

Date: 4 October 2015  
Opposition: Everton  
Competition: League

|             |           |      |                |
|-------------|-----------|------|----------------|
| Times       | Telegraph | Echo | 4 October 2015 |
| Guardian    | Mirror    | BBC  |                |
| Independent | Mail      |      |                |

# THE TIMES

Aimless, broken display showed why time was up for Rodgers

Everton 1  
Lukaku 45  
Liverpool 1  
Ings 42

Referee: M Atkinson Att: 39,598

For a quite forgettable afternoon at Goodison Park, it will live long in the memory. The 225th Merseyside derby was not a classic of the genre, not by a long shot. Quality was in precious short supply; so too, more unusually, was the fire and thunder this fixture tends to inspire. It will have its place in history, though. This derby will go down as Brendan Rodgers' last stand. In that context it was entirely fitting. Not a victory, not a defeat, not a triumph and not a disaster.

Liverpool started well, flirted with success and then faded, the Northern Irishman powerless to stop it, before petering out in the mire of mediocrity. In the distorting focus of hindsight it is hard to avoid a suspicion there is a metaphor in there, somewhere.

An away draw with Everton did not do for Rodgers. Only the most simplistic analysis would record Romelu Lukaku's equaliser on the stroke of half-time, cancelling out Danny Ings' opener, as the act that precipitated the end of his three-and-a-bit year reign. Indeed, the timing of the announcement is enough to make you wonder whether even victory might not have made much of a difference. But it would be foolish, too, to strip this game of any significance. Watching from Boston, it is not far-fetched to suggest the manner of Liverpool's performance might have convinced the club's owner, Fenway Sports Group, that it had little choice but to act now.

Certainly, for all Rodgers' protestations as he reflected on the game, before his phone rang with the news he must have known was coming but hoping would not be delivered, there were scant signs here that things were about to get better. He said his players could not have done any more for him. There can be no question that they are giving their all, he added, that they did all that he could ask of them. Effort and application, though, are just one element of a manager's job. Rodgers knows that. He might have ticked those boxes -- though even that is debatable -- but plenty more stood empty.

Liverpool played without any form of coherence, any sort of plan. They might have started the brighter, pushing Roberto Martinez's side back, but even by the time Ings gave them the lead, heading home James Milner's corner in the sort of space that will give Phil Jagielka cold sweats, it was something of a surprise. By then Simon Mignolet had produced two fine saves, tipping over a Steven Naismith header and palming away a fizzing drive from James McCarthy. Martinez's team had calmed the nerves in their young, unfamiliar back-line that had jangled in the opening minutes and were starting to assert themselves. They deserved to go in level, Lukaku firing home after Emre Can could only redirect Gerard Deulofeu's cross into Martin Skrtel.

Worse was to come in the second half. Liverpool's system -- whatever system they were playing -- crumbled completely after the break. At times, they seemed to be deployed in some sort of 4-0-6, vast green spaces opening up where the midfield once stood. Rodgers might be right in what he said, his last public utterances as Liverpool manager: it might take years for Liverpool to get back to the level he, Luis Suarez and Raheem Sterling took them to in 2014; it might not be the case that changing the manager acts as a panacea.

But looking at that team, fragmented and fractured and running aimlessly in the dark, it was hard not to think that perhaps this one was on him. If the players are giving their all and this is the best they can do, then it is only natural - only logical -- that blame has to be shifted on to the man who sets them up, lays them out, tells them what it is they should be doing.

MATCH STATS EVERTON LIVERPOOL POSSESSION 49.2% 50.8% TOTAL ATTEMPTS 9 6 ATTEMPTS ON TARGET 2 4 CORNERS 5 11 FOULS 10 19 OFFSIDES 1 0 RATINGS Everton (4-2-3-1): T Howard 7 -- T Browning 7, P Jagielka 7, R Funes Mori 7, B Galloway 7 -- G Barry 6, J McCarthy 6 -- G Deulofeu 5 (sub: A Lennon, 59min 5), R Barkley 6, S Naismith 5 (sub: A Kone, 79) -- R Lukaku 7. Substitutes not used: J Robles, D Gibson, B Oviedo, L Osman, M Holgate.

