

Date: 29 August 2015

Opposition: West Ham United

Competition: League

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

29 August 2015

THE TIMES

Liverpool get Just deserts

Liverpool 0

West Ham United 3

Lanzini 3, Noble 29, Sakho 90+2

Referee K Friend Attendance 43,680

Apart from those in the away end who celebrated like it was 1963, Anfield was almost deserted by the final whistle. Seeing Liverpool lose 3-0 at home in the league for the first time since two years after West Ham United last won there had proved too much. If Brendan Rodgers went into the season knowing that he needed to regain the fans' trust, it has taken only four fixtures for the size of the challenge to be writ large.

In the space of 90 calamitous minutes on Saturday, the goodwill that Rodgers had built up in an unbeaten start to the campaign was obliterated and he went back to square one.

Results such as this one -- the resumption of last year's theme, in which Liverpool were on the wrong end of heavy defeats by average sides -- do not help his cause. After conceding three goals to West Ham, much of the focus was inevitably drawn to Liverpool's defence and particularly Dejan Lovren, whose error allowed the visiting team to score their second goal.

But this was a day when not one department of the Liverpool team emerged with credit. In attack, they troubled Darren Randolph, the West Ham goalkeeper, only once, when Lovren had a punt from distance. The midfield was a mess; too easy to bypass on the break, offering no creativity, the lack of someone capable of controlling the game being all too obvious.

Rodgers will hope that this was just an off day. The signs, though, are not promising. Like Crystal Palace (twice), Arsenal and Stoke City last season, West Ham discovered that, if you get at Liverpool, they yield too easily and that if you take the lead, as they did after just three minutes when Manuel Lanzini took advantage of slack defending, Rodgers's team struggle to find a way back into the game.

It is telling that, since the start of last season, Liverpool have won only once, away to Leicester City in December last year, after going behind.

A perusal of the squad reveals a group of players who are average to good, although there are those, such as Roberto Firmino, who struck a post after Liverpool went behind, and Joe Gomez, who looks promising despite playing out of position at left back, with the potential to improve.

But the feeling remains, even after another summer of pronounced change at Anfield, that the challenge of returning Liverpool to the Premier League top four remains onerous.

While Rodgers pines for a return to the form of 2013-14, this display had more in keeping with the next season. Undone by weak defending on three occasions, allowing Mark Noble and Diafra Sakho to add to Lanzini's opener, Liverpool's response was meek, Christian Benteke being left isolated in a manner that would have brought a knowing smile from the departed Mario Balotelli.

To complete their reacquaintance with last season, there was a resumption of three at the back and the dismissal of a key player after half-time to end hopes of a comeback; for Steven Gerrard against Manchester United last spring, read Philippe Coutinho.

West Ham were also reduced to ten men late in the game when Noble was harshly sent off for catching Danny Ings, a decision that Slaven Bilic is ready to appeal against. The points had already been secured by then and Liverpool could have no complaints about the team who had taken them.

Just by sitting deep, with well-drilled lines in defence and midfield, and showing a willingness to execute Bilic's counterattacking blueprint, West Ham were able to dismantle Liverpool with an ease that belied their club's 52-year wait for a victory at Anfield. "I'm not modest. I know I can organise a team with my staff," the West Ham manager said. On this evidence, if not against Bournemouth a week earlier, he had every right to boast.

RATINGS

Liverpool (4-1-4-1): S Mignolet 5 -- N Clyne 6, M Skrtel 4, D Lovren 4, J Gomez 5 (sub: J Ibe, 78min) -- L Leiva 6 -- R Firmino 5 (sub: D Ings, 61 5), E Can 4 (sub: A Moreno, 46 5), J Milner 5, P Coutinho 5 -- C Benteke 5. Substitutes not used: A Bogdan, M Sakho, D Origi, J Rossiter. Booked: Coutinho, Lucas, Ings, Clyne. Sent off: Coutinho.

West Ham United (4-1-4-1): D Randolph 6 -- J Tomkins 6, W Reid 8, A Ogonna 7, A Cresswell 7 -- P Obiang 7 -- M Lanzini 8 (sub: R Oxford, 81), C Kouyate 7, M Noble 7, D Payet 7 (sub: M Jarvis, 88) -- D Sakho 7 (sub: J Cullen, 90). Substitutes not used: R Spiegel, E Lee, M Samuelsen, K Knolly. Booked: Noble, Lanzini. Sent off: Noble.

the guardian

West Ham's win over Liverpool not down to Dejan Lovren, says Slaven Bilic

West Ham United defended everything en route to a first win at Anfield for 52 years so it was fitting that their manager stepped in where few dared to tread afterwards and offered qualified backing for Dejan Lovren.

"If you are telling me Liverpool lost because of Dejan Lovren then no, no, no, no, no," said Slaven Bilic of the Croatia defender to whom he gave an international debut in 2009 and whose hapless error led to the visitors' second goal in a momentous triumph. "It was a mistake but a lot of Liverpool players made mistakes."

Not for the first time on Saturday, and worryingly for Brendan Rodgers, Bilic called it correctly. The defensive resilience behind Liverpool's encouraging start to a defining campaign dissolved inside three minutes when Martin Skrtel and Joe Gomez both erred for Manuel Lanzini's opener.

Lovren then returned to the distracted defender of last season to enable Mark Noble to steer West Ham into the comfort zone. But there was more to Liverpool's first defeat of the season than a howler from a £20m signing who Rodgers claimed would be a "top-class defender" and "a different player" 24 hours earlier.

No invention, no delivery to the front man and, despite working on "exploiting the space down the sides" in training all week according to their manager, no width: Liverpool took an unexpected step back to the worrying form that characterised the tail-end of last season. Rodgers also reverted to the default setting of a three-man defence after 45 minutes with his best-laid plans going awry. Philippe Coutinho's one-match ban for a needless dismissal, to be served when Liverpool meet Manchester United after the international break, capped a deflating day for a home crowd that booed their team off at half-time and applauded their opponents at full-time. How it was merited.

A travelling supporter would have to be in his or her 60s to recall the last time West Ham won at this ground. The follow-up arrived at the 43rd attempt and was founded on the principles that confounded Arsenal on the opening day and partially explain the scarcity of home wins throughout the Premier League this season.

James Tomkins, Winston Reid, Angelo Ogbonna and Aaron Cresswell formed an impenetrable barrier a week after Bilic's team conceded four at home to Bournemouth. In front, just in front, Noble and Pedro Obiang worked tirelessly to stifle any dangerous possession while the summer arrivals Lanzini and Dimitri Payet put the Brazilian pair of Coutinho and Roberto Firmino in the shade with their skill and accuracy on the break. Defenders in claret and blue excelled but this was a victory built on an accomplished, composed team performance. Liverpool looked lost in comparison.

"What happened here is so logical," explained Bilic, bouncing on his toes as he did in the technical area throughout the game. "I can organise. I'm not modest. I know I can organise a team with my staff. This game was perfect for [Diafra] Sakho. He slaughtered them with his pace and the amount of running he did. And he didn't have space to breathe.

"Sometimes at Anfield if it's 0-0 after 20 minutes and you get a throw-in you're happy. In the same situation at home against a not so big club you get that throw-in and you're rushing it. You're forcing it. When you force things you make mistakes, in life, not just in football. But we were not forcing. We were 2-0 up and from keeping the ball we suddenly found ourselves one on one with their goalkeeper. For 45 minutes Liverpool tried to get in front of our keeper with one ball but it was impossible."

