Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
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February 201

THE TIMES

Merseyside snore draw leaves locals feeling frustrated Everton 0

Liverpool 0

Referee A Taylor Attendance 39,621

Brendan Rodgers announced himself delighted. Roberto Martinez marvelled at the tactical intricacies. The now notoriously unsmiling Aaron Lennon wore the widest of grins while posing for pictures with fans. Where any of them found the inner sunshine to be positive was lost on everyone else who departed Goodison Park muttering darkly about arguably the least eventful Merseyside derby in living memory.

Merseyside Police need not have worried. Their pre-match concerns about an evening kick-off were not realised as the contest passed without incident in every conceivable sense. The closest we came to an outbreak of disorder was when Jordan Henderson and Steven Naismith engaged in the kind of shouting match usually reserved for when one motorist fails to allow another to change lane. Jordon Ibe, an impressive derby debutant, struck an upright and Seamus Coleman had a shot saved, Everton's first on target, in the 87th minute. Other than those fleeting interludes of activity this was an exercise in nothingness. In fairness to Martinez and Rodgers, both would be forgiven for pointing out that they had given people what they had wanted and what their critics claimed they were incapable of delivering, by organising their teams in such a manner that defensive qualities came to the fore, albeit at the cost of entertainment and incident. A third successive clean sheet for Everton and a fourth for Liverpool provided reasons to be cheerful for the rival managers, although Martinez had to sacrifice a great deal more of his football philosophy than Rodgers as he responded to the need to avoid defeat with his most negative tactical approach to a game since becoming manager.

Usually an idealist, the Spaniard knows now is not the time to prioritise style over substance, hence his willingness to see Romelu Lukaku left isolated for an entire game as his teammates nullified rather than electrified. "Sometimes it's about trying to find away to achieve something and I do feel that positive results will bring the confidence back," Martinez said, in an indication that, regardless of any tactical pleasure he extracted from a moribund affair, Everton's performance was a means to an end rather an end in itself. Capturing the mood of seemingly all involved, Martin Skrtel, the Liverpool defender, admitted that "the main thing was not to lose" and highlighted the clean sheet that had seemed beyond Liverpool's defence before Rodgers switched to a back three in December. "We are happy for that because there was a lot of criticism of the defending," he said. "I think in this year we have only conceded in one game from open play so that is very good. We just need to carry on that way."

The concern for Liverpool, particularly with Tottenham Hotspur, their rivals for a top-four place, visiting Anfield tomorrow, is that a run of seven games in 21 days, including a Capital One Cup semi-final and a fourthround replay in the FA Cup, is taking its toll. Lucas Leiva, Philippe Coutinho and Raheem Sterling picked up knocks against Everton while others, libe being the notable exception, lacked the freshness required for the highpressing, high-intensity game that can make them such a threat going forward.

"The only downfall of being in cup competitions is the number of games, but whatever happens with injuries to players the squad will be better for the experience," Rodgers said. "If we are playing one game a week we are not in cup competitions and not doing as well as we would want. We want the games to come. This is a challenging year but we will be better when we come out of this year and so will the players.

"Coutinho had a knock on his knee and Raheem had a knock on his foot. We had fresh players on the bench to bring on and hopefully they will be fit for Tuesday." FOOD FOR THOUGHT AFTER THE FAMINE

8

Premier League goalless draws in Merseyside derby, more than in any other fixture

4

Liverpool league clean sheets in a row, their best such run within a season four years

5

Goals by Gerrard and Sterling, Liverpool's Joint league top scorers. At this stage last season Suarez had 23 and Sturridge 14

3

Goals in Everton's past four home league games -- only one scored by themselves against Manchester City)

theguardian

Derby ends in deadlock but provides a showcase for emerging talent Roberto Martinez savoured a "fascinating game tactically", Brendan Rodgers praised Liverpool's "exciting" attacking threat and one of the few notes made by this observer read "ref changes whistle". Beauty was in the eyes of the technical areas at Goodison Park, although there was cause for hope in a contest only a proud manager could love.

Steven Gerrard was booed on and off his 33rd Merseyside derby by Evertonians scarred by the Liverpool captain's impact on the fixture he cherishes most. Their resentment had been stirred by the media focus on Gerrard's final Premier League derby, the television cameras continuing to single him out despite a subdued farewell, yet the truth was there was little else to focus on. Grounds for optimism for the Everton manager lay in the success of stifling tactics that helped his recently porous defence deliver a third consecutive clean sheet, the backline unrecognisable with John Stones and Phil Jagielka back in tandem. Other plus points included midfielder James McCarthy's return from injury and its liberating effect on Seamus Coleman down the right, while Ross Barkley's late cameo offered further encouragement.

Rarely have an Everton team sat as deep and ceded so much possession in a Goodison derby as Martinez's men did in the second half. Given their alarming form at the turn of the year, however, a back-to-basics approach is as surprising from Martinez as it is overdue. It almost yielded Everton's first derby win since 2010 when Barkley injected much-needed unpredictability and sprayed the pass of the game out to Coleman, who forced Simon Mignolet into a fine save - his first - in the 87th minute.

If Rodgers was frustrated at Liverpool's failure to turn second-half domination of the ball into clear-cut chances, with Joel Robles making routine stops from Raheem Sterling and the substitute Rickie Lambert, he disguised it well. Jordon lbe's performance provided ample compensation.

The 19-year-old signed from Wycombe Wanderers excelled on his surprise derby debut, only his second league start for Liverpool, carrying the threat to Everton throughout, striking a post with a venomous drive from 20 yards and almost capitalising on Sterling's deflected shot.

