbu 71), Gardner, Morrison (Blanco 80), Brunt (Samaras 87); Sessegnon; Berahino.

**Referee:** Michael Oliver.

**Man of the match:** Jordan Henderson (Liverpool)

**Match rating:** 6/10

## DAILY Mirror

Jordan Henderson nets winner as Reds claim much needed win

After the way Liverpool became so intoxicated in their tilt for the title last season, there had to be a hangover.

A couple of champagne goals from Adam Lallana and Jordan Henderson may have helped to ease the malaise that has gripped Brendan Rodgers' side this time around.

But the reality is that the Reds staggered their way to three precious points at Anfield yesterday.

Six games in and the fizz and sparkle that took Liverpool so close last term have been replaced by performances as flat as a pint of cloudy ale.

Had West Brom taken more care in front of goal they would have had a lot more than Saido Berahino's controversial penalty to show for their efforts, as they played heavily on home nerves.

A relieved Rodgers said: "At the moment we are not at our best but I have no doubts about the character and hunger of my players. When you aren't playing well you have to find a way to win – and we did that today.

"The penalty shouldn't have been given but we didn't feel sorry for ourselves."

What is clear is that the hype that gripped the Kop last season has long since drained away.

Rodgers' decision to drop Mario Balotelli to the bench after his midweek Champions League no-show in Basel hinted that the Liverpool boss has also had something of a reality check.

For 44 minutes it seemed Alan Irvine's Baggies would be adding to Liverpool's early-season woes.

Berahino gave Martin Skrtel and Dejan Lovren problems every time he got the ball. But the young striker saw one powerful effort beaten away by Simon Mignolet then could not leap high enough to give Sebastien Pocognoli's cross the headed finish it deserved.

Liverpool, without a Premier League win for more than a month, huffed and puffed, with Rickie Lambert providing plenty of toil but none of the unpredictability offered by Balotelli.

Then, a minute before the break, it all came good for Lallana.

The England midfielder has taken time to find his bearings since arriving from Southampton for £25million. But he looked sure-footed enough when surrounded by a posse of West Brom defenders.

A pirouette and lightning give-and-go with Henderson left James Morrison and Cristian Gamboa standing. Lallana's finish gave Ben Foster no hope and Anfield hailed his first goal for the club. Tension returned 11 minutes into the second half when Berahino was floored by Lovren's rash lunge. Referee Michael Oliver took his time before deciding the offence had taken place inside the box. TV replays proved he got it wrong – but Berahino didn't, sending Mignolet the wrong way. Albion's parity lasted barely five minutes. Raheem Sterling went down under Craig Gardner's challenge and, while most eyes glanced towards the referee, he picked himself up to drag a pass back for Henderson to fire home.

Balotelli replaced Lambert and immediately curled a fine effort just wide from 20 yards.

Berahino almost equalised again but could only guide Chris Brunt's cross into Mignolet's hands.

"We deserved something," said Irvine. "We didn't show enough belief and courage in the first half, so I challenged the players at half-time and they were much better.

"Saido was a real handful. He has to be more clinical but it will come."

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A first Liverpool FC goal from Adam Lallana and one from Jordan Henderson helped the Reds claim a much needed win over West Bromwich Albion at Anfield.

The Reds picked up a first win in four Premier League games with a 2-1 victory over the Baggies this afternoon but once again they were far from convincing. A dour first-half performance was lit up by the impressive Lallana who broke the deadlock just before the break when he finished off a one-two with Henderson with a clinical finish past Ben Foster.

Brendan Rodgers will have hoped the goal kick-started an improved second-half performance but West Brom levelled the game in controversial circumstances. Dejan Lovren was ruled to have fouled Saido Berahino inside the area after the Reds sloppily lost possession and the visitors were awarded a penalty just over 10 minutes after the re-start.

Television replays showed the foul took place outside the box but referee Michael Oliver pointed to the spot and Berahino sent Simon Mignolet the wrong way to make it 1-1.