Booked: Barkley, McCarthy, Lukaku Liverpool (3-4-1-2): S Mignolet 7 -- E Can 6, M Skrtel 7, M Sakho 6 -- N Clyne 5, L Leiva 6 (sub: J Allen, 79), J Milner 6, A Moreno 7 -- P Coutinho 5 -- D Sturridge 5, D Ings 7 (sub: A Lallana, 76). Substitutes not used: A Bogdan, J Gomez, D Origi, J Ibe, J Rossiter. Booked: Can, Lucas, Sakho.

# the guardian

Romelu Lukaku strikes to earn Everton derby point against Liverpool Goodison Park proved to be Brendan Rodgers' last stand, as it was for Carlo Ancelotti at Chelsea and David Moyes at Manchester United before him, though Everton could take no credit for Liverpool's official recognition of failure. This was a sacking several months in the making.

The 225th Merseyside derby had been consigned to the growing file of the instantly forgettable when it was given a status it never merited by the announcement Rodgers had been sacked. A game low on incident, quality and purpose -- from both sides -- was rendered significant by the departure of the manager who came closer than anyone in the last quarter of a century to ending Liverpool's desperate wait for a 19th league title. Ultimately, however, it was an appropriate finale for a coach who prided himself on developing a clear direction at Anfield but whose team have lost their way for several months.

It was Rodgers' performance in the post-match press conference that indicated he knew the end was nigh, rather than Liverpool's display against a supposedly confident Everton. This was not a Liverpool team refusing to play for their manager but one short of confidence, cohesion, sharpness and the ability to leave their local rivals cowering. Just over an hour later, away from Goodison, Rodgers took a call from the president of Fenway Sports Group, Mike Gordon, informing him it was over. Ian Ayre, Liverpool's chief executive, then arrived to explain the decision in person.

He must have known it was coming. "If we are to replicate what we did two years ago, we will have to build something. Unfortunately that will take time," Rodgers said after the game. "That is frustrating for supporters but there are new players to come in. That will take time, whether that is me or someone else in the job." Liverpool's owners must take responsibility for the millions squandered replacing top talent with mediocrity but having seen the assistant manager Colin Pascoe and first-team coach Mike Marsh fall first in the summer, Rodgers knew he was on delicate ground after a miserable start to this season. Realistically he had to demonstrate clear signs of progress in the run of four consecutive home games against Norwich, Carlisle, Aston Villa and FC Sion. Three of the four ended with boos from the Kop.

It encapsulated the paucity of Rodgers' final match that Martin Atkinson's refusal to dismiss Lucas Leiva for a merited second booking was the main source of contention. "I don't understand that decision," said Roberto Martinez, whose side finished the stronger but were unable to punish Liverpool's insecurities. Everton's poor derby record now stands at one win in the last 18 contests. "Lucas was very clever. His technical fouls were clever but the second one was from behind and he should have been given a yellow card. We should have played against 10 men for the last 15 minutes."

Danny Ings marked his first derby appearance with a third goal in five appearances. The impressive Romelu Lukaku levelled quickly from the latest in a long line of Liverpool defensive errors, although Simon Mignolet was faultless on this occasion. The Belgium goalkeeper produced superb saves from Steven Naismith and James McCarthy, while in the opposition defence Phil Jagielka excelled in leading the inexperienced but talented trio of Ramiro Funes Mori, Brendan Galloway and Tyias Browning. All were making their first starts in a Merseyside derby, all impressed and Everton were indebted to Funes Mori for a vital interception on Daniel Sturridge with seconds remaining.

Liverpool created five openings before Everton overcome their latest sluggish start. None were clear-cut but Tim Howard's sliding tackle on James Milner, Jagielka's well-timed challenges on Sturridge and Ings, Martin Skrtel's free header over and Ings' half volley reflected the flow of the opening exchanges. Howard also denied Milner at his near post following a neat one-two between the England midfielder and Philippe Coutinho.

Everton exploded into life midway through the half. Mignolet produced a brilliant fingertip save to prevent Naismith burying Ross Barkley's free-kick with a powerful header from 12 yards. Moments later he turned away McCarthy's drive from the edge of the area after good approach work from the hosts.

Goodison cranked into life when Emre Can and Barkley became embroiled in a daft spat over the ball and were the first players booked as a consequence. The derby finally had the atmosphere it deserved. Its opening goal arrived shortly afterwards when Barkley lost Ings at a Milner corner and, with Howard not dominating his six-yard area, the former Burnley striker was free to head home his third goal in five games from close range.

