

Competition: League

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| Times       | Telegraph | Standard |
| Guardian    | Mirror    | Echo     |
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## Tireless Sterling rouses Liverpool

Midway through a sun-dappled first half that should have been further brightened by several Queens Park Rangers goals, the home fans felt sufficiently relaxed to serenade Raheem Sterling with a gently-mocking ditty of "he sleeps when he wants", but their mood had changed dramatically by the final whistle.

The England forward left the pitch to a chorus of boos as a result of his inspirational role in an astonishing climax to one of the most eventful weeks of his young life. Sterling had always shaped as the pivotal figure on his return to his former club after spending seven days hogging the headlines while barely kicking a ball, but no one could have predicted the manner this crazy game panned out. After thoughts of Harry Redknapp's sense of injustice and anger at the shambolic defending that led to QPR conceding two injury-time goals -- not to mention two own goals -- have faded, Sterling's brilliance will provide the abiding memory of this remarkable afternoon. Brendan Rodgers settled on the word outstanding and for once not even Roy Hodgson could disagree. The England manager may have had mixed feelings as he watched Sterling's latest masterclass from the Loftus Road directors' box: thrilled at the danger he created when he received the ball in space, yet also steeling himself for the prospect of more disagreements over his availability. With such a precious and precocious talent at the heart of England and Liverpool's future development, the club-versus-country conflict seems set to run and run. The best measure of Sterling's ability is that he managed to dominate proceedings and win the match for his under-performing team without playing anywhere near his best, at least not consistently. The 19-year-old was a virtual passenger during the first half as he found himself isolated out on the right and was only involved intermittently in the second half after a tactical reshuffle from Rodgers at halftime, but was still intimately involved in all three goals. If he ever got the run of the ball with Liverpool on the front foot then the havoc he could wreak would be truly terrifying.

His first crucial involvement, as Liverpool took an undeserved lead in the 68th minute, owed as much to his speed of thought as his fleetness of foot. A typically dangerous run down the right drew a foul from Armond Traore, but Sterling took the free kick immediately to allow Glen Johnson to cross from the right, with the unfortunate Richard Dunne putting the ball into his own net for the tenth time in the Premier League. Worse was to follow for QPR, although not before they had belatedly found the finishing touches which, if located earlier, would have given them a healthy lead by half-time. Leroy Fer had hit the crossbar twice as the Holland midfielder failed to capitalise on the magnificent service provided by Bobby Zamora, who will be reluctant to hand the captain's armband back to the absent Rio Ferdinand if it inspires him to these heights. By the same token, Redknapp may not be in a rush to return Ferdinand to the side after this much improved performance.

As QPR showed commendable spirit in refusing to yield despite their misfortune, Eduardo Vargas briefly threatened to surpass Sterling's impact. The Chile forward was only on the pitch for 11 minutes, yet was still able to score his first goals for his new club to raise yet more questions over Liverpool's defending, particularly as both of them came in the last four minutes after the visiting side had twice taken the lead. Liverpool have conceded more goals from set-pieces than any other team in the Premier League this season and their aerial deficiencies will remain a concern for Rodgers. A failure to clear a seemingly innocuous free kick presented QPR with the opportunity for their initial 87th-minute equaliser, with Vargas creating space for himself after being first to a knock-down and crossing for Traore, whose return header he controlled on his chest to score from close range. Vargas's second equaliser four minutes later was even more straightforward as he was the first man to meet a corner and stooped low to score at the near post. Rodgers will have left west London with other concerns beyond poor defending -- Steven Gerrard's discomfort in a more advanced role, a lack of pace and purpose in midfield generally and a semi-detached performance from Mario Balotelli -- but Sterling's contributions ensured that such weaknesses were glossed over. In fairness to Rodgers, he had addressed his side's shortcomings earlier by making changes at half-time, switching Gerrard back to the position in which he excelled last season, in front of the back four, a move which had the added advantage of liberating Sterling to attack from central areas. Sterling responded just as his manager wanted. He initiated the break that led to Philippe Coutinho restoring Liverpool's lead in the 90th minute before the Brazilian returned the favour, with Sterling bursting into the penalty area and producing the decisive shot of the afternoon, helped into the net by Steven Caulker. Sterling shows little sign of tiring of life in the spotlight.

Group B: Liverpool v Real Madrid, Wednesday, 7.45pm, Sky Sports 5 Real Madrid continued their goalscoring spree with a 5-0 win away to Levante. The European champions, who trail Barcelona, the leaders, by four points, have struck 25 goals in their past five league matches. Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice, including one from a penalty, to take his tally to 15 in seven league matches.