Liverpool's response was swift, however, and within five minutes of being pegged back they re-established their lead.

Much to the anger of Rodgers, appeals for a foul on Raheem Sterling in the area were turned down but the attacker got back to his feet and squared the ball to Henderson, who pounced to send a shot through a crowd in the area and past the dive of Foster.

Rodgers had dropped Mario Balotelli for the game in favour of Rickie Lambert but threw the Italian on for the final half an hour in the hope of finding a third goal to tie up the game.

Liverpool were unable to score again and survived a number of nervy moments as West Brom hunted for a second equaliser of the game.

But the Reds held on and were able to celebrate their first league win since August 31.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet, Manquillo (Johnson 63), Skrtel, Lovren, Moreno, Gerrard (c), Henderson, Lallana, Coutinho (Lucas 75), Sterling, Lambert (Balotelli 63). Subs: Jones, Toure, Borini, Markovic.

Goals: Lallana (45) Henderson (61)

Yellow cards: Skrtel

Red cards: None

WEST BROM (4-4-1-1): Foster, Gamboa, Dawson, Lescott, Pocognoli, Dorran (Mulumbu 71), Morrison (Blanco 80), Gardner, Brunt (c) (Samaras 87), Sessegnon, Berahino. Subs: Baird, Yacob, Myhill, McAuley.

Goals: Berahino (56 pen)

Yellow cards: Dawson

Red cards: None

Referee: Michael Oliver

Attendance: 44, 708

## Regional Newspaper of The Year **Express & Star**

Berahino netted from the spot after being fouled on 56 minutes to cancel out Adam Lallana's opener on the stroke of half-time.

But Jordan Henderson struck the hosts' winner five minutes later to condemn Alan Irvine's men to a first loss in four games.

After a frenetic opening, Liverpool had the first opportunity to try their luck when Sebastien Pocogoli fouled Jordan Henderson on the edge of the area.

But Steven Gerrard sent the resultant free-kick straight into the Liverpool wall.

The Baggies forced a corner through the pace of Cristian Gamboa and, when they returned the ball into the danger area, Craig Dawson sent an ambitious overhead kick well wide.

Liverpool almost broke the deadlock when a jinking run from Raheem Sterling ended with him trying his luck from the edge of the box with a shot that deflected off Craig Gardner and was scrambled away by Ben Foster in the Baggies goal.

But Albion held their own and Berahino again looked their most likely source of a goal.

He was picked out by a fine ball from Gardner, only for his touch to let him down, allowing Simon Mignolet to clear.

Then he let fly with a 25-yard effort after a weaving run from midfield, with Mignolet diving to his right to claw the ball away.

And finally the young striker darted between two defenders to meet a left-wing cross from the dangerous Pocognoli, only to send his header over the bar.

Stephane Sessegnon then had a go at beating Mignolet from distance but the Belgian keeper made a routine save low down.

Then, just when Albion appeared set for half-time parity, Liverpool made the breakthrough in the final minute before the interval.

Lallana's quick feet took him away from James Morrison and, after collecting a fabulous return pass from Henderson, Lallana beat Foster with a curling, low finish.

Albion made a bright start to the second period and were level on 56 minutes, albeit through a controversial penalty.

Berahino was bundled to the ground by Dejan Lovren but replays appeared to show the offence took place just outside the box.

However, referee Michael Oliver pointed to the spot and Berahino smashed the ball past Mignolet for his sixth goal of the season.

Albion were level for just five minutes before some poor defending allowed the hosts to regain their lead.

Sterling burst into the box and, when Oliver did not award a foul for an apparent shove by Graham Dorrans, play continued and the Reds found Henderson, who swept home a right-footed shot from the edge of the area.

Albion continued pressing and they could have drawn level with 14 minutes to go when Chris Brunt delivered a fine cross to the far post but Berahino's header was too close to Mignolet, who made a comfortable save.

And at the other end there was an easy stop for Foster to keep out a shot from Steven Gerrard.

