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8 November 2015

## THE TIMES

Dann sparks Anfield walkout to hand Klopp reality check

Liverpool 1 Coutinho 43

Crystal Palace 2 Bolasie 21, Dann 82 Referee: N Swarbrick Att: 44.115

After waiting 24 years for a win at Anfield, Crystal Palace have now experienced the thrill of victory there twice in the space of six months. While Liverpool's recovery under Jurgen Klopp suffered its first significant setback, the transformative effect that a new manager can have was there for all to see but it was Alan Pardew, rather than Brendan Rodgers' successor, whose powers of invigoration were most apparent.

"You must be sick of us" was the chorus from the away end as a compelling game was brought to an end and those sentiments probably apply to Pardew more than anyone else. A player in the Palace side that won at Anfield in 1991, Pardew, who famously scored the winning goal against Liverpool in an FA Cup semi-final 18 months earlier, was also the manager who brought the ensuing wait for a follow-up victory to an end earlier this year, spoiling Steven Gerrard's final home game in the process

With Gerrard in the Anfield crowd for the first time since his move to LA Galaxy, Pardew repeated the trick he pulled off last spring and in doing so administered another dose of reality to Liverpooljust as they were becoming intoxicated on the optimism ushered in by Klopp's appointment. For all the progress that has been made since his arrival, Liverpool remain a fitful, at times disjointed, team who suffer from a lack of quality in key areas and at key moments. As Klopp discovered to his cost yesterday, they are also one capable of slipping to avoidable defeats. Having responded positively to a sluggish start in which they went behind through Yannick Bolasie's second goal of the season, Liverpool failed to build on Philippe Coutinho's equaliser before half-time and were condemned to defeat by Scott Dann's decisive header with only eight minutes remaining. Dann, once a season ticket-holder at Anfield, prompted an exodus from the stands that he used to frequent as any faith that their new manager's unbeaten start would continue evaporated as soon as the Palace captain's struck.

While Klopp admitted to being perplexed by how rapidly the stadium emptied, Pardew heaped praise on the player who caused it.

"He had about 15 family members here today," Pardew said of Dann. "He was asking for tickets off everyone. His goal sums him up. You could see he was going to win that ball. I really think he has been underestimated throughout his career. Now I manage him I realise how good he is. He can be really proud of that. He was superb in everything he did."

The latter also applied to Bolasie, who took advantage of slack defending from Alberto Moreno and Emre Can to give Palace the lead at a venue at which he had thrived on his previous visit.

Having been reminded beforehand of his exploits on that occasion, a 3-1 win for Palace, Bolasie was Liverpool's chief tormentor once more, his welltaken finish past Simon Mignolet providing the symbolic moment that his performance deserved. At that stage, with 21 minutes gone, Liverpoollooked like a side who had returned from a 5,000-mile round trip to Kazan at 5am on Friday and it was to their credit that they responded as positively as they did, particularly after losing Mamadou Sakho to a knee injury shortly before equalising.

The goal had been coming with Christian Benteke, who endured a frustrating afternoon in front of goal, failing to make the most of two chances that came his way, but such profligacy did not seem such a problem when Coutinho finished Nathaniel Clyne's low cross at the back post with Jordon Ibe, Benteke and Adam Lallana also involved. Dejan Lovren, the substitute, then had a header cleared off the line by James McArthur as Liverpool ended the half in the ascendancy. They began the second period in similar fashion only for Benteke's errant aim to cost them again when he shot wide having been released by Coutinho. At that point, the day off that Pardew had promised his players in the event of victory being secured seemed unlikely as Liverpool threatened to take control of the game but before Benteke missed another headed chance, Palace offered a reminder of their threat on the counter attack when the unmarked Bakary Sako missed the target to waste Bolasie's build-up play.

Sako was immediately withdrawn and replaced by Connor Wickham, while Can made way for Roberto Firmino as Klopp demonstrated his desire for a win by substituting a midfielder with a forward. While his attacking intent was admirable, Klopp's decision added to the burden on Lucas Leiva, Liverpool's captain in the absence of Jordan Henderson and James Milner, as the Brazil international became his team's only midfield player on the pitch.

Palace began to find space in central areas, none more so than when Jason Puncheon came inside from the left flank and tested Mignolet with a powerful swerving effort that the Liverpool goalkeeper clawed away. The balance of the game appeared to have shifted in Palace's favour as Liverpoolbegan to wilt and that was reflected in the scoreline when Dann scored with his second headed attempt after his initial effort from Cabaye's corner had been repelled by Mignolet. This time, the reaction from Liverpool was minimal and Palace held on to a win that confirmed Pardew's status as, if not a scourge, then certainly an irritant. It also left him dreaming of Europe. "We have no complications; no Europa League, no League Cup so the league programme is right at the top of our agenda," he said.

"That helps us because all these big clubs have Europe to contend with."

## theguardian

Crystal Palace's Scott Dann rises highest to down Liverpool "You must be sick of us," the Crystal Palace fans sang, and Liverpool could only concur. Alan Pardew's team inflicted the first defeat of the Jürgen Klopp era with their third consecutive Premier League victory over the men from Anfield. One month into the job and Klopp is au fait with Liverpool's problem club. Goals from the excellent Yannick Bolasie and Scott Dann, a former Anfield seasonticket holder, gave Palace their latest Merseyside triumph. Pardew has now been involved in all three of Palace's league wins at Anfield, as a player in 1991 and twice as a manager in 2015, and Liverpool again struggled against his enterprising tactics. Klopp was dismayed by both the outcome and the number of early leavers after Dann scored in the 82nd minute.