Lanzini converted Cresswell's cross to shatter Liverpool's aim of a fourth consecutive clean sheet. The Argentina midfielder, signed on a season-long loan from Al Jazira in July, also capitalised on Lovren's lapse to help create the second for Noble before Sakho gained personal reward with a fine finish into the bottom corner in stoppage time. By then both teams were down to 10 men as a result of stringent refereeing from Kevin Friend.

Coutinho collected yellow cards for dissent and a needless foul on Payet while Noble was harshly dismissed for a tackle on the Liverpool substitute Danny Ings. West Ham are expected to appeal once the rare euphoria from a trip to Anfield has abated.

"Manuel was fantastic and not only because he scored a goal," the visiting manager said of the former River Plate winger. "Defensively he not only covered the left-back, Gomez, but he cut inside on Coutinho and Milner when he went outside. He was great. When he came in some of the people who were not for him and were for other players were slagging him off and they said he looks more like a jockey than a football player. Maybe, but he rides the challenges."

Man of the match Winston Reid (West Ham United)

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The Mail

THIS WIN? IT'S NO BIG SURPRISE; Bilic delivers damning verdict on Liverpool after Hammers run riot

LIVERPOOL 0
WEST HAM 3

SLAVEN BILIC did not stop moving. He paced back and forth, waved his arms, pointed and became increasingly animated as he tried to get his point across. This colourful display, though, was not reserved for Anfield's technical area. Standing in the press room an hour after the final whistle, adrenaline was still racing through West Ham's manager and he could not contain himself as he explained how his side had re-written history.

Given that 52 years had elapsed since West Ham last won in this corner of Merseyside, nobody outside Upton Park gave Bilic and Co much hope but, as he spoke with rising passion, the Croat explained how he had masterminded a stunning win.

It was not a victory due to ingenious tactics. Bilic (right) merely set up his side, told them to attack Liverpool's vulnerable areas and pounce when the opportunity allowed.

For 90 minutes he coaxed and cajoled his troops and, at the final whistle, punched the air at a job well done. History says that West Ham will always be a team who throw in the odd result that defies belief but, in four Barclays Premier League games, Bilic has seen his side raise eyebrows three times.

The difference is that two of those results have come at Anfield and the Emirates Stadium.

'We are going to improve our home record and we will lose some away games,' said Bilic, as he tried to explain how conceding four goals at home to Bournemouth could be followed up with this kind of success.

'It's going to happen but what happened here is so logical. I can organise. I'm not modest.

'I know I can organise a team with my staff. Sometimes at Anfield, if it's 0-0 after 20 minutes and you get a throw-in, you're happy.

That's what it is like. In the same situation at home against a not-so-big club you get that throw-in and you're rushing it. You're forcing it.

'When you force things you make mistakes, in life, not just in football. But we were not forcing. We were 2-0 up and from keeping the ball we suddenly found ourselves one-on-one with their goalkeeper.

'Liverpool tried to get in front of our keeper with one ball but it was impossible.' That final point was damning. Liverpool have only had two shots on target in their two home games so far and it is impossible to tell whether they are a team who want to play it long to Christian Benteke or want to replicate the rat-a-tat-tat passing that was their identity two years ago.

This was a defensive shambles and a toothless mess. The fact Brendan Rodgers switched from a flat back four to three central defenders at half-time added to the confusion. By that point, the game had gone.

Manuel Lanzini, on his full debut, was outstanding for West Ham. He pounced after three minutes to open the scoring, tormented Joe Gomez and then embarrassed Dejan Lovren for the second, which Mark Noble -- who was unfortunate to be sent off -- dispatched. Diafra Sakho completed the scoring.

'When Lanzini came in, some people were not for him and wanted other players; they were slagging him off and said he looks more like a jockey than a footballer,' said Bilic of the Argentine. 'Maybe, but he rides the challenges. He's not afraid. In that respect he reminds me of Luka Modric.'

Rodgers, who complained Philippe Coutinho had been harshly sent off, only gave a token press conference before leaving and did not stay to address the defensive problems that had resurfaced. Bilic, however, insisted it would be wrong to make Lovren a scapegoat.

'If you are telling me Liverpool lost because of Dejan Lovren then no, no, no, no, no,' said Bilic, wagging his finger. 'It wasn't down to him. I'm not objective about him because I like him. It was a mistake but a lot of Liverpool players made mistakes.' And not for the first time, Bilic was emphatically right.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet 5; Clyne 5, Skrtel 4.5, Lovren 4, Gomez 5 (lbe 78min); Lucas 5, Can 4 (Moreno 46, 5.5); Milner 6, Coutinho 4, Firmino 5 (Ings 61, 6); Benteke 4. Subs not used: Bogdan, M Sakho, Origi, Rossiter.

Booked: Coutinho, Clyne. Sent off: Coutinho.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-1-4-1): Randolph 7; Tomkins 7, Reid 8, Ogbonna 8, Cresswell 8; Obiang 7; Lanzini 8 (Oxford 82), Noble 7, Kouyate 7, Payet 8.5; D Sakho 7. Subs not used: Spiegel, Jarvis, Oxford, Lee, Cullen, Samuelsen, Knogle. Scorers: Lanzini 3, Noble 29, Sakho 90. Booked: Noble, Lanzini. Sent off: Noble. Man of the match: Dimitri Payet.

Referee: Kevin Friend 6.

The Daily Telegraph

Rodgers left exposed as failings return

Liverpool 0
West Ham United 3
Lanzini 3, Noble 29, Sakho 90
Att: 43,680

The relationship between a football club, the manager and supporters is rather like the love affair between Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. At its most fulfilling, smiling cupids applaud every gesture. Give it a few weeks and you have emotional wreckage and calls for another divorce.

Take West Ham United, for instance. Their supporters left the Emirates Stadium and Anfield this season hailing the transformation of their side under Slaven Bilic, two of the most fashionable clubs disrobed with classic away wins. Then you get back to the Boleyn Ground, lose against Bournemouth or Leicester City, and the East End air is lovesick for the era of Sam Allardyce.

Brendan Rodgers is as vulnerable as any Premier League manager to the weekly turbulence. Rodgers returned to the supposed haven of Anfield armed with an unbeaten record, three clean sheets and four points from notoriously difficult venues. But Saturday afternoon proved that no matter how many encouraging performances he oversees, it will only take an abject one to stir the torments. In 90 minutes, a month of assessments presenting a more robust Liverpool were hastily revised, with the caveat that they will be dusted back down and recommissioned if the club win at Old Trafford in a fortnight's time.

It was not just a single rancid display that alarmed the Kop, but the return of characteristics that polluted the past 12 months.

The response to going two goals down via Manuel Lanzini and Mark Noble was panic-stricken and ill-disciplined, culminating in Philippe Coutinho's daft dismissal for two cautions. The game plan fine-tuned in pre-season was dismantled at half-time when Rodgers opted to play three centre-halves. Players who thought they were waving goodbye, such as Lucas Leiva, were called back from the departure lounge and selected in a fixture that does not suit them - probably to prevent a deadline-day move. The defence was fragile and shapeless and the attack was limp.

The only comfort at full-time was the promise of Daniel Sturridge's imminent return from injury, even though history shows the perils of expecting him to play more than two thirds of a campaign.