Albion made all three substitutions in the search for another equaliser but they could not unlock the Reds' defence.

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## The Sunday Telegraph

Pressure eases on Liverpool

Liverpool 2 Lallana 45, Henderson 61

West Brom 1 Berahino 56 pen Att: 44,708

A rainbow appeared over Anfield at the final whistle - there is a pathetic fallacy for you. The roar of relief around the stadium betrayed it all. As did the greeting managing director Ian Ayre gave a few fans outside the directors' box. "We needed that," Ayre said. Liverpool did. They have done their pot of gold already, of course, with more than PS100million of spending in the wake of Luis Suarez's PS75million move to Barcelona but have, so far, felt pretty badly short-changed. Finally here was a dividend. Of sorts. With PS16million Mario Balotelli dropped to the bench, before he came on, where he sat alongside Lazar Markovic (PS20million), and with Dejan Lovren (PS20million) struggling so badly it felt like it might be another afternoon when those price tags weighed heavy on the new signings. Even the PS4million spent on Rickie Lambert felt questionable as, with Balotelli omitted and with Daniel Sturridge still injured, he struggled to lead the line, spurning his chance. "He's desperate to score for Liverpool," Brendan Rodgers said of Lambert. Maybe too desperate right now.

That it has come to celebrating so raucously a narrow 2-1 victory over an organised but fairly limited West Brom side - but nevertheless one with greater confidence after three victories - shows the depths of uncertainty that Liverpool have slipped to as they are still to get to grips with this campaign; as they still try to get to grips with life after Suarez. Transition is the new buzz word. The relief, the tension, the sense of risking an impending crisis were all disproportionate for a team that played with such swashbuckling élan not so very long ago. Had they failed to win before the international break it would have led to a fortnight of uninterrupted soul-searching.

West Brom head coach Alan Irvine was right when he stated his biggest fear was being caught on the counter-attack. At Anfield. He will rue some of the chances that the otherwise impressive, rapid Saido Berahino missed.

West Brom could have caused greater damage. It felt like a missed opportunity for the visitors. But it is not about price tags and ambition right now for Liverpool. It is about, as Rodgers rightly pointed out, finding that way to win. Finding a way for Liverpool to work their way back into this season and, as a result, for that confidence to start to climb as they climb the table.

This could be a vital first step and while Adam Lallana claimed his first Liverpool goal - and at least helped bring some justification to his PS25million fee - the driving force was Jordan Henderson who, interestingly, Rodgers described as "the one player in the country who can dominate with his running capacity". Henderson did that as Liverpool gained their first league win since August, ended a run of four matches without a victory - and kept a first clean sheet in 16 matches. And that despite a hapless display from Lovren and with both full-backs, at times, caught out of position. In fairness West Brom's goal should not have been permitted. Berahino was fouled. But he was caught, inevitably by Lovren, just outside the penalty area. Rodgers was dismissive. "It was never a penalty," he said. But Michael Oliver pointed to the spot - and Berahino, still just 21, lashed the ball past Simon Mignolet. That drew West Brom level. Liverpool had gone ahead through the one outstanding moment in a first-half in which the uncertainty was all too detectable. The home fans were unsure. The Liverpool players were unsure - until, that is, Lallana showed purpose and skill, and a trick, to work his way towards the West Brom area. He exchanged passes with Henderson and the midfielder's finish owed everything to the composure he showed to go on and shoot across goalkeeper Ben Foster. It was Lallana's first goal for Liverpool. But they did not build on it.

Earlier Lambert had snatched at one chance, shooting straight at Foster, had another charged down and also miscued from Lallana's cross while Berahino sent in a fierce shot that almost surprised Mignolet and then should have done better than heading over from just five yards out.

