

Date: 16 May 2015
 Opposition: Crystal Palace
 Competition: League

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16 May 2015

THE TIMES

Liverpool in urgent need of new leader among men

Liverpool Lallana 26 1
 Crystal Palace Puncheon 43, Zaha 60, Murray 90 3
 Referee J Moss Attendance 44,673

Cutting humour is a long-established feature of the Kop's repertoire. On Saturday, Steven Gerrard was on the receiving end when a chant of "What the f***** hell was that?" erupted after he skied a free kick, sending the ball into the heart of the stand. If that was good-natured, the next bout of mocking was not. The laughter that greeted Gerrard being asked whether Liverpool would flourish in his absence should send shockwaves through a club whose fans are rapidly losing faith.

A second 3-1 defeat by Crystal Palace of a campaign that has screamed mediocrity almost from start to finish ensured the Liverpool supporters were in no mood to match Gerrard's diplomatic response to that question. Not since "Hodgson for England" was sung in irony has an Anfield crowd treated its own with such disdain. Had the club's principal owners, John W. Henry and Tom Werner, been present they might have got the message that all is not well but they had not seen Gerrard's final game at Anfield as a good enough reason to attend, choosing to stay in the United States. The pair continue to watch the team they own on television but it is only by being at the stadium that they would be able to understand the full extent of the disconnect between supporters and team. The basic qualities that have been expected of a Liverpool team for the past half a century -- tenacity, passion, physical and mental toughness -- are lacking far too often, as they were again in their last home game of the season, for an affinity to develop between those who pay and those who play.

Gerrard is the obvious exception but after Liverpool visit Stoke City on Sunday, their captain will head off into the sunset and what he leaves behind inspires little confidence of better days ahead. The only thing that can be said with any certainty at this stage is that once Gerrard has departed, the scrutiny on those who remain will only increase. The ambition and aptitude of Liverpool's owners will be put to the test, as well as the ability of Brendan Rodgers to draw character out of a group of players that has so far proven resistant to their manager's calls for new leaders to emerge. For some, harsh verdicts are already being delivered as Jordan Henderson discovered when he was disparaged as "a s*** Steven Gerrard" by the Palace fans. Henderson, though, is one of the few Liverpool players willing to take responsibility, not only for himself but also for others, and while it is impossible to make comparisons with Gerrard that flatter him, he is likely to take over as captain simply because no one else has the necessary character to fulfil the role. Having lost Luis Suarez, Jamie Carragher, Pepe Reina, Daniel Agger and Dirk Kuyt in the space of three years, with Gerrard soon to join them, Liverpool are in the midst of a leadership crisis.

"Stevie will be a huge loss and it's up to us as a team to step up to that plate and take responsibility," Henderson said with the kind of optimism that will be needed by Liverpool in the coming months. "Whenever I have been captain when he's not been there, I have tried to lead by example and whoever is the captain will do so next season." Henderson, like everyone else, knows there are few candidates other than himself as Liverpool's immature squad struggles to cope with the expectations placed on them. In the past two months, with a place in the Premier League top four up for grabs, Liverpool have defeated only Newcastle United and Queens Park Rangers. An inability to cope under pressure, as demonstrated in defeats against Manchester United, Arsenal and Aston Villa in the FA Cup semi-final, has cost them any chance of qualifying for next season's Champions League. Little wonder the natives are growing increasingly restless.

"I can understand the supporters' frustration," Rodgers said. "You think of the journey they were on last year, the quality of the football in the game they were watching. That for parts of this season hasn't been there and as supporters you turn up wanting to see your team win and win well. So for us it's a big challenge. From the manager's perspective there's that sense of reality in what we've lost but obviously the supporters want to see the team improving, and that's our job in the summer to find the players who can make a difference for us."

The problem with that particular scenario is that Liverpool failed in that task last summer. They managed to find players who went on to make a difference but not in a positive fashion. After one of them, Adam Lallana, put Liverpool ahead, what followed should prompt an urgent rethink by anyone who believes the club's present strategy will cure their ills as Palace swept them aside with contemptuous ease. After Jason Puncheon equalised from a free kick, Rodgers might have had justifiable complaints about the legitimacy of goals from Wilfried Zaha and Glenn Murray, both substitutes, but the Liverpool manager knew the overall outcome was a fair one. So poor had his team been that any pre-match plans to substitute Gerrard to allow him to bask in the adoration of the fans had to be shelved. There will be life for Liverpool after Gerrard but the early indications of how it will pan out are anything but positive.

Liverpool (3-4-2-1): S Mignolet 6 -- E Can 5, M Skrtel 5, D Lovren 5 -- J Ibe 5 (sub: R Lambert, 65 5), S Gerrard 6, J Henderson 5, A Moreno 5 (sub: J Sinclair, 87) -- A Lallana 6 (sub: L Leiva, 65 5), P Coutinho 6 -- R Sterling 5. Substitutes not used: D Ward, G Johnson, K Toure, J Allen. Booked: Can, Coutinho.

Crystal Palace (4-4-2): W Hennessey 6 -- J Ward 6, M Kelly 7, S Dann 7, P Souare 6 -- J Puncheon 8, J McArthur 6, J Ledley 6, C Lee 6 (sub: W Zaha, 59 7) -- Y Bolasie 9 (sub: G Murray, 83), M Chamakh 7 (sub: J Mutch, 76). Substitutes not used: J Speroni, F Campbell, M Jedinak, D Delaney. Booked: Ward, McArthur, Mutch.

the guardian

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The Mail

Kop is dreading life after Stevie

LIVERPOOL 1

CPALACE 3

STEVEN GERRARD was holding back the tears, reflecting on a day of high emotion, when he was invited to look into the future.

'Are you optimistic the club is in the right place and we can move on without you?' Liverpool's pitch announcer asked the departing captain.

Before Gerrard could articulate his thoughts, though, the response from The Kop was significant. Some laughed, others provided a smattering of derision. While they remained respectful when Gerrard offered his response, the fans' cynical reply to the initial query was impossible to ignore.

He, like could not have foreseen Gerrard often acted as a safety blanket for fans during his Anfield career. He, like Jamie Carragher, would always find the right words at the right moments but, more than anything, his actions would speak loudest. With him in the team, The Kop felt nothing was beyond them.

NEWS dailymail.

Who is capable of doing that now? Noone judging by the reaction. Liverpool's wretched season was handed a final sorry footnote when they were reduced to dust by an athletic, aggressive Crystal Palace side and the catcalls made clear the squad Gerrard leaves has work to do.

Manager Brendan Rodgers said: 'I can understand the frustration when you think of the journey we were on last year. The quality of the football and the game they were watching has not been there this season.'

'As a supporter you want to turn up and see the team win -- and win well. At times that has not been the case. It is a big challenge for us as the supporters want to see the team improving.'