Chief culprit in a defensive collapse was a player who had excelled in those first three matches: Dejan Lovren. His woe served only to mobilise and embolden the Mamadou Sakho fan club within and outside Anfield. The Croatian's chief ally post-match was Bilic, who suggested that Lovren looked confused by the idea of leading others rather than focusing solely on his own game. "I put him in the Croatia team when he was very young. I know him best," Bilic said.

"When he's concentrated and thinking only about his own game, not about the left-back or whoever is alongside him, there are very few centre-halves who are better than him. One mistake anyone can do but if you are telling me that Liverpool lost because of Dejan Lovren then no, no, no, no, no."

Diafra Sakho sprinkled extra stardust with a third just before full-time, but Rodgers has greater issues than his perennially unreliable centre-backs. His habit of embracing the drawing board at the first hint of trouble is starting to smack of uncertainty rather than ingenuity. Winning ugly has its place, but when attractive football has been absent for so long, grotesqueness is magnified in a defeat. The rush to conclude exactly what this Liverpool team will become - or even what they are meant to be - is confusing. Four games in, this incarnation of a meaner, tougher team took a hammering.

It is 52 years since West Ham won at Anfield. The last time they did it, Bill Shankly's Liverpool ended the season as champions. It is a fair assumption that Manuel Pellegrini will not be shifting uncomfortably in his chair this year.

West Ham's last win at Anfield: Sept 14, 1963

President John F Kennedy announced his fatal trip to Dallas later in the year.

The Beatles' She Loves You was at No 1 in the charts.

The average house price in Britain was PS3,160.

To stand on the Kop in 1963? About 35 pence.

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Philippe Coutinho sent-off as woeful Reds thrashed with goals by Manuel Lanzini, Mark Noble and Diafra Sakho

Slaven Bilic, whose first domestic taste of managing West Ham ended in success at Arsenal, recorded an even more impressive feat with his new employers, overseeing his club's first victory at Anfield in 52 years against a Liverpool team who had not conceded a goal in their opening three matches.

True, life in home fixtures has been less rewarding for the new West Ham manager but, after first-half goals from Manuel Lanzini and Mark Noble and an injury-time effort from Diafra Sakho had the few home supporters remaining in the stadium booing off their team at the end, Bilic has already guaranteed himself a place in Hammers folklore.

September 1963 was the last time the London club had tasted victory in this fixture. No West Ham player had even scored at Anfield since 2006, but Bilic was clearly unswayed by the mounting weight of statistics against them and sent out a superbly organised team that hit Liverpool often, and effectively, on the counter-attack.

"It is three points but it is one of those games that for the club, for the supporters especially, it is more than three points," said Bilic. "It is the same story as Arsenal - 52 years without winning here.

"Especially at this kind of stadium - and I think we did it with style, we didn't nick it - it was a great performance and then, of course, it is more than three points. I am very proud of the players, the whole club. It is great for everyone and one of those games for the history books."

It helped West Ham's cause that Brendan Rodgers' defence chose to undo much of their good defensive work from the first three games, and the dismissal of Liverpool's most creative player, Philippe Coutinho, also assisted them, although Noble was also sent off 11 minutes from time.

But this was a thoroughly deserved victory from a West Ham team which took a stranglehold on the game after three minutes and never looked likely to let it go.

Liverpool central defenders Martin Skrtel and Dejan Lovren shared responsibility for the opening two goals. The former's defensive clearing header was inaccurate and not particularly powerful after three minutes, the centre-half clearing Dimitri Payet's cross directly to Aaron Cresswell, who intelligently picked out Lanzini for a routine finish from the edge of the six-yard area.

Worse was to follow, on 29 minutes, after Lovren attempted to shepherd the ball out of play near the corner flag but simply turned it over to Lanzini, who worked his way down the by-line and crossed for Noble to score after an attempted block by Nathaniel Clyne.

In between, Roberto Firmino had offered a brief response, neatly making himself room outside the area to fire in a 20-yard shot which struck the Hammers woodwork. But it was a rare moment of concern for the visitors and Coutinho's caution just before the interval for dissent towards referee Kevin Friend would prove even more costly for Rodgers' men.

Six minutes after the restart, Friend judged, harshly it appeared, that the same Liverpool man was the guilty party in a collision with Payet, forcing him to reach for a second yellow and dismiss him.

There were glimpses of goal for the home side but not much more and the visitors constantly threatened on the counter-attack, even after Noble was judged to have shown his studs in a challenge on substitute Danny Ings after 79 minutes and was shown a red card to go with a first-half yellow.

West Ham's third goal duly came deep in injury time when a pass from Cheikhou Kouyate deflected off Lovren into the path of Sakho, who shrugged off challenges from Skrtel and Alberto Moreno to shoot in from 16 yards. Rodgers said: "Four of seven teams lost at home in the league today and up until today I think there have been six wins out of 30, so it's going to be a really difficult league to get your home wins.

"But our concentration is on winning here at home, we love playing here and the support has been brilliant here. The first three games we gave them hope again but today we disappointed. But we have seven points out of 12, the players are going away on international duty but they will come back and focus on putting in a better performance away from home."



BRAZILIAN BLAND; Boss left with a puzzle as Samba stars in muddle LIVERPOOL 0 WEST HAM 3 Lanzini 3 Noble 29 Sakho 90+2 DAVID MADDOCK says Liverpool have a lot to sort out with their forward line... but with Man Utd up next, Rodgers has to act fast MUCH was made of the fact MUCH was made of the fact The Beatles were top of the charts the last time West Ham won at Anfield, way back in September 1963.

Yet down he languishing Hollies with 'just about sum now, and thei forlorn ques balance for h Yet down below 'She Loves You', languishing at No.32, were the Hollies with 'Searching', and that just about sums up Liverpool right now, and their manager's at times forlorn quest to find the right balance for his side. Things had seemed so promising in the opening trio of league games for the Reds, yet here, against the spirited and impressively physical Hammers, there seemed a dispiriting return to the job-threatening travails of last season.

At Arsenal, the Reds' front three looked immense, a fluid trio full of latent threat that promised so much for the future, but here against the more muscular presence of Winston Reid and Angelo Ogbonna - the visitors' centre-half pairing - they were lacking in ideas. Brendan Rodgers is trying to integrate the traditional qualities of Christian Benteke into the samba style of the two Brazilians - Philippe Coutinho and Firmino - behind him, but here they did not know whether to stick or twist... to go long or stay intricately short.

The manager must get it right, because without a forward threat, Liverpool are nothing - or rather, they are an accident at the back waiting to happen. When they almost won the title, the attacking menace made light of defensive deficiency but, last season, without goals the back line was pressured to breaking point. West Ham took an early lead when the Reds defence switched off to gift new-boy Manuel Lanzini a virtual tap in, and then doubling it before half-time as Dejan Lovren went into meltdown mode.

That goal was almost a snapshot of last season, the defender's misplaced confidence disastrously allowing Lanzini to rob the ball and cross for Mark Noble - later sent off - to force home, and take away any lingering hopes the home side retained. Yet as Lovren suggested afterwards, the problem is not just with his pairing alongside an equally shaky Martin Skrtel, but in a midfield where Lucas and Emre Can were overpowered by Pedro Obiang and Cheikhou Kouyate.