Liverpool's corner came after Gerard Deulofeu had needlessly lost possession in his opponent's half, one of countless errors by the mercurial Spanish winger who did well to survive his substitution for 59 minutes. Yet his one positive contribution resulted in the tireless Lukaku equalising for Everton on the stroke of half-time. Deulofeu's cross from the right wing was dangerous but should have been routine for Can once it sailed over Lukaku's head. Instead, his clearance cannoned off Skrtel and the Everton forward did not waste the opportunity to find the bottom corner from eight yards out.

The timing of Lukaku's seventh goal of the season tilted the momentum towards Everton in the second half but they failed to capitalise on several promising counterattacks. Barkley shot wide from distance, Lukaku tested Mignolet from a tight angle while Coutinho and Milner went close for Liverpool.

Man of the match Phil Jagielka (Everton)

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# TheMail

## Breathless for a year, but it ended in denial for Rodgers

EVERTON Lukaku 45 1 LIVERPOOL 1 Ings 41

IN the end, Brendan Rodgers left the way they all leave -- buried in denial. Asked after yesterday's draw at Everton if he believed his team was making progress, he was unequivocal. 'Yes, absolutely,' he said. 'I see it in the way we are playing and the way we are training. We are better than we were at the start of the season.'

Rodgers leaves Liverpool with the club in a strange position. Just three points outside the top four of the Barclays Premier League but also barely in the top half of the table. That says much about the peculiar nature of this season. Crystal Palace in the top four. Chelsea in the bottom five.

What is relevant only to Liverpool, though, is their football. That -- not Liverpool's points tally -- is what got Rodgers sacked last night. Where the Northern Irishman saw progress, everybody else saw only regression, stagnation and confusion and yesterday's game at Goodison Park was a case in point.

Liverpool were decent for 45 minutes. They took the lead through Danny Ings four minutes before the break but Romelu Lukaku (right) pounced in added time at the end of the half to flash a shot past Simon Mignolet. After Everton's equaliser, the visitors were impotent. In the second half they were second best to an Everton team missing four of its best players. Their defending was poor. Under Rodgers, Liverpool's defending was always poor. Even in the good times, Liverpool often had to score four simply because the opposition were always likely to score three. It was a problem Rodgers didn't seem able to see, never mind solve, and it was fundamental to what made him vulnerable.

In football, if you don't move forward, you are essentially moving backwards and when you are manager of Liverpool you either find a way to shift the momentum or you lose. In many ways, Rodgers was perfect for Liverpool. A human, emotional man, he was able to talk the way Liverpoolians like their managers to talk. To his credit, he had visions of playing the type of football they like their teams to play. This, largely, is why Rodgers' departure is a genuinely sad moment for Liverpool and for English football. After the failure of the Roy Hodgson experiment and the uncomfortable reunion with Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool required a manager with a vision and in taking Rodgers from Swansea they had one. At his inaugural press conference in the summer of 2012, he talked of smothering the opposition with high tempo, aggressive football.

'I want 90 minutes at Anfield to feel like the longest afternoon of their lives,' he said, introducing his audience to some typically colourful rhetoric.

For one, gloriously romantic season, of course, it worked. Liverpool played blitzkrieg football during 2013-2014 and at times it was stunning.

Yes, Luis Suarez wasn't a Rodgers signing but he flourished in a Rodgers team, encouraged to express himself in a side driven by Daniel Sturridge, Raheem Sterling and Steven Gerrard and garnished by perhaps his best signing, the magnificently gifted Philippe Coutinho. Rodgers almost took Liverpool to the promised land, too. A league title then would maybe even have eclipsed Rafael Benitez's 2005 Champions League triumph. Maybe. After all, as Bill Shankly once said, the league title was always Liverpool's bread and butter.

That Rodgers could not move Liverpool forwards after the crushing denouement of that season has cost him now. As for the reasons, the departure of Suarez and Sterling and the waning of Gerrard's powers are things for which he cannot be blamed. He could have handled Gerrard more sensitively last season but would the captain's presence this season have changed things much? In all likelihood it wouldn't.

Where Rodgers never excelled at Anfield, though, was in the transfer market. As a coach, he is undoubtedly gifted. The likes of Sterling, Jordan Henderson and indeed Suarez all excelled and improved under him and there is no reason to feel the likes of Jordon Ibe and Nathaniel Clyne would not have benefited.