OOPS, HE DID IT AGAIN Richard Dunne has scored more Premier League own goals than any other player. The past four were decisive as his team drew one of those matches and lost the other three games by a one-goal margin. Most Premier League own goals 10 Richard Dunne (6 with Man City, 3 Aston Villa, 1 QPR) 7 Jamie Carragher 6 Phil Jagielka, Martin Skrtel, Frank Sinclair

the guardian

## Vargas heroics not enough to spare QPR the cruellest blow

According to the Queens Park Rangers support, Raheem Sterling sleeps when he wants. Not here. Not when he had the presence of mind to revive a Liverpool team that had largely slumbered in west London and not at the very end, when his speed, technique and incision made the difference in a crazy late shoot-out.

When Roy Hodgson, the England manager, who was watching from the stands, got up and left in the 83rd minute, he had seen Sterling stand out for a below-par Liverpool and help them into the lead. Fouled by a QPR substitute, Armand Traore, he took the free-kick quickly, ushering Glen Johnson into a dangerous position and when the right-back crossed there was Richard Dunne, hanging out an ill-advised leg, to put through his own goal.

Hodgson had revealed that Sterling was too jaded to start for England against Estonia last Sunday, a revelation that triggered the storm we have seen over the last week and strained the relationship between the national team setup and Liverpool.

It was Hodgson's stamina that could be questioned here. He missed four goals and the latest instalment of the sort of drama that the Premier League somehow serves up on a regular basis. Above all, though, he missed Sterling's stealing of the show. QPR, who put in what Harry Redknapp said was the best performance of his tenure, twice thought that they had snatched what would have been a deserved reward with goals from another substitute, Eduardo Vargas.

But after each one Sterling switched on the afterburners to put Liverpool back in front. First, he initiated the break that led to Steven Gerrard finding Philippe Coutinho, who cut inside to finish with an excellent low shot, and, at the death, he took a pass from Coutinho and played the ball towards Mario Balotelli. Incredibly, Steven Caulker diverted the ball into the net for the second own goal of the afternoon.

QPR were left to lament how Liverpool had broken from Leroy Fer's botched free-kick at the other end.

It was brutally hard on the home team, who had dominated the first-half and created further chances in the second, including one for Traore on 85 minutes, when he could not muster enough power in a close-range header. Martin Skrtel also cleared from in front of Vargas moments before Coutinho's goal.

Vargas was a major positive for Redknapp and QPR, who showed that they are still fighting for their under-pressure manager. The striker, who is on loan from Napoli, scored the first equaliser when he crossed from the right and continued his run to meet Charlie Austin's header at the far post with a volleyed finish, and his second followed a corner from Fer. Vargas' glancing header wriggled in at the near post where Joe Allen, a Liverpool substitute, ought to have done better.

But Sterling refused to accept any dropped points and his last-gasp run ensured that Liverpool did not have to. After their toils so far this season, particularly away from Anfield, Brendan Rodgers and the players needed this. Next up for them is Real Madrid in the Champions League at Anfield on Wednesday.

Liverpool had been dismal in the first half, from back to front, and they were fortunate to have remained in contention. QPR had three glorious chances and when they missed them, it always seemed likely that they would come back to haunt them.

Austin was denied one by Simon Mignolet after Johnson and Skrtel had missed tackles on him; Fer skimmed the top of the crossbar from point-blank range from Bobby Zamora's cut-back and the midfielder also headed against the bar, with Mignolet having come for another Zamora cross and missing it. In the ensuing melee, Johnson jumped into a high tackle which might have led to the concession of a penalty before Liverpool scrambled the ball clear.

Liverpool were overrun in midfield during the opening period, when they were beaten to several second balls, while the less said about Balotelli, the better. The centre-forward was a distant second-best in the physical battle with Dunne while his shooting was off-kilter. The worst from him, however, was still to come. On the hour, after Sterling's incision and Adam Lallana's shot, which was pushed out by Alex McCarthy, Balotelli sized up the empty net, eight yards from goal. He blazed his shot high. What. A. Miss.

Rodgers insisted afterwards that Balotelli's first Premier League goal would come. Apart from Gerrard's 44thminute effort, when he jinked and curled narrowly past the far post, Liverpool had nothing to show for themselves in the first-half but they were better in the second. Rodgers moved Gerrard from the No10's role to a deeper-lying midfield position and Sterling ran hard and directly. In a stuttering team, the winger's relentlessness is hugely impressive.

QPR lost Nedom Onuoha and Sandro to injuries - the latter had forced Mignolet into a reflex save early in the second-half - but Sterling came to transcend the afternoon. The former QPR youth player angered the home crowd with his reaction to Liverpool's first goal but he brought them to their knees in stoppage time.