"It is not just me and Martin - it is all the team. It is all the team when we defend well, it is all the team when we attack well. It is not just the two central defenders, or one goalkeeper," Lovren said. "Mistakes happen but they were cheap goals today. I'm the first one who is disappointed with myself and, after my mistake, it was a poor performance I would say." This is a pivotal time for Liverpool. Despite so many new players untaunted by the past 12 months, this performance looked suspiciously like last season's malaise and, if it is, then it suggests deep-rooted problems that will only be resolved by dramatic action. With Manchester United next up, we will discover whether this was the one-off "that happens" as Lovren suggested, or evidence of bigger troubles. At least the Reds defender believes he and his side will respond at Old Trafford.

"We need to forget this. I know that we will do better. We have to do it for us and the fans. We didn't deserve this," he added. "I don't think it will shake the team so we will go again straight away to find our form and win at Man United."

Despite West Ham's mixed start to the season, co-owner David Sullivan praised manager Slaven Bilic (left). He said: "When you get a team that's changing its style, there will be ups and downs but you've seen here what the manager is trying to do. "Playing the ball on the floor, great passing and moving... that's what our fans want. It might take a little time to do it consistently."

Diafra Sakho's goal at the end gave the visitors the gloss they deserved. But it was a tearful Coutinho's harsh dismissal for two yellow cards that best summed up Liverpool's dismal afternoon.

LIVERPOOL: Mignolet 6, Clyne 6, Skrtel 5, Lovren 5, Gomez 5 (Ibe 75, 5), Can 5 (Moreno 46, 6), Lucas 6, Milner 6, Firmino 5 (Ings 61, 6), Benteke 5, Coutinho 5. WEST HAM: Randolph 6, Tomkins 7, Reid 7, Ogbonna 8, Cresswell 7, Kouyate 7, Obiang 6, Lanzini 7 (Oxford 82), Noble 6, Payet 8 (Jarvis 88), Sakho 6 (Cullen 90). REF: Kevin Friend ATT: 43,680

MOTM DIMITRI PAYET Liverpool's defence still has a calamitous mistake in it (or two) Martin Skrtel and Dejan Lovren started the season so well, but here they reverted to type to gift West Ham a two-goal start

THINGS WE LEARNT And while we're at it Joe Gomez, so strong in the opening three Prem matches, has already been targeted for his weakness on his left side...a problem for a player operating at left-back Hammers more comfortable away

That is probably because they lack a little bit of guile, which means they struggle somewhat to break sides down when the onus is on them to do that Philippe Coutinho may appear mature beyond his years... but in getting sent off early in the second half, he showed he still has the impetuosity of youth. It was a silly challenge on Payet West Ham will surprise many more sides It is almost as though they need the bigger opposition to rouse them. They have pace and power, which is always a weapon, and are prepared to put a foot in too.

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Throwback to dark days for bafflingly feeble Reds

Liverpool's bubble burst on a dismal afternoon at Anfield.

All the optimism generated by such a promising start to the new campaign was swept away as Brendan Rodgers' side crashed to a damaging defeat.

Not since September 1963 when Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters did the damage had the Hammers tasted victory in L4. Yet the Londoners deservedly ended that barren run as Liverpool produced a performance which was bafflingly feeble in all departments. The Reds were left to rue more than simply the loss of their unbeaten record as Philippe Coutinho's dismissal means he will miss the trip to Old Trafford on September 12. Rodgers cried foul over referee Kevin Friend's decision to send off the little Brazilian early in the second half.

There was certainly no malice attached to his sliding challenge on Dimitri Payet but by going to ground he was asking for trouble, especially having picked up a cheap booking for dissent before the break.

By then Liverpool already had a mountain to climb as goals from Manuel Lanzini and Mark Noble had put West Ham firmly in the ascendancy. The Reds' revival under Rodgers had been built on defensive solidity with three successive clean sheets enabling them to collect seven points out of a possible nine.

But this was a throwback to the dark days of last season as Liverpool's blundering back four dished out gifts which the Hammers gleefully accepted. Dejan Lovren will inevitably bear the brunt of the criticism after his shambolic part in the second goal. Having taken steps towards transforming his Anfield career in recent weeks, the £20million Croatian centre-back regressed.

But Martin Skrtel hardly covered himself in glory either as he struggled throughout. Suddenly, a recall for unused substitute Mamadou Sakho doesn't feel too far off. Friend was atrocious, riling Anfield with a succession of baffling decisions, but he wasn't responsible for Liverpool's plight.

The official evened up the sides late on when he ridiculously brandished a straight red in Noble's direction but it mattered little. The Reds were already resigned to their fate by then and Diafra Sakho added a third in stoppage time.

With captain Jordan Henderson and Adam Lallana still missing due to injury, Rodgers named an unchanged side following Monday's goalless draw at Arsenal, but this was a world away from that pulsating display in the capital.

Inside three minutes they had shot themselves in the foot.

Skrtel's weak header from Payet's cross, dropped to Aaron Cresswell at the far post. The former Tranmere left-back fired cross goal and Lanzini, who is on loan from Al Jazira Club, stole in front of Joe Gomez to divert it home.

Roberto Firmino hammered against the woodwork soon after but Liverpool rarely spluttered into life as an attacking force. Questions will inevitably be asked about Rodgers' tactics after he stuck with the midfield trio of Lucas Leiva, James Milner and Emre Can. They may have thwarted Arsenal on a night when Liverpool saw little of the ball. But this was a very different assignment which required guile and creativity to break West Ham down and they couldn't provide it.

In the first half Liverpool had 71% possession but didn't manage a single shot on target. There was no spark, no ingenuity. It was all far too predictable.

Christian Benteke was starved of service but he also didn't do enough to escape the clutches of Angelo Ogbonna. Slaven Bilic's men sat back and defended expertly before counter-attacking at pace. Skrtel allowed Lanzini to run unchallenged from halfway and the young Argentine fired narrowly wide.

Just before the half-hour mark the visitors doubled their account with Lovren left red-faced. It was the kind of howler that would even make Djimi Traore blush.

Under little pressure, Lovren had two horribly heavy touches which presented the ball to Lanzini and left Liverpool exposed. The cross was blocked but it fell kindly to Noble who coolly slotted into the bottom corner.

Rodgers responded by bringing on Alberto Moreno for the ineffective Can and switching to three at the back. Moreno's first contribution was to make a vital sliding challenge on Cheikhou Kouyate, who had burst on to Payet's through ball. Hopes of a fightback were effectively dashed in the 52nd minute when Coutinho got his marching orders. As he sloped off, there was a sympathetic pat on the back of his head from his manager. The introduction of Danny Ings for the disappointing Firmino lifted the Reds. Direct and purposeful on his debut, Ings left you wondering what might have happened had Benteke had some company earlier in the contest. Anfield certainly did its best to lift the 10 men with the atmosphere fuelled by a sense of injustice at Friend's decision-making.

But chances remained thin on the ground. Milner dragged wide and Darren Randolph never had serious save to make. How Liverpool missed the energy and drive provided by Henderson. As the depleted Reds threw caution to the wind, Simon Mignolet kept them in it by saving from Kouyate and Cresswell.

The final throw of the dice for Rodgers came with Jordan Ibe replacing Gomez. With 12 minutes to go it was 10 v 10 when Friend somehow decided that Noble deserved to walk for a challenge on Ings.

Anfield sensed that all was not lost but the response from the Reds was virtually non-existent. From Benteke's nod down, Lovren was unable to turn it home from close range. In stoppage time, West Ham rubbed salt into gaping wounds. Skrtel senselessly backed off and Sakho made him pay by beating Mignolet.