For 26 minutes Liverpool's forward line contained lbe, Sterling and the returning Daniel Sturridge. It's a prospect that should alert Roy Hodgson and it reflects Rodgers' inherent belief that British-born talent is not technically inferior to its continental counterparts. "Maybe I have too much belief in young players," he admitted. "But part of me thinks you never know until you throw in a young player and it doesn't matter what the game is. This is a real springboard for Jordon Ibe. I would have no qualms about playing Jordon now and there is no greater pressure than a Goodison game with that intensity and he was obviously man of the match

"If you see the young British talent that was out there in this game then you cannot say young British players are not technically and tactically good enough. It is easy for me to put an experienced player in but you should look at some of the British boys. Harry Kane has been the restoration for Tottenham. It is has been Harry Kane and young Ryan Mason, two British players who can play football, press and have got quality.

"I've said it throughout my coaching life: if coaches want to give these players the opportunity to play in a technical game and a tactical game then they can do it and at a high level."

Liverpool's clean sheet was the first time they have kept four in a row in the league under Rodgers and featured another commanding performance from Emre Can. However, the result came at a cost before tomorrow's game against Tottenham, with Philippe Coutinho jarring his knee, Sterling receiving a knock and Lucas Leiva fearing he could be sidelined for a while having aggravated a thigh injury.

Man of the match Jordon Ibe (Liverpool)

Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
Echo	Observer	Times	Telegraph
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EVERTON 0

LIVERPOOL 0

BRENDAN RODGERS never took his eyes off Jordon Ibe. In Liverpool's final training session ahead of the Merseyside derby, the manager was about to make a big call and wanted to gauge the reaction.

'He only found out he was playing on Friday,' said Rodgers. 'I was looking at him when I announced it.' Ibe never flinched. The forward, signed from Wycombe in December 2011, has continually impressed Rodgers but he wanted to see how the 19-year-old would fare in his biggest test. He didn't disappoint. If the 192nd collision in the league between these clubs was instantly forgettable at least Ibe. with his fearless running and boundless enthusiasm on his second Barclays Premier League start, left Rodgers purring about the future.

Loan spells at Birmingham last season and Derby in the first half of this campaign gave the England Under 20 international a valuable education but Rodgers recalled Ibe at the start of January knowing he could contribute to Liverpool's push for a top-four spot. Ibe (below) might have settled this stalemate, as he hit the post from 25 yards. 'Maybe I have too much belief in young players,' said Rodgers. 'But you never know until you throw them in. This is a springboard for Jordon; to come to Goodison and play like he did was outstanding. You cannot say young English players don't have talent.' Roberto Martinez, meanwhile, has insisted Kevin Mirallas has not alienated himself from Everton's squad after he missed a penalty against West Brom last month, grabbing the ball ahead of regular taker Leighton Baines. The Everton midfielder has said he will 'consider his options' at the end of the season.

'I haven't got an issue,' said Martinez. 'It seems like we want to pick on Mirallas because he missed a penalty against West Brom. Now because he says he wants to leave we are picking on him. I have never had a conversation with Kevin where he has told me he is not happy.' SUPER STAT: John Stones and Phil Jagielka have played 90 minutes together 11 times this season. Everton are unbeaten in those games

EVERTON (4-3-3): Robles 7; Coleman 7, Stones 7.5, Jagielka 7, Oviedo 6.5; McCarthy 6.5, Barry 5.5, Besic 7.5 (Alcaraz 86min); Mirallas 6 (Lennon 60, 6), Naismith 6.5 (Barkley 85), Lukaku 6. Subs not used: Griffiths, Gibson, Kone, Browning, Booked: Oviedo, Besic, Naismith, McCarthy,

LIVERPOOL (3-4-3): Mignolet 7: Can 7.5. Skrtel 8. Sakho 6.5: Henderson 7.5. Lucas (Allen 15, 5.5), Gerrard 6.5, Moreno 6.5; Ibe 8.5, Sterling 6 (Lambert 80), Coutinho 6 (Sturridge 55, 6). Subs not used: Ward, Johnson, Lovren, Markovic. Booked: Henderson

Man of the match: Jordon Ibe. Referee: Anthony Taylor 7.

The Daily Telegraph

Ibe and young lions light up drab Merseyside derby Everton 0

Liverpool 0 Att: 39.621

As a spectacle the Merseyside derby underwhelmed, but when the scout reports are dispatched to Roy Hodgson, they will review a thriller.

Not so long ago the international manager would have taken comfort from a gentle ripple of English players excelling in the Premier League's peak events, never mind a new wave. Hodgson must feel reinvigorated by what now appears a tsunami of young talent. Raheem Sterling and Ross Barkley are squad regulars; John Stones will surely be the established first-choice centre-half before the European Championship; and here Jordon Ibe gave a derby debut of such astounding maturity that Hodgson is sure to be dispatching assistants to monitor his progress over the next 18 months.

Tottenham and their modern Harry Hotspur will arrive at Anfield tomorrow for a fixture that will not only offer a hint of the immediate direction of the race for Champions League places, but also the future of Hodgson's line-up.

"If you see the young British talent on the pitch [on Saturday], then you cannot say that young British players are not technically and tactically good enough," Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, said. "This is a real springboard for Jordon Ibe. To come to Goodison and play like he did, showing that confidence and temperament, was outstanding. Harry Kane and Ryan Mason have been the restoration for Tottenham. Two British players who can play football, can press and have quality. That has been their change - a guy that can press up front.' It bodes well for the future, but it served only as compensation given the absence of drama at Goodison Park. If Roberto Martinez and Rodgers had shaken hands after 15 minutes it would have saved everyone the time, effort, stress and costs, This was a strategic derby - something to keep those who marvel at the art of formation building giddy until the next World Chess Championship slows the pulse rate. But there was plenty to admire in the defensive discipline.

James McCarthy was especially good on his return from hamstring injury, underlining why Everton have looked so fragile without him. Muhamed Besic demonstrated why he will be a natural combative partner for the Republic of Ireland midfielder, and Barkley did more as an attacking force in five minutes than most had managed in the previous 85.