In the market, though, Rodgers was erratic at best and hopeless at the very worst. There is not enough room here to list the turkeys but there were many. At times one does wonder who is buying the players at Anfield. There is a story circulating this season, for example, that Rodgers wanted Swansea defender Ashley Williams but was told by the club's transfer committee that he couldn't on the grounds of his age. He is 31. Maybe one day Rodgers will tell us the truth of this. Maybe the likes of Mario Balotelli, Ricky Lambert, Fabio Borini and Divock Origi were not his signings. But if that is the case, Rodgers is exposed as weak and malleable.

This, after all, is a man who told the Anfield ownership prior to his appointment three summers ago that he wouldn't come if Louis van Gaal was appointed above as football director. Whatever the case, Rodgers has without doubt failed on the back of the way he has spent the club's money. Over time, it seems as though he has also lost faith in his own blueprint of how the game should be played.

Last summer, for example, his coaches were dismissed.

That spoke of panic and blame-shifting and reflected well on neither the manager or the club. It seemed a pivotal moment at the time and certainly feels like one now. Last season, with Suarez gone, Lambert untrusted and Sturridge injured, Liverpool effectively played without a centre forward. In the summer they bought one, the Belgian Christian Benteke, but Rodgers seemed unsure how best to use him. Yesterday, with Benteke injured, Rodgers paired Danny Ings, a good signing, with the fit-again Sturridge. Rodgers had spoken of how the return of the England player would rejuvenate his team but Sturridge was hopeless in a side that seemed uncertain of its own identity.

Compared to the team that started the opening game of the season at Stoke City,

yesterday's featured a totally different formation and only five of the players. Certainly Rodgers has suffered from circumstance and the availability of prime managerial candidates. With the likes of Jurgen Klopp available and willing, Rodgers always had to hit the ground running. This correspondent feels Rodgers has been cut loose too soon. If he was good enough in the summer, what has changed over the course of eight league games? Nevertheless, there were other factors. It has been apparent for some time, for example, that Liverpool's American owners have not only been unsure about whether they trusted Rodgers but also whether they even liked him anymore. For example, reputation is everything in the USA and the publicity attracted by the breakdown of his marriage did not sit comfortably with the Fenway Sports Group.

Yesterday, however, a football judgment was passed in Boston and it is right, therefore, that a football judgment should be passed here.

Those wishing to castigate Rodgers should look at who played for Liverpool in the first Mersey derby of FSG's reign, five years ago this month. Paul Konchesky, Joe Cole, Sotirios Kyrgiakos. That shows you from just how far back this great club was coming. Rodgers, arriving less than two years later, hauled Liverpool forward quickly. The ride was breathless at times and Liverpool, briefly, were relevant again. It had been a while and, on the Kop, they should thank him for that.

MATCH FACTS

EVERTON (4-3-2-1): Howard 6; Browning 6, Jagielka 7, Funes Mori 6, Galloway 6; Naismith 6.5 (Kone 79min), McCarthy 6.5, Barry 6.5; Deulofeu 5.5 (Lennon 60, 6), Barkley 5.5; Lukaku 6. Subs not used: Robles, Holgate, Oviedo, Osman Gibson.

Booked: Barkley, McCarthy, Lukaku.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): Mignolet 8; Can 6, Skrtel 6.5, Sakho 6; Clyne 6, Milner 7, Lucas 6.5 (Allen 78), Moreno 6.5; Coutinho 7; Ings 7.5 (Lallana 75, 6), Sturridge 5. Subs not used: Bogdan, Rossiter, Ibe, Origi, Gomez.

Booked: Can, Lucas, Sakho. Man of the match: Simon Mignolet. Referee: Martin Atkinson 6.

## The Daily Telegraph

### Mignolet saves deny Everton derby victory

The last time Goodison Park proved to be a graveyard for a high-profile manager, David Moyes was stalked by a figure decked out as the Grim Reaper as his brief reign at Manchester United came to an end in April 2014 after a 2-0 defeat. There was no such ordeal for Brendan Rodgers as hisLiverpool team surrendered a 1-0 lead to draw at Everton yesterday but, dressed in a black suit with a black tie, it was as though the Northern Irishman knew what was coming anyway.

Evertonians relished the end of Moyes at United, less than a year after he had traded Goodison for Old Trafford, but there will be an even greater sense of joy at claiming the scalp of Rodgers, if only due to the fact that the former Swansea City manager came so close to restoring Liverpool to the summit of English football with the club's title near-miss two years ago.