'That's our job this summer: to replace and find players who will make a difference. We have to pick the right players with good character. If we can throw in some quality, that is important.' None of those qualities Rodgers mentioned were evident against Palace. Gerrard's farewell may have started brightly, when Adam Lallana surged on to Martin Kelly's errant pass and rifled in from 16 yards, but the fairytale farewell never looked like materialising.

With Yannick Bolasie and Jason Puncheon eviscerating Liverpool's defence with their rapid surges, Rodgers' side were well beaten and no matter how many alterations the manager made to his formation -- or which personnel he switched -- the outcome was the same.

Only The Kop turning the occasion into a celebration of Gerrard's achievements prevented a deluge of disapproval falling on Rodgers and his squad at the final whistle, the frustrations of squandering a top-four spot and failings at key times in cup competitions being put to one side. They will not be so forgiving next year if displays like this continue.

SUPER STAT: Alan Pardew was in high spirits and no wonder. This was his first win at Anfield in eight attempts as a manager. LIVERPOOL (3-4-2-1): Mignolet 7; Can 6, Skrtel 5.5, Lovren 5; Ibe 5 (Lucas 65min, 5) Gerrard 6.5, Henderson 6, Moreno 5 (Sinclair 87); Coutinho 6.5, Lallana 7 (Lambert 65, 5.5); Sterling 5.5.

Subs not used: Ward, Toure, Allen, Johnson. Booked: Can, Coutinho, Lucas.

Scorer: Lallana 26.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-3-3): Hennessey 6.5; Kelly 6.5, Dann 6, Ward 6.5, Souare 6.5; Lee 6.5 (Zaha 59, 7), McArthur 7, Ledley 7; Bolaise 9 (Murray 83), Chamakh 7.5 (Mutch 76), Puncheon 8. Subs not used: Speroni, Jedinak, Delaney, Campbell.

Scorers: Puncheon 43, Zaha 60, Murray 90. Man of the match: Yannick Bolasie.

Referee: Jonathan Moss 6.5.

The Daily Telegraph

Gerrard's flat finale brings angst for Kop

Liverpool 1

Lallana 26 Att: 44,673

Crystal Palace 3

Puncheon 43, Zaha 60, Murray 90

It was rather like a farewell party where the band had not turned up, the beer had run out after 15 minutes, and the guests had no option but to generate their own entertainment.

The poignancy and sincerity of the send-off Steven Gerrard was granted by Liverpool supporters was worthy of the occasion, but as the captain made his last, weary exit through the early evening drift of Anfield, the adoration surrendered to fear.

The Kop was witnessing more than the departure of a formidable talent. With Gerrard gone, Liverpool find themselves in urgent need of another spiritual leader. The club's ability to ease out one legend while the next waited patiently on the touchline was once habitual.

From Bill Shankly and the seamless transition to Bob Paisley; Kevin Keegan moving on only to have Kenny Dalglish claim his shirt; Ian Rush saying arrivederci as John Aldridge said 'all right', armed with the same moustache and eye for goal.

Even during the last 25 years without a title, as the greats left and the trend of world-class managerial appointments was compromised, there was still always a Robbie Fowler, a Michael Owen or Luis Suarez to keep the hope industry in business.

Saturday felt different - depressingly and worryingly different. There is no obvious recovery position. The insipid performance against Crystal Palace was emblematic of a deteriorating team who face further decline unless endemic failures in transfer strategy over the past five summers (some might argue 25 years) are reversed within the space of five weeks.

These are dangerous times at Anfield. Usually a season ends with a demand for the club to buy one or two players to mount a title challenge, or at least push for the top four. Now they have not only lost the most influential player of his generation, but a source of reassurance. If Liverpool's recruitment malfunctions again this summer the downward spiral will glue the club below the top four.

Rather than sending out season ticket renewal forms a month before the end of a campaign - an arrogant and presumptuous policy change of the past couple of years - they will be finding more are unwilling to commit so much with the promise of so little. Not good when you need to fill a new Main Stand by luring corporate clients from Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United. It looks increasingly as though Liverpool's natural modern rivals are Tottenham.

The lack of faith in those entrusted to repair the damage culminated in The Kop laughing when Gerrard was asked at pitchside, moments after this defeat, if he thought he was leaving the club in a healthy position.

Brendan Rodgers is a visible target of blame for this, of course, but some of the criticism of him is discredited by a combination of fingers-in-ears witlessness and social media screeching, presuming a change of manager will alter anything in the broader decision-making process.

Rodgers showed last year that if you sprinkle enough gold dust on an otherwise unspectacular group of players he is capable of making the whole greater than the sum of its parts. He has probably got a year left to repeat the trick and fix the damage of this season, but getting rid of him now would do nothing more than lead to another three-year plan under someone else. Too many now see replacing a manager as akin to getting a new car, something to be changed because you want what is in fashion.

In successive seasons Rodgers has lost Jamie Carragher, Luis Suarez (with the chronically injured Daniel Sturridge) and now Gerrard. That is not just the heart and soul of the side but its spine. You think Jurgen Klopp would do better after losing that array of talent? Fine, but you have not paid much attention to the Bundesliga since Bayern Munich pillaged the Borussia Dortmund squad.

What is inexcusable is the lack of foresight preparing for these inevitable exits, those signed as replacements proving woefully inadequate thus far. The failure to use effectively the PS75million from Suarez's sale is an act of corporate vandalism. Never mind Gerrard, it is hard to offer a convincing argument that those currently in control of the transfer budget will replace reserve goalkeeper Brad Jones adequately, and it seems their answer to the centre-half deficiencies so evident on Saturday is to offer Kolo Toure a one-year contract extension.

We should not overlook Palace's performance, which was exceptionally good, ensuring the hangover preceded the leaving speech.

Alan Pardew continues to expose the folly of those who downgraded him at Newcastle United, or anyone who thinks Neil Warnock should be let loose anywhere near a Premier League club.

No sooner had Glenn Murray deservedly secured the points with his late penalty (on the rebound), the chants honouring Gerrard overwhelmed the sense of embarrassment at the home performance. The fitting finale followed the game. On the pitch, there is a realisation that Gerrard's capacity to save Liverpool from such defeats has waned. Off it, only the most optimistic believe he is engaged in his last Anfield rescue act. If those left to protect the club's status are not up to the job, Gerrard's return in 18 months will see him cast in the familiar role of saviour.

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Gerrard still believes but Liverpool must start to buy like a big club again

The only jarring note when Steven Gerrard took the microphone at Anfield and addressed the people that loved him most was when he expressed confidence in Liverpool's future.

Off the pitch, he might be right. The biggest criticism you can lay against Liverpool in that regard is that Anfield looked much the same when Gerrard played his first game in 1998 as when he retired.

Then, Liverpool were, in terms of turnover, the 10th biggest club in the world, the fourth biggest in England.

They made more money than Arsenal and slightly less than Barcelona and Chelsea. Manchester City, then in the third tier of English football, featured not at all.

