

Date: 1 November 2014 Opposition: Newcastle United Competition: League	Echo	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Telegraph		1 November 2014
	Mail	Observer	Times	Mirror		
	BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Northern Echo		





SAS TO SOS; Yes, Brendan, we know you've lost Suarez and Sturridge. But fans want SOLUTIONS, not more; EXCUSES

BRENDAN RODGERS has a simple but, at the moment, unsolvable, explanation for Liverpool's erratic season.

Luis Suarez, scorer of 33 goals in 39 appearances last season: sold. Daniel Sturridge, scorer of 28 goals in 42 games last season: injured since August and out for at least three more games. The SAS strike force has been broken up.

"We have lost goals," said Rodgers. "We scored 101 last year but take away nearly 80 per cent of that [Suarez and Sturridge] and it can become difficult, alongside the introduction of lots of new players. It is not rocket science."

After 10 league games last season Liverpool, on their way to a title challenge and second place, had won six and lost two, scoring 17 goals.

It is four wins and four defeats in the league this time round at the 10-game stage, when most bosses say they get a feel for what kind of season it is going to be. Not an alarming dip, but not great considering the Reds' near-perfect run from January last season. A repeat topfour finish looks a distant dream.

The magic to unpick organised defences is not there, and they can't always rely on teenager Raheem Sterling for inspiration. Philippe Coutinho was neat, but without impact. Mario Balotelli was made to look ordinary by Fabricio Coloccini.

Rodgers (right) said: "It has been a difficult start, not ideal. We can only continue to work well, that's all you can do. If you work hard it gives you extra confidence, and ultimately confidence will then bring you success. It is certainly something we will strive towards."

"You're always analysing, but I don't think it's so much about stripping it down and starting again with ourselves. But you need to find the answers and that is my job as manager and coach."

Alan Pardew has found answers to Newcastle's problems. Six weeks on from demonstrations demanding his sacking, he has led United to four wins in a row, and five wins in eight with just one defeat.

Some unlikely heroes have stepped up. Mehdi Abeid brilliant in midfield, Sammy Ameobi and his impressive work-rate, Paul Dummett excellent, Steven Taylor back with a bang. And none more unlikely than Ayoze Perez, last season's leading scorer in the Spanish second division.

He got his second of the week, and looks a PS1.5million bargain. He said: "It is a dream come true for me. To make the jump from a team like Tenerife to playing in the Premier League is incredible really. It is something that I always wanted to do."

"It definitely helps having so many young players around me and that has made it easier for me to settle in. To be around other players who are trying to break into the team as well helps you feel more confident that you can do it yourself."

"Fabricio Coloccini has been a massive help to me. He has tried to look after me and I can only thank him for his support. There was a lot of interest in me from some very important teams, but I always knew that Newcastle would be the right move and the last few results have just proved that. I know I made the right decision and I am very happy here."

A "Pardew Back From The Dead" banner was held up at full time, and the black humour was not lost on the man himself.

"It is Halloween," said Pardew. "Bobby Robson had some dark days here. If you are Newcastle manager, it is not all gin and tonics. There will be rough days. I always knew and what I kept saying is that we have a good spirit and talent."

"When it does not go well they let you know and when it is going well, they let you know. You take the good with the bad."

"We have had a long four years, but I have always enjoyed it here. I would like to think I am coming out of this a better manager. It has been interesting and educational. It tests you, this football club, on a number of levels."

For Brendan Rodgers, there may still be some testing times ahead.

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Limp Reds crash to fourth Premier League defeat of season