Rodgers almost made Liverpool great again, so there will be undoubted satisfaction that his plans were buried under the rubble at Goodison - a stadium which also hosted Carlo Ancelotti's final game as Chelsea manager prior to his sacking in May 2011.

Everton can now claim to have seen off two Liverpool managers following a draw at Goodison Park, with Rodgers joining Kenny Dalglish, who resigned after a 4-4 FA Cup draw in January 1991, on that particular list.

Rodgers' dismissal - announced three hours after the final whistle - suggested that the outcome of this derby would have made no difference to his own prospects. The point they eventually emerged with, after Romelu Lukaku's first-half goal cancelled out an opener by Danny Ings, moved Liverpool to within three points of the top four - and four points clear of reigning champions Chelsea.

Rodgers was clearly a dead man walking, but Everton were unable to force the victory which would have at least given Liverpool's decision to sack their manager some credibility. After all, who sacks a manager after a draw?

Had Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet not produced crucial saves from Steven Naismith, James McCarthy and Lukaku, Everton may have earned their first derby victory since 2010.

That wait goes on, but the head of Brendan Rodgers will probably do as a consolation prize at the end of a derby low on quality, but ultimately high on significance.

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THE

INDEPENDENT

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LIVERPOOL

ECHO

Rodgers' plea for time ignored as FSG wield the axe

The real drama didn't arrive until after the dust had settled on the 225th Merseyside derby.

A phone call from Fenway Sports Group president Mike Gordon delivered the news that Brendan Rodgers had been dreading. Liverpool chief executive Ian Ayre then explained the decision in person.

This dour stalemate at Goodison proved to be the final sorry chapter in the Northern Irishman's three-and-a-half year Anfield reign.

In truth the outcome made no difference. Rodgers' fate had already been sealed. Even an emphatic victory over Everton wouldn't have saved him from the axe.

Just four months after the American owners reaffirmed their faith in the 42-year-old, their patience has run out. Having given Rodgers £80million to invest in the squad in the summer and granted permission for him to overhaul his backroom staff, they expected a much greater bang for their buck.

Liverpool sit 10th in the Premier League with just 12 points from eight matches. They find themselves just three points adrift of the Champions League spot they covet but FSG's belief in Rodgers' ability to deliver that target had evaporated.

Staff and players have changed - but club's fortunes haven't

The Northern Irishman's plea for more time fell on deaf ears. The Reds have won just once inside 90 minutes in their last nine matches and his recent talk of embarking on "another rebuilding job" didn't go down well with John W Henry, Tom Werner and Mike Gordon.

Since March, Liverpool have taken just 20 points from 17 league matches. The only teams the Reds have beaten in that period are Newcastle, QPR, Stoke, Bournemouth and Villa. Only Watford, West Brom and Newcastle have scored fewer goals this season.

On the back of May's 6-1 final day debacle at Stoke - the club's biggest defeat for more than half a century - the clamour for change was deafening. But FSG stuck by him.

The problem for Rodgers was that since then the staff and the players have changed but the club's fortunes haven't. Liverpool remain on a downward spiral. As a result there was nowhere for him to hide.

The boos that have rung around Anfield in recent weeks resonated in Boston. The manager had been subjected to levels of dissent and unrest not seen since Roy Hodgson's wretched reign five years ago.

Events have undoubtedly conspired against him. He has £100million worth of talent on the treatment table with captain Jordan Henderson's broken foot a crushing blow.

But supporters haven't been in the mood for excuses having witnessed Liverpool stumble on with no real sense of direction.

The performance at Goodison wasn't that of a team who had given up playing for their manager. The commitment and passion from those in red couldn't be questioned.

But it was another horribly disjointed display with the Reds dogged by painfully familiar issues.

Quality thin on the ground at Goodison but players dug deep

Yet again they went in front. Yet again they shot themselves in the foot and gifted the opposition a soft equaliser. Yet again after conceding they lost their way.

Quality was thin on the ground throughout a poor game between two average teams. Both were there for the taking, neither were able to take advantage as Romelu Lukaku cancelled out Danny Ings' header.

When their backs were against the wall, Liverpool dug deep. It was certainly a world away from the abject manner in which they collapsed at Old Trafford three weeks earlier.

Since then Rodgers' side have gone six games unbeaten but the pressure on his shoulders only intensified. Draws against Bordeaux, Norwich, FC Sion and Everton - coupled with a narrow win over lowly Aston Villa and the embarrassment of needing penalties to get past Carlisle - has seen the gloom continue to descend.