Man of the match Raheem Sterling (Liverpool)

Date: 19 October 2014  
Opposition: Queens Park Rangers  
Competition: League

|             |           |          |                    |
|-------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|
| Times       | Telegraph | Standard | 19 October<br>2014 |
| Guardian    | Mirror    | Echo     |                    |
| Independent | Mail      | BBC      |                    |

# The Mail

REAL DANGER FOR RODGERS; Ronaldo and Co will destroy Liverpool if they defend like this

ON Wednesday night the preening figure of Cristiano Ronaldo will walk out at Anfield wearing the colours of European champions Real Madrid.

If Liverpool are to emerge unscathed from that clash with the Ballon d'Or winner and the rest of Carlo Ancelotti's team, they need to buck up their ideas.

Here at Loftus Road, Brendan Rodgers was brutal in his assessment after Liverpool recorded one of their most fluky victories in the Premier League. QPR are entitled to feel rotten. 'It was fortunate. We were nowhere near our capacity and it has been like that for much of the season,' Rodgers admitted.

Liverpool got lucky when they should probably have been beaten by Harry Redknapp's hardworking team. For good measure, Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard tore into his team-mates. 'Everything needs improving,' he blasted and it was impossible to disagree. It certainly takes some explaining how four goals were scored in the final few minutes of this extraordinary fixture. Liverpool relied on two own goals, QPR's calamitous defending and the ultra-generous timekeeping of referee Phil Dowd to rack up their second successive victory.

Rodgers was quick to stress that the win moved Liverpool up to fifth in the table, but the way they have been playing of late, it needed checking just to be sure.

QPR hit the woodwork twice in the first half through Leroy Fer and Liverpool were here for the taking. They have lost their pizzazz and aura since Luis Suarez hot-footed it to Barcelona for PS75million in the summer. Instead they have Mario Balotelli, one of the most disengaged players English football has had the misfortune to be associated with. He doesLiverpool no favours.

If he continues to put in half-baked displays such as this, it can only be a matter of time before one of the Italian's team-mates gets stuck into him.

Missing a couple of sitters from close range is just about acceptable for one of the world's leading forwards, if he's putting in a shift. Balotelli doesn't seem bothered. Back to the goals, because hours of fun will be had with the Liverpool players in the video analysis room before Real arrive for their Champions League clash. Liverpool went ahead on 67 minutes when Richard Dunne extended his record of own goals in the Premier League to 10 by awkwardly hooking Glen Johnson's right-wing cross beyond Alex McCarthy.

Just over 10 minutes later, England's head coach Roy Hodgson, who did not make any attempt to talk to Rodgers about Raheem Sterling, had seen enough. By the time he had arrived back at his new home in Chelsea and put the kettle on, four more goals had gone in. Quite bewildering. Redknapp had sent for Eduardo Vargas, who scored twice for Chile in a friendly against Peru last week, to come off the substitutes' bench. His first goal for Rangers was scored in the 87th minute when he read Charlie Austin's knockdown and rippled the back of goalkeeper Simon Mignolet's net with a tidy finish. That made it 1-1 and if Dowd had whistled then, everybody associated with these teams would have gone home happy enough. It didn't work out that way. Instead, Liverpool raced up the other end and Philippe Coutinho, another substitute, sent a low, angled drive beyond McCarthy. At times like this, for a team with the ambitions of Liverpool and the experience that runs through their side, they should be home and hosed. Instead, they were pegged back again. Martin Skrtel and Dejan Lovren, stationed in the heart of Liverpool's defence, could not live with the darting run of Vargas and he scored again with 92 minutes on the clock, prompting QPR chairman Tony Fernandes to celebrate in the gangways of the directors' box.

Everybody was getting a hug. Then came the sickener as England forward Sterling, who performed well yesterday without being at his spell-binding best, struck gold when his cross was met by the foot of centre back Steven Caulker.

An entire stadium had collectively screamed 'no', but his leg was already extending and he guided the ball beyond his own keeper to give Liverpool an improbable victory. They had nicked it and Redknapp knew it, arriving for his post-match duties with a face like thunder after QPR had bizarrely sent the troops into Mignolet's penalty area for Fer's free-kick when the score was 2-2. 'What were they doing?' asked Redknapp and it wasn't the moment to break the silence. 'They thought we could win it,' he added in exasperation.

QPR are doing their best to go straight back down, to undo all the good work after they were promoted from the Championship on that barmy day at Wembley when Bobby Zamora got their winner against Derby. Redknapp is hanging on. He had coffee with Fernandes on Friday night, paying the bill after a 20-minute chat that left him in no doubt Rangers must start to improve quickly. 'Looking at the names mentioned for the job, there's no-one better than me to manage this team,' declared Redknapp. He is a wounded man, upset that his managerial integrity has been questioned after a sticky run in the opening weeks of the season. After this, he will wonder whether his luck really has run out.