When Gerrard drove away from Anfield for the last time as a Liverpool player, he would see the skeleton of the new Main Stand rising above him. Until it is completed with its 8,500 extra seats - more than half of which are corporate - Manchester United and Arsenal will continue to make [pounds sterling]3m more from every home game than Liverpool, while Chelsea, whose average gate at Stamford Bridge is lower than Anfield's, earn [pounds sterling]1m more every time they stage a game.

For Liverpool to compete on the pitch will be harder. If manager Brendan Rodgers and his transfer committee have learned one lesson from this season it is that when you sell a galactico, you buy a galactico.

Just as Tottenham squandered the Gareth Bale money on a series of footballers who proved for the most part to be non-entities, so the [pounds sterling]75m earned from the sale of Luis Suarez has gone on footballers who seem ordinary. Several were on display in Liverpool's 3-1 defeat by Crystal Palace, who ended the Gerrard era at Anfield on an uncomfortable note. Dejan Lovren's season could best be described as forgettable and although Adam Lallana opened the scoring against Palace, he has completed a full 90 minutes just seven times.

Lazar Markovic has not started and finished a game since the League Cup semi-final with Chelsea in January. Then there is Mario Balotelli. The lot cost [pounds sterling]93m, with only Emre Can as a real success.

Rodgers has argued that some of these are young players who require the one commodity the game nowadays never seems to have; time. "Modern football now is very harsh and short-term," he said, "but it has shown over the years that the majority of the teams that have that stability come good."

James Milner, a man Rodgers believes is perhaps the most underrated footballer in England, will make the short journey from Manchester to Merseyside to help fill the void Gerrard leaves behind. There will be a new goalkeeper to challenge or replace Simon Mignolet

Jordan Henderson and Jordan Ibe will have new contracts while Raheem Sterling will be held to his, whatever his desires of joining Arsenal. Philippe Coutinho, who at [pounds sterling]8m from Internazionale will probably be the signing of Rodgers' managerial life, has been the player of another nearly season at Liverpool.

When they tour Australia and Malaysia this summer, who will be the players on the advertising hoardings? Gerrard, Suarez and Jamie Carragher, the men who were the face of the club, have gone. Something else is missing; experience, star quality, a knowledge of how to win.

"Listen," said Rodgers. "I can understand the supporters' frustration this season when you think of the journey we were on last year. The quality of the football has not been there this season."

"As a fan, you want to turn up and see the team win and win well, and at times it has not been the case. That is our job in the summer - to replace and find the players who will make the difference."

At least Gerrard's final season will not be quite as painful as his first that finished with Liverpool in seventh place and Manchester United winning the treble.

Liverpool 1

Crystal Palace 3

Goals: Liverpool Lallana 26. Crystal Palace Puncheon 43, Zaha 60, Murray 90.



GONE OF FA KIND; Stevie G's emotional farewell nearly turned into a wake as fans fear for the future

LIVERPOOL 1

Lallana 26

CRYSTAL PALACE 3

Puncheon 43, Zaha 60, Murray 90

IN the middle of perhaps the most emotional moment Anfield has ever witnessed, a murmur of discontent - even protest - poured down from the terraces.

And, at that point, we truly understood the sense of loss, the sense of fear and dread, Liverpool's fans feel at the departure of their leader and icon Steven Gerrard.

Even as a haunting song in his honour rang around the famous old stadium, he was asked if he believes the club can move on without him. Naturally, he was positive it could. The supporters are clearly not so certain.

In the wave of dissent that washed around Anfield, there seemed a lack of faith in the direction of their club, in the make up of a squad that has seen Jamie Carragher, Luis Suarez and now Gerrard leave in the last three seasons... to be replaced only by youthful potential.

Great players leave, it is inevitable. In Liverpool's history, though, there has always been hope in the identity of those remaining. There has always been an iconic player waiting to take up the mantle. This squad seems to lack such a person.

Put it in this context. Who is the global superstar to sell shirts in the Far East, now Gerrard's off? Manchester United, Manchester City and Chelsea have several. But Liverpool? In a commercial context alone, it seems like bad planning at best, financial suicide at worst.

Adam Lallana put the Reds ahead midway through the first half, but Jason Puncheon levelled just before the break.

Wilfried Zaha got the Eagles' beaks in front on the hour - only 23 seconds after coming on as a sub. Glenn Murray wrapped up the points late on, poking the ball past keeper Simon Mignolet after his spot-kick was saved.

The reaction of the fans to the defeat on such a momentous day told its own story. Simply put, they have lost belief this season. They don't see leaders ready to replace the giants who took them so close to the title last term.

In his demeanour after the game, you suspected manager Brendan Rodgers feared the same. Usually so focused and determined - even after abject defeat - here he seemed briefly broken.

Asked about the reaction of the fans, and if the club needs to reconnect and offer them more hope, he admitted: "I can understand the supporters' frustration. From a manager's perspective, there is a sense of reality in what we lost, rightly so."

"The supporters want to see the team improving. That's our job in the summer to replace and find the players who will make the difference. You have to find the solutions to that."

"Losing Gerrard, Suarez, Carragher? It's an incredible lot of experience, game management and quality gone out of the team but it is something we will find I am sure."

His body language said differently and surely Liverpool cannot go on signing players for the future after losing so many big stars.

When you looked at the end-of-season squad parade around Anfield, how many of them deserved to be on that pitch alongside a legend? Sure, plenty of the younger players, they are top-class footballers in the making.

But Mario Balotelli, Jose Enrique, Fabio Borini, let alone the likes of Iago Aspas, Sebastian Coates and Luis Alberto who are stuck out on loan? Add to that at least another five trudging around the stadium who are likely to leave in the summer, and that is a squad bloated by dead wood... even before you address the relative failure so far of new signings like Lazar Markovic, Dejan Lovren, Lallana, Alberto Moreno, Rickie Lambert and Emre Can.

It is a hell of a lot of work for Rodgers in a massive summer. And always within the constraints of a transfer policy that is skewed strongly towards youth.

That much was brought home by this result, which gave Palace the double over Liverpool.

Yes, their second goal was offside and the third simply wasn't a penalty (how the hell did referee Jon Moss get that wrong, how the hell is he refing the FA Cup Final?). But Palace were worthy winners, their pace and strength on the break too much for a shellshocked home defence.

The last word has to go to Gerrard.

It really does seem different, losing him. That groan around the terraces when the question on the future was asked suggesting it is a bleak outlook.

"I'm sure there will be signings," he said, almost soothingly. "And there is unbelievable potential in this squad."

For the sake of the fans who will miss him so much, there will be a prayer he is right.

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No fairytale ending for Steven Gerrard as Reds suffer dismal defeat
 In the end, it was a fairytale script that just wasn't to be.
 Liverpool FC failed to give their skipper a winning send-off as his farewell Anfield appearance ended in a dismal 3-1 defeat to Crystal Palace.
 Although Adam Lallana gave the home side the lead midway through the first half, the visitors were always dangerous in possession.

And after Jason Puncheon equalised with a fine free-kick before the break, goals after the interval from substitutes Wilfried Zaha and Glenn Murray mean Brendan Rodgers' side are still not assured of European qualification with one Premier League game remaining.