Offered a point beforehand, most Kopites would have taken it such was the trepidation that accompanied the short stroll across Stanley Park.

It was Everton who went into the game with momentum behind them, but the Blues' five-year wait for a derby win goes on.

The frustration for Liverpool was that they had Roberto Martinez's men where they wanted them and let them off the hook.

Defensive vulnerabilities on show again

For most of the opening half hour, the Reds were on the front foot. It was a show of energy and invention, with Everton looking much the nervier of the two sides.

Liverpool pressed as well as they have done all season as they hunted in packs to shut down space and imposed themselves on the contest.

Alberto Moreno impressed down the left flank as he raced forward with menace and defensively he shackled the threat of Gerard Deulofeu.

Tim Howard saved at the feet of James Milner, who was then denied by the keeper once again after exchanging passes with Philippe Coutinho.

But it didn't last and Liverpool's defensive vulnerabilities soon surfaced. Simon Mignolet's form has been a concern in recent weeks but the Belgian keeper could hold his head high at Goodison. Twice in quick successions he produced saves

right out of the top drawer.

Steven Naismith looked destined to punish some sloppy marking when he sent Ross Barkley's free-kick goalwards but Mignolet expertly tipped it over.

Then he threw himself full length to keep out James McCarthy's piledriver.

Three minutes before the break the Gwladys Street was silenced. Milner swung in a corner and Ings was kindly granted the freedom of the six-yard box to gleefully nod home. It was a special moment for Ings as he celebrated his maiden England call-up in style.

Liverpool needed to protect that lead like their lives depended on it. Getting to the interval in front would have been a major psychological boost. The anxiety levels around Goodison were growing.

But, infuriatingly, in first half stoppage time they imploded. Emre Can panicked and hammered his clearance against Martin Skrtel. Lukaku did the rest. It was the fifth time in six games that Liverpool have gone ahead and not been able to hold on.

The mood was transformed with Everton handed the initiative for the second half. Lukaku caused plenty of problems as he bullied Skrtel but Mamadou Sakho stood firm.

At the other end Daniel Sturridge was strangely subdued and never looked like doing some damage. Behind Sturridge, Coutinho was equally ineffective as McCarthy did a job on him. Liverpool were crying out for some inspiration but the little Brazilian couldn't provide it.

There was no late twist as the both settled for a share of the spoils.

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BBC

Everton and Liverpool fought out a Merseyside derby at Goodison Park in what proved to be Brendan Rodgers's final game in charge of Liverpool. Danny Ings escaped Ross Barkley to head James Milner's corner past a static Everton keeper Tim Howard, but the game's outstanding performer Romelu Lukaku pounced on Emre Can's poor clearance to level just before half-time. Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet kept his team in contention, before Ings scored, with two magnificent saves from Steven Naismith and James McCarthy. Everton looked the stronger and more likely winners as the game progressed, and Rodgers was sacked an hour after full-time.

Rodgers's last stand

Rodgers will have known this had the potential to be a defining game in a managerial tenure that was coming under intense examination. With Jurgen Klopp, Carlo Ancelotti and Frank de Boer heavily linked with Anfield, Rodgers knew defeat in such a high-profile fixture against their neighbours was not an option. It turned out that a draw was not enough. He may have even hoped for victory when Ings scored, but Everton deserved their point and arguably more besides, led by the rampaging Lukaku. It was not a result or performance that could clear the clouds hanging over Rodgers.

Liverpool owners Fenway Sports Group acted fast and now have the international break to choose their new man.

Lukaku the superpower

As Chelsea plunge into crisis and down to 16th place in the Premier League after the loss to Southampton at Stamford Bridge, some of their supporters may just have an envious glance towards the performance of Lukaku. Chelsea raked in a handsome £28m when they sold Lukaku to Everton in the summer of 2014, but he looked worth every penny once more as he terrorised the Liverpool defence.

Lukaku left defenders Martin Skrtel and Mamadou Sakho living on their nerves as he dominated the aerial and physical challenges, scoring a deserved goal and leading Everton's attack.

The only problem he had was a lack of support in and around when he was winning those headers and some very mixed service - but he looked the real deal. Lukaku's career has, so far, been something of a tale of unfulfilled promise but at 22 he has all the weapons to develop into a world-class striker. He is now adding goals, with one here on top of his match-winning double at West Brom on Monday.