To Liverpool's credit they reacted ferociously once West Brom had equalised. Raheem Sterling collected Javier Manquillo's cut-back and was barged over by Craig Gardner. As Liverpool claimed a penalty, Sterling scrambled up and found Henderson arriving in the area. His low first-time shot arced away from Foster and into the net. It still did not settle Liverpool nerves. Berahino had another sight of goal but he headed weakly into Mignolet's arms. Stephane Sessegnon then teed up Berahino again but he sliced wide.

Balotelli, on by now and looking more threatening, was denied his first league goal for Liverpool as he latched onto Steven Gerrard's wonderful back-heel to drill in a low shot that Foster saved with his legs at his near post.

"We've got a way to go," Rodgers said afterwards. "But I'd rather have that now and get better and better as the season goes on - as we have done for the past two seasons. But it was a very important win for us."

It was. By then the rainbow had appeared. Liverpool will hope it is a sign.

6 MIGNOLET 3 LOVREN 5 SKRTEL u u 5 MORENO 5 MANQUILLO JOHNSON 64 7 GERRARD u u 8 HENDERSON 7 LALLANA 6 STERLING 5 COUTINHO LUCAS 75 5 LAMBERT BALOTELLI 64 7 BERAHINO 7 SESSEGNON 6 GARDNER 5 BRUNT SAMARAS 87 6 MORRISON BLANCO 80 6 DORRANS MULUMBU 70 6 POCOGNOLI 6 DAWSON u u 7 GAMBOA 6 LESCOTT u u 7 FOSTER REFEREE MICHAEL OLIVER (NORTHUMBERLAND) SUBS NOT USED LIVERPOOL B Jones (gk), Toure, Borini, Markovic. WEST BROM Baird, Yacob, Myhill (gk), McAuley.

Date: 4 October 2014

Opposition: West Bromwich Albion

Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Observer	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Express and Star

4 October 2014



## THE SUNDAY TIMES

Lallana inspires Liverpool

Eight league games ago Liverpool were playing for the title and here they were, fearful of West Brom. Even for a club with such lurches from highs to lows in their history, the switch from golden skies to storm has felt confounding.

Last season, Luis Suarez, and contending for the Premier League title -- they still feel long ago. But this was a revival of sorts. As Brendan Rodgers said, he needed to find a way to win and he did. He made a big call in relegating Mario Balotelli to the bench, and two English talents he wants to build around gave him very big performances. The victory was built on the ceaseless running and different techniques of Adam Lallana and Jordan Henderson, with Lallana just pipping Henderson for man of the match. West Brom, in good form, with a good gameplan, were predictably testing but Lallana's goal in the first half and Henderson's in the second dispelled anxieties.

Lallana, for the first time since his PS25m arrival, had the Kop singing his name with gusto. He had scored in the final minute of a first half in which Liverpool never looked comfortable, despite being the better team. It was a lovely goal and Henderson played a part, using the inside of his heel to return the ball in a one-two that took Lallana into West Brom's box. Lallana, leftfooted, finished emphatically and ran off beating his chest.

Saïdo Berahino, fortuitously awarded a spot kick, equalised but then Henderson struck. Javier Manquillo diverted Steven Gerrard's wonderful pass to Raheem Sterling, who was nudged by Chris Brunt but not given a penalty. Commendably, Sterling stayed on his feet and cut back for Henderson, who rolled a shot beyond Ben Foster. At 2-1, save for a Berahino chance, Liverpool finally had control. Rodgers promised Liverpool would not become "the Mario Balotelli show" and just five Premier League games into his run, the posters were down, the script was rewritten and Balotelli was off the bill. His new role was as an understudy to Rickie Lambert -- who, in the season Balotelli was winning the Champions League as a 19-year-old, was facing Gillingham and Colchester in League One.

Balotelli was dropped for an erratic performance in Basel. For Lambert, at 32, starting for Liverpool at Anfield, in the league, was the realisation of a boyhood dream but he had a bit of a nightmare. He was inhibited, his touch lacking its normal surety and his work its usual canniness.