This, though, was an evening all about one man, Gerrard saying goodbye to the Anfield crowd for the final time before moving to LA Galaxy in the MLS this summer.

Before the game, Gerrard – joined by his three daughters – entered the pitch to a guard of honour from players and officials from both sides as supporters in the Kop and Lower Centenary Stand held aloft a mosaic stating "Captain" and "S8G". And when the home players emerged after the game for their traditional end-of-season lap of appreciation, they all wore 'Gerrard 8' shirts.

The captain was then presented with an honour from chief executive Ian Ayre and former boss Gerard Houllier, who handed Gerrard his debut back in 1998.

An occasion to remember, it was a display to forget for Rodgers' men.
 Liverpool's home game against Queens Park Rangers a fortnight earlier was preceded by a fly-by from a plane carrying a banner imploring "Rodgers Out Rafa In".

Before the Palace match came another plane with another banner. This time, however, to redress the balance it said "In Rodgers We Trust".

There was always a danger the game would become a sideshow to Gerrard's departure, and it took some time for Liverpool to gain momentum.

The first opening came in the 19 minute, Jordan Henderson racing on to a return pass from Lallana inside the area but hounded out by Scott Dann.

Yannick Bolasie, the man of the match, then saw a shot from range loop wide after deflecting off Martin Skrtel, before Liverpool were gifted the opener on 26 minutes.

A poor square pass from former Red Martin Kelly put Dann in all sorts of trouble, and Lallana nipped in to rob the ball off the Palace centre-back and advance towards goal before finishing well – with the help of a deflection – into the top corner.

It was Lallana's first goal since scoring at Palace in the FA Cup in February.

Palace responded strongly. Dejan Lovren allowed Bolasie to escape down the right flank, and the winger's low cross broke on the edge of the area to Joe Ledley, who fired horribly over.

Bolase then struck an angled drive narrowly over and Simon Mignolet produced an outstanding low stop to keep out a deflected Puncheon shot.

Liverpool had strong claims for a penalty when Raheem Sterling was sent tumbling by Ledley when challenging for a header.

But Palace deserved their equaliser two minutes before the break. Can was booked for a foul on Bolasie on the edge of the area, and Puncheon stepped up to curl a fine free-kick over the wall that left Mignolet standing.

Liverpool began the second half with greater intensity, Henderson unable to capitalise on a great Coutinho pass before Jordon Ibe shot into the side-netting.

After Skrtel survived two strong penalty claims inside seconds of one another, Chung-Yong Lee shot wastefully wide while Coutinho responded with a fierce drive that was too high.

Henderson dragged wide an inviting opening before Palace went ahead on the hour, Bolasie's deflected cross from the right falling into the path of substitute Wilfried Zaha, who scored from six yards with his first touch.

Bolasie struck the crossbar after leaving Alberto Moreno in his wake, with Liverpool rarely threatening an equaliser.

And their fate was sealed in injury time when Lucas Leiva fouled Zaha – replays suggesting the offence took place outside the box – and although Mignolet saved Murray's penalty, the Palace substitute tucked home the rebound.

Gerrard deserved a better Anfield send-off in terms of the performance.

Liverpool, though, certainly did not.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet; Can, Skrtel, Lovren, Moreno (Sinclair 87); Gerrard, Henderson; Ibe (Lambert 65), Coutinho, Lallana (Lucas 65); Sterling. Subs: Ward, Johnson, Toure, Allen, Sinclair. BOOKING: Can (foul).

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-2-3-1): Hennessey; Ward, Kelly, Dann, Souare; McArthur, Ledley; Puncheon, Bolasie (Murray 82), Lee (Zaha 59); Chamakh (Mutch 76). Subs: Speroni, Campbell, Jedinak, Delaney. BOOKINGS: Ward, McArthur and Mutch (all fouls).

REFEREE: Jon Moss.

ATT: 44,673.

London Evening Standard

Reds slip-up on Gerrard's big day as Pardew's party poopers win at Anfield

Departing Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard's final appearance at Anfield ended in disappointment as his side could not give him the send-off the occasion demanded.

The 34-year-old midfielder bade an emotional goodbye to his spiritual home in a 3-1 defeat to Crystal Palace, ahead of his summer move to Los Angeles Galaxy. For the majority of the 44,673 inside the ground the result was not important. But you can guarantee there was one man on the pitch for whom this stung as much as any other defeat.

Adam Lallana's opener was cancelled out by Jason Puncheon's free-kick before substitute Wilfried Zaha scored 23 seconds after coming on as a substitute. Glenn Murray spoiled the Liverpool celebrations of their long-time servant by firing home the rebound after missing an added-time penalty as Palace deservedly left with three points.

Two mosaics - SG8 in the Kop and Captain along the lower tier of the Centenary Stand - and a guard of honour paid tribute to one of the club's greatest players.

However, in the first half there was little evidence of the Gerrard whose name and deeds are writ large in Liverpool's rich history.

It was Jordan Henderson spraying the raking crossfield balls and making driving runs into the area, his midfield colleague restricted to dropping deep and knitting play together with easy lay-offs.

The testimonial feel of the pre-match guard of honour, mosaic and back-slapping was extended into the first 20 minutes with hardly a shot or tackle in anger.

Liverpool's breakthrough, in the 26th minute, came via a helping hand from former Reds academy graduate Martin Kelly, whose backpass to Scott Dann sold his central defensive partner short allowing Lallana to steal possession and fire past Wayne Hennessey.

After that Palace dominated with Yannick Bolasie, who gave Dejan Lovren all kinds of problems on the left side of a reconstituted three-man defence, Joe Ledley and Puncheon all threatening.

It was the preamble to a brilliant equaliser as Puncheon whipped a 43rd-minute free-kick over the wall to leave Simon Mignolet, who had shifted his weight fractionally to his right, motionless.

That was not scripted as part of Gerrard's fond farewell and the question was whether the Liverpool captain, kicking towards an adoring - occasionally imploring - Kop, could do anything about it in the second half.

When the ball dropped invitingly on the edge of the area many expected to see Gerrard charging in to smash home, much like his famous strike against Olympiacos.

Instead it was Henderson, the man expected to at the very least take over the armband from Gerrard next season, who arrived and bundled a shot into the ground and wide.

When the Liverpool captain finally got himself in a position to shoot his effort did not carry the power to beat Hennessey.

The fact he was that far forward at all was out of necessity as Eagles substitute Zaha had put the visitors ahead with his first touch after coming on when he converted a deflected cross from Bolasie, who later hit the crossbar, despite there being a suspicion of offside.

Palace boss Alan Pardew would argue that was some compensation for not getting a penalty earlier for Martin Skrtel's challenge on Lee Chung-Yong, whose protests earned a reprimand from referee Jon Moss.

Lucas Leiva's appearance off the bench drew one or two glances from Gerrard, concerned his swansong may be cut short, but Brendan Rodgers' plan was to move his captain further forward.