An Alberto Moreno mistake cost Liverpool FC dearly at Newcastle as the Spanish full-back's hesitancy at the back condemned the Reds to a fourth Premier League defeat of what has so far been a stop-start season. It took until Boxing Day for Brendan Rodgers side to lose this many games last term but they succumbed to resurgent Newcastle when substitute Ayoze Perez pounced to punish Moreno who should have cleared his lines. After beating Swansea City 2-1 in the Capital One Cup in midweek with a much-changed line-up, Rodgers selected a more familiar side for the trip to St James' Park with three alterations from the side that started the last Premier League match at home to Hull City as Glen Johnson, Jordan Henderson and Philippe Coutinho came in for Javier Manquillo, Emre Can and Adam Lallana. Buoyed by three victories on the spin – including away successes at Tottenham and Premier League champions Manchester City who were dumped out of the Capital One Cup they also won last season – resurgent Newcastle started energetically. Steven Gerrard, was restored to the starting line-up after a rest in midweek for his first appearance since he declared that he might have to look elsewhere next season to continue his career if no new contract offer from the club is forthcoming. There was a tough moment for the veteran Reds skipper early on when Sammy Ameobi showed him a clean pair of heels but Martin Skrtel was on hand to snuff out the danger. A clumsy challenge in his own area from Joe Allen on Moussa Sissoko also had the home fans on their feet but referee Andre Marriner was not interested in their penalty shouts. The home side's rhythm was disrupted on 24 minutes when flying winger Gabriel Obertan pulled up with a hamstring injury just as Dejan Lovren was about to steam in as he attempted to sprint on to a pass. It was obvious that the Frenchman's afternoon was coming to an early close and he was replaced by Rolando Aarons. As the first half drew to a close neither keeper had still yet to make a save but Johnson was forced to head a goal-bound shot from Papiss Cisse off the line from Jack Colback's right-wing corner-kick. Liverpool then had their first clear opening five minutes before the interval as nobody picked up Martin Skrtel from Gerrard's right-wing corner-kick but despite making contact in powerful fashion the Slovakian - who was the top-scoring defender in the Premier League last season but has yet to open his account this term – headed wide of Tim Krul's left-hand post. To add to his woes Skrtel was booked for chopping down Moussa Sissoko soon after but further damager was avoided when Cisse's free-kick, just outside the area and in a central position, sailed high over the bar. Despite the early kick-off, Newcastle's northerly position meant that the floodlights were on as the second half started and the hosts re-emerged without Cisse who was withdrawn for Ayoze Perez. Liverpool's first shot on target came courtesy of a set-piece as Sissoko seemingly took out his frustrations over Skrtel on the less intimidating figure of Joe Allen and raked the Welsh midfielder down 25 yards from goal. From the resultant free-kick Mario Balotelli forced Krul into his first save but it was ultimately a routine catch for the Dutchman. The Italian also had another chance soon after when picked out by Raheem Sterling but again his curling effort provided a comfortable enough take for Krul. With the Reds improving, a more athletic stop was required from the home keeper as Gerrard curled in a perfectly-struck inviting right-wing cross for Coutinho and Krul had to be at his best to palm the little Brazilian's header away. Sensing an opportunity to press for a victory, Rodgers withdrew Allen midway through the second half and introduced Fabio Borini into the fray to provide an extra attacking option. It was Newcastle's striking substitute that made the breakthrough though as Perez put the hosts ahead on 73 minutes after some hesitant defending from Liverpool. Left-back Paul Dummett broke clear down the left and picked out Sissoko who calmly squared the ball into the danger zone. At this point Alberto Moreno still appeared favourite to snuff out the chance but the Spaniard dallied on the ball and allowed Perez to sneak in and poke past Mignolet. With the Reds swaying at the back, Newcastle almost added a second a minute later as Perez broke clear with fellow substitute Remy Cabella whose low effort was turned around the post by Mignolet's foot. The Belgian was being kept increasingly busy and also had to be alert to smother the ball from Sissoko's feet as the home side started to turn the screw but in the end with Liverpool's attack looking toothless the single goal was enough.

The Northern Echo

From 'Sack Pardew' to 'Back Pardew' in the space of three wonderful weeks
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1 LIVERPOOL 0
IT was only one letter, but it neatly encapsulated the radical transformation in Newcastle United's fortunes over the course of the last month. Since the earliest weeks of the season, supporters at St James' Park have been brandishing banners and posters urging Mike Ashley and the rest of the board to "Sack Pardew". On Saturday, as the Magpies beat Liverpool to rack up their fourth win in a row in all competitions, a different message emerged on a flag that was unfurled in the East Stand. This one called for the club's rulers to "Back