This was Liverpool's heaviest home league defeat for a decade.

Having taken some promising steps forward, this was a giant leap back.

LIVERPOOL (4-1-4-1): Mignolet, Clyne, Skrtel, Lovren, Gomez (Ibe 78), Lucas, Firmino (Ings 61), Can (Moreno 46), Milner, Coutinho, Benteke. Subs: Bogdan, Sakho, Origi, Rossiter. BOOKINGS: Coutinho, Lucas, Clyne, Ings. SENDING-OFF: Coutinho (second bookable offence).

WEST HAM (4-2-3-1): Randolph, Tomkins, Reid, Ogbonna, Cresswell, Obiang, Kouyate, Lanzini (Oxford 81), Noble, Payet (Jarvis 88), Sakho (Cullen 90). Subs: Spiegel, Lee, Samuelson, Knoyle. BOOKINGS: Noble, Lanzini. SENDING-OFF: Noble. GOALS: Lanzini 3, Noble 29, Sakho 90.

REFEREE: Kevin Friend

ATT: 43,680

EVENING STANDARD

Hammers end 52-year wait for Anfield win as both sides finish with 10 men

West Ham ended one of the longest winless runs in top-flight history with their first victory at Anfield in almost 52 years as Liverpool's defensive problems returned to haunt them in spectacularly bad style.

The curse of the manager's press conference came to the fore as after praising the new defensive stability which brought three clean sheets, Brendan Rodgers saw his side concede the fastest goal of the season so far to Manuel Lanzini inside three minutes.

Rodgers had also championed Dejan Lovren for overcoming his problems in his maiden season and showing he could be a "top-class" centre-back but the £20million Croatian repaid his manager's praise with a disastrous piece of defending to allow Mark Noble to score.

The West Ham captain was harshly sent off late on, after Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho had already been shown a second yellow card, but Diafra Sakho made it 3-0 in added time and 18,978 days after Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters - before they were World Cup winners with England - scored at Anfield, the Hammers had their long-awaited victory.

It was celebrated long and loud by the visiting fans and rightly so as the last time they had the chance to do so the Beatles had just achieved their second number one with She Loves You and a 17-year-old Northern Irishman called George Best had made his Manchester United debut.

As if that was not enough, Coutinho, already cautioned for dissent, was sent off when he slipped trying to close down Dimitri Payet and brought down the midfielder with his body.

It means the influential Brazilian playmaker will miss Liverpool's visit to Old Trafford when the Premier League resumes after the international break.

None of which will matter to West Ham, who were full value for their two first-half goals.

The lively Lanzini had a hand in both, sneaking in front of youngster Joe Gomez to turn in Aaron Cresswell's low cross-shot before then totally embarrassing the hapless Lovren.

Lanzini, considerably smaller and lightweight, outmuscled the 6ft 2ins international out by the touchline and although the centre-back managed to recover possession, he then messed about near the byline and was robbed again as his tormentor crossed for Noble to drive home, whose afternoon was spoiled late by the bizarre decision of referee Kevin Friend to send him off for a challenge on debutant Danny Ings.

Roberto Firmino came closest for a shot-shy Liverpool, crashing a 25-yard effort against the post in the first half on the way to their first defeat of the campaign.

Date: 29 August 2015

Opposition: West Ham United

Competition: League

Standard

Mail

Sunday Times

Sun Telegraph

Independent

Echo

Observer

Times

Telegraph

Echo

Sun Independent

Guardian

Mirror

29 August 2015



Hammers' joy as they end 52 years of Anfield angst

Slaven Bilic, whose first domestic taste of managing West Ham ended in success at Arsenal, recorded an even more impressive feat with his new employers, overseeing his club's first victory at Anfield in 52 years against a Liverpool team who had not conceded a goal in their opening three matches.

True, life in home fixtures has been less rewarding for the new West Ham manager but, after first-half goals from Manuel Lanzini and Mark Noble and an injury-time effort from Diafra Sakho had the few home supporters remaining in the stadium booing off their team at the end, Bilic has already guaranteed himself a place in Hammers folklore.

September 1963 was the last time the London club had tasted victory in this fixture. No West Ham player had even scored at Anfield since 2006, but Bilic was clearly unswayed by the mounting weight of statistics against them and sent out a superbly organised team that hit Liverpool often, and effectively, on the counter-attack.

"It is three points but it is one of those games that for the club, for the supporters especially, it is more than three points," said Bilic. "It is the same story as Arsenal - 52 years without winning here.

"Especially at this kind of stadium - and I think we did it with style, we didn't nick it - it was a great performance and then, of course, it is more than three points. I am very proud of the players, the whole club. It is great for everyone and one of those games for the history books."

It helped West Ham's cause that Brendan Rodgers' defence chose yesterday to undo much of their good work from the first three games, and the dismissal of Liverpool's most creative player, Philippe Coutinho, also assisted them, although Noble was also sent off 11 minutes from time.

But this was a thoroughly deserved victory from a West Ham team which took a stranglehold on the game after three minutes and never looked likely to let it go. Liverpool central defenders Martin Skrtel and Dejan Lovren shared responsibility for the opening two goals. The former's defensive clearing header was inaccurate and not particularly powerful after three minutes, the centre-half clearing Dimitri Payet's cross directly to Aaron Cresswell, who intelligently picked out Lanzini for a routine finish from the edge of the six-yard area.

Worse was to follow, on 29 minutes, after Lovren attempted to shepherd the ball out of play near the corner flag but simply turned it over to Lanzini, who worked his way down the by-line and crossed for Noble to score after an attempted block by Nathaniel Clyne.

In between, Roberto Firmino had offered a brief response, neatly making himself room outside the area to fire in a 20-yard shot which struck the Hammers woodwork. But it was a rare moment of concern for the visitors and Coutinho's caution just before the interval for dissent towards referee Kevin Friend would prove even more costly for Rodgers' men.

Six minutes after the restart, Friend judged, harshly it appeared, that the same Liverpool man was the guilty party in a collision with Payet, forcing him to reach for a second yellow and dismiss him.

There were glimpses of goal for the home side but not much more and the visitors constantly threatened on the counter-attack, even after Noble was judged to have shown his studs in a challenge on substitute Danny Ings after 79 minutes and was shown a red card to go with a first-half yellow.

West Ham's third goal duly came deep in injury time when a pass from Cheikhou Kouyat[c] deflected off Lovren into the path of Sakho, who shrugged off challenges from Skrtel and Alberto Moreno to shoot in from 16 yards.

Rodgers said: "Four of seven teams lost at home in the league today and up until today I think there have been six wins out of 30, so it's going to be a really difficult league to get your home wins.

"But our concentration is on winning here at home, we love playing here and the support has been brilliant here. The first three games we gave them hope again but today we disappointed.

"But we have seven points out of 12, the players are going away on international duty but they will come back and focus on putting in a better performance away from home."

Liverpool: (4-2-3-1) Mignolet; Clyne, Skrtel, Lovren, Gomez (Ibe, 77); Lucas, Can (Moreno, h-t); Milner, Coutinho, Firmino (Ings, 60); Benteke.

West Ham: (4-1-4-1) Randolph; Tomkins, Reid, Ogbonna, Cresswell; Obiang; Lanzini (Oxford, 81), Kouyat[c], Noble, Payet (Jarvis, 88); D Sakho (Cullen, 90).