For all the platitudes for the English youth, Rodgers reserved most praise for Emre Can, who is rapidly becoming the stick with which all of us who queried the majority of Liverpool's summer recruits will be heavily beaten. He looks a steal - a player of strength, skill, poise and courage.

The irony will not be lost on Hodgson that in a game brimming with English talent, the most evecatching performance of all was still that of a German.

INDEPENDENT

THE

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Young, gifted and British: Rodgers hails lbe as two managers head in different directions

In a phrase as old as the Merseyside derby, Everton and Liverpool finished with honours even. But as the two coaches pulled away from Goodison Park, the men they carried were heading in opposite directions.

Tomorrow, in a match that will be a full-blown test of their credentials to make next season's Champions League, Liverpool face Tottenham and it is not just the fact that Brendan Rodgers's side has won their last four matches against Spurs that should give them cause for optimism.

In Jordon lbe, who came closest to breaking the sometimes grim deadlock at Goodison with a shot that crashed against Joel Robles's post, they appear to have another of the footballers Rodgers constantly seeks - young, gifted and highly technical.

The Liverpool manager pointed out that it had been a good day for young English footballers, with Harry Kane and Ryan Mason overturning Arsenal's lead in the north London derby and Ibe, who is still a teenager, "being obviously the man of this match".

He added: "You cannot say young British players are not tactically or technically good enough. I thought all week this would be a good game for Jordon to come into. You can see his temperament.

"Maybe I have too much belief in young players but I see enough day to day to know the character of the player. It was a bit like Jon Flanagan, who was man of the match here last season. There is just a part of me that thinks you never know until you throw in a young player - and it doesn't matter what the game is." Everton have another significant midweek fixture, at Chelsea. It was Roberto Martinez's ability to win at Old Trafford and take a point from the Emirates, grounds where Everton had never looked comfortable under David Moyes, which helped cement his hold on the club. Very few of those who left Goodison on Saturday night expected anything similar to occur at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday night.

Age is also a factor at Everton but Martinez has to decide whether Gareth Barry's loss of form is a blip or something longer term in a midfielder who will be 34 this month

Kevin Mirallas is seven years younger but his birthday is in October and you can get long odds that the cake will be presented at Everton's Finch Farm training complex.

With an abject sense of timing, Mirallas had given an interview to a Belgian newspaper, which ran just before the derby, that quoted him as saying: "I have never said I absolutely want to leave Everton but I feel ready for a new challenge." He added that he was aware Tottenham and Atletico Madrid were interested in him and that he "dreamed of playing in the Champions League".

Martinez is growing tired of Mirallas and his monologues about the future. "I have nothing to say. I have never had a conversation with Kevin where he has told me he is not happy," he said.

"He has still got a contract with Everton with two and a half years left. There is no decision to be made."

EVEN at its most excruciating depths of defensive mediocrity, this dour contest still provided one glimmer of hope for the wider English game.

Everything that was good here came from young English players making a name for themselves at the highest level.

Only when Ross Barkley came on did Everton show any ambition to exploit the weary limbs of a Liverpool side who had endured two exhausting midweek cup ties in the last 10 days.

Only when Jordon Ibe was on the ball did the Reds come alive.

Add Raheem Sterling and John Stones into that mix, and the Mersey clubs have the next generation of England stars.

It is a message embraced by Kop boss Brendan Rodgers, as he explained the decision to throw Ibe, 19, into perhaps the most demanding test. He passed it with a distinction.

Looking ahead to tomorrow night, when the Reds' relentless schedule brings Spurs to Anfield, the London club will themselves have another couple of players who can sustain the national side for the next decade in Harry Kane and Ryan Mason.

Rodgers said: "You saw on the pitch the young British talent and you can't say young British players are not technically and tactically good enough.

"It is easy for me to put an experienced player in, but you look at the talent on show with some of the British boys. Harry Kane has been the restoration for Spurs. It has been Harry and Ryan Mason.

"Two lads who can play football, can press and have got quality. That has been their change - a guy that can press up front."

Sterling has similarly transformed Liverpool with his pressing up front, and Everton were terrified of him, despite an obvious knock which eventually saw him replaced.

be was equally impressive, forcing the Blues on to the back foot, and inadvertently reducing the scope of the game, as Everton boss Roberto Martinez shamelessly abandoned his insistence on playing an expansive game.

It was the teenage forward who produced the best moments of the game, hitting a post with a ferocious drive, forcing a brilliant save from keeper Joel and creating a great chance for Daniel Sturridge.

He was not intimidated or overawed and Rodgers believes others can do the same if they are given the opportunity. He added: "Maybe I have too much belief in young players, but there is just part of me that thinks you never know until you throw in a young player.

"I repeat the message - if coaches want to give these players the opportunity to play in a technical and tactical game then they can do it at a high level.

"We have seen it here that there is a real core of British players who have real high-level technique and if they get that encouragement they can go and perform at a top level

"I see enough from day-to-day to know the character of a player. It is a bit like Jon Flanagan, who was man-of-the-match here last season, as he has a good temperament and desire. If you believe in them enough it can really push them on in their development.

"This was a real springboard for Ibe. To come here and play like he did, showing that confidence and temperament, was outstanding.

"I would have no qualms about playing Jordon now. There is no greater pressure than a Goodison game with that intensity and he was obviously the man-of-thematch here."

Date: 2 February 2015
Opposition: Everton
Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
Echo	Observer	Times	Telegraph
BBC	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror



lbe the main positive for Reds as Gerrard's last league derby ends in frustration

Steven Gerrard's Merseyside derby farewell ended in frustration as Liverpool were held to a goalless draw at Goodison.

After the thrilling 3-3 meeting here last season, the 224th edition of English football's most-played local spat reverted to type with a hugely forgettable encounter.

Surprise starter Jordon Ibe came closest to breaking the deadlock when he struck the post with a 25-yard shot in the first half.