Pardew" instead. Shortly after the full-time whistle, a spectator dressed as the Grim Reaper delivered his own message behind the dug-out that had housed Newcastle's previously embattled boss moments earlier. It proclaimed that Pardew was "Back from the Dead", and seemed perfectly in keeping with the narrative of a club that has cornered the market in black comedy in recent years. On Halloween weekend, Newcastle finally shelved their fondness for a horror show. A season that was rapidly spiralling into crisis suddenly appears reborn. "If you are Newcastle manager, it is not all gin and tonics and aperitifs," said Pardew, after Ayoze Perez's second-half strike ensured the momentum generated by wins over Leicester, Tottenham and Manchester City did not dissipate at the hands of Liverpool, a club that has inflicted some damaging blows to the Magpies down the years. "There will be rough days. "I always knew that, but I've always said that we have a good spirit and good talent. I'm not saying I saw the wins coming, but I knew the talent was there. "It will be fantastic in the town now and I might even go in myself, the first time for a while. That is what this city is about – it loves its football. When it does not go well, they let you know, and when it is going well, they let you know that too. You take the good with the bad. "We've had a long four years. We've had some success, and some of that gets forgotten, but I've always enjoyed it here. I would like to think I'm coming out of this a better manager. It has been interesting and educational. It tests you, this football club, on a number of levels." Having been forced to take the criticism when things were not going well in the early stages of the season, it is only fair that Pardew, who has never lost the support or respect of his players despite all the abuse that was hurled in his direction, receives recognition for his role in turning things around. The has been an element of serendipity in the changes to personnel and formation that have helped haul Newcastle out of the hole they were inhabiting as recently as three weeks ago – the absence of Mike Williamson, Cheick Tiote and Papiss Cisse through injury has forced Pardew to look elsewhere within his squad – but the Magpies manager still deserves praise for the alterations that have sparked Newcastle back into life. The decision to drop, at various stages, Vurnon Anita, Remy Cabella, Yoan Gouffran and Emmanuel Riviere was bold but undoubtedly necessary. In their wake, Mehdi Abeid, Sammy Ameobi, Gabriel Obertan, Rolando Aarons and Perez have emerged to play crucial roles in the last four wins. None would really have been regarded as first-team candidates at the start of the season; all have proved considerably more effective than the players they replaced. Suddenly, Newcastle boast youthful exuberance, and pace and unpredictability in attack, assets that have enabled them to outperform Tottenham, Manchester City and Liverpool in the space of a week, all sides with aspirations of competing in next season's Champions League. Abeid, whose Newcastle career looked to be over when he was cast away to Greek side Panathinaikos on loan last season, has been a revelation in the last two matches, with his boundless energy and crisp tackling enabling him to eclipse first Yaya Toure and then Steven Gerrard in the space of four days. If you're going to take midfield scalps as an emerging 22-year-old, you might as well make them two of the best players the Premier League has seen. Further forward, Obertan, whose recent renaissance was cruelly cut short by a thigh injury at the weekend, and Ameobi and Aarons, whose speed and direct attacking style has helped transform the nature of Newcastle's attacking, have significantly increased the threat of a side that struggled to create chances in the opening two months of the season. Then there is Perez, whose £1.8m move from Tenerife was one of the least-heralded of Newcastle's summer transfer moves, but whose potential was underlined by the awards he won in his homeland last week and whose goals against Tottenham and Liverpool have highlighted a predatory instinct possessed by all good centre-forwards. "I am encouraged by the players and what I see," said Pardew. "We have a great balance. We have some good young players, and we feel kind of excited in the dressing room. But we have to deliver." A squad that looked bereft of options at the start of the season, particularly in attack and defence, suddenly looks to be brimming with possibilities. Notably, a number of those possibilities revolve around the presence of homegrown players, and if anything is to repair Pardew's fractured relationship with the supporters and grant him some leeway if things go wrong again, it is surely going to be his willingness to give emerging youngsters a chance. It is a long time since Newcastle have boasted a core of local talent the fans are proud to call their own, but of the 14 players involved in Saturday's game, three were born or raised in Newcastle – Ameobi, Paul Dummett and Steven Taylor – and a further three were products of the academy – Abeid, Aarons and Tim Krul. Another, Jack Colback, was raised as a Newcastle fan. All were influential against a bitterly disappointing Liverpool, with Colback delivering the corner that enabled Papiss Cisse to fashion the best chance of the first half, a shot that Glen Johnson headed away from the line. Martin Skrtel missed a golden opportunity at the other end shortly after, heading wide from eight yards, but neither goalkeeper had really been tested before Perez settled things with 17 minutes left. Alberto Moreno made a complete hash of attempting to control Moussa Sissoko's square ball across the area, and Perez swooped to drill home. There should have been a second goal when Cabella failed to beat Simon Mignolet despite finding himself clean through after a slick one-two with Perez, but Liverpool's all-round impotence meant Newcastle's victory was never in doubt once the deadlock had been broken.

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Joy for Pardew, grim for Rodgers

The Grim Reaper was laughing. In the crazy world of Newcastle United, not much makes sense. There were actually two of them, holding a board that declared Alan Pardew had come back from the dead. They had a point. At full-time, St James' Park was unrecognisable from earlier this season, when a fractured stadium saw pockets of fans hold SackPardew.com placards. Yesterday it was about gallows humour at Gallowgate. Newcastle, like Pardew, are back from the dead after a display that capped off a quite remarkable week, even by their standards.

At half-time at White Hart Lane last Sunday, the walls were caving in. The team trailed to Tottenham, but the manner was causing as much consternation. Since then, in the space of seven days, a football resurrection has followed. Newcastle dragged themselves out of the mire at Spurs to win. They produced a stunning victory at Manchester City in the Capital One Cup on Wednesday and yesterday, against Liverpool, a team on their knees earlier this season were winning key battles all over the St James' Park turf.

Even the loss of Gabriel Obertan to a thigh injury could not detract from the vitality of their performance. The young winger Rolando Aarons came on in his place. He outshone Raheem Sterling, but then the paucity of service to the England winger constricted him to a bit part. That was the lot of many of his team-mates. Steven Gerrard was peripheral, Jordan Henderson looked on the fringe of the game in a wide position and only Martin Skrtel rose to the challenge of resurgent Newcastle.