Two moments epitomised this. After 18 minutes, played into space by a long Martin Skrtel pass, he tried scoring from the corner of the 18-yard box instead of seeking a better position, and though his firm shot caused Foster some discomfort, it was saved. In the 39th minute Raheem Sterling lambert but he lingered and by the time he shot, Joleon Lescott was there to block.

Lallana, though, was impossible for West Brom to contain. From the moment, inside the first two minutes, when he pirouetted clear of Craig Dawson to find Lambert deftly, he was elusive, clever, quick, and unreadable with his sudden changes of direction and intention. His appetite to get back and help Alberto Moreno was prodigious too.

Rodgers wanted "intensity" back and Lallana embodied it. Not until he scored, however, did his teammates share his conviction.

Sterling had jinked into the box and almost beaten a scrambling Foster with a deflected shot, but until Lallana's opener, Lambert's not-so-near misses were the best Liverpool produced. West Brom were well set-up, compact and playing for breaks. Alan Irvine had his players press Philippe Coutinho hard to successfully exploit the Brazilian's loss of confidence, though giving Steven Gerrard space was not so canny. Gerrard and Henderson were to grow in authority but, at 0-0, Craig Gardner and Stephane Sessegnon were the key influences in the central area. The pair were behind several counterattacks, launched to release Berahino and on one the livewire striker checked inside Gerrard and shot early, almost surprising Simon Mignolet. Berahino did less well when he headed over from Sebastien Pocognoli's cross; he had time to beat Mignolet for 1-0. Berahino needs to work on his prowess in the air: late on, he spurned a chance to equalise when he nodded Chris Brunt's cross straight to Mignolet.

What Berahino does on the ground, though, carries a constant and obvious threat. Liverpool's nerves crept back and West Brom bounced back during a spell at the start of the second half that culminated in Berahino winning and converting a disputed penalty. As Berahino turned smartly on a pass, Lovren lunged and caught the striker as he moved into the area. Berahino's speed made it a difficult call but Mike Oliver made the wrong one, with contact happening outside the box. "Never a penalty," Rodgers scoffed. When Berahino hammered in the spot kick Anfield feared another flop but Henderson had his say. At 2-1, Balotelli replaced a sheepish Lambert and impressed during his halfhour or so on the field. When, twice, he struck hard, early shots, after Gerrard teed him up, there was a decisiveness about him that had been absent in Basel.

The Kop acclaimed full-time as if this were a big win. In context it was. It needs to spark a rehabilitation though, and quick; Liverpool's next home opponents are Real Madrid.

Liverpool: Mignolet 6, Manquillo 6 (Johnson 64min), Skrtel 6, Lovren 5, Moreno 6, Gerrard 7, Henderson 8, Sterling 6, Coutinho 5 (Lucas 75min) Lallana 8, Lambert 5 (Balotelli 64min) West Bromwich: Foster 6, Gamboa 6, Dawson 6, Lescott 7, Pocognoli 6, Gardner 7, Morrison 6 (Blanco 81min), Dorrans 5 (Mulumbu 71min), Sessegnon 7, Brunt 6 (Samaras 87min), Berahino 7

## The Observer

Liftoff for Lallana but Liverpool still in second gear

Adam Lallana scored his first goal since his move from Southampton, to set Liverpool on the road to victory - not the most convincing of victories, as it happens, but Anfield was glad of it just the same. Albion came to Merseyside having won their past three games, form that Liverpool, at the moment, can only dream about.

Brendan Rodgers had responded to a fourth defeat in the opening nine games by dropping Mario Balotelli and Lazar Markovic to the bench, the former carrying the can - a little unfairly - for a poor team performance in Basel, the latter having failed to make a significant impression on English football since signing from Benfica.

If the idea was to energise Liverpool and bring back some of the quickfire confidence of last season, it was not a complete success. Rickie Lambert did not really step up to the plate as line leader in Balotelli's absence, failing to connect with an early cross from Lallana and, too often, finding his first touch letting him down.