But with Everton content to sit back and defend, Brendan Rodgers' side ultimately struggled to find a way through despite the second-half introduction of Daniel Sturridge.

Nevertheless, the Reds have now lost only two of their last 20 games and remain very much in the hunt for Champions League qualification with local pride intact. Rodgers named lbe on the right wing in place of Lazar Markovic, one of three changes from the team that won at Bolton Wanderers in the FA Cup in midweek. For Ibe, recalled early from his loan spell at Derby County last month, it was only a second senior start for the Reds.

And the 19-year-old almost marked the occasion with a goal during a tense firsthalf the visitors shaded.

Early on, Philippe Coutinho was dumped on the turf by Gareth Barry 25 yards from goal and Gerrard's free-kick was turned over by Everton goalkeeper Joel Robles.

Rodgers was then forced into a reshuffle on 16 minutes when Lucas Leiva limped off with a recurrence of the thigh problem that ruled him out of the Bolton game, Joe Allen replacing.

But Liverpool were almost ahead a minute later, Sterling's deflected shot rolling into the path of Ibe at the far post but Robles smothered to save.

Ibe was then within inches of the opener on 26 minutes when, out of nothing, he cut in off the right flank, sprinted beyond two Blues defenders then smashed a 25-yard shot against Robles's far post.

With Everton happy to cede the initiative and pack midfield, the Reds enjoyed plenty of the ball but couldn't overly test a Blues defence that was without Leighton Baines.

Simon Mignolet safely ushered a Kevin Mirallas free-kick wide moments into the second half, while Coutinho should have made more of a fortunate deflection that briefly left the Reds vastly outnumbering the home backline.

Sterling shot at Robles having been found in the area by Coutinho, and then almost caught the goalkeeper out at his near-post after another pass from the Brazilian.

From the resultant corner, Gerrard's acrobatic goalbound overhead kick was deflected over by Steven Naismith.

Daniel Sturridge, introduced 11 minutes into the second half, had a shot blocked by Phil Jagielka on 70 minutes after Alberto Moreno couldn't connect properly to a low lbe cross.

Handbags between Jordan Henderson and Naismith livened up the crowd just when it appeared the game was starting to peter out.

Rickie Lambert, another substitute, shot tamely at Robles before, with three minutes remaining, Mignolet finally had a save of note to make, parrying a Seamus Coleman cross-shot after the Irishman was found by Ross Barkley. But the outcome was clear long before referee Anthony Taylor blew his final whistle.

EVERTON (4-3-3): Robles; Coleman, Stones, Jagielka, Oviedo; Besic (Alcaraz 86), McCarthy, Barry; Mirallas (Lennon 59), Naismith (Barkley 85), Lukaku. Subs: Griffiths, Gibson, Kone, Browning. BOOKINGS: McCarthy and Oviedo (both fouls), Naismith and Besic (unsporting behaviour).

LIVERPOOL (3-4-2-1): Mignolet; Can, Skrtel, Sakho; Ibe, Henderson, Lucas (Allen 16), Moreno; Gerrard, Coutinho (Sturridge 56); Sterling (Lambert 82). Subs: Ward, Johnson, Lovren, Markovic. BOOKING: Henderson (unsporting behaviour). REFEREE: Anthony Taylor.ATT: 39,621.

Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
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Gerrard's final derby falls flat

When it comes to writing his memoirs, Steven Gerrard's final Merseyside derby -Europa League permitting - will probably rate a sentence and

the Liverpool captain might have to be prodded to recall it.

The match would pale in comparison with his first, a 3-2 victory at Anfield in April 1999 which saw him, wearing the No 28 shirt, clear off the line from Danny

There was rather less drama yesterday and considerably fewer goals. Gerrard had two opportunities to make an impact. There was a free-kick that whistled over Joel Robles' crossbar and, after the interval, an overhead kick that struck Steven Naismith and careered in the same direction but, really, it was no way to say goodbye.

The problem with a player of Gerrard's stature announcing his departure five months before he leaves is that every game is then seen through the prism of his going.

Sir Alex Ferguson suffered much the same when he announced his aborted retirement from Manchester United at the beginning of the 2001-02 season. He was a fan of Frank Sinatra but he didn't fancy going out like him in a vast farewell tour. One afternoon at Athens Airport, which in an hour was to become paralysed in the aftermath of 9/11, he said he could stand no more questions on how he felt about visiting each ground for the last time. You wonder if Gerrard will feel the

It was a match when the rising rather than the setting sun burned brighter. It says something for Jordon Ibe's career that, although he has not yet turned 20, he has been playing first-team football since making his debut for Wycombe as a 15year-old. This probably explains Brendan Rodgers' observation that "tactically he is very, very good for a kid". The Liverpool manager added: "I thought he needed to handle some pressure so we sent him on loan to Derby and he has worked wonderfully with Steve McClaren."

His performances for Derby and Liverpool's weaknesses in attack had persuaded Rodgers to recall him and now he turned Bryan Oviedo both ways before sending a shot crashing on to Robles' post.

Whatever Roberto Martinez has achieved at Everton - and it is quite a lot - he is vet to beat Liverpool and this was perhaps the weakest of the three draws that he has achieved against Rodgers.

At Anfield in September there had been the glorious finale of Phil Jagielka driving an improbable shot past Simon Mignolet and the last encounter at Goodison saw Everton denied at the death in a breathless 3-3 draw. The final whistle here elicited not boos but the faint sound of shoulders being shrugged through

It was that kind of night. Everton pressed towards the end with Seamus Coleman denied by Mignolet and there was nearly a fight. The Merseyside police, unhappy that an evening fixture would encourage rowdiness, wanted the kick-off time to be put back. It might have been better for everybody had it kicked off in 1984, when these matches decided championships.