The defender could have put his side ahead towards the end of the first half but he powered a header from a Gerrard corner wide of the near post. It would have been harsh on the home side, who had seen Glenn Johnson clear a Papiss Ciss[c] effort from theLiverpool goal line.

Newcastle found life after the interval and raised a storm in the closing stages. In the 74th minute Moussa Sissoko charged through, and following a mistake by Alberto Moreno, Ayoze Perez, the young Spanish forward, crashed home what proved to be the winning goal, as he had at Tottenham.

Three minutes later he broke through with Remy Cabella. Newcastle were two on one and the crowd roared for a second. Only the feet of Simon Mignolet prevented a goal. The French forward curled a shot over the crossbar soon after. The lead was more likely to be extended than lost.

The energy of those two players, like that of Jack Colback and Mehdi Abeid, sat in stark contrast to that of Mario Balotelli. The Italian cannot be afforded many more chances after such an insipid display. There was no figurehead for Brendan Rodgers. The striker is such chalk to the cheese of Luis Suarez's relentless energy. Liverpool are a different and far weaker proposition for it.

Victory moved Newcastle into the top half of the Premier League table. It was where they finished last season but their form fell off a cliff once they sold Yohan Cabaye in January. It has been a grim 2014, but perhaps, something better is emerging.

Rodgers, by contrast, must raise his players for their visit to Real Madrid on Tuesday. "Good or bad, we can't complain, we have worked very hard for a couple of years to get to this level," he said. "Playing against Real Madrid in the Bernabeu says we've been doing OK.

"There is pressure in every game at Liverpool, not just Tuesday. There is always that expectation, it's there every time we play. We understand that and accept it. It is part of being involved as players, coaches, manager at Liverpool. When you're a team that can scores goals then it gives the team confidence.

"We're finding the goals a little bit harder to come by. The players are working tirelessly on the training field but, whereas last season we scored a lot of early goals, we haven't been able to do that this season."

Newcastle: (4-2-3-1): Krul; Janmaat, Taylor, Coloccini, Dummett; Colback, Abeid; Obertan (Aarons, 27), Sissoko, Ameobi (Cabella, 66); Ciss[c] (Perez, 46).

Liverpool: (4-2-3-1): Mignolet; Johnson, Skrtel, Lovren, Monero; Gerrard, Allen (Borini, 66); Sterling, Coutinho (Lambert, 80), Henderson; Balotelli.

Referee: Andre Marriner

Man of the match: Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle)

Match rating: 6/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Liverpool left reeling by Perez
Newcastle United 1
Perez 73 Liverpool 0
Att: 52,166

Brendan Rodgers insists that Liverpool are relishing the prospect of facing Real Madrid on Tuesday, but a Spaniard in the shape of Ayoze Perez delivered another ill-timed blow to their fragile confidence before they arrive at the Bernabeu.

The goal scored by the Newcastle United substitute left Liverpool with just two victories in seven Premier League games and this latest setback only served to highlight the problems confronting Rodgers.

Hesitation by Alberto Moreno led to the 74th-minute winner, Raheem Sterling was a fitful influence, Steven Gerrard was on the fringes of the midfield action as speculation on his future grows and Mario Balotelli was again anonymous and has now scored only once in his last 24 Premier League appearances. Perez, in contrast, has managed more in the space of one week.

"It's a wonderful game for us on Tuesday," Rodgers said. "It is a big one against the best in the world at the moment. We will go into the game hoping to get something out of it. Good or bad, we can't complain. We have worked very hard for a couple of years to get to this level and playing against Real Madrid in the Bernabeu says we've been doing OK."

The odds are it will be a bad night for Liverpool if they fail to improve on yesterday's performance against a Newcastle team who have won four games in succession and thoroughly deserved their latest success. "It was disappointing. I didn't think we deserved to lose but didn't do enough to win it," Rodgers said.

"We had enough of the ball but just lacked that bit of creativity and invention in the final third. Anything we had to deal with up until the goal we dealt with defensively, but we made a mistake and that has unfortunately cost us the game and that is the biggest disappointment."

Rodgers was rightly concerned about Liverpool's inability to create chances. "There is no magic formula, you have to continue working with the players you've got and continue to hope you get that wee bit of luck and the confidence in the final third will return.

"Over the last 18 months we have been team with a real threat going forward, but we have lost 80 per cent of our goals out of the team, with Luis Suarez going and Daniel Sturridge out. We can't keep going on about it but it is an item as to why we're not getting so many goals."

Inevitably, Rodgers had to defend Balotelli. "It wasn't his fault we lost the game, we lost it collectively." And on Sterling, he said: "He's 19 and will have days like this. He tried to create one v one situations but it wasn't his day."