# The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool ride their luck to snatch victory  
Queens Park Rangers 2 Vargas 87, 90 Liverpool 3 Dunne 67og, Caulker 90og, Coutinho 90 Att: 18,069

Heaven knows what the Real Madrid scout made of this fortuitous victory for Liverpool, whom they face on Wednesday. Liverpooldid not have a good defender in their team but they did have Lady Luck on their side. Bobby Zamora,

Charlie Austin and Eduardo Vargas, attackers assembled at a cost of PS10million, terrorised Liverpool's back four, who must now resist the dynamic PS165million double act of Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale. Anfield will be pumped up, blowing a gale towards the vaunted visitors, the champions of Europe, but they cannot repeat such abject defending that allowed Vargas, the Chilean on loan from Napoli, to swoop twice. Liverpool were poor in midfield, especially with Steven Gerrard struggling until withdrawn in to the anchoring role that suits him better in the twilight of his career. Emre Can was off the pace. Liverpool improved mainly when Brendan Rodgers sent on Philippe Coutinho and Joe Allen after 65 minutes. They lacked a cutting edge up front, where Mario Balotelli's finishes could have ended anywhere from Westfield to Anfield. Everyone keeps saying Balotelli is not Luis Suarez, a player described as "irreplaceable" by Rodgers and one of the many areas of difference is that Suarez always worked hard. Balotelli seemed almost to sulk when Richard Dunne kept appearing overhead like a storm cloud, blotting him out. Suarez would have risen to the challenge, not shrunk. A penny for the thoughts of Rickie Lambert.

Liverpool won primarily because QPR's defence had three mad moments, encompassing Richard Dunne's own goal that extended his Premier League record into double figures, failing to close down Coutinho for the visitors' second and then Steven Caulker's own goal right at the death.

As ever with the Premier League, the world's best-loved sporting soap opera contained so many storylines. Harry Redknapp's future has been the subject of much speculation but there was no hint of dressing-room division here. QPR will play worse and win.

Alex McCarthy made a promising debut in goal after Robert Green succumbed to tonsillitis. Sandro was immense, running midfield, until injuring his groin.

Leroy Fer twice hit the woodwork in the first half and sold Gerrard a dummy that almost drew a mass "ole" from the delighted home support. QPR were sharp and hungry, piling forward, clearly sensing the vulnerability in the Liverpool defence. Zamora responded powerfully to wearing the armband, backing into Dejan Lovren time after time, looking for the ball to flick on or the ball to his feet, then laying it off. Zamora also peeled right to good effect. Austin was tireless. Vargas arrived in the second half to prolific effect. Loftus Road was rocking for long periods. As QPR's chief executive, Philip Beard, tweeted after the final whistle: "Amazing performance. If we can play like that with that level of support we will be fine." They certainly never looked bottom of the table on this evidence.

The scoreline was an affront to local tastes. It was shaped partly through QPR lapses, Rodgers's substitutions and also because of the second-half enterprise of a player who took his early steps here. Raheem Sterling, who moved north in 2010, was being watched by Roy Hodgson, the England manager intending to chat to Rodgers following toxic clubversus-country headlines in the wake of his resting the Liverpool teenager against Estonia. As the home supporters chanted "Raheem Sterling - he sleeps when he wants", Hodgson left early, bizarrely, leaving it to Rodgers to put the story to bed, insisting there was no fallout. Yet it will linger.

The abuse that Sterling received from QPR fans, including one supporter who ran along the front row to scream insults, is hardly the most welcome soundtrack to his development. Sterling is a vital player for England, as well as Liverpool, and has been placed in the awkward position of needing to win back the respect of neutrals following Hodgson's comments about the teenager being too "tired" to play. It was to Sterling's great credit that he ignored the catcalls and performed particularly well in the second half. He laboured in the first half. So did all in red. QPR were up for this, responding to Redknapp's rallying cry. Loftus Road was packed to the blue rafters. The 50th meeting between the two sides had long sold out and touts lurked on the pavements. One of the ubiquitous half-and-half scarf sellers tried a novel sales pitch with a couple of nervous-looking match-going tourists, claiming "it's for both teams - so you won't get any trouble".

The only trouble here was in players defending properly. After a Glen Johnson mistake, Austin went close. When Jose Enrique vacated his leftback position, Zamora angled a ball back to the unmarked Fer, who thumped his shot against the bar. Fer was presented with a slightly more difficult, but still inviting oppor-tunity after 33 minutes. Zamora delivered the ball in and Fer, exploiting Simon Mignolet's hesitancy, directed a twisting header against the bar. Austin and Fer threw themselves towards the loose ball. So did Johnson, recklessly. The only composure came from Martin Skrtel, who cleared the danger.