Referee: Kevin Friend

Man of the match: Lanzini (West Ham)

Match rating: 7/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Hammers win at Anfield for first time since 1963

West Ham United were in the early stages of building England's World Cup-winning team the last time they won at Anfield. It was September 1963, Martin Peters and Geoff Hurst were match winners and The Beatles were preparing for their final stints at The Cavern as She Loves You topped the charts.

Now one of the most ancient records in English football has been buried. Manuel Lanzini and Mark Noble struck in the first 30 minutes on Merseyside to enhance Slaven Bilic's reputation as the man to embarrass those with top four pretensions. A late third from Diafra Sakho almost made the 52-year wait worth it.

The Emirates Stadium one week, Anfield a few games later. West Ham have never won away at Arsenal and Liverpool in the same season since the club was formed. No wonder the escape from the Boleyn Ground cannot come quick enough. Those pesky home performances have intruded on an eye-catching start to the Croatian's Premier League management career.

You might consider this sort of afternoon perplexing given the home defeats to Bournemouth and Leicester.

"No, it is logical," said Bilic, in a post-match performance as mesmerising off the pitch as his players were on it.

"When you play away, especially versus Arsenal and Liverpool, you are organised. Me and my staff are not modest. We can do it.

"We are there and we are behind the ball - we let them have the ball in some areas but not others. At home, organisation is not enough. We have to improve that. For that you need organisation and quality. We will improve our home record but we must change. Maybe it will help when Andy Carroll and Enner Valencia come back."

West Ham were assisted by a red card to Philippe Coutinho (he will miss the trip to Old Trafford) and Noble also saw red eleven minutes from the end, but these controversies were unrepresentative of a historic win.

Lanzini, the loan signing from Al Jazira in the United Arab Emirates, pounced on Aaron Cresswell's cross in the third minute and everything that followed was executed in relative comfort. The three conceded were the first against Liverpool this season, but their defenders seemed determined to restore the fragility of previous campaigns. It was dire from the hosts.

For Dejan Lovren, who had impressed in his first three games, it was an afternoon where his heralded 'turning a corner' led into a cul-de-sac.

"A different player," he was described by Brendan Rodgers before the game.

This was same old, same old by the Croatian. He inexplicably allowed Lanzini to steal possession near the corner flag on 29 minutes and the flat-footedness epidemic spread across the backline when Noble picked his spot.

Far from surprising, West Ham could have been further ahead at the break. Lanzini and Cresswell had already threatened, while backup goalkeeper Darren Randolph was untroubled but for a 25-yard drive from Roberto Firmino ramming the post.

Rodgers revived harrowing memories of last season by not only changing personnel but the shape of his team at half-time, Alberto Moreno summoned as Liverpool changed to three centre-halves.

Such a move was rendered redundant six minutes into the second half when Coutinho - booked for dissent in the first half - was sent off for a lunge on Dimitri Payet. "Both sendings off were harsh," Rodgers protested, but Coutinho's challenge was ill-advised.

Performances such as this send the ill winds of last May wafting back towards his dugout. "Until today the morale and confidence has been high but a lot of this was self-inflicted," Rodgers contested.

"The first three games we gave hope to the supporters again but we still have seven out of 12 points and we will refocus after the international break. We gave poor goals away and that was a disappointment. We went into the game with confidence high but when you give away a goal early and West Ham defend in a block it sets you back. As you see today four of seven teams lost at home. It's going to be a difficult league to get home wins."

With Winston Reid marshalling his defence in a style that would have had Bobby Moore nodding in approval, Liverpool were as toothless in attack as they were brittle in defence and Sakho ensured Anfield was empty long before the final whistle.

Bilic will appeal Noble's red card, and a neutral judge will agree. It would take more than a refereeing error to sour this day for the visitors.

"It is three points but one of those games for the fans that is more than three point," Bilic said. "It is 52 years of waiting in a special kind of stadium so if you do it in style - we did not nick it - it is a great performance. I'm really proud of the players and the whole club.

"To beat Liverpool 3-0 - you can't ask more than that."

"We're forever blowing bubbles," sang the West Ham supporters. Not only is their wait at this venue over, they've turned the early season fizz at Anfield into froth.

Date: 29 August 2015

Opposition: West Ham United

Competition: League

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

29 August 2015



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Liverpool bubble bursts

The air of optimism that had built up at Anfield during a three-match unbeaten start to the new season was ruthlessly sucked away in a devastating 30-minute display of counter-attacking by West Ham, which ended one of English football's great feats of futility.

September 14, 1963, at the start of a season which would end with Liverpool champions of England and West Ham FA Cup winners, was the last time the Hammers had won a league fixture on this ground. But against a defence that had yet to be breached in the new campaign, Manuel Lanzini and Mark Noble put West Ham in control early before Diafra Sakho put an exclamation mark on a memorable victory in injury time.

The dismissal of Philippe Coutinho early in the second half, for his second rash yellow card in a matter of minutes, hardly helped Brendan Rodgers' cause but the roles played by his centre-backs in West Ham's goals will have been particularly galling for the home manager.

Noble would join Coutinho in being shown red by Kevin Friend, thus becoming the sixth West Ham player sent off in 10 competitive fixtures this season, twice as many as the club received in the whole of last season. But nothing could detract from the fact that Slaven Bilic has now overseen victories at the Emirates and Anfield in his first two away league fixtures in charge.

"It is three points but it is one of those games that for the club, for the supporters especially, it is more than three points," said Bilic. "It is the same story as Arsenal - 52 years without winning here.

"I think we did it with style, we didn't nick it - it was a great performance."

The tone was set for Liverpool's afternoon inside three minutes when Dimitri Payet crossed from the right and Martin Skrtel steered his header straight to Aaron Cresswell. The defender appeared likely to shoot but instead intelligently picked out Lanzini, who guided the ball home from six yards.

Bobby Zamora, in 2006, was the last West Ham player to score a league goal at Anfield, but it took just 26 minutes for another to repeat the feat. Dejan Lovren lost the ball to Lanzini as he attempted to shepherd it out of play and the resulting cross reached Noble, who finished superbly.

"Four of seven teams lost at home in the league today and up until today I think there have been six wins out of 30, so it's going to be a really difficult league to get your home wins," said Rodgers.

"But our concentration is on winning here at home, we love playing here and the support has been brilliant here. The first three games we gave them hope again but today we disappointed."

Arguably the most damning aspect of the display lay in the fact that, save for a Roberto Firmino shot which struck the post after eight minutes, there was little to concern Darren Randolph in the visiting goal.

The concerns were all Rodgers', especially when Coutinho was booked just before the interval for dissent. Six minutes after the restart, the same man was involved in a challenge on Payet which Friend harshly ruled worthy of a second yellow, and with Coutinho went his team's main source of creativity.

West Ham continued to look dangerous on the counter, Cheikhou Kouyate shooting wide, Cresswell being denied at the near post and Winston Reid heading over from a corner.

Ambitions may have been muted after 79 minutes when Noble went in with studs showing on Danny Ings and was shown a straight red. But still the final word belonged to Bilic's team, deep in injurytime, when Sakho benefitted from a rebound off Lovren and simply shrugged off two challenges, one from Skrtel who stood off and allowed him to finish from 16 yards.