Sometimes these intense, local turf wars are belittled as two bald men fighting over a comb. It wasn't quite that but it was a dust-up between two men who glance interestedly at the hair replacement ads fronted by Shane Warne No Liverpool manager since Roy Hodgson has lost a Merseyside derby and there was little real danger of Rodgers joining him. Each manager could point to their positives. For Rodgers, Liverpool are unbeaten in the Premier League since going down to Manchester United in early December, and here Everton were restricted to one shot on target.

Martinez had the consolation of seeing Everton's unbeaten run extended to six matches - although this statistic only works if you don't include the penalty shootout with West Ham in the FA Cup.

With Gareth Barry, perhaps his most naturally reliable player, wantonly surrendering possession, Martinez's advantages appeared to become more limited as the match wore on. There was Romelu Lukaku, although Martin Skrtel. aided and abetted by the offside flag, dealt with him effectively enough while Kevin Mirallas troubled Joe Allen, brought on for the injured Lucas Leiva, until Martinez withdrew him in favour of debutant Aaron Lennon.

The winger had caused something of a stir in the wake of his transfer from Tottenham by posing for official club photos in which he looked as excited as a footballer might be had they been told they were joining Shakhtar Donetsk in the January window. He might have been anticipating the quality of his debut. Everton: (4-3-3) Robles; Coleman, Stones, Jagielka, Oviedo; McCarthy, Barry, Besic (Alcaraz, 86); Mirallas (Lennon, 60), Naismith (Barkley, 85), Lukaku.

Liverpool: (3-4-3) Mignolet; Can, Srktel, Sakho; Ibe, Henderson, Lucas Leiva (Allen, 16), Moreno; Gerrard, Sterling (Lambert, 82), Coutinho (Sturridge, 56).

Referee: Anthony Taylor Man of the match: McCarthy (Everton)

Match rating: 5/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Gerrard denied derby farewell win

Liverpool 0

According to the Everton matchday programme, such is the allure of the Merseyside derby, "journalists pour up from London" to watch. After this, the traffic up the M6 may not be as frenetic. Cagey rather than inspired, tighter than a Treasury spending commitment, with the principle aim not to lose at all costs. this was a derby which rarely threatened to explode.

Indeed, the biggest cheer of a static first half was when Steven Gerrard misdirected a pass five yards behind a colleague into touch. How they enjoyed that in the Gwladys Street End.

This was Gerrard's 33rd and last Merseyside derby, during which time he has relished the role as Everton's nemesis. Though on his final appearance at a Goodison ground where he has enjoyed rich pickings, he found it difficult to get much meaningful control of the ball. In part, that was because Roberto Martinez was able to instruct James McCarthy to snap at his heels.

If the blue team were going to close the gap which currently stands on Liverpool 89 derby victories to Everton's 66, how they needed the Irishman's bustling urgency. His return gave the home side's midfield an early injection of dynamism. On 21 minutes he set Seamus Coleman free with a delightfully weighted pass. The full back bundled down the right and crossed for Steven Naismith who couldn't make proper contact with his header.

That was as close as it came for Everton in the first forty five. With Romelu Lukaku seemingly carrying handicapper's weights in his shorts, looking as slow as he did bulky, there was little threat to convert McCarthy and Kevin Miralles's industry. For Liverpool, meanwhile, as their skipper made his farewells, it was a case of out with the old in with the new. Jordon Ibe, recalled from a successful loan spell at Derby, was the closest Brendan Rodgers had made to a January signing. Described by Gerrard as being like Daniel Sturridge and Raheem Sterling rolled into one, the 19-year-old was given responsibility in the derby ahead of Sturridge, Rickie Lambert and the ever diminishing yarn that is Mario Balotelli.

Patrolling the right wing, the Wycombe-born teenager's first two contributions were not auspicious. He let a pass from Jordan Henderson under his foot, then put Emre Can into trouble with an ill-directed ball along the touchline. He should have been in within a quarter of an hour, when Sterling's shot across Joel Robles arrived at his feet on the far post. But the Everton keeper scrambled it clear. Ten minutes later, he gave hint of his potential. After a lovely quick run, with Everton's defenders backing off, he unleashed a fiercesome strike which thumped against Robles's post.

Sturridge, warming up over half-time, came on just after Gerrard had put a shot from a corner over the bar. He replaced Philippe Coutinho, who had twisted his knee in the first half and clearly failed to respond to treatment in the dressing room. It meant Liverpool now had a front line of rare technical accomplishment, a trio of dazzling ball players, all of them English and all apparently frequenting the same Merseyside barbers. But they barely had a touch in tandem.

Everton's January loan signing Aaron Lennon arrived on the hour. Given a lengthy briefing by Martinez, he trotted out to a sizeable welcome, though the warmth of the applause was not sufficient for him to crack a smile. Busy and progressive, Lennon was directed to the wing where he could attack Mamadou Sakho. Martinez immediately sensing he would get little change out of Can, who was having a superbly authoritative afternoon on the right side of Liverpool's back three. Here Lennon frequently shared passes with Coleman, but neither of them could find a way through.

By now frustrations began to surface in the Everton sections as forward momentum was frequently checked by a sideways pass. Or, in the case of a gallop from Coleman, a misdirected cross ballooned over Simon Mignolet's bar. Liverpool had their moments. Ibe skimmed down the byline to cross beyond Robles's reach. But Alberto Moreno's attempted Rabona drizzled ineffectively into Robles's hands. Can's dazzling footwork almost brought a chance for the substitute Joe Allen, but his finish did not match the buildup.

Martinez encouraged his players forward with some frantic semaphore. Lukaku burst past a tiring Can, but Henderson slid in as he closed down on goal. From the resulting corner, Lennon spooned the ball wide. With McCarthy tiring, the home fans attempted to project the ball forward on a wall of sound. Lennon hared forwards into the area and exchanged passes with Naismith. But the return - in a manner which characterised Everton's work - was not sufficiently accurate. Rodgers decided muscle might be the answer and sent on Rickie Lambert for Sterling with 10 minutes remaining. By now the ball was ping-ponging around. Neither side, though, could find the killer pass to turn endeavour into three points.