QPR kept going close. Sandro was denied by Mignolet. Yet Liverpool were slowly building. After 60 minutes, Sterling finally found some space, cutting in from the right, at last escaping Suk-young Yun. He picked out Adam Lallana, who was denied the 50th league goal of his career by a fine right-handed save from McCarthy. The ball ran on to the unmarked Balotelli, who somehow missed from close range. Liverpool took the lead after 67 minutes, against the run of play. When Sterling was fouled on the right, QPR momentarily switched off, not expecting a quick free-kick.

Sterling tapped it to Johnson, who drilled the ball into the six-yard area, bringing Dunne's error. QPR refused to go quietly. Austin was thwarted by Mignolet. Zamora then departed to a standing ovation for his prodigious shift, bringing Vargas in alongside Austin. And then began the crazy climax. With the clock showing 86 minutes and 04 seconds, Vargas's cross from the right clipped Lovren and reached Austin at the far post. Austin headed back and there was Vargas equalising with his outstretched right foot. And then, as the clock registered 89.44, Liverpool responded with a gem of a goal, suddenly shifting through the gears, suddenly playing with the pace and zest of last season.

Competition: League

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**THE**  **INDEPENDENT**



Date: 19 October 2014

Opposition: Queens Park Rangers

Competition: League

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LIVERPOOL

ECHO

Liverpool secured a second successive Premier League victory as they left it late to beat Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road.

Steven Caulker's own goal, deep into stoppage time, eventually settled matters, though that told only half the story.

Liverpool had led through another own goal, courtesy of Richard Dunne, only to be pegged back by Eduardo Vargas four minutes from time.

Philippe Coutinho looked to have won it for the Reds with a 90th-minute effort, but Vargas forced home a header to level almost immediately. Caulker, though, was the unfortunate party, turning in Raheem Sterling's cross after a lightning Liverpool break.

For Brendan Rodgers, the win is a welcome one, given the Reds had not won back-to-back league games so far this season. The result lifts the Reds to fifth in the Premier League table.

Still, they made hard work of it. They were second best for long spells, and defensively look some way short of the standards required to challenge at the top end of the table.

QPR, who remain rooted to the bottom, will feel they deserved something from this contest. Harry Redknapp's side had much the better of the first half, with Simon Mignolet denying Charlie Austin early on, and Leroy Fer twice rattling the woodwork in quick succession. On the second occasion, it needed a brave challenge from Glen Johnson on the line to prevent either Austin or Bobby Zamora from forcing home the rebound.

Liverpool, by contrast, were ponderous in possession and nervy at the back. Steven Gerrard had their best chance, a minute before half-time, but curled his effort just wide of the far post after being put through by Mario Balotelli.

After the break Mignolet superbly kept out a fierce strike from Sandro, while Jordan Henderson fired off target at the other end following a quick, incisive counter attack.

Liverpool should have snatched the lead just after the hour mark, with Alex McCarthy denying Adam Lallana, and Balotelli, seven yards out and with the goal at his mercy, somehow skying the rebound. The miss summed up the Italian's afternoon.

Fortunately, the Reds did grab the lead on mid-way through the second half. It owed a lot to the alertness of Sterling, whose quick free kick allowed Glen Johnson to flash a low cross into the six-yard box, where Dunne could only turn the ball into his own net.

Liverpool, livelier, were appealing for a penalty when Balotelli went down under Dunne's challenge soon after, but referee Phil Dowd was unmoved.

Still, Rangers retained a threat, with Mignolet needed to push away Austin's curled effort on 75 minutes, and then keep out Armand Traore's header as time ticked away.

At the other end McCarthy saved with his legs from Balotelli, who was having an afternoon to forget.

It looked to be a costly miss, as with four minutes left the home side grabbed an equaliser through substitute Vargas.

The Chilean had only been on the field for a matter of minutes, but saw his cross from the right glance off Lovren's head, allowing Austin to direct a header back across goal, where Vargas arrived to finish from close range.

If that was dramatic enough, what followed was absurd. With the game ticking over into stoppage time, Liverpool regained the lead as Gerrard fed Coutinho on the left edge of the box, and the Brazilian cut inside to drill low inside the far post. It should have been enough for the win, but QPR immediately won a corner, which was met at the near post by Vargas, the ball squeezing through Joe Allen on the near post, and over the line before Mignolet could paw it away.

