

Date: 1 October 2015 Opposition: Sion Competition: Europa League					1 October 2015
	the guardian Liverpool's Adam Lallana makes his case with goal in Sion draw Once again the Kop delivered a more emphatic finish than a Liverpool player. Boos greeted the final whistle for the third time in four matches at Anfield after a persistent flaw cost Brendan Rodgers' team against FC Sion. The Liverpool manager offered several valid reasons for Premier League mediocrity in Europe before kick-off but only one explained a point against poor Swiss opponents: their lack of quality in front of goal. Rodgers selected an under-strength team with Sunday's derby at Everton in mind and Anfield was left predictably underwhelmed by a second 1-1 draw in Group B. Liverpool had the luxury of an early lead through Adam Lallana, who had chances for a second along with Danny Ings and particularly Divock Origi. All went begging and another defensive lapse presented a Sion team high on commitment but low on quality with the chance they needed to top the group. "We are disappointed with the result and the story of the game was pretty obvious," the Liverpool manager said. "We started well and got in front but gave away a poor goal and then created chances throughout the game that we didn't take. We should have won the game comfortably." As against Aston Villa on Saturday, the luxury of a swift breakthrough did not prevent Liverpool making life unnecessarily complicated for themselves. Liverpool could have been three ahead before the visitors equalised from their first attack. Cheap goals continue to plague whatever side Rodgers selects. He had shown where Europa League group games rank on his list of priorities with his team selection in Bordeaux. It was a similar mix of young and fringe players for the visit of Sion, a side described as pathetic and awful by their chairman, Christian Constantin, on Sunday after a 1-0 defeat at home to bottom-of-the-table Vaduz. "The players should be ashamed of being paid," said Constantin, who cut a brooding figure in the Anfield directors' box as those in yellow struggled to keep their feet as well as their defensive organisation. Liverpool started with only four players likely to retain their places for the Everton game – Simon Mignolet, Emre Can, Nathaniel Clyne and Ings. The rest had the opportunity to press their claims for Goodison Park and Lallana was quick to promote his cause. Joe Gomez, with a composed, intelligent display on the left of a three-man defence, followed suit. Lallana scored Liverpool's first Europa League goal of the season in Bordeaux and had already troubled the Sion defence before claiming his second after only four minutes. The £25m midfielder appeared offside when he turned a header from the impressive Jordan Rossiter into the path of Origi but play continued. Origi, another needing to capitalise on a rare start, did well to hold off the formidable figure of Leo Lacroix and even better to roll an inviting ball back from the byline for the unmarked Lallana. The England international swept home from close range. Sion had rarely ventured out of their own half but took full advantage of a Clyne error to stun Anfield with an equaliser. The right wing-back played a careless pass across his own half straight to Veroljub Salatic in central midfield. Salatic sent a first-time ball over the top of an exposed Liverpool defence and Ebenezer Assifuah controlled expertly on his chest, held off the covering Jordon Ibe and prodded a simple finish under Mignolet. "A very disappointing goal," said Rodgers. "It was probably their only chance." Clyne almost made amends by crossing for Ings but the striker, called up for England duty for the first time on Thursday, was a yard offside. Origi should have restored Liverpool's lead from another astute pass into the box by Joe Allen but took too long in possession and allowed Pa Modou Jagne to make his second vital tackle of the game. The Belgium international impressed with his pace and movement. His finishing, however, left much to be desired, and he missed another good chance when played through by a superb pass from the inventive Allen. Kolo Touré, of all people, went closest with an overhead kick against the bar. Rodgers said: "Divock showed his skill and quality in the assist for the first goal but he knows the next step is his finishing." "He got in good positions but when you get those opportunities at this level you've got to be able to take them."				