The former Southampton striker did bring the first save of the game from Ben Foster, midway through the first half, after neatly controlling a searching pass from Martin Skrtel - though, when he took too long over his next penalty-area opportunity, and saw the chance disappear, it was hard to see how Lambert was bringing any more mobility to the Liverpool attack than Balotelli.

"Rickie is a real honest professional, who has been working really hard in training, and he's desperate to score his first goal for Liverpool," Rodgers said. "He might be disappointed with a couple of the chances he had, but we will need him over the course of the season. Mario accepts the position, his reaction was fine, and he did his best when he came on."

A lack of meaningful movement seems to be Liverpool's problem at present. Raheem Sterling and Philippe Coutinho kept getting caught in possession and - although Jordan Henderson was promoted to a more forward role - there were still very few occasions when the home side got runners beyond the West Brom backline.

Having started quite cautiously, the visitors gradually worked their way into the game, and were arguably getting on top by the end of the first half, when Liverpool took the lead. Saïdo Berahino brought a save from Simon Mignolet after Javier Manquillo gave the ball away on halfway, and might have done better with a free header from Sebastien Pocognoli's cross, three minutes before the interval, than put it wide.

Yet, just as West Brom were taking heart from keeping Liverpool scoreless, and looking forward to the break, the home side conjured an attack down the left that was out of keeping with their sluggish first-half performance.

Henderson farmed the ball out to Lallana, who skipped easily into the penalty area to place a shot across Foster and into the far corner. All of West Brom's hard work was undone at a stroke and Liverpool had a lead that - while not exactly undeserved - was something of an unexpected bonus at the end of a laboured first half.

West Brom are no pushovers under Alan Irvine, however, and came out for the second half showing just as much self-belief. The penalty Dejan Lovren conceded to allow them back into the game was unnecessary, and quite possibly outside the box - though the fact that the centre-half had to stretch to prevent Berahino reaching Stephane Sessegnon's pass on the edge of the area showed that the visitors were looking for a way back into the game.

Berahino equalised confidently from the spot, though parity lasted for four minutes. Liverpool might have had a penalty at the other end when Craig Gardner climbed all over Sterling, but the referee was either unmoved or played a good advantage. The ball came back to Henderson, who calmly sidefooted it through a crowd of players to restore Liverpool's lead.

With Balotelli already on for the last half-hour, the stage was set for Liverpool to put the game to bed, and possibly score a few more confidence-boosting goals, yet things are just not happening for them as smoothly this season as they did last.

When Balotelli sent Sterling clear on goal with a precisely timed pass, the England player showed all the necessary acceleration, only to see the chance go begging when an unwanted touch showed too much of the ball to the goalkeeper. Something similar occurred in Switzerland, so either Liverpool's luck is out or it is just Sterling going through a rough patch.

The grandstand finish never arrived. While Balotelli and Steven Gerrard saw shots saved, West Brom refused to collapse and the score remained the same. Liverpool did not know how wildly to celebrate at the end, though it will be interesting to see how many teams run up big scores against West Brom. They look a different proposition to last season's strugglers, and - with essentially the same squad - Irvine has introduced organisation and determination.

The West Brom manager said. "We weren't brave enough in the first half - we didn't show enough courage when we had the ball. We were a lot better in the second, we probably deserved something from the game."

Date: 4 October 2014  
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion  
 Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Observer	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Express and Star

4 October 2014



Adam Lallana scored his first goal for Liverpool to help his team to a first Premier League win since August in a nervy display against West Brom.

Lallana combined beautifully with Jordan Henderson to beat Ben Foster at the far post seconds before the break.

Liverpool's defending was far from convincing and Dejan Lovren conceded a controversial penalty to allow Saïdo Berahino to level from the spot.

But much to the hosts' relief, Jordan Henderson struck five minutes later.

Raheem Sterling found Henderson and the England midfielder threaded the ball low into the far corner to secure Liverpool a first league win since their 3-0 demolition of Tottenham.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers had said before the match that his team were unrecognisable from last season's title challengers.