Still the drama was not finished. In the final seconds Coutinho led another break and fed Sterling with an exquisite pass in behind. Sterling looked to square for Balotelli, but the ball ricocheted in off the unfortunate Steven Caulker, to secure the most incredible of victories.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (3-5-2): McCarthy, Onuoha (Phillips 46), Dunne, Caulker,, Isla, Sandro (Traore 60), Henry, Fer, Suk-Young, Austin, Zamora (Vargas 79)

Not used: Murphy, Ferdinand, Kranjcar, Hoilett

Cards: Dunne, Henry

Goals: Vargas (86, 90)

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet, Johnson, Skrtel, Lovren, Jose Enrique, Can (Allen 66), Henderson, Sterling, Gerrard, Lallana (Coutinho 66), Balotelli

Not used: Jones, Toure, Manquillo, Lambert, Markovic

Cards: Johnson, Skrtel, Coutinho

Goals: Dunne (own goal 67), Coutinho (90), Caulker (own goal 90)

Referee: Phil Dowd

Attendance: 18,069

London Evening Standard

Caulker scores stoppage time own goal as four strikes in the final seven minutes inflict heartbreak on Redknapp's Rangers

Steven Caulker's own goal condemned QPR to a crushing 3-2 defeat at home to Liverpool, routing Harry Redknapp's men to the foot of the Barclays Premier League table.

Eduardo Vargas' two late goals had QPR edging towards a deserved and creditable draw, only for Caulker to put through his own net in the fourth minute of added time.

Raheem Sterling, who started for the Reds after the controversy over his England omission last Sunday, had burst clear and tried to pick out the supporting Mario Balotelli before Caulker unwittingly turned the ball in to break Rangers' hearts.

Richard Dunne's own goal put Rangers behind midway through the second half, despite the hosts dominating the contest.

Vargas equalised with normal time running out, notching his first goal in English football, only for Philippe Coutinho to steal the lead again with a deflected effort.

Summer recruit Vargas put QPR back on level terms moments later, but Liverpool sneaked the final word -and the points - with Caulker the luckless fall guy.

All eyes were on Sterling, in the starting line-up against his old club, after a week in which he had been an almost permanent fixture on the back pages following England manager Roy Hodgson's revelation that the player had complained of tiredness prior to the qualifier away to Estonia.

Once the game began, there were certainly no signs of fatigue from QPR, as Holland midfielder Leroy Fer twice hit the crossbar in a dominant first-half display from the Londoners.

No amount of cajoling from the excellent Bobby Zamora could yield the QPR breakthrough however, leaving Harry Redknapp's men stuck at the bottom of the table on Sunday night.

Redknapp has had to fend off suggestions that Les Ferdinand's arrival as head of football operations puts his Loftus Road status in jeopardy.

The former Tottenham boss' cause was not helped by Dunne's crushing own goal, but this rousing performance points to potential improvements ahead.

Rangers owner Tony Fernandes will be chief among those crossing fingers the club can claim their just rewards in future.

Rangers bossed the first half, stretching Liverpool time and again, pulling out all the stops bar a goal.

The hosts outplayed, out-thought and outmanoeuvred lacklustre Liverpool, who had serious problems with Emre Can's link work with Dejan Lovren and Martin Skrtel.

By contrast Sandro dominated proceedings in front of Rangers' back line, allowing the likes of Fer to raid effectively off lynchpin Zamora.

Former West Ham striker Zamora was the clear man of the first half, causing untold problems for Can dropping deep to offer the ideal pivot for Rangers' attacking blueprint.

Fer should have scored twice in the half, so despite all the promise the hosts will have been frustrated to turn around without a comfortable lead.

Charlie Austin bundled his way clean through only to bungle his finish, even flicking the rebound wide from Simon Mignolet's parried save.

Liverpool's malaise consistently emboldened Rangers, who again should have taken the lead when Zamora drifted into the inside-right berth.

After driving deep into the Liverpool box, Zamora dragged back the perfect ball for the onrushing Fer - only for the Dutchman to blast against the crossbar despite plenty of time and space to pick his spot.

Neither side learned their lesson from the incident, Liverpool allowing Zamora to produce another telling right-wing cross only minutes later.

This time Fer beat Mignolet to the centre and headed goalwards, but again his finish was mere paintwork away from breaking the deadlock.

Liverpool finally conjured a serious opening as the half dwindled to a close, Balotelli's slide-rule pass inviting Steven Gerrard to tiptoe around Caulker.

The former England skipper's curling shot was always heading wide however, leaving both sides frustrated at the break, though for vastly differing reasons.

So nearly the home hero, Vargas ought to have cherished getting off the scoring mark in style, but was left to bemoan a strange quirk of fate.

After Dunne put through his own net, all bedlam broke loose, and in the event the hosts were cruelly and unjustly denied.