Liverpool: Mignolet 6, Clyne 6, Skrtel 5, Lovren 4, Gomez 5 (Ibe 77, 6), Lucas 7, Can 5 (Moreno 46, 5), Milner 5, Coutinho 6, Firmino 6 (Ings 60, 6), Benteke 5 West Ham: Randolph 7, Tomkins 7, Reid 7, Ogbonna 7, Cresswell 8, Obiang 7, Lanzini 8 (Oxford 81, 7), Kouyate 8, Noble 6, Payet 9 (Jarvis 88, 5), D Sakho 7 (Cullen 90, 5)

The Observer

Liverpool's wheels come off as West Ham end over 50 years of Anfield pain

The Beatles were at No1 with She Loves You when West Ham United last won at Liverpool courtesy of goals from a then un-knighted Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters. Forty-two times since that 2-1 win in September 1963 their supporters have traipsed back to east London without tangible reward. No longer. Fifty-two years on, it finally came wrapped in an emphatic victory for Slaven Bilic's side.

"Super Slav" sang the travelling support as their manager savoured his second win in the Premier League. The first came at Arsenal, the second at Anfield with goals from the excellent Manuel Lanzini, Mark Noble and Diafra Sakho polishing a supremely well-organised away display. Following consecutive home defeats by Leicester City and Bournemouth, it appears West Ham are thriving away from the Boleyn Ground a season before they leave their historic home for good.

Not even Noble's harsh dismissal could dampen an afternoon to savour for the visitors. For Brendan Rodgers and Liverpool, however, this was a galling, dispiriting defeat capped by a red card for Philippe Coutinho that means he will miss the trip to Manchester United after the international break. All the encouragement from a spirited start to the campaign disappeared in tandem with their new-found defensive prowess. West Ham shattered Liverpool's aim of a fourth successive clean sheet after merely 148 seconds and their momentous victory was rarely jeopardised thereafter.

"Our confidence has been really high until today but a lot of this defeat was self-inflicted," bemoaned Rodgers, who found no answer to West Ham's deep defensive block. "The overall performance was disappointing from the off. Once we conceded the early goal we just couldn't get back into the game again. With and without the ball we have to be much better in the future."

Liverpool had opened with intent but they granted the hugely impressive Dimitri Payet too much space at the visitors' first attack and compounded the problem when Martin Skrtel headed his right wing cross to Aaron Cresswell on the edge of the Liverpool area. The former Anfield trainee drilled a low delivery into the six-yard area where Lanzini ghosted in ahead of Joe Gomez to score from close range.

A soft, simple way for Liverpool to spoil their clean sheet. The home team almost levelled when Roberto Firmino, making his first start at Anfield, cut inside Noble 25 yards out and unleashed a powerful left-foot strike that struck a post with Darren Randolph beaten in the West Ham goal. For all the probing of their Brazilian pairing, Coutinho and Firmino, that was as close as Liverpool came in the first half as the visitors' powerful, composed defence limited the space and supply available to Christian Benteke.

By contrast, Payet and Lanzini were a potent force on the counterattack for Bilic's team, who should have doubled their lead when Cresswell met Sakho's deflected shot inside the area but scooped his effort over the bar.

West Ham were gifted their second courtesy of a dreadful error by Dejan Lovren. Rodgers had hailed the Croatia international for his early season improvement before the game but was left cursing that public vote of confidence when the £20m central defender lost out to Lanzini near the corner flag. Lovren shook off the attentions of the on-loan Argentinian on the touchline, then inexplicably turned the ball into Lanzini's path on the by-line. The former River Plate midfielder strolled into the Liverpool area unopposed and, though Nathaniel Clyne intercepted a cross intended for Sakho, the ball broke for the in-coming Noble to slide a measured finish into the bottom corner from the edge of the penalty box.

Boos rang out from the Kop for Liverpool's aimless display at half-time and the home supporters were incensed when Coutinho was sent off for a second bookable offence seven minutes after the restart. Coutinho, already booked for dissent, invited trouble from the referee, Kevin Friend, when he sent Payet tumbling while lying flat on the ground. Soft but foolish. "It was extremely harsh," said the Liverpool manager. "Kevin must have really good ears if he could hear what Philippe was saying for the first yellow card."

Rodgers replaced Emre Can with Alberto Moreno at half-time and reverted to a 3-4-2-1 formation. He gave Danny Ings a first Liverpool appearance in place of Firmino and introduced Jordon Ibe for Gomez.

The pattern remained the same. Winston Reid and Angelo Ogbonna continued to dominate Benteke in the air while Noble and Pedro Obiang worked tirelessly in central midfield to protest their defence.

Noble received the second red card of the game for a supposed foul on Ings committed after Friend had blown for a West Ham free-kick. The visiting captain protested long and hard over the straight red having appeared to win the ball from the former Burnley striker. It mattered not. Sakho sealed a fine away win with a low shot through the legs of the back-tracking Skrtel and inside Simon Mignolet's near post in stoppage time.

Bilic said: "It is three points but it is one of those games for the club and especially the fans when it is more than three points. 52 years without winning at this special kind of stadium and we did it in style. We didn't nick it, it was a great performance in 90% of the aspects of the modern game. It was one of those victories that will be written about in books in years to come. You can't ask for more than that."

Date: 29 August 2015 Opposition: West Ham United Competition: League	Standard	Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent	29 August 2015
	Echo	Observer	Times	Telegraph		
	Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror		



West Ham won their first league match at Anfield since 1963 and inflicted a first loss of the season on Liverpool in a game featuring two red cards. The Hammers produced a masterclass of counter-attacking football, with Manuel Lanzini impressing on his debut. He scored the first and set up the second for Mark Noble, who became the second player sent off after Philippe Coutinho was red carded for Liverpool. Diafra Sakho added a third for West Ham in injury time. They were the first goals of the season conceded by Liverpool, whose defence was a shadow of the one that had impressed against Stoke, Bournemouth and Arsenal. Liverpool have been rightly praised for the way their defence has performed to keep clean sheets in each of the first three Premier League games of the season. However, the Reds' back four will deservedly be pilloried for their display against the Hammers. Martin Skrtel's poor clearing header from a cross allowed Cresswell to pick the ball up and cross low for Lanzini to finish from close range to give the Hammers the lead. Even worse was the dreadful mess made of a simple clearance by Dejan Lovren, who mis-controlled on his own byeline and allowed Lanzini to nip in and provide the half-cleared cross from which Noble followed up to slot in the second goal. The moment made a mockery of the pre-match praise heaped on the £20m defender by Brendan Rodgers - who switched to a three-man defence in the second half to little effect, with Sakho punishing them a third time for hesitancy at the back. Liverpool's calamitous defending should not take away from West Ham's counter-attacking excellence, particularly in the first half. In contrast to the diamond midfield utilised in the away win at Arsenal on opening day, the Hammers matched Liverpool's 4-3-3, but used the system to much better effect. A committed and disciplined back four was protected superbly by the energetic trio of Pedro Obiang, Cheikhou Kouyate and Noble, allowing Dimitri Payet and Lanzini in particular the freedom to do damage in the Liverpool half, while Sakho led the line superbly. Lanzini's debut showcased a willingness to pick up the ball deep and drive forward at pace and also an eagerness to work for the team by closing down opponents to force mistakes - something he did to optimum effect for the second goal. In contrast, Liverpool's Roberto Firmino, brought in from Hoffenheim £29m in the summer, was a peripheral figure and was substituted after an hour. The Brazilian was not the only Reds player to underperform, though, with Lovren's 55th-minute shot - easily saved by Darren Randolph - their only one on target. Already trailing 2-0, Liverpool's challenge was effectively ended by the sending off of Coutinho - an outcome the Brazil midfielder could easily have avoided. His first booking came from an indefensible lack of discipline as he failed to retreat from a free-kick, meaning any mis-timed tackle - like the one he produced on Payet in the 51st minute - left him vulnerable. Not only did it cost Liverpool a realistic chance at getting something from this game but it means Rodgers will now have to cope without one of his best players, including in their next game against Manchester United. There was a hint of controversy to Noble's straight red card, shown for violent conduct as a result of his lunging challenge on Danny Ings. However, the whistle had already blown for a foul on Noble, which does not take away from his offence but does mean it came when play was not active. Fortunately for him and his side, it came too late in the game to give Liverpool a chance to come back.