That allowed him to at least be in the vicinity of the right areas as almost the whole ground was willing the ball to fall to the home captain for one last hurrah. One 30-yard free-kick and a sliced effort well over from 'Gerrard territory' were as close as he came.

He fought till the end, with one crunching tackle on Pape Soure winning the ball back in a dangerous position, but even his often super-human powers could do little about the penalty award for Lucas's foul on Zaha or prevent Murray firing in the rebound after Simon Mignolet had initially saved.

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Palace hijack script as Anfield says goodbye

It was three o'clock on a Saturday afternoon, which when the young Steven Gerrard was growing up was football's moment of truth. A decent pass from where he lived on Ironside Road in Huyton is an open patch of grass covered with dandelions and buttercups. Nobody was even on it, let alone attempting to kick a football. Down the way, just beyond the hairdressers' amid roads named after battles or generals from the last war - Arnhem, Ardennes, Wavell, Montgomery - was a sign that declared: "No Ball Games."

This was Gerrard's kingdom when it all began. A quarter of an hour's drive away was Gerrard's kingdom at journey's end. He entered it through a guard of honour accompanied by his three young daughters. He left it to a slow, sad chorus of "You'll Never Walk Alone" after an interview in front of the Kop conducted by Jamie Carragher, the man with whom he had shared so many campaigns. He admitted that he had been dreading this moment, that it would kill him to leave Liverpool, but in everything bar the result it was the perfect way to say goodbye.

And if Liverpool lost and if he did not dominate the game, then perhaps it did not matter. Even when Glenn Murray drove in Simon Mignolet's parried penalty save for Crystal Palace's third, they chanted his name. When he sent one shot looping over the bar, the Kop chanted: "What the hell was that?" Gerrard gave them a wave and a smile. He no longer had anything to prove to anyone.

In both the result and his reception, Gerrard's last game at Anfield had been utterly different from his first, which he recalled warming up on the touchline waiting to replace Vegard Heggem in what was a routine 2-0 win over Blackburn in November 1998. "Did they clap me? Did they fuck."

Gerrard Houllier, the man who sent him on for those five minutes, was on the pitch when he came off it. Houllier always disliked hosannas before kick-off, claiming they invariably affected performances; he remembered a celebration of Bob Paisley's life followed by a dreadful performance against Roma. This, Palace's first win at Anfield in 21 years, was as bad.

Liverpool had only taken the lead through an error, when Martin Kelly, playing as centre-half rather than full-back where he had begun his career at Liverpool, misplaced a pass that went behind instead of in front of Scott Dann.

Adam Lallana, enjoying one of his best moments of what has been a forgettable first season on Merseyside, pounced on the mistake, drove through the gap, and crashed the ball past Palace keeper Wayne Hennessey. Since his transfer from Southampton, Lallana has started and completed seven games.

Crystal Palace had been the better team before they went behind and, led by Jason Puncheon, they continued to press. There was a shot that Mignolet pushed away at full stretch and then he brought Palace level with the kind of free-kick the Kop expected from Gerrard, the kind that leaves a goalkeeper motionless.

After the interval, Brendan Rodgers switched to four, rather than three, at the back. Liverpool looked better for the change but should have conceded a penalty when Martin Skrtel brought down Lee Chung-Yong. Lee was promptly replaced by Wilfried Zaha, who scored with his first touch while Yannick Bolasie slammed a shot against the crossbar. Liverpool were a mess.

In contrast to everything that had gone before, Gerrard had been anonymous. It is worth remembering that the final Test innings of Jack Hobbs, Don Bradman, Geoff Boycott and Graham Gooch add up to 23. It is one of the beauties of sport that it cannot be choreographed.

There was a shot that almost beat Hennessey at the far post but as the game wore on, Gerrard faded more into the background, ready to become part of Liverpool's past, no longer their captain but a memory, a banner on the Kop. Liverpool: (3-4-3) Mignolet; Can, Skrtel, Lovren; Lallana (Lucas, 65), Henderson, Gerrard, Moreno (Sinclair, 87); Ibe (Lambert, 65), Sterling, Coutinho.

Crystal Palace: (4-4-2) Hennessey; Ward, Kelly, Dann, Souare; Puncheon, McArthur, Ledley, Lee (Zaha, 59); Bolasie (Murray, 83), Chamakh (Mutch, 76).

Referee: Jon Moss

Man of the match: Puncheon (Crystal Palace)

Match rating: 7/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Palace gatecrash Gerrard's farewell party

Liverpool 1

Lallana 26

Crystal Palace 3

Puncheon 43, Zaha 60, Murray 90 Att: 44,673

It has been the most glorious of careers but a cruel, cruel final 12 months for Steven Gerrard, whose last appearance at Anfield ended in defeat. That Crystal Palace were deserved victors was not in dispute but even the flintiest of hearts will have felt a little for Gerrard.

But then the way in which his Liverpool career has ended has inevitably been tinged with sadness with a title challenge that collapsed so horribly last season, that slip against Chelsea, the comeback mounted by Palace last spring at Selhurst

Park, a traumatic World Cup and then a sense of being unwanted, less important this year. It was not meant to end like this. It was not meant to end, at Anfield at least, with a frustrating loss but perhaps also there was an aptness of Gerrard desperately trying to chase the game, save his team one last time.

But it just would not happen. The danger was to ease into the air of a testimonial and, to an extent, it was unavoidable, to begin with, not least because the stakes had dwindled so much for Liverpool. Champions League qualification had gone. A season had petered out into transition. But this was the greatest transition of all. Just one player but such has been his importance to the club, the city, not just the team.

Important to the fabric of Liverpool.

What kind of game would unfold on this final Anfield appearance? For Palace, also, the stakes had been diminished but only by the assured way in which manager Alan Pardew had guided them away from the threat of relegation even if they came into this encounter on a slide of four consecutive defeats.

Would they succumb to what most must have felt was inevitable also: a victory for Liverpool? Certainly there was an early snap to the Liverpool forward line with Philippe Coutinho working his way into the penalty area only for his shot to be blocked. But it did not last. It was almost a relief to see Jason Puncheon wrestle Gerrard to the turf, conceding a free-kick. It meant the end of too much ceremony. Joel Ward was warned for sliding in on Alberto Moreno and Joe Ledley squared up to Adam Lallana and a game began. Liverpool were almost undone by a clever back-heel from Puncheon that released Ward, whose cross was just too far in front of Marouane Chamakh. Yannick Bolasie then ran across the face of goal for his shot to be deflected off Martin Skrtel. It bounced wide.

Liverpool needed a break - and they received it. Martin Kelly, the former Liverpool defender, passed the ball infield, loosely, it ran away from Scott Dann. In swept Lallana as Dann tried to recover and he charged forward to drive the ball back across Wayne Hennessey into the net.

Almost immediately Palace should have struck back as Bolasie proved too strong for Dejan Lovren and bore down on goal with his cross only cleared, by Emre Can, to the onrushing Ledley who fired over.