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| Date: 19 October 2014<br>Opposition: Queens Park Rangers<br>Competition: League | Times       | Telegraph | Standard |  | 19 October<br>2014 |
|                                                                                 | Guardian    | Mirror    | Echo     |  |                    |
|                                                                                 | Independent | Mail      | BBC      |  |                    |

BBC

Four goals in a breathless final eight minutes ended in Liverpool clinching a dramatic win which kept QPR bottom of the Premier League. Liverpool led through Richard Dunne's record 10th Premier League own goal before Chile striker Eduardo Vargas levelled with his first QPR goal. Philippe Coutinho drilled in to put Liverpool back ahead, only for Vargas to equalise again in injury time. QPR's Steven Caulker then diverted into his own net to move Liverpool to fifth. The defeat was harsh on newly-promoted QPR who dominated most of the match without taking the scoring chances that they created. And they were taught a harsh lesson as Liverpool, last season's runners-up, climbed into their joint-highest Premier League position of the season. QPR have struggled on their return to the top-flight, claiming just four points in their eight matches, and leading to speculation that manager Harry Redknapp's position is under threat. The 67-year-old insisted before kick-off that he is not under pressure, but was left cursing his luck at the final whistle - looking to the west London skies in disbelief - as he wondered how his team failed to earn at least a point. A draw would have moved them above fellow new-boys Burnley, who are still winless after Saturday's defeat against West Ham. QPR's work-rate has been criticised by some observers but they looked reinvigorated by the international break - and the five changes to their starting XI - following the 2-0 defeat at West Ham. Former England striker Bobby Zamora was one of the players recalled, with the hope that his physicality would unnerve a Liverpool defence which had kept just one clean sheet in their previous 16 matches. And Redknapp's plan worked during a first half in which QPR hassled and harried their opponents into defensive mistakes. Zamora's movement and strength left Liverpool looking bedraggled and the 33-year-old teed up the two efforts which saw Leroy Fer rattle the woodwork before half-time. QPR continued where they left off in the first half as Sandro's stinging shot was pushed to safety by Reds keeper Simon Mignolet, before Charlie Austin flashed a low effort across goal from a tight angle. The Hoops deserved to be ahead on the number of chances created, but were punished when Raheem Sterling's quick free-kick ended in Dunne hacking into his own goal. Redknapp introduced on-loan Napoli forward Vargas with little more than 10 minutes left and he made an instant impact by smashing in Austin's knockdown for the first equaliser. Sterling has been the centre of attention in a week where debate about his physical condition dominated the media - and now the focus will rightly switch to the England international's talent. The 19-year-old, who started his career in QPR's academy before moving to Anfield, was largely anonymous as Liverpool largely failed to find their rhythm. But he burst into life when it mattered as Liverpool showed the character to carve out an important win. Sterling began the move which set up Coutinho's goal, which was cancelled out by Vargas' second, before his square pass was bundled into his own net by Caulker for the winner.



Date: 19 October 2014

Opposition: Queens Park Rangers

Competition: League

|             |           |          |
|-------------|-----------|----------|
| Times       | Telegraph | Standard |
| Guardian    | Mirror    | Echo     |
| Independent | Mail      | BBC      |

BBC

90:00+4:13Goal scored Goal!Own Goal by Steven Caulker, Queens Park Rangers. Queens Park Rangers 2, Liverpool 3.

90:00+3:17 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).

90:00+3:17 Leroy Fer (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the attacking half.

90:00+2:27 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Glen Johnson with a cross.

90:00+1:01Goal scored Goal!Goal! Queens Park Rangers 2, Liverpool 2. Eduardo Vargas (Queens Park Rangers header from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Leroy Fer with a cross following a corner.

90:00+0:47 Corner, Queens Park Rangers. Conceded by Raheem Sterling.

89:44Goal scored Goal!Goal! Queens Park Rangers 1, Liverpool 2. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard following a fast break.

88:53 Corner, Queens Park Rangers. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

88:49 Attempt missed. Steven Caulker (Queens Park Rangers header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Charlie Austin with a cross.

88:03 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).

88:03 Karl Henry (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the attacking half.

86:04Goal scored Goal!Goal! Queens Park Rangers 1, Liverpool 1. Eduardo Vargas (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from very close range to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Charlie Austin with a headed pass following a set piece situation.

85:32Booking Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

85:24 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).

85:24 Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the attacking half.

84:43 Attempt saved. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.

84:09 Corner, Queens Park Rangers. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

84:04 Attempt saved. Armand Traore (Queens Park Rangers header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner.

83:37 Corner, Queens Park Rangers. Conceded by Joe Allen.

83:03 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

82:19 Delay in match Martin Skrtel (Liverpool because of an injury.