It was certainly Newcastle's day as they followed up victories at Tottenham and Manchester City with another deserved success thanks to Perez, who scored at White Hart Lane and also picked up two coveted awards in Spain in midweek to acknowledge his performances for Tenerife last season. During an enterprising opening half Newcastle were denied the opener in the 37th minute when Glen Johnson headed an effort by Papiss Cisse off the line. Liverpool went close to taking an undeserved lead with their only threat of the opening half, stemming from a 39thminute corner from Gerrard that was met by defender Martin Skrtel, whose powerful header was off-target from eight yards.

Perez appeared at the start of the second half in place of the injured Cisse and there was also a slight alteration in the balance of power as Liverpool finally managed to make some attacking inroads as Balotelli came to life, albeit briefly. He went close with a free-kick from the edge of the area, then curled in another shot that was well read by keeper Tim Krul. A shot by substitute Fabio Borini was also narrowly off-target to leave Liverpool scenting an unlikely victory, only for Perez to duly score the goal that sustained Newcastle's remarkable transformation in the past month.

Perez was alive to the chance when Moreno failed to clear near the penalty spot and pounced to beat Simon Mignolet. They almost added a second goal three minutes later when another substitute, Remy Cabella, linked with Perez before steering in a shot that Mignolet saved with an outstretched leg. In the end, one goal was sufficient to prompt two Newcastle fans to hoist a sign saying "Pardew back from the dead". "Well, it is Halloween," the Newcastle manager said.

Newcastle United (4-2-3-1): Krul 6; Janmaat 7, Coloccini 7, S Taylor 7, Dummett 8; Colback 7, Abeid 8; Obertan 6 (Aarons 27), Sissoko 7, Ameobi 5 (Cabella 66); Cisse 6 (Perez 46). Subs Elliot (gk), Haidara, R Taylor, Gouffran. Booked S Taylor, Sissoko, Janmaat, Colback.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): Mignolet 6; Johnson 5, Lovren 6, Skrtel 6, Moreno 4; Gerrard 5, Allen 4 (Borini 66); Sterling 5, Coutinho 4 (Lambert 80), Henderson 5, Balotelli 4. Subs B Jones, Toure, Manquillo, Lallana, Can. Booked Skrtel, Henderson, Lovren.

Referee A Marriner (W Midlands).

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Newcastle prove their mettle

It was a sight that said so much about Newcastle, as a football club, as a team and even, perhaps, as a city: two fans, dressed as the grim reaper, joyfully waving a banner that read: "Pardew, back from the dead."

The sign bounced with them in their delight, a few feet from the Newcastle dugout after the referee, Andre Marriner, had blown the final whistle to signify the conclusion of another mind-boggling week at St James' Park.

Pardew was gone by then, having hurried down a tunnel that a few weeks ago offered sanctuary from the baying mob calling for his blood. It has to be remembered how dark the mood then was around the club. A poor start to the season had left Newcastle at the foot of the Premier League table and the grim reaper would have been like an old aunt popping round for a chat for Pardew. The Newcastle manager looked dead and buried.

What he left behind him when he generously, and wisely -- for there is still rehabilitation to follow his near-death experience -- exited stage left was a scene of triumph. On the field a group of players were locked in an impromptu huddle. They have recovered from that desperate start to the season and found, deep in their character, a nerve that few people suspected they held.

Other players raced to join them. Among them was Remy Cabella, the big-money signing from France in the summer whose role yesterday was that of cameo, coming on as a substitute for Sammy Ameobi -- gangling brother of the former Newcastle forward Shola -- who had run himself to a standstill.

In the stands, as the clock ticked down, Mike Ashley, the club owner, wore a wry smile. He has inspired much of the head-scratching that has taken place over the past seven years at the club, but even he has had to take a back seat during the past seven days.

Newcastle had won three games in 19 before they arrived at White Hart Lane on Sunday last week. At half-time they looked beaten, but from there has come the most stunning of revivals. They beat Tottenham, won at Manchester City in the Capital One Cup, with a bit to spare as well, and carried that momentum into yesterday's game. They deservedly saw off a Liverpool side who look a sorry, jaded shadow of the ebullient team who raced into contention for the Premier League title last season.

Liverpool could not cope with Newcastle's new-found pace, or the aggression they have added to their game. When a Pardew team -- and the fact that phrase is back in anyone's vocabulary is hugely significant -- get in the face of the opposition, they do well. Liverpool looked like a boxer desperately hunting for a corner to take a breather. There were times when Newcastle smothered them. Liverpool's passing game had no oxygen. By half-time their only escape had been a well-struck Steven Gerrard corner that was headed over by Martin Skrtel. A stadium that was so conflicted a month ago, when fans held Sack-Pardew.com banners, roared their team forward.

Gabriel Obertan has epitomised the turnaround, but he was forced off after 27 minutes after damaging his thigh as he charged forward. In place of Obertan, the young winger Rolando Aarons caused problems for the Liverpool defence. He was used and moved continually.