Then it was the otherwise impressive Bolasie who spurned an opportunity as he skied his shot from another swift counterattack.

Once more Palace poured forward with a low shot by Puncheon skimming off Skrtel only for Simon Mignolet to adjust superbly and save, one-handed.

That was not the end of it. A corner was played out for James McArthur to head back goalwards and it dropped to Chung-Yong Lee who volleyed over.

That was four clear-chances, in quick succession, that had not been taken by the visitors with Bolasie once more proving too quick, too direct for Can, who was forced into hauling him down on the edge of the area.

This time Liverpool were punished as Puncheon curled his free-kick back across Mignolet to equalise. The goalkeeper did not move. Was he at fault? However, it did not help that Moreno had ducked in the Liverpool defensive wall.

It was a deserved equaliser and the third goal Puncheon has scored direct from a free-kick this season. Liverpool were desperately struggling to contain Bolasie, who fashioned another opportunity which Puncheon flashed wide. Earlier the ball had bounced off Ledley when he was given a sight of goal.

The home side were lacking in drive and direction but then Jordan Henderson was picked out in the area only to mis-hit his shot which, nevertheless, looped up to Raheem Sterling, who drove into the side-netting.

Palace demanded a penalty, first for handball when a Bolasie shot deflected up and struck Skrtel, and then when the defender challenged Lee. Both appeals were waved away. Coutinho drove another over but it remained Palace who provided the greater threat with Lee miscuing.

Gerrard was playing far too deep. Too many Liverpool players were drifting - Sterling, Jordan Ibe, Lallana - and it was a surprise that Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, did not make a switch and push his captain further forward. Liverpool paid the price. Palace took the lead. Again Bolasie was involved as he hurtled in from the right with his low cross bouncing off Skrtel to substitute Wilfried Zaha, who appeared offside - to sidefoot home with his first touch.

Finally Gerrard had a shot on goal but his side-footed effort lacked power. Hennessey held easily. It signalled, with substitutions also, Gerrard pushing forward but the by now outstanding Bolasie almost punished them again as he ran at the backtracking defenders, cut inside and struck a fierce shot which cannoned off the top of the crossbar. That would have been game over.

Instead Liverpool retained hope. A free-kick was won. It was in Gerrard territory but he curled it over. Then he blasted another effort high into the Kop.

It was Palace who struck again. Zaha weaved into the area and was tripped by a despairing Lucas. Glenn Murray's low spot kick was saved by Mignolet diving to his right but the substitute tucked in the rebound. It was over.

Date: 16 May 2015
 Opposition: Crystal Palace
 Competition: League

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16 May 2015



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Gerrard's script is torn up by Palace

He finished playing second striker, shooting towards the Kop, pursuing an equaliser versus Crystal Palace. He has chased greater quests but this was his last one here at Anfield and he gave it everything.

He won tackles, ate up yards, chased causes, strained old legs. Yet nothing not free kicks, not long shots, not sidefoots would go in. He shanked one effort high over the bar and the Kop asked "what the f***** hell was that?" Gerrard, appreciating the cheek, gave the thumbs up. Last night he was no longer superman, merely one of them. And maybe that was fitting. Gerrard's last appearance at Anfield was not his best game, probably not even one in his top 600 for Liverpool, and in a strange way he seemed closer to the supporters because of it. All he had left was his passion. That's all supporters ever have.

The details were not those scripted. After Adam Lallana put Liverpool ahead, Crystal Palace rather blighted their day with sharp counterattacking, great ambition, and goals from Jason Puncheon, Wilfried Zaha and Glenn Murray. The last was on the rebound after Simon Mignolet saved Murray's penalty - Martin Skrtel having tripped Zaha just inside the area. As Murray lined up the spot kick, home fans joked: "Let Gerrard take it!" He came out, through a guard of honour that included both sets of players and coaching staffs, plus the officials, to mosaics, banners, a standing ovation. His three daughters were with him. They remained on the pitch throughout the teams lining up then he led them to the centre circle, for photos.

Fans sang You'll Never Walk Alone, loudly as on a European night. They followed with his song, the "Steve Gerrard" song, about the player "big and hard" who can "pass it for 40 yards." He had wanted to "keep it together" and being with the girls, from that point of view, was a good thing. No time for tears when there was little Lourdes, three, his youngest, to kneel down and play peekaboo with.

As the game began, and there was Gerrard, sitting responsibly at the base of midfield, playing it safe and square, minds must have wandered to the No8 in younger shape, driving through the opposition, cleaving them with through-balls, quelling them with pneumatic drill tackles. The fans applauded Gerrard's touches; even the several, early on, that were heavy and snatched, and suggestive that the occasion weighed on him.

Perhaps it also weighed on Liverpool. They started slowly. Palace were no stooges. Pardew's team made the early running. They looked the likelier scorers and, in the 23rd minute, when Yannick Bolasie cut in from the left and clubbed a shot powerfully, Skrtel's defensive header almost ricocheted past Mignolet. Philippe Coutinho, panicked, hashed his attempt to clear the resulting corner. A second ball came into the box but there was Gerrard to clear it.

Girded, Liverpool tried asserting themselves, and immediately scored. Raheem Sterling pressured Joel Ward into a rushed pass to Kelly then shuttling over to closed down the centre-back, whose square ball put Dann in trouble. Lallana seized it from him and lofted a lovely finish over Wayne Hennessey.

Palace were not discouraged and soon had Liverpool clinging to their lead. Among those slated to replace Gerrard in midfield is Emre Can and maybe, for the German, the reversion from central defender can't come soon enough. Having shone, initially, as one of the back line when Brendan Rodgers went to three at the back, he has struggled in recent games and when Bolasie whisked the ball past him at pace, he committed a clumsy foul in an inviting position for the opposition. Can was booked and Liverpool were punished. With Dann bobbing up and down in wall before ducking, Mignolet was deceived. Puncheon curled a shot over where his captain had stood, into the corner of Mignolet's net.

Bolasie stretched Liverpool wide, playing on that easy target, Alberto Moreno, and crossed. A touch off Skrtel was judged to have kept Zaha outside that looked dubious and Zaha sidefooted in, with his first touch, moments after coming on as a sub. Now it was about pride and, typically, of the home players Gerrard showed the most of that - almost beating Hennessey with a shot from 20 yards. Rodgers sent on Lucas to release Gerrard into a free role and suddenly he was in and around the box, trying to play off another substitute, Rickie Lambert.

He made an opening. Taking Coutinho's pass he slid a neat pass through to Can, who centred dangerously, but Ledley cleared. They sang it again, the "Steve Gerrard" song; it's accurate but blunt and contains a swear word from which Gerrard seemed to shield Lourdes' ears. A song of our coarsened age. But Gerrard belongs to an older time, of one-club men, of local players living out their dreams with their local team, of unmanufactured yet utterly gifted footballers.

Perhaps the Kop appreciated this. They switched and the final moments, with Kenny Dalglish in the stands applauding, were played to the strains of a more innocent ditty: "Steven Gerrard is our captain" It was fitting. For Gerrard belongs to an age of sweeter songs, like Fields of Anfield Road.