Derby defensive woes

Rodgers and Everton counterpart Roberto Martinez will both be desolate about the defending that led to both goals.

Ross Barkley lost Ings and Howard was nailed to his line as the former Burnley striker headed in James Miner's corner from five yards while Can's lashed, panicky clearance struck his own team-mate - Skrtel - before bouncing invitingly for Lukaku.

Everton fielded an unfamiliar back four with John Stones and Seamus Coleman out injured and three making their first Merseyside derby starts in Brendan Galloway, Tylas Browning and £9.5m Ramiro Funes Mori.

Galloway continued, as he has done all season, to look a class act in an unfamiliar left-back role, while Funes Mori improved as the game went on alongside the immaculate Phil Jagielka, making a couple of crucial interceptions.

Man of the match: Romelu Lukaku

Manager reaction

**Everton manager Roberto Martinez:** "Phil Jagielka, in my opinion, has been the best centre-half in the Premier League for the last 12 months and his relationship with the young Ramiro Funes Mori was outstanding.

"Tylas Browning and Brendan Galloway and our whole back four were outstanding, martialled by keeper Tim Howard. The senior players led very well."

**Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers:** "Our mentality in the game was outstanding, the draw was the least we deserved.

"I have got the passion, the players have got the passion and it never waned. What is forgotten is we lost four catalysts from team and that is huge. It is a constant rebuilding - this season is about that as well."

The stats you need to know

Everton have now gone 10 league games without a victory against Liverpool. The last time they had a longer run was in 1984 (11).

Liverpool have won just one of their last nine away Premier League games (D4 L4).

The last four results between Everton and Liverpool at Goodison have been 2-2, 3-3, 0-0 and 1-1.

Five of Liverpool's last six games in all competitions have ended 1-1.

The Reds have failed to keep a clean sheet in their last eight games in all competitions.

Pundit analysis:

**Bolton manager Neil Lennon speaking on BBC Radio 5 live:**"Liverpool were the better team in the first half. On balance a draw is a fair result.

"Their second-half performance was not great but they defended well and limited Everton to few chances."

What next?

Everton host Manchester United in their next game after the international break on Saturday, 17 October, while on the same day Liverpool have a trip to White Hart Lane to face Tottenham.