The struggle to attack with the pace, intensity and incisiveness which took them to within two points of the title last May continues, but the victory will ease the pressure on the manager and his team.

West Brom, arriving at Anfield in confident mood after three successive victories in all competitions, did trouble a frail Liverpool defence on a number of occasions but the hosts held on for what Rodgers described as a "big win".

On occasions, the wastefulness of Philippe Coutinho and Sterling contributed to Liverpool's bluntness, and the hosts were especially hesitant on the counter-attack.

Two chances fell to Rickie Lambert, preferred to Mario Balotelli and making a rare start for the club, but while the striker forced Foster into a fine save with his first effort, his failure to score highlighted the absence of the injured Daniel Sturridge.

After missing seven games with a thigh injury, the striker is expected to return to full health for Liverpool's next match against QPR on 19 October. But his failure to feature in the squad will at least dampen what could have been a potential club versus country row after Sturridge was left out of the latest England squad.

In Lallana, the hosts had a player who was bright throughout and the summer signing wildly celebrated his first Premier League goal since March, scoring after a delightful one-two with Henderson.

But Liverpool's defence remains vulnerable and the team has now gone seven Premier League games without a clean sheet at Anfield.

In the first half, a rare mistake by Henderson set Berahino free to test Simon Mignolet from 20 yards and, moments before Liverpool's opener, the England Under-21 international, unchallenged in the six-yard box, headed a difficult chance over the crossbar.

The Baggies striker, the leading English scorer in the league this season, eventually increased his tally to five league goals, although it was a dubious penalty.

Lovren felled Berahino on the edge of the box but referee Michael Oliver pointed to the spot and the 21-year-old's rasping drive through the middle left Mignolet with no hope.

The Anfield crowd were understandably anxious as the hosts had collected just seven points from six league games before this match.

But five minutes after conceding, Henderson secured the winner. Sterling, having had a penalty appeal turned down, returned to his feet and found the effervescent midfielder, who side-footed beyond Foster.

West Brom manager Alan Irvine: "I was disappointed in how we used the ball in the first half. I was disappointed we didn't show enough courage on the ball. "I challenged the players to be braver at half-time and in the second half we gave Liverpool a difficult game. From our point of view, we've got a few things we're disappointed with."

Irvine on the West Brom penalty: "From where I was I couldn't be sure whether it was inside or out. Having been given it, for Saïdo Berahino to step up and take it with such confidence was great. I thought he worked the centre-halves extremely well. His movement for a young player is very good."