It contrasted with the isolated Raheem Sterling.

In the 37th minute Glen Johnson headed a Papiss Cisse effort off his own goal-line. At the heart of Newcastle's display was a midfield duo of Jack Colback and Mehdi Abeid, who cost next to nothing. They ran the game.

Abeid was starting his first Premier League game but it did not show -- he was excellent. Abeid clashed with Mario Balotelli just past the hour. It was the most productive part of Balotelli's afternoon. There cannot be many opportunities left. When a pass from the leftback, Alberto Moreno, did not fall to his feet, Balotelli began arguing with his teammate. He barely moved. The game went on. Brendan Rodgers' patience wore thin. "Turn around," he instructed the forward.

It has been a story of turnarounds for these two clubs. Liverpool could not get any grip on the game, just as they have not got a grip on their season. Newcastle kicked down the slope towards the Gallowgate end, built steam and found another victory.

Ayoze Perez scored the winner at Tottenham, then picked up two awards at Spain's Liga de Futbol presentation in midweek. At halftime he came on for Cisse and in the 73rd minute, after a Moussa Sissoko run and an error from Moreno, he struck. There was jubilation.

Three minutes later Perez linked with Cabella and only Simon Mignolet's feet prevented a second. It did not matter. One month shy of the fourth anniversary of his arrival at Newcastle, Alan Pardew had another win over Liverpool, as he had that day. Back from the dead indeed.

Newcastle: Krul 7, Janmaat 7, Taylor 7, Coloccini 7, Dummett 8, Abeid 8, Colback 8, Obertan 6 (Aarons 27min, 7), Sissoko 7, Ameobi 8 (Cabella 66min), Cisse 6 (Perez h-t, 7) Liverpool: Mignolet 6, Johnson 6, Skrtel 7, Lovren 6, Moreno 5, Gerrard 5, Allen 6 (Borini 66min), Henderson 6, Sterling 5, Coutinho 5 (Lambert 80min), Balotelli 3 LIVERPOOL NEWCASTLE Perez 73 1 0 Krul 4-2-3-1 Taylor Coloccini Janmaat Dummett Colback Abeid Sissoko Obertan Ameobi Cisse Balotelli Henderson Sterling Coutinho Gerrard Allen Johnson Moreno Skrtel Lovren Mignolet 4-2-3-1 man: Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle) Yellow cards: Newcastle: Janmaat, Taylor, Colback, Sissoko Liverpool: Skrtel, Lovren, Henderson Referee: A Marriner Attendance: 52,166

TheObserver

Poacher Perez delights Pardew by exposing Liverpool's weakness

Stoppage time was drawing to a close when Alan Pardew permitted himself a little smile and discreetly pumped a fist. Barely a fortnight ago anyone seeking the perfect definition of the term "dead man walking" needed look no further than Newcastle's manager but four successive victories have altered his landscape beyond recognition.

There was certainly no arguing with the Newcastle fan dressed as a skeleton who stood behind the home dugout at the end wearing a Halloween mask and bearing a placard declaring: "Pardew: back from the dead."

Much more of this and, rather than being sacked, English football's answer to Lazarus will be challenging for another manager-of-the-year award. He certainly succeeded in outwitting his old friend Brendan Rodgers - once his youth coach at Reading - on an afternoon when Ayoze Perez's winning goal emphasised Liverpool's disappointing inability to cope with Newcastle's formidably fleet-footed counterattacking.

Pardew has remodelled Newcastle into a beautifully calibrated 4-3-3 formation which balances his side's fantastic pace with latterly absent defensive organisation. If the emergence of Perez could not have been more timely, Mehdi Abeid, making his first Premier League start, shone in midfield alongside the outstanding Moussa Sissoko.

"If you're Newcastle manager it's not all gin and tonics and aperitifs," said a smiling Pardew. "There'll be rough days. Bobby Robson had some dark days here. "But I always knew we had good spirit and talent and it'll be fantastic in the town tonight. I might even go into the city myself - it'll be the first time in a while!"

With their new configuration clearly suiting them Newcastle could have won an early penalty when Gabriel Obertan accelerated down the right and picked out Sissoko, who promptly had his heel clipped by Joe Allen. While Andre Marriner was not quite convinced, the good news for Pardew was that his players were clearly buying into a gameplan revolving around rapid changes of pace as Newcastle oscillated between tight defence and lightning breaks.

The manner in which Abeid, Sissoko and Jack Colback suffocated much of Liverpool's passing at source impressed but the team's resolve was fully epitomised when Daryl Janmaat sprinted several yards to steal the ball from Jordan Henderson with a tremendous tackle.

Even when injury deprived Pardew of Obertan there was little respite for Liverpool, who found themselves instead confronted by Rolando Aarons's equally intimidating pace.