West Ham boss Slaven Bilic: "We played really good and started well. We were well organised. We had a plan, but the boys perfectly did that plan. Their movement, concentration and aggression was 90% of the game. "We parked the bus but we didn't put the handbrake on. There is nothing wrong with that. It means when the opponent has the ball you stop them. When needed we were there with nine men but when we had the chance we had players in their part of the pitch. "With the greatest respect to the official, Mark Noble's sending off is not a red card."

Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers: "We're disappointed with the result. We came into the game with a motivation to win but we give away a poor goal and you have to give credit to West Ham. "We didn't defend moments well at all. We didn't have too many times to defend but when we did it wasn't how we've been. Offensively we weren't creative enough. We need to be much better than that. "I didn't think Coutinho was a sending off and neither was the one for Noble." Liverpool travel to Manchester United after the international break for a clash between two sides with top-four ambitions. United are at Swansea on Sunday and a win would leave them three points above Liverpool. West Ham will hope to halt a run of two straight home defeats with a match against Newcastle at Upton Park.

Date: 29 August 2015

Opposition: West Ham United

Competition: League

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

29 August 2015



Full time Match ends, Liverpool 0, West Ham United 3.

90:00+7:04Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 0, West Ham United 3.

90:00+5:39Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, West Ham United. Josh Cullen replaces Diafra Sakho.

90:00+4:36 Attempt blocked. Danny Ings (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.

90:00+3:18 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by James Milner.

90:00+1:23Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 0, West Ham United 3. Diafra Sakho (West Ham United left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner.

90:00+0:45Booking Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

90:00+0:38 Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool).

90:00+0:38 Aaron Cresswell (West Ham United wins a free kick on the left wing.

88:05 Offside, West Ham United. Cheikhou Kouyaté tries a through ball, but Diafra Sakho is caught offside.

87:28Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, West Ham United. Matthew Jarvis replaces Dimitri Payet because of an injury.

87:11 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

85:47 Delay in match Dimitri Payet (West Ham United because of an injury.

85:16Booking Danny Ings (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

85:05 Foul by Danny Ings (Liverpool).

85:05 Dimitri Payet (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

83:30 Hand ball by James Milner (Liverpool).

82:50 Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Christian Benteke with a headed pass following a corner.

82:25 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Pedro Obiang.

82:05 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Pedro Obiang.

82:02 Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Ibe with a cross.

81:05Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, West Ham United. Reece Oxford replaces Manuel Lanzini.

80:33Booking Manuel Lanzini (West Ham United is shown the yellow card.

79:29 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

79:29 Foul by Diafra Sakho (West Ham United).

77:57Dismissal DismissalMark Noble (West Ham United is shown the red card for violent conduct.

77:48 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).

77:48 Mark Noble (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

77:15Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Jordan Ibe replaces Joseph Gomez.

76:50 Attempt missed. Winston Reid (West Ham United header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Dimitri Payet with a cross following a corner.

76:12 Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Nathaniel Clyne.

76:11 Attempt blocked. Manuel Lanzini (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Aaron Cresswell.

75:48 Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Danny Ings.

75:17 Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

75:16 Attempt saved. Aaron Cresswell (West Ham United left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Mark Noble.

74:14 Foul by Danny Ings (Liverpool).

74:14 Pedro Obiang (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

73:31 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

73:31 Foul by Aaron Cresswell (West Ham United).

73:01 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

73:01 Foul by Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United).

70:44 Attempt saved. Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner.

70:16 Attempt blocked. Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked.

69:18Booking Lucas Leiva (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

69:07 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).

69:07 Mark Noble (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

68:33 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

68:33 Foul by Angelo Ogbonna (West Ham United).

67:22 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).

67:22 Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United wins a free kick on the right wing.

63:17 Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Danny Ings.

61:57 Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Joseph Gomez.

61:20 Hand ball by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool).

60:21Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Danny Ings replaces Roberto Firmino.

59:34 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

59:24 Delay in match Diafra Sakho (West Ham United because of an injury.

58:13 Attempt blocked. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

57:42 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

57:42 Foul by Pedro Obiang (West Ham United).

56:21 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).

56:21 Mark Noble (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

55:02 Joseph Gomez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

55:02 Foul by Dimitri Payet (West Ham United).

54:10 Attempt saved. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is

saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

51:37Dismissal DismissalSecond yellow card to Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool for a bad foul.

51:27 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).

51:27 Dimitri Payet (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

50:53 Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Joseph Gomez.

49:14 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

47:46 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

47:46 Foul by Pedro Obiang (West Ham United).

45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 0, West Ham United 2.

45:00Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno replaces Emre Can.

45:00+4:13Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 0, West Ham United 2.

45:00+3:52Booking Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

45:00+3:32 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).

45:00+3:32 Dimitri Payet (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

45:00+3:02 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mark Noble.

43:31 Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.

40:06 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

40:06 Foul by Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United).

39:21 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).

39:21 Mark Noble (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

38:53 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

37:50Booking Mark Noble (West Ham United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

37:24 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

37:24 Foul by Mark Noble (West Ham United).

35:50 Attempt missed. Mark Noble (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is too high following a set piece situation.

35:05 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).

35:05 Diafra Sakho (West Ham United wins a free kick on the left wing.

34:15 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).

34:15 Angelo Ogbonna (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

33:05 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

31:52 Delay in match Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United because of an injury.

30:46 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

29:37 Delay in match Diafra Sakho (West Ham United because of an injury.

28:23Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 0, West Ham United 2. Mark Noble (West Ham United right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner.

26:45 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).

26:45 Mark Noble (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

25:04 Attempt missed. Aaron Cresswell (West Ham United right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high.

25:00 Attempt blocked. Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Dimitri Payet.

24:35 Attempt missed. Joseph Gomez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a corner.

24:02 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Darren Randolph.

22:10 Offside, Liverpool. Simon Mignolet tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.

20:05 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).

20:05 Angelo Ogbonna (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

19:34 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Dimitri Payet.

15:17 Attempt missed. Manuel Lanzini (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Dimitri Payet.

14:01 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

14:01 Foul by Angelo Ogbonna (West Ham United).

13:16 Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

12:43 Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by James Milner.

11:57 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).

11:57 Dimitri Payet (West Ham United wins a free kick on the right wing.

10:06 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

10:06 Foul by Manuel Lanzini (West Ham United).

8:09 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool hits the left post with a left footed shot from outside the box. Assisted by Dejan Lovren.

6:36 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by James Milner.

2:28Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 0, West Ham United 1. Manuel Lanzini (West Ham United right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Aaron Cresswell with a cross.

0:00 First Half begins.

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