Date: 4 October 2014

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Competition: League

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4 October 2014



90:00+4:27 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 2, West Bromwich Albion 1.  
90:00+3:37 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
90:00+3:37 Foul by Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion.  
90:00+3:11 Attempt missed. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.  
90:00+3:04 Attempt saved. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.  
90:00+0:04 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
90:00+0:04 Foul by Stéphane Sessegnon (West Bromwich Albion.  
89:22 Attempt missed. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.  
86:09 Substitution Substitution Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. Georgios Samaras replaces Chris Brunt.  
84:40 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
84:40 Foul by Craig Gardner (West Bromwich Albion.  
83:58 Foul by Glen Johnson (Liverpool.  
83:58 Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
83:50 Attempt blocked. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.  
83:15 Booking Joleon Lescott (West Bromwich Albion is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
83:09 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.  
83:09 Foul by Joleon Lescott (West Bromwich Albion.  
81:25 Attempt missed. Sebastián Blanco (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Stéphane Sessegnon.  
80:20 Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Sébastien Pocognoli tries a through ball, but Saido Berahino is caught offside.  
80:04 Substitution Substitution Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. Sebastián Blanco replaces James Morrison.  
79:28 Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Stéphane Sessegnon tries a through ball, but Saido Berahino is caught offside.  
78:24 Attempt saved. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.  
77:15 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
77:15 Foul by James Morrison (West Bromwich Albion.  
76:35 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.  
75:52 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
75:52 Foul by Youssuf Mulumbu (West Bromwich Albion.  
74:59 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva replaces Philippe Coutinho.  
74:39 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.  
74:39 Youssuf Mulumbu (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
74:07 Attempt saved. Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion header from the centre of the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Chris Brunt with a cross.  
72:26 Hand ball by Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion.  
71:31 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool.  
71:31 Youssuf Mulumbu (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
70:04 Substitution Substitution Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. Youssuf Mulumbu replaces Graham Dorrans.  
69:42 Hand ball by Chris Brunt (West Bromwich Albion.  
67:02 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.  
66:11 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.  
65:58 Attempt blocked. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.  
65:06 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
65:06 Foul by Craig Gardner (West Bromwich Albion.  
64:23 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.  
63:38 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Raheem Sterling is caught offside.  
63:21 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Glen Johnson replaces Javier Manquillo.  
63:12 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Mario Balotelli replaces Rickie Lambert.  
62:22 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.  
62:22 Stéphane Sessegnon (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick on the right wing.  
60:04 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 2, West Bromwich Albion 1. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.  
58:28 Attempt missed. Rickie Lambert (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a headed pass.  
56:20 Rickie Lambert (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.  
56:20 Foul by Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion.  
55:20 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 1. Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the top left corner.  
54:28 Penalty conceded by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool after a foul in the penalty area.  
54:28 Penalty West Bromwich Albion. Saido Berahino draws a foul in the penalty area.  
52:51 Offside, Liverpool. Adam Lallana tries a through ball, but Philippe Coutinho is caught offside.  
52:17 Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Javier Manquillo.  
50:07 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cristian Gamboa.

45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 0.  
45:00+2:10 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 0.  
44:35 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 0. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.  
43:25 Attempt saved. Stéphane Sessegnon (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Morrison.  
42:13 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.  
42:13 Graham Dorrans (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
41:13 Attempt missed. Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Sébastien Pocognoli with a cross.  
39:44 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.  
39:44 Cristian Gamboa (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
39:04 Attempt blocked. Rickie Lambert (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.  
37:11 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cristian Gamboa.  
35:56 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.  
35:56 Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
34:40 Attempt saved. Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Stéphane Sessegnon.  
33:41 Attempt missed. Javier Manquillo (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.  
31:17 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
31:17 Foul by Craig Gardner (West Bromwich Albion.  
28:44 Booking Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
28:40 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.  
28:40 Foul by Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion.  
27:37 Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
27:12 Booking Steven Gerrard (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.  
26:50 Delay in match Cristian Gamboa (West Bromwich Albion because of an injury.  
26:39 Offside, Liverpool. Javier Manquillo tries a through ball, but Rickie Lambert is caught offside.  
22:58 Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Javier Manquillo.  
22:15 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.  
22:15 Craig Gardner (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
20:54 Foul by Rickie Lambert (Liverpool.  
20:54 Joleon Lescott (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
19:38 Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Adam Lallana.  
19:35 Attempt missed. Craig Gardner (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right following a corner.  
18:58 Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.  
18:02 Attempt saved. Rickie Lambert (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Martin Skrtel.  
16:19 Booking Martin Skrtel (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
16:13 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.  
16:13 Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick on the left wing.  
13:58 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.  
13:58 Saido Berahino (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
13:31 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Foster.  
13:27 Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom left corner.  
13:24 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.  
12:58 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.  
12:58 Foul by Craig Gardner (West Bromwich Albion.  
11:56 Attempt missed. Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Graham Dorrans with a headed pass following a corner.  
11:10 Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.  
9:02 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Joleon Lescott.  
8:03 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Sébastien Pocognoli.  
8:00 Attempt blocked. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.  
6:51 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
6:51 Foul by Sébastien Pocognoli (West Bromwich Albion.  
5:22 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.  
5:22 Foul by Sébastien Pocognoli (West Bromwich Albion.  
0:00 First Half begins.  
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.