A victory was certainly not going to be conjured by Lambert's stabbed shot which dribbled into Robles's gloves.

With five minutes to go Martinez brought on - way too late for home tastes - Ross Barkley and Antolin Alvaraz, And the move almost paid off when Barkley's delicious through ball found Lennon, who darted into the area. But his pull back was easily smothered by Mignolet.

For the Everton fans all that was left was to ieer Gerrard's late shot wide of the post and boo roundly as he left the pitch for the last time. How they will miss him.

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February 2015

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Everton frustrate Gerrard

Achilly evening, a cool 33 of these occasions now for Steven Gerrard, and a derby that took 80 minutes to heat up. When it did, it was because of a shouting match between players

After Jordon lbe fouled Mohamed Besic and Besic trod on the surprise 19-year-old debutant, Jordan Henderson and Steven Naismith yelled at each other until referee Anthony Taylor silenced them with his yellow card. Finally Goodison Park's blood was up and the remaining minutes saw a more urgent Everton at last knock Liverpool out of their smooth — but sometimes too safe — passing game, and control.

There were still chances for Gerrard to score on his 33rd and more than likely final domestic derby (these neighbours could yet meet in the Europa League), but Rickie Lambert shot instead of looking for a return pass and Gerrard hit another effort straight at Joel Robles. The home fans booed him off. Their own team perhaps avoided their opprobrium by awakening in those closing stages. Daniel Sturridge had come on for Liverpool but Ross Barkley proved the more influential substitution. Replacing Naismith in the 85th minute, the 21-year-old gave Everton an unpredictability they'd lacked and a terrific Barkley pass, on a counter attack, found Seamus Coleman overlapping. Coleman struck a fine shot but Simon Mignolet reached up and touched it over for a fine save.

Liverpool's consolation was a achieving four successive clean sheets for the first time in Brendan Rodgers' reign - indeed the first time since February 2011. But they lost ground in the uber-competitive race for the Champions League spots. Everton haven't beaten their neighbours since 2010 but given recent form and his cautious tactics, Roberto Martinez was probably content with a point. Earlier, jeers met the sight of a television camera manmarking Steven Gerrard as

he led Liverpool out in his last derby. Evertonians hated, as one put it, the media "trying to turn this into Saint Steven Gerrard's day". Their team's task was to put a stop to that.

Gerrard played as a tucked-in right attacker and outside him was lbe, who was only two when Gerrard made his professional debut. The new kid threatened to upstage the old king. From his first touches lbe exuded exactly what Rodgers said is required in derbies, "calm and composure", while Gerrard struggled to affect the game.

A test, after 25 minutes, came following lbe's first slack moment, when his pass put Mamadou Sakho under pressure. Now would he shrink or stand tall? The answer was immediate. Getting back on the ball, lbe dribbled 30 yards before surprising Robles with an audacious shot which struck the post from 20 yards out. No one came closer to a first half goal. Liverpool lost Lucas after 16 minutes but remained slick, patient and cohesive. They dominated possession but needed more penetration.

Everton have rarely been so passive at home in a derby. Martinez's strategies centred, uncharacteristically, on safety and a compact midfield of Besic, Gareth Barry and James McCarthy set out to spoil.

For a while it was effective.

Barry, though, was a vulnerability and the target for Liverpool's pressing, but Coutinho robbed him then squandered the good position. Similar errors, like Sakho being caught on the ball by Naismith, also went unpunished. Raheem Sterling wasted several Liverpool attacks through overelaboration and Lukaku spoiled some by Everton, which tended to be direct, by straying offside. There came a flurry of Gerrard near-things. Coutinho caught Barry in possession again and played quickly forward to Sterling, who checked into space only to shoot straight at Robles when Gerrard was screaming and in space. Sterling ignored Gerrard again, when he tried to score from a tight angle rather than cut back for his skipper.

From a Coutinho corner Sakho nodded back across goal and Gerrard marshalled his old bones to execute a bicycle kick: to score like that really would have been far-fetched, even by the standard of Gerrard's scripts, and while it was a good attempt the ball struck Besic and went out for another corner.

Aaron Lennon's 60th minute arrival, on for Kevin Mirallas, prompted Everton's best spell of the match, but it was a short one and when it petered out Liverpool were back in command. Ibe's trickery made a chance for Alberto Moreno but he was too shy to shoot and Sturridge's follow up was blocked. Everton: Robles 7, Coleman 6, Stones 6, Jagielka 7, Oviedo 5, McCarthy 7, Besic 6 (Alcaraz 86min, 5), Barry 4, Mirallas 5 (Lennon 60min, 6), Lukaku 4, Naismith 6 (Barkley 86min, 7)

Liverpool: Mignolet 7, Can 7, Skrtel 7, Sakho 6, Ibe 7, Henderson 6, Lucas 5 (Allen 16min, 6), Moreno 6, Gerrard 6, Sterling 5 (Lambert 82min, 6), Coutinho 6 (Sturridge 56min, 6)

TheObserver

Gerrard misses out on final derby dream

This is likely to be remembered as Steven Gerrard's farewell Merseyside derby, but not for very long and not for many other reasons. It was one of the more sterile encounters between the old rivals, with little quality on show and some of the big name performers in both sides failing to enliven the occasion.

Gerrard played the whole game, even though his display was among the ordinary ones, and while the ideal script demanded a final flourish from a player who has appeared in 33 of these dust-ups, the prosaic reality was that neither side produced anything exceptional. Reader, it was dull.

"A fascinating tactical battle," Roberto Martinez called it, which was one way of avoiding the uncomfortable reality that the home side did not manage a shot on target until the 86th minute.