81:35Booking Martin Skrtel (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

81:23 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).

81:23 Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick on the left wing.

79:29Booking Karl Henry (Queens Park Rangers is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

79:20 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

79:20 Foul by Karl Henry (Queens Park Rangers.

78:11Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Queens Park Rangers. Eduardo Vargas replaces Bobby Zamora.

77:37 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool).

77:37 Alex McCarthy (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the defensive half.

76:30 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

76:30 Foul by Armand Traore (Queens Park Rangers.

76:03 Attempt blocked. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.

74:38 Attempt saved. Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Bobby Zamora.

72:11 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

72:11 Foul by Mauricio Isla (Queens Park Rangers.

70:17Booking Glen Johnson (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

70:10 Foul by Glen Johnson (Liverpool).

70:10 Armand Traore (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick on the left wing.

68:36 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool).

68:36 Matthew Phillips (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the defensive half.

67:59 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mauricio Isla.

66:56Goal scored Goal!Own Goal by Richard Dunne, Queens Park Rangers. Queens Park Rangers 0, Liverpool 1.

66:48 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

66:48 Foul by Armand Traore (Queens Park Rangers.

65:38Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Joe Allen replaces Emre Can.

65:27Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho replaces Adam Lallana.

63:51 Attempt missed. Matthew Phillips (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right.

60:58 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high.

60:56 Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

59:30Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Queens Park Rangers. Armand Traore replaces Sandro because of an injury.

59:23 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

57:59 Delay in match Sandro (Queens Park Rangers because of an injury.

57:08 Attempt blocked. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.

54:40 Attempt missed. Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right misses to the left. Assisted by Karl Henry.

54:15 Attempt saved. Glen Johnson (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.

50:27 Corner, Queens Park Rangers. Conceded by José Enrique.

49:45 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Mario Balotelli is caught offside.

47:43 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana with a through

ball following a fast break.

46:52 Corner, Queens Park Rangers. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

46:50 Attempt saved. Sandro (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner.

45:00 Second Half begins Queens Park Rangers 0, Liverpool 0.

45:00Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Queens Park Rangers. Matthew Phillips replaces Nedum Onuoha because of an injury.

45:00+1:11Half time First Half ends, Queens Park Rangers 0, Liverpool 0.

45:00+0:37Booking Richard Dunne (Queens Park Rangers is shown the yellow card.

45:00+0:30 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

44:47 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool).

44:47 Sandro (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the defensive half.

43:59 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Mario Balotelli.

42:27 Attempt missed. Bobby Zamora (Queens Park Rangers left footed shot from outside the box is too high from a direct free kick.

41:20 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

41:20 Sandro (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the attacking half.

40:36 Foul by José Enrique (Liverpool).

40:36 Mauricio Isla (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the defensive half.

38:00 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

38:00 Foul by Sandro (Queens Park Rangers.

37:00 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

37:00 Foul by Bobby Zamora (Queens Park Rangers.

36:28 Attempt blocked. Sandro (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Leroy Fer.

34:49 Attempt missed. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right.

33:09 Leroy Fer (Queens Park Rangers hits the bar with a header from the centre of the box. Assisted by Bobby Zamora with a cross.

32:26 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool).

32:26 Leroy Fer (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the defensive half.

31:55 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

31:55 Foul by Mauricio Isla (Queens Park Rangers.

30:39 Attempt missed. Glen Johnson (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

29:41 Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

29:03 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Karl Henry.

27:21 Leroy Fer (Queens Park Rangers hits the bar with a left footed shot from the centre of the box. Assisted by Bobby Zamora.

25:59 Attempt saved. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

24:56 Offside, Queens Park Rangers. Sandro tries a through ball, but Mauricio Isla is caught offside.

21:32 Foul by Richard Dunne (Queens Park Rangers.

21:32 Mario Balotelli (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

20:36 Mauricio Isla (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick on the right wing.

20:36 Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool).

20:04 Offside, Liverpool. Adam Lallana tries a through ball, but Jordan Henderson is caught offside.

16:30 Bobby Zamora (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick in the attacking half.

16:30 Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool).

10:33 Foul by Bobby Zamora (Queens Park Rangers.

10:33 José Enrique (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

8:42 Attempt missed. Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from the left side of the six yard box is close, but misses to the left.

8:40 Attempt saved. Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Leroy Fer.

6:27 Corner, Queens Park Rangers. Conceded by José Enrique.

5:01 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

5:01 Sandro (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick on the right wing.

2:31 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).

2:31 Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers wins a free kick on the left wing.

1:57 Attempt missed. Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Bobby Zamora.

1:08 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

1:08 Foul by Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers.

0:00 First Half begins.

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