And he gave them dreams and songs to sing. And he gave them 17 years, tackles, goals, passes, memories and marvels, a European Cup even. And he gave them everything.

Liverpool: Mignolet 6, Can 5, Skrtel 5, Lovren 4, Ibe 5 (Lambert 65min, 5), Gerrard 6, Henderson 5, Moreno 4 (Sinclair 87min, 5), Lallana 6 (Lucas 65min, 6), Coutinho 5, Sterling 6 Crystal Palace: Hennessey 6, Ward 6, Kelly 5, Dann 7, Souare 6, McArthur 5, Ledley 6, Puncheon 7, Chamakh 5 (Mutch 76min, 5), Lee 6 (Zaha 59min, 7), Bolasie (Murray 83min, 6)

The Observer

Liverpool's Steven Gerrard given inglorious send-off by Crystal Palace

That is the trouble with a meticulously prepared send-off; there's always an uninvited guest who spoils it. Steven Gerrard's emotional farewell to Anfield ended on the flattest of notes as Crystal Palace ruined his final outing on home soil and exposed Liverpool to the prospect of a worrying future without him. It was Norwich's Jeremy Goss tripping up the Spion Kop's last stand in 1994 all over again.

Gerrard rallied late on as he tried to rescue Liverpool one last time but to no avail. The 34-year-old's shots sailed high and wide, prompting mocking tribute from the Kop and a thumbs-up in return from their departing hero, whereas Jason Puncheon and the Palace substitutes Wilfried Zaha and Glenn Murray hit the target to remind all not only of their presence at Anfield but their stirring potential under Alan Pardew.

For the second time this season Palace had beaten Brendan Rodgers' team 3-1, completing the club's first league double over Liverpool, and in Yannick Bolasie they possessed the most formidable talent on the pitch.

Rodgers complained legitimately over the visitors' second and third goals - offside and a penalty for a foul outside the area - but the most accurate verdict on the day came from the Liverpool supporters themselves. The home crowd gave Bolasie a deserved standing ovation when he departed eight minutes from time. Later, when Gerrard was asked how bright the future looked for Liverpool next season, laughter rolled off the Kop.

The Liverpool manager stood in the crowd with a face like thunder before embarking on a lap of honour where his players trailed far behind their captain, just as they had done Palace throughout the game.

Advertisement

"We started reasonably well and scored a fantastic goal but we made poor defensive errors across the field and they punished us," Rodgers said.

"Their second goal was offside and their penalty was clearly outside the box but that doesn't take away that we could have done much better in the defensive moments of the game."

Events before kick-off indicated Palace were not exactly at the forefront of Liverpool's minds as Gerrard ended his warm-up by conducting a brief television interview in front of the Kop and both teams formed a guard of honour for the captain, appearing with his three young daughters in tow.

The game itself, however, must have been a release to the 34-year-old and his team-mates after a week of intense scrutiny and Liverpool did start with some purpose. The ceremonious atmosphere was reflected in the sky above Anfield where a plane flew carrying a banner that read "In Rodgers We Trust". Liverpool's previous home game, of course, had witnessed a very different fly-over when the manager looked up at a banner that read "Rodgers Out Rafa In". Anfield's aerial tit-for-tat demonstrated one thing: some people have far too much time and money to waste.

Liverpool were gifted the lead from one of their former players and one of their supporters in the heart of the visiting defence. Martin Kelly played Scott Dann into trouble with a careless pass behind his central defensive colleague and Adam Lallana took full advantage, pressuring Dann into a slip, racing through from deep and sweeping an excellent finish into the top corner of Wayne Hennessey's goal, then seeking out Gerrard for the celebration of only his fifth goal of an injury-hit season.

Pardew and Palace responded impressively, the manager switching Bolasie into the attack and his team were instantly more threatening as a result. Joe Ledley, Bolasie, Puncheon and Lee Chung-yong all went close or squandered clear chances before the visitors scored a fine and merited equaliser. Emre Can, tormented by Bolasie all game, conceded a free-kick 20 yards from goal with a trip on the Congo international. Puncheon marked his new four-year contract at Selhurst Park by sweeping the set piece into the bottom corner.

The men in yellow showed more urgency in the second half too and were incensed when the FA Cup final referee, Jon Moss, ignored two strong penalty appeals when Martin Skrtel handled Bolasie's cross and then clipped Lee on the follow-up. Palace would not be denied. Zaha converted Bolasie's inviting cross to the back post 22 seconds after his introduction, albeit from an offside position, and Lucas Leiva was wrongly adjudged to have fouled the former Manchester United player inside the area in the 90th minute. Simon Mignolet saved Murray's spot-kick but the substitute scored on the rebound.

"He showed where he is in his world today," said Pardew of Bolasie. "He has fantastic power, pace and is a real dangerous threat. He has that scare factor but he needs to get that end product sorted out and he is 25, not 21."

For the 34-year-old about to set off on his last lap of Anfield, however, it was a deflating way to go.

Date: 16 May 2015
 Opposition: Crystal Palace
 Competition: League

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Liverpool failed to give Steven Gerrard a victorious farewell to Anfield as Crystal Palace emerged worthy winners on an emotion-charged occasion .

Gerrard was making his final appearance at Anfield before making his move to Major League Soccer with LA Galaxy - and Liverpool supporters gathered at the stadium hours before kick-off to pay tribute to their iconic captain.

Palace, however, were in no mood to indulge the celebrations and after Adam Lallana put Liverpool ahead, Jason Puncheon equalised on the stroke of half-time before substitutes Wilfried Zaha and Glenn Murray wrapped up the win.

The game itself was almost reduced to a footnote as far as Liverpool were concerned - but in a strangely low-key 90 minutes, this performance graphically illustrated the work that needs to be done by manager Brendan Rodgers once Gerrard has departed after next weekend's final game of the season at Stoke City.

After the formalities of the final whistle were completed, Gerrard went down the tunnel before re-emerging to a prolonged, deserved ovation where he was greeted by former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier, the man who made him Liverpool captain, before receiving a presentation from the club.

Gerrard then addressed Liverpool's fans before joining his team-mates on a lap of honour and then leaving the Anfield turf for the final time after a 17-year career that has brought the Champions League victory against AC Milan that he inspired in Istanbul in 2005, as well as the Uefa Cup, two FA Cups and three League Cup triumphs.

The Premier League title may have eluded him but as he walked around Anfield it was only the good times Liverpool fans remembered - and he has given them plenty of those with his 185 goals stretched out across a glittering career.

Now Rodgers faces the Herculean task of replacing the 34-year-old, who has been a symbol of the club since he made his debut in 1998.

The game itself almost assumed the status of a sideshow as the shadow of Gerrard's farewell understandably loomed over the entire occasion.

Anfield's DJ set the tone with a pre-match playlist that was a musical tribute to Gerrard, from David Bowie's "Heroes" to the REM tune "The End Of The World As We Know It".