"We were clearly the better team," Brendan Rodgers countered, offering some light fiction of his own. "It was only when we switched off for the last five minutes that they had an attempt on goal."

Gerrard began in an advanced position in Liverpool's front three, was booed as he took the field, cheered ironically when he passed straight into touch early in the first half, and booed at the end. Everton fans do not really hate him; they will just be glad to see the back of him.

It was a Gerrard free-kick that brought the first save of the game from Joel Robles, though the home side created the best opportunity of the opening quarter when James McCarthy broke up a Liverpool attack and fed Seamus Coleman, whose cross found Steven Naismith at the far post in more space than he possibly realised and a poor first touch cost him the chance.

Everton were beginning to wear Liverpool down by the mid-point of the first half, not creating a great deal but using their three defensive midfielders to stifle and keep their opponents pressed back. Liverpool have players who can break quickly on the counter, however, and it was a new addition to their ranks, Jordon Ibe, who almost broke the deadlock with a terrific shot from the edge of the area that struck a post. Just recalled from a loan spell at Derby, the 19-year-old runs with the ball in a manner similar to Raheem Sterling, or at least how Sterling usually runs. Here neither Sterling nor Philippe Coutinho had much to offer, as if their Cup exertions at Bolton in midweek had drained them.

By half-time the game had settled into a sedate pattern, with both teams cautious and unadventurous. This fixture last season produced six goals, shared equally, but this was nothing like as open or attacking and there was little in the way of clear-cut chances. While Liverpool at least could claim a couple of attempts on goal from distance, Everton had barely tested Simon Mignolet by the interval. That almost changed at the start of the second half when the goalkeeper had to scramble to cover a Kevin Mirallas free-kick, though the ball was always going narrowly wide. With Coutinho feeding Sterling to bring a save from Robles at the other end, the contest showed signs of warming up a little in the second period, and Gerrard would have been on target with an ambitious overhead kick had Naismith not got his head in the way.

Rodgers sent on Daniel Sturridge with just over half an hour to go, shortly before Martinez introduced Aaron Lennon to see if the Tottenham loanee could add some pace and penetration. What the home side really needed was a way of bringing Romelu Lukaku more effectively into the game, but Ross Barkley, supposedly Everton's most creative player, remained on the bench. Lukaku was a peripheral figure for much of the game, his frustration at a lack of involvement leading to him being repeatedly pulled up for offside. That in turn led to frustration on the terraces, because a pounds 28m striker should not be regularly falling foul of the offside flag.

Mignolet left his line smartly to cut off Lukaku when the striker did manage to stay onside midway through the second half, shortly after Alberto Moreno had missed two half chances at the other end. The first came to his wrong foot after lbe had done well to find him in the box, the second was a shooting opportunity from further out that he blazed high into the Park End. Jordan Henderson, Naismith and Muhamed Besic were all booked when the obligatory fracas broke out with 12 minutes left, raising the temperature slightly but not the overall quality.

Finally, with only five minutes remaining, Martinez sent on Barkley. Barkley's very first pass was a gem, inviting a shot from Coleman that Mignolet actually had to save. His second was pretty good too, sending Lennon to the byline for a cross the winger put slightly too close to Mignolet, who gathered it gratefully.

For Everton it was a case of the best being saved until last, though by the grand standards this fixture has set over the years, the best of a mediocre meeting was nothing to write home about.

EVERTON Robles; Coleman, Stones, Jagielka, Oviedo■; McCarthy■, Barry, Besic■ (Alcaraz 86); Mirallas (Lennon 60), Naismith■ (Barkley 85), Lukaku

 $Subs\ not\ used\ Griffiths,\ Gibson,\ Kone,\ Browning$

LIVERPOOL Mignolet; Can, Skrtel, Sakho; Ibe, Henderson■, Lucas (Allen 16), Moreno; Gerrard, Sterling (Lambert 82), Coutinho (Sturridge 56)

Subs not used Ward, Johnson, Lovren, Markovic

Goodison Park 39,621

Game rating 6/10 Referee Anthony Taylor

Date: 2 February 2015
Opposition: Everton
Competition: League

Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
Echo	Observer	Times	Telegraph
ввс	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror

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B|B|C

Everton and Liverpool played out a grim spectacle as the 224th Merseyside derby ended in a goalless draw at Goodison Park.

The game had been billed as Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard's farewell to this Premier League fixture - but apart from one second-half bicycle kick that was deflected over the top, the 34-year-old struggled as much as anyone else in his 33rd derby to lift this game out of mediocrity.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers was almost rewarded for the bold decision to give teenager Jordon Ibe only his second league start when he hit the post with a thunderous first-half effort.

Everton, meanwhile, only produced a serious threat when Ross Barkley was given a five-minute cameo, setting up an opportunity for Seamus Coleman which brought a fine late save from Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet.

Rodgers and his Everton counterpart Roberto Martinez are renowned for their power of positive thinking, but it was only in a defensive sense they will get satisfaction here.

Everton subdued Raheem Sterling and Philippe Coutinho to record a third successive clean sheet, with John Stones outstanding, while Liverpool extended their recent run to only one defeat in 14 games in all competitions.

Daniel Sturridge got another 35 minutes in the tank - but this was a far cry from the 3-3 classic Everton and Liverpool played out here at Goodison Park last season, with the Toffees now having gone 10 derbies without a win.

Everton lost the influence of Leighton Baines through injury while Rodgers produced a surprise selection by starting with youngster lbe, who was recalled to Liverpool last month after an impressive loan spell at Derby County.

And in a first half high on endeavour but short on quality, Rodgers' move almost paid the perfect dividend when Ibe ended a surging run on the right with a powerful rising drive that struck the woodwork with Joel Robles beaten. Rodgers praises 'big talent' Jordan Ibe

Liverpool were forced into a reshuffle when reliable midfield anchor Lucas limped off to be replaced by Joe Allen but this was a game marked by a lack of end product from both sides.