Like Newcastle, Rodgers's side are in transition but their adaptation to life after Luis Suarez seems at a painful juncture. Anfield's class of 2014-15 created only one first-half chance when Martin Skrtel directed a header narrowly wide from Steven Gerrard's corner.

Restored to a deeper, more central role than in recent months, Sissoko looks a midfielder reborn. His fine dribble late in the first half resulted in a slightly desperate challenge from Skrtel but Papiss Cisse - who earlier had a shot cleared off the line by Glen Johnson - squandered the subsequent free-kick, ballooning the ball over Simon Mignolet's bar.

Liverpool were reduced to looking distinctly ordinary and, sometimes, downright untidy. Shafts of Merseyside sunshine were rare, although Mario Balotelli did test Tim Krul with a deceptively swerving free-kick early in the second half.

The Italian emerged very late for the second half but should not be made a scapegoat for Liverpool's shortcomings here. Some of Balotelli's off-the-ball movement was clever enough but, with the midfield malfunctioning, it was asking a lot to expect him to win the game single-handed.

Philippe Coutinho came closest to scoring for the visitors, his second-half header forcing Krul into a fine save. By then Cisse had been forced off with knee trouble but Pardew had a more-than-able replacement in Perez who proceeded to score his second goal in six days.

Pouncing on Alberto Moreno's failure to clear Sissoko's low cross following a one-two with Dummett, the 21-year-old intervened to incisive effect, hooking the ball home from close range. Perez subsequently very nearly created a second for Remy Cabella after playing a quick one-two with his fellow substitute but Mignolet rescued Liverpool.

"I didn't think we deserved to lose," said Rodgers. "But we didn't do enough to win."

Date: 1 November 2014 Opposition: Newcastle United Competition: League	Echo	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Telegraph		1 November 2014
	Mail	Observer	Times	Mirror		
	BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Northern Echo		

BBC

Newcastle's revival under Alan Pardew continued as they picked up a fourth successive victory against a Liverpool side who continue to struggle for form. Substitute Ayoze Perez, who scored in the Magpies' win at Tottenham last week, netted the second-half winner from close range after the visitors failed to clear Paul Dummett's cross.

Newcastle also went close through Remy Cabella and Papiss Cisse as victory - their first at home over the Reds in five attempts - moved them to a point behind their opponents.

Defeat for Brendan Rodgers's side initially left them nine points behind leaders Chelsea, who stretched that margin to 12 points by winning later in the afternoon. But more worryingly is that they are six points shy of where they were at this stage last season.

While the defence is a continuing concern under Rodgers' stewardship - they have kept only one clean sheet in the last 12 matches - far more worrying is at the other end, where summer signing Mario Balotelli, a "calculated risk" as Rodgers labelled it, has not worked so far.

There was a small fanfare when he was brought in to fill the void left by Luis Suarez's move to Barcelona, but while the Uruguayan managed 31 goals last season, the Italian will be lucky to get half that total on current form. He has only scored twice for the Reds and has yet to hit the mark in the Premier League.

Here he always seemed a willing outlet for his team-mates, but Newcastle's defence had him under lock and key for much of the match.

Balotelli's game revolves around explosive power and instinct rather than guile, but he barely fired, only threatening with a first-half free-kick and a curling shot which Tim Krul easily held.

His team-mates provided little support and rarely troubled the Newcastle defence, with only headers from Martin Skrtel and Philippe Coutinho, which produced a marvellous save from Krul, causing jitters in the home backline.

Despite being handicapped by injuries to winger Gabriel Obertan and striker Cisse during the match, Newcastle never looked anything but a team riding high after starting the season poorly, while the confidence gained from beating Spurs and then Manchester City in the League Cup was visible.

Having threatened with a Cisse header, which was cleared off the line by Glen Johnson, they finally broke through thanks to Perez's second successive league goal.

The Spaniard, on for Cisse, again showed a striker's instinct of being at the right place at the right time, when he slammed in from Dummett's delivery.

Another summer recruit, Cabella should have added a second when he broke forward with Perez before firing a goalbound shot that was pushed wide by Simon Mignolet.

After one draw and four wins - including one in the league cup - calls for manager Pardew to be sacked seem like a distant memory.

Newcastle manager Alan Pardew: "I am not saying I saw the wins coming, but I knew there was talent.

"When it does not go well, they (the fans) let you know, and when it is going well, they let you know. You take the good with the bad."

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers: "It's not working for us at the moment. We will continue to hope we get that wee bit of luck and the confidence in final third can return.

"We made a mistake and that cost us the game. That's the biggest disappointment. If you can't score the goals to win the game, you have to make sure you don't concede."

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BBC

Full time Match ends, Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

90:00+3:04Full time Second Half ends, Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.