And The Kop was decorated with banners recalling Gerrard's greatest moments including one reading "The Best There Is. The Best There Was And The Best There Will Ever Be".

Gerrard came out to warm up ahead of his team-mates, who allowed him to take the acclaim of The Kop - and in the moments before kick-off Anfield was united in tribute to the man many regard as Liverpool's finest.

He emerged with his daughters Lourdes, Lexie and Lilly-Ella through a guard of honour formed by both sides as thunderous roars swept around Anfield.

The kick-off actually dampened the atmosphere, Liverpool taking an undeserved lead after 26 minutes when Lallana was the beneficiary of Martin Kelly's poor ball, running on and beating Wayne Hennessey with an accomplished finish.

Palace, however, continued to be the better side and were full value for the equaliser that came two minutes before half-time, Puncheon sending a 20-yard free-kick beyond Simon Mignolet after Emre Can fouled the dangerous Yannick Bolasie.

Pardew decided to introduce Zaha to add to Palace's attacking threat - and it was a move that paid dividends as he slid in Bolasie's cross with his first touch after just 23 seconds on the pitch.

As Liverpool's defence rocked, the outstanding Bolasie almost extended their advantage when he cut inside the struggling Martin Skrtel, but struck his shot against the bar.

There was to be no final rescue act from Gerrard and substitute Murray secured Palace's win by putting in the rebound from his own penalty, which was initially saved by Mignolet.

The spot kick was awarded after Lucas fouled Zaha - although it looked as though the first contact was outside the box.

It was then time for Gerrard to take his leave - and for Liverpool to ponder how they can possibly fill the gap he leaves behind.

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Full time Match ends, Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 3.
 90:00+4:03 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 3.
 90:00+2:51 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by James McArthur.
 90:00+2:04 Jerome Sinclair (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 90:00+2:04 Foul by Joel Ward (Crystal Palace.
 90:00+1:35 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool.
 90:00+1:35 Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the right wing.
 90:00+0:27 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 3. Glenn Murray (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal following a set piece situation.
 90:00+0:25 Penalty saved! Glenn Murray (Crystal Palace fails to capitalise on this great opportunity, right footed shot saved in the centre of the goal.
 89:48 Penalty conceded by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool after a foul in the penalty area.
 89:48 Penalty Crystal Palace. Wilfried Zaha draws a foul in the penalty area.
 88:10 Offside, Crystal Palace. Jason Puncheon tries a through ball, but Glenn Murray is caught offside.
 88:05 Attempt saved. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Jordan Mutch.
 86:45 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 86:45 Foul by Glenn Murray (Crystal Palace.
 86:17 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Jerome Sinclair replaces Alberto Moreno.
 86:05 Booking Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.
 85:40 Attempt blocked. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked.
 84:52 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 84:52 Foul by Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace.
 84:45 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
 83:48 Booking Jordan Mutch (Crystal Palace is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 83:45 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 83:45 Foul by Jordan Mutch (Crystal Palace.
 82:26 Booking James McArthur (Crystal Palace is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 82:24 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 82:24 Foul by James McArthur (Crystal Palace.
 82:04 Substitution Substitution, Crystal Palace. Glenn Murray replaces Yannick Bolasie.
 81:09 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 80:19 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
 78:41 Booking Joel Ward (Crystal Palace is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 78:30 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 78:30 Foul by Joel Ward (Crystal Palace.
 77:34 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 77:34 Foul by Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace.
 76:51 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high from a direct free kick.
 76:11 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 76:11 Foul by Martin Kelly (Crystal Palace.
 75:42 Substitution Substitution, Crystal Palace. Jordan Mutch replaces Marouane Chamakh.
 74:54 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 73:55 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 73:55 Foul by Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace.
 73:37 Attempt missed. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a corner.
 73:13 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by James McArthur.
 70:55 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.
 68:06 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.
 66:17 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 66:17 Foul by James McArthur (Crystal Palace.
 65:17 Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace hits the bar with a left footed shot from the right side of the box. Assisted by James McArthur.
 64:43 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva replaces Adam Lallana.
 64:28 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Rickie Lambert replaces Jordan Ibe.
 63:25 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
 62:16 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 62:16 Foul by Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace.
 61:33 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
 61:33 Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the left wing.
 60:53 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
 59:01 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 2. Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace right footed shot from the left side of the six yard box to the bottom left corner.
 58:38 Substitution Substitution, Crystal Palace. Wilfried Zaha replaces Lee Chung-yong.
 58:03 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.
 58:03 Marouane Chamakh (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 57:26 Attempt missed. Jordan Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 55:53 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the

box is close, but misses to the left.
 54:49 Martin Skrtel (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 54:49 Foul by Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace.
 54:06 Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.
 54:06 Joel Ward (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 51:49 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
 51:25 Attempt missed. Lee Chung-yong (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Yannick Bolasie.
 49:02 Attempt blocked. Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Marouane Chamakh with a headed pass.
 48:19 Attempt missed. Jordan Ibe (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is close, but misses to the right.
 48:15 Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 46:57 Attempt missed. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Yannick Bolasie.
 46:17 Offside, Crystal Palace. Pape Souaré tries a through ball, but Yannick Bolasie is caught offside.
 45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 1.
 45:00+1:03 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 1.
 44:31 Offside, Crystal Palace. James McArthur tries a through ball, but Yannick Bolasie is caught offside.
 42:46 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 1. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace from a free kick with a left footed shot to the bottom right corner.
 41:54 Booking Emre Can (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 41:49 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
 41:49 Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 36:31 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.
 36:31 Joel Ward (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 35:16 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 35:16 Foul by Marouane Chamakh (Crystal Palace.
 34:20 Attempt missed. Lee Chung-yong (Crystal Palace right footed shot from the left side of the box is high and wide to the right following a corner.
 33:47 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Jordan Ibe.
 32:01 Attempt saved. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Marouane Chamakh.
 31:33 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 30:54 Attempt missed. Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Jason Puncheon.
 29:16 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a headed pass.
 27:25 Attempt missed. Joe Ledley (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the centre of the box is too high.
 25:32 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 0. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top left corner.
 24:01 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
 24:01 Marouane Chamakh (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 22:33 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
 22:31 Attempt blocked. Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Marouane Chamakh.
 18:41 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Martin Kelly.
 14:39 Attempt missed. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right following a set piece situation.
 13:59 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 13:59 Foul by Joe Ledley (Crystal Palace.
 12:43 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 12:43 Foul by Joel Ward (Crystal Palace.
 11:01 Foul by Jordan Ibe (Liverpool.
 11:01 Pape Souaré (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 9:04 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
 9:04 James McArthur (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 7:28 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Raheem Sterling is caught offside.
 6:42 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 6:42 Foul by Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace.
 6:00 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 6:00 Foul by Lee Chung-yong (Crystal Palace.
 4:13 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Joel Ward.
 4:11 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
 1:15 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.
 0:00 First Half begins.
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.