Sterling had been well marshalled by Everton's own England youngster Stones but he almost broke through just after the break, only for Robles to block at his near nost

Gerrard was looking for that moment of inspiration to mark his last league derby and he almost found it was an athletic bicycle kick which was deflected just over the bar off by Steven Naismith.

As the deadlock continued, both managers made changes, with Sturridge replacing Coutinho and Aaron Lennon making his Everton debut following a loan move from Spurs by coming on for Kevin Mirallas.

Martinez attempted to solve Everton's lack of threat by introducing Barkley with five minutes left and he almost produced the desired result with a powerful run and pass that released Coleman, whose angled shot gave Mignolet his first meaningful action of the game.

There was to be no dramatic late twist - and in truth this game was so ordinary it did not deserve one.

Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent	
Echo	Observer	Times	Telegraph	
ввс	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror	

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B B C

Full time Match ends, Everton 0, Liverpool 0.

90:00+3:04Full time Second Half ends, Everton 0, Liverpool 0.

90:00+1:39 Foul by Rickie Lambert (Liverpool.

90:00+1:39 Phil Jagielka (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.

87:17 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.

86:11 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

86:07 Attempt saved. Seamus Coleman (Everton right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Ross Barkley with a through hall.

85:11Substitution, Everton. Antolin Alcaraz replaces Muhamed Besic.

85:00Substitution, Everton. Ross Barkley replaces Steven Naismith.

83:48 Attempt saved. Rickie Lambert (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.

82:51 Attempt blocked. Rickie Lambert (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.

81:52Substitution, Liverpool. Rickie Lambert replaces Raheem Sterling.

81:29 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Gareth Barry.

79:50 Foul by Jordon Ibe (Liverpool.

79:50 Bryan Oviedo (Everton wins a free kick on the left wing.

78:43Booking Muhamed Besic (Everton is shown the yellow card.

 $78:13 Booking \ Steven \ Naismith \ (Everton \ is \ shown \ the \ yellow \ card.$

78:01Booking Jordan Henderson (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

76:35 Attempt missed. Aaron Lennon (Everton right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right following a corner.

75:56 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Jordan Henderson.

75:14 Offside, Everton. Gareth Barry tries a through ball, but Romelu Lukaku is caught offside.

73:23 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

73:23 Foul by Romelu Lukaku (Everton.

72:54 Offside, Liverpool. Steven Gerrard tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside

71:58Booking Bryan Oviedo (Everton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

71:54 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

71:54 Foul by Bryan Oviedo (Everton.

70:04 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left.

69:47 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

66:42 Offside, Everton. Seamus Coleman tries a through ball, but Romelu Lukaku is caught offside.

64:35 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.

64:35 Steven Naismith (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.

 $60:\!36$ Offside, Everton. Bryan Oviedo tries a through ball, but Romelu Lukaku is caught offside.

59:02Substitution, Everton. Aaron Lennon replaces Kevin Mirallas because of an injury.

58:35 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

58:35 Foul by Romelu Lukaku (Everton.

55:14Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Philippe Coutinho.

53:42 Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

53:00 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steven Naismith.

52:58 Attempt blocked. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Mamadou Sakho.

52:30 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Joel Robles.

52:26 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.

51:25 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

49:16 Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Steven Gerrard is caught offside.

48:18 Attempt missed. Kevin Mirallas (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left from a direct free kick.

47:31 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.

47:31 Steven Naismith (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.

45:00 Second Half begins Everton 0, Liverpool 0.

45:00+2:27Half time First Half ends, Everton 0, Liverpool 0.

45:00+0:24 Delay over. They are ready to continue

44:40 Delay in match Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool because of an injury.

41:53 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Muhamed Besic

39:01 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

39:01 Foul by Bryan Oviedo (Everton.

37:29 Offside, Everton. Gareth Barry tries a through ball, but Romelu Lukaku is caught offside.

36:29Booking James McCarthy (Everton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

36:26 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

36:26 Foul by James McCarthy (Everton.

 $35:11\ Attempt saved.\ Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner.\ Assisted by Alberto Moreno.$

32:55 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

27:15 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.

27:15 Gareth Barry (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.

26:03 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool hits the left post with a right footed shot from outside the box. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

24:04 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

22:44 Delay in match Steven Naismith (Everton because of an injury.

19:57 Attempt blocked. Steven Naismith (Everton right footed shot from outside the box

is blocked. Assisted by Romelu Lukaku.

18:53 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.

18:53 Phil Jagielka (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.

18:22 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

18:22 Foul by Muhamed Besic (Everton.

18:08 Attempt missed. John Stones (Everton header from the centre of the box misses

to the left. Assisted by Kevin Mirallas with a cross following a corner.

17:33 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Joe Allen.

16:28 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Joel Robles.

16:26 Attempt saved. Jordon lbe (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom right corner.

16:24 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

15:38 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

15:38 Foul by Steven Naismith (Everton.

15:31Substitution, Liverpool. Joe Allen replaces Lucas Leiva because of an injury.

14:23 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

14:23 Delay over. They are ready to continue. 14:02 Delay in match Lucas Leiva (Liverpool because of an injury.

10:10 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

10:10 Foul by Kevin Mirallas (Everton.

9:23 Corner, Liverpool, Conceded by Joel Robles.

9:20 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner.

8:18 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

8:18 Foul by Gareth Barry (Everton.

7:26 Attempt missed. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.

6:09 Offside, Everton. Steven Naismith tries a through ball, but Kevin Mirallas is caught

5:27 Attempt missed. Seamus Coleman (Everton right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left.

2:07 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

2:07 Foul by Steven Naismith (Everton.

1:50 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

0:39 Foul by James McCarthy (Everton.

0:39 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

0:12 Steven Naismith (Everton wins a free kick on the right wing. 0:12 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.

0:00 First Half begins.

0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up