90:00+0:46 Offside, Liverpool. Glen Johnson tries a through ball, but Rickie Lambert is caught offside.

88:38Booking Dejan Lovren (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

88:29 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.

88:29 Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United wins a free kick on the right wing.

86:02 Attempt saved. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Mario Balotelli.

84:30 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

83:43 Delay in match Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United because of an injury.

82:16 Hand ball by Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United.

80:43 Attempt missed. Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Rémy Cabella with a through ball.

79:42 Attempt missed. Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses the top right corner. Assisted by Ayoze Pérez.

79:08Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Rickie Lambert replaces Philippe Coutinho.

78:40Booking Jack Colback (Newcastle United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

78:33 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

78:33 Foul by Jack Colback (Newcastle United.

76:57 Attempt blocked. Daryl Janmaat (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

76:06 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

76:03 Attempt saved. Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Ayoze Pérez.

75:29 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tim Krul.

74:23 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Mario Balotelli is caught offside.

72:58Goal scored Goal!Goal! Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0. Ayoze Pérez (Newcastle United right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner.

72:35 Attempt blocked. Glen Johnson (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.

71:18Booking Jordan Henderson (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

71:13 Fabio Borini (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

71:13 Foul by Daryl Janmaat (Newcastle United.

69:39 Attempt missed. Fabio Borini (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

65:50Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Newcastle United. Rémy Cabella replaces Sammy Ameobi.

65:46Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Fabio Borini replaces Joe Allen.

61:45Booking Daryl Janmaat (Newcastle United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

61:30 Mario Balotelli (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

61:30 Foul by Daryl Janmaat (Newcastle United.

59:39 Attempt missed. Paul Dummett (Newcastle United left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Jack Colback.

57:30 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.

57:30 Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

56:11 Offside, Liverpool. Steven Gerrard tries a through ball, but Philippe Coutinho is caught offside.

55:29 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

55:29 Foul by Paul Dummett (Newcastle United.

54:53 Attempt saved. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

53:00 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

53:00 Foul by Jack Colback (Newcastle United.

49:18 Attempt saved. Mario Balotelli (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

48:20Booking Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

48:16 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

48:16 Foul by Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United.

47:48 Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Raheem Sterling is caught offside.

45:11 Mario Balotelli (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

45:11 Foul by Sammy Ameobi (Newcastle United.

45:00 Second Half begins Newcastle United 0, Liverpool 0.

45:00Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Newcastle United. Ayoze Pérez replaces Papiss Demba Cissé.

45:00+2:15Half time First Half ends, Newcastle United 0, Liverpool 0.

45:00+1:30 Attempt blocked. Jack Colback (Newcastle United left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked.

45:00+0:42 Attempt missed. Papiss Demba Cissé (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is too high from a direct free kick.

44:20Booking Steven Taylor (Newcastle United is shown the yellow card.

43:48Booking Martin Skrtel (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

43:40 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.

43:40 Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

42:44 Offside, Liverpool. Joe Allen tries a through ball, but Alberto Moreno is caught offside.

39:10 Attempt missed. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner.

38:43 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Fabricio Coloccini.

37:19 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Joe Allen.

36:33 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Mario Balotelli.

36:29 Attempt blocked. Papiss Demba Cissé (Newcastle United right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jack Colback with a cross.

36:01 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.

34:49 Attempt missed. Sammy Ameobi (Newcastle United left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left following a corner.

34:15 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.

34:11 Attempt blocked. Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jack Colback.

33:09 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.

33:09 Rolando Aarons (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

31:44 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.

31:44 Jack Colback (Newcastle United wins a free kick on the right wing.

31:02 Offside, Liverpool. Martin Skrtel tries a through ball, but Mario Balotelli is caught offside.

29:47 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.

29:47 Papiss Demba Cissé (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

28:45 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

28:45 Foul by Sammy Ameobi (Newcastle United.

28:27 Attempt missed. Jack Colback (Newcastle United left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right following a corner.

27:37 Foul by Glen Johnson (Liverpool.

27:37 Rolando Aarons (Newcastle United wins a free kick on the left wing.

26:05Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Newcastle United. Rolando Aarons replaces Gabriel Obertan because of an injury.

24:45 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

23:22 Delay in match Gabriel Obertan (Newcastle United because of an injury.

21:48 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

21:48 Foul by Steven Taylor (Newcastle United.

20:59 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

20:39 Attempt blocked. Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

19:12 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

19:12 Foul by Jack Colback (Newcastle United.

16:09 Foul by Mario Balotelli (Liverpool.

16:09 Jack Colback (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

13:43 Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Raheem Sterling is caught offside.

9:11 Foul by Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United.

9:11 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

7:46 Foul by Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United.

7:46 Mario Balotelli (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

3:09 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

3:06 Attempt blocked. Papiss Demba Cissé (Newcastle United right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Gabriel Obertan.

0:00 First Half begins.

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