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| <div><div><div>BBC</div></div><div><p>Full time Match ends, Everton 1, Liverpool 1.</p><p>90:00+3:08Full time Second Half ends, Everton 1, Liverpool 1.</p><p>90:00+2:46 Attempt blocked. Aaron Lennon (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.</p><p>90:00+2:00 Attempt blocked. Romelu Lukaku (Everton left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Tiyas Browning.</p><p>90:00+0:16Booking Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.</p><p>90:00+0:15Booking Romelu Lukaku (Everton is shown the yellow card.</p><p>88:11 Attempt blocked. Romelu Lukaku (Everton left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked.</p><p>87:41 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>87:41 Foul by Gareth Barry (Everton.</p><p>87:34 Attempt blocked. Romelu Lukaku (Everton left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Tiyas Browning.</p><p>85:45 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Brendan Galloway.</p><p>83:39 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.</p><p>83:39 Arouna Koné (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>83:05 Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.</p><p>83:05 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>80:16 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.</p><p>80:06 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tiyas Browning.</p><p>78:52Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Joe Allen replaces Lucas Leiva.</p><p>78:21Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Everton. Arouna Koné replaces Steven Naismith.</p><p>77:44 Attempt blocked. Ross Barkley (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.</p><p>76:58 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.</p><p>76:58 James McCarthy (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>76:28 Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.</p><p>75:43 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.</p><p>75:43 Foul by Steven Naismith (Everton.</p><p>75:13Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Adam Lallana replaces Danny Ings.</p><p>73:10 Delay over. They are ready to continue.</p><p>72:01 Delay in match James McCarthy (Everton because of an injury.</p><p>71:23 Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool.</p><p>71:23 Steven Naismith (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>71:18 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.</p><p>70:46 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>70:46 Foul by James McCarthy (Everton.</p><p>69:48 Attempt saved. Romelu Lukaku (Everton right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Aaron Lennon.</p><p>69:44 Attempt blocked. Ramiro Funes Mori (Everton left footed shot from more than 35 yards is blocked. Assisted by Gareth Barry.</p><p>68:47 Foul by Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool.</p><p>68:47 Brendan Galloway (Everton wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>68:05Booking Lucas Leiva (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p><p>68:01 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.</p><p>68:01 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>65:22 Attempt missed. Ross Barkley (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Gareth Barry.</p><p>65:07 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.</p><p>64:34Booking James McCarthy (Everton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.</p><p>64:24 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>64:24 Foul by James McCarthy (Everton.</p><p>63:40 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tiyas Browning.</p><p>62:20 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.</p><p>60:35 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.</p><p>60:35 Tiyas Browning (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>59:09Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Everton. Aaron Lennon replaces Gerard Deulofeu.</p><p>56:13 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.</p><p>56:13 Steven Naismith (Everton wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>54:07 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.</p><p>54:07 Romelu Lukaku (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>53:01 Martin Skrtel (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>53:01 Foul by Ross Barkley (Everton.</p><p>49:42 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>49:42 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.</p><p>48:12 Offside, Everton. Ross Barkley tries a through ball, but Ramiro Funes Mori is caught offside.</p><p>47:29 Brendan Galloway (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>47:29 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.</p><p>46:38 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Mamadou Sakho.</p><p>46:36 Attempt blocked. Tiyas Browning (Everton header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Ross Barkley with a cross.</p><p>46:06 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Emre Can.</p><p>45:31 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.</p><p>45:31 Steven Naismith (Everton wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>45:00 Second Half begins Everton 1, Liverpool 1.</p><p>45:00+3:22Half time First Half ends, Everton 1, Liverpool 1.</p></div><div><p>45:00+2:00 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.</p><p>45:00+2:00 James McCarthy (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>45:00+0:59Goal scored Goal!Goal! Everton 1, Liverpool 1. Romelu Lukaku (Everton left footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal.</p><p>44:56 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.</p><p>44:56 Ramiro Funes Mori (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>44:28 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steven Naismith.</p><p>40:59Goal scored Goal!Goal! Everton 0, Liverpool 1. Danny Ings (Liverpool header from very close range to the bottom right corner. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.</p><p>40:25 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ramiro Funes Mori.</p><p>39:22 Attempt saved. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool header from the right side of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by James Milner.</p><p>38:54 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Phil Jagielka.</p><p>37:53 Delay over. They are ready to continue.</p><p>37:14 Delay in match Gareth Barry (Everton because of an injury.</p><p>36:41 Dangerous play by Emre Can (Liverpool.</p><p>36:41 Gareth Barry (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>36:01 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tim Howard.</p><p>34:43Booking Emre Can (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.</p><p>34:41Booking Ross Barkley (Everton is shown the yellow card.</p><p>32:30 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.</p><p>32:30 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>30:26 Attempt blocked. Ross Barkley (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by James McCarthy.</p><p>29:55 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.</p><p>29:54 Attempt saved. James McCarthy (Everton right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner.</p><p>27:17 Corner, Everton. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.</p><p>27:15 Attempt saved. Steven Naismith (Everton header from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Ross Barkley.</p><p>26:39 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.</p><p>26:39 Ross Barkley (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>26:06 Attempt missed. Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.</p><p>25:37 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tim Howard.</p><p>25:34 Attempt saved. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.</p><p>22:40 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.</p><p>22:40 Foul by Tiyas Browning (Everton.</p><p>21:49 Delay over. They are ready to continue.</p><p>20:00 Delay in match Martin Skrtel (Liverpool because of an injury.</p><p>17:00 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.</p><p>17:00 Phil Jagielka (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>14:46 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.</p><p>14:34 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.</p><p>14:34 Foul by Steven Naismith (Everton.</p><p>13:54 Foul by Ross Barkley (Everton.</p><p>13:54 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>12:55 Attempt missed. Danny Ings (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is too high. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a headed pass.</p><p>9:28 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ramiro Funes Mori.</p><p>8:56 Foul by Steven Naismith (Everton.</p><p>8:56 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>8:22 Attempt missed. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool header from the left side of the six yard box is too high. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross following a corner.</p><p>8:01 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by James McCarthy.</p><p>7:28 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Phil Jagielka.</p><p>7:27 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Martin Skrtel.</p><p>6:28 Foul by Tiyas Browning (Everton.</p><p>6:28 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.</p><p>5:30 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Danny Ings.</p><p>4:43 Attempt missed. Gareth Barry (Everton left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Romelu Lukaku.</p><p>1:24 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.</p><p>1:24 Romelu Lukaku (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.</p><p>0:00 First Half begins.</p><p>0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.</p></div></div> |             |           |      |  |                |