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	Liverpool continued a stuttering start to their Europa League campaign as they drew with FC Sion at Anfield. Adam Lallana gave the hosts a perfect start, scoring from close range after Divock Origi's cross despite appearing to be offside in the build-up. The Swiss side drew level through Ebenezer Assifuah's cute finish. Origi and Lallana were both denied by Sion goalkeeper Andris Vanins, as Liverpool recorded a second consecutive draw in Group B. There was a smattering of boos at the final whistle after frustration mounted against a team who are mid-table in the Swiss Super League. The Reds have scored more than one goal on only one occasion this term under Brendan Rodgers but, with two games against Russian side Rubin Kazan to come, the Liverpool boss will hope to achieve the victories they need to take charge of what appears to be a relatively easy group. Playing in a 3-5-2 formation, Liverpool paid for their profligacy and with seven changes to the team after the Premier League win over Aston Villa last Saturday, there were times when Sion, led by the pace and strength of Assifuah, threatened Liverpool's back-line. Which fringe players staked their claim? Rodgers stuck to his preferred policy of selecting fringe players and youngsters for the Europa League, with Sunday's Merseyside derby also influencing his thinking. Daniel Sturridge was among those rested, allowing £10m Belgium international striker Origi the chance to make an impression. He set up Lallana's goal and although he was twice denied by the impressive Vanins, he showed signs he could be finding his feet after a hesitant start to his Anfield career, having been on loan at Lille last season. Danny Ings partnered the 20-year-old up front and was effervescent on the day he received his first call-up to the England squad, while Lallana showed some nice touches and took his goal well. Jordan Rossiter continued in midfield after playing in the opening group game in Bordeaux, and was steady alongside Joe Allen. Did the system work? Liverpool created plenty of chances and, had Origi been more ruthless, they would have sealed a comfortable victory. Other problems came in defence as Nathaniel Clyne and Jordan Ibe started at wing-back, with Joe Gomez, Kolo Toure and Emre Can making up a back three. Clyne gave the ball away for the equaliser, with Xavier Kouassi finding Assifuah with a diagonal ball, which caught out Ibe on the left. But Liverpool looked more solid when Clyne was replaced by Alberto Moreno at half-time, with Ibe switching to the right wing-back position. The introduction of Philippe Coutinho after 61 minutes gave the hosts some extra guile up front, and although Liverpool are now five games unbeaten there is a still a feeling that without Sturridge and the injured Christian Benteke they are lacking firepower. Man of the match: Adam Lallana Manager reaction Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers: "The result was disappointing considering the number of chances we created. We worked well and had a good start but gave away a disappointing goal. The players worked hard but we couldn't score the goals. You have to be clinical. "We scored a good first goal. They weren't half chances, they were good chances and you have to score them at this level. We have to win a game like that." Stats you need to know The last seven goals Liverpool have scored in all competitions have come from English players (Danny Ings, Adam Lallana, James Milner, Daniel Sturridge).				

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BBC

Full time Match ends, Liverpool 1, FC Sion 1.

90:00+3:06Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, FC Sion 1.

90:00+0:59 Offside, Liverpool. Simon Mignolet tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.

90:00+0:08 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool).

90:00+0:08 Edimilson Fernandes (FC Sion wins a free kick on the right wing.

89:07Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, FC Sion. Geoffrey Mujangi Bia replaces Moussa Konate.

87:00 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Mamadou Sakho.

86:46 Attempt blocked. Joseph Gomez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can.

85:54Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, FC Sion. Birama Ndoye replaces Ebenezer Assifuah.

83:37 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

83:37 Moussa Konate (FC Sion wins a free kick in the defensive half.

82:56 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

82:56 Foul by Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion.

82:03 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

82:03 Foul by Edimilson Fernandes (FC Sion.

81:34 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

80:39 Delay in match Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion because of an injury.

80:14Booking Alberto Moreno (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

80:11 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool).

80:11 Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion wins a free kick on the right wing.

77:31 Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Emre Can is caught offside.

76:43 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

76:43 Foul by Carlitos (FC Sion.

75:59Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Mamadou Sakho replaces Kolo Touré.

75:24Booking Xavier Kouassi (FC Sion is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

75:20 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

75:20 Foul by Xavier Kouassi (FC Sion.

74:27 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

74:27 Carlitos (FC Sion wins a free kick in the attacking half.

73:10 Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a through ball.

72:50 Attempt saved. Carlitos (FC Sion right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Vero Salatic.

71:24 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner.

70:37 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

70:37 Foul by Edimilson Fernandes (FC Sion.

69:21 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

69:21 Moussa Konate (FC Sion wins a free kick on the left wing.

68:36 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.

68:34 Attempt saved. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.

67:10 Attempt saved. Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Vero Salatic.

66:07 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

66:07 Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion wins a free kick on the right wing.

65:05 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

65:05 Foul by Xavier Kouassi (FC Sion.

64:16 Attempt missed. Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right misses to the right. Assisted by Carlitos with a cross.

63:38 Attempt saved. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Joe Allen with a through ball.

60:32Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho replaces Danny Ings.

59:53 Attempt missed. Danny Ings (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

58:46 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Leo Lacroix.

56:13 Attempt missed. Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion right footed shot from a difficult angle and long range on the right misses to the left. Assisted by Moussa Konate with a headed pass.

55:29 Foul by Jordan Rossiter (Liverpool).

55:29 Jagne Pa Modou (FC Sion wins a free kick in the attacking half.

54:15 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

53:26 Attempt saved. Carlitos (FC Sion right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal.

52:30 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

52:30 Moussa Konate (FC Sion wins a free kick in the attacking half.

51:53 Attempt blocked. Elsad Zverotic (FC Sion right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Xavier Kouassi.

50:50 Attempt missed. Vero Salatic (FC Sion right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left.

49:38 Kolo Touré (Liverpool hits the bar with a right footed shot from the centre of the box following a corner.

49:15 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Leo Lacroix.

47:47 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Andris Vanins.

47:43 Attempt saved. Danny Ings (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 1, FC Sion 1.

45:00Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno replaces Nathaniel Clyne.

45:00+0:02Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 1, FC Sion 1.

44:56 Attempt missed. Moussa Konate (FC Sion left footed shot from the left side of the box is too high. Assisted by Jagne Pa Modou.

44:09 Attempt missed. Joseph Gomez (Liverpool header from a difficult angle on the right is just a bit too high. Assisted by Adam Lallana with a cross following a corner.

43:30 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jagne Pa Modou.

38:28 Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Jordan Rossiter with a cross.

37:20 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

37:20 Foul by Xavier Kouassi (FC Sion.

36:40 Offside, FC Sion. Leo Lacroix tries a through ball, but Moussa Konate is caught offside.

32:20 Offside, FC Sion. Reto Ziegler tries a through ball, but Leo Lacroix is caught offside.

31:50 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

31:50 Moussa Konate (FC Sion wins a free kick on the right wing.

28:43 Offside, FC Sion. Carlitos tries a through ball, but Edimilson Fernandes is caught offside.

28:06 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Xavier Kouassi.

25:18 Attempt blocked. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Joseph Gomez.

24:51 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

24:51 Foul by Carlitos (FC Sion.

24:09 Attempt blocked. Moussa Konate (FC Sion left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Ebenezer Assifuah.

23:14 Hand ball by Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion.

22:29 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).

22:29 Moussa Konate (FC Sion wins a free kick in the defensive half.

21:48 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Leo Lacroix.

20:43 Corner, FC Sion. Conceded by Jordon Ibe.

19:54 Offside, Liverpool. Nathaniel Clyne tries a through ball, but Danny Ings is caught offside.

17:00Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, FC Sion 1. Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Xavier Kouassi with a through ball.

15:45 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool with an attempt from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jordon Ibe with a cross following a corner.

15:10 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jagne Pa Modou.

15:08 Attempt blocked. Danny Ings (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Joe Allen.

13:51 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Andris Vanins.

13:45 Attempt saved. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom right corner.

13:40 Attempt blocked. Divock Origi (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

6:45 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

6:45 Foul by Xavier Kouassi (FC Sion.

6:16 Offside, Liverpool. Nathaniel Clyne tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.

5:40 Offside, FC Sion. Vero Salatic tries a through ball, but Ebenezer Assifuah is caught offside.

4:51 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

4:51 Ebenezer Assifuah (FC Sion wins a free kick in the attacking half.

3:47Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, FC Sion 0. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Divock Origi.

1:54 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

1:54 Foul by Elsad Zverotic (FC Sion.

0:10 Offside, FC Sion. Edimilson Fernandes tries a through ball, but Moussa Konate is caught offside.

0:00 First Half begins.

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