The former Borussia Dortmund coach had a point; this was an absorbing contest and Christian Benteke squandered several chances, but the visitors' defence and counter-attacking play were outstanding. It was the perfect combination for an eye-catching away win.

"We made a conscious decision to take the game to Liverpool," said Pardew, who had promised his players an extra day off this week in the event of victory. "I said to the players that the problem with this team is it doesn't trust how good it can be. We proved that when we backed off and allowed Liverpool to dominate but once we went toe-to-toe with them we held our own. It is difficult to do that at these big arenas like Liverpool and Manchester United. In the last two games we have defended brilliantly and it has got us four massive points against two big clubs."

Steven Gerrard was in the crowd for the first time since departing for Los Angeles and must have had flashbacks to his last appearance at Anfield. Palace started in the same dominant fashion that ruined his Liverpool farewell in May, with Pardew's deployment of Bolasie alongside Bakary Sako in attack unnerving the home defence.

Bolasie, outstanding in Palace's 3-1 win last season, once again troubled Liverpool with his pace and touch. Only after the Congo international had given the visitors a deserved lead did Klopp's team find the urgency, accuracy and energy demanded. They could not sustain it and a potentially serious knee injury to Mamadou Sakho compounded the new manager's misery. "I would rather lose 4-1 and keep him in the team," said Klopp about the France defender, who will have a scan on Monday.

Palace punished several defensive lapses from Liverpool in opening the scoring. Sako rode a weak challenge from Alberto Moreno to release Wilfried Zaha down the right. Emre Can made a hash of clearing Zaha's low cross, Bolasie reacted quicker to the loose ball than Lucas Leiva, captain for the day in the absence of the injured Jordan Henderson and James Milner, and beat Simon Mignolet with an unstoppable finish from 10 vards.

Liverpool looked like a team that had made a 5,000-mile round trip to Kazan in midweek but the breakthrough woke them from their lethargy. Jordon Ibe and Nathaniel Clyne began to dominate the right wing, Philippe Coutinho and Adam Lallana found space behind Palace's midfield shield and the visitors struggled to herak in numbers

Benteke forced Wayne Hennessey into his first save of the game with a textbook header from Ibe's corner and wasted a good chance from Lallana's inviting pass. The equaliser arrived from an excellent team move that sent Klopp high-fiving into the supporters behind his dugout. Ibe released Clyne on the right of the penalty area, Lallana flicked the full-back's cross towards the far post and, just as he did at Stamford Bridge last weekend, Coutinho brought Liverpool level with an emphatic shot beyond Hennessey.

An open game continued to flow and both sides had cause to regret their finishing in the second half. Benteke, who struggled throughout, shot over from Coutinho's through ball, headed over from Moreno's cross and over-elaborated inside the area when put clear by the Brazilian. Sako wasted a better opening for Palace, hitting the side netting from six yards after Bolasie's break and cross from the right had left the striker with only Mignolet to beat.

Klopp replaced the poor Can with Roberto Firmino and switched to a 4-1-4-1 formation but the changes prompted an improvement only from Palace, who retook the lead with eight minutes remaining. Liverpool fan Dann towered over Firmino to head Yohan Cabaye's corner goalwards, Mignolet parried the effort but straight back to the defender who steered his second header into the top corner. "Scott had about 15 family members here today," said Pardew. "I think he has been really underestimated throughout his career but now I manage him I realise how good he is. He was superb in everything he did."

Man of the match Scott Dann (Crystal Palace)

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November 2015



KLOPP STOPPED BY PALACE JINX

APULSATING game was approaching its end when a spontaneous chant broke out from the visiting section of the Anfield Road.

'You must be sick of us!' Crystal Palace's fans repeatedly shouted. No response was forthcoming from The Kop as the answer was obvious. No team has heaped more misery on Liverpool in the last two years than the men from Selhurst Park and now they have inflicted Jurgen Klopp's first defeat.

Fully deserved this victory was, too. Palace, who have now won on their last four trips to Merseyside stretching back to April 2014, took the lead through Yannick Bolasie, defended stoutly then pounced at the death with a thumping header from boyhood Liveroool fan Scott Dann. It was a knockout blow.

As Liverpool heads started to drop, the stands began to empty, to Klopp's bewilderment. Having seen his side fight hard to get back into the game through Philippe Coutinho's goal, the idea of defeat being accepted vexed the German. 'This feels so bad because it was so unnecessary,' said Klopp, who had walked on to the pitch at the final whistle to console his players and congratulate Palace's squad. If he was phlegmatic, Alan Pardew was a picture of delight, jabbing the air with glee after a job well done.

The last time Palace visited this stadium, the day was emotionally charged as Anfield said farewell to Steven Gerrard; Pardew's men wrecked the occasion, winning 3-1. With Gerrard now in the directors' box, having returned from Los Angeles, the early signs were they wanted to do the same. Quick out of the blocks and showing a commitment to attack, Palace were intent on ending a run of three Premier League games without a win that had checked their momentum and they deservedly took the lead in the 21st minute with a goal that left Klopp shaking his head in exasperation. Alberto Moreno was weak when he had the chance to close down Bakary Sakho and, with the Liverpool left back out of position, it enabled Wilfried Zaha to fire in a cross that Emre Can made a hash of clearing and Bolasie pounced, thrashing a left-footed drive beyond Simon Mignolet.

Back in May, Bolasie was outstanding, terrorising Liverpool's defence and this, according to Pardew, was his finest performance since, the Congolese forward causing palpitations in Liverpool's back four every time he built up a head of steam

'He was terrific here last year,' Pardew (right) noted. 'He has been quiet this season but he was terrific.' Having only returned from Russia at 3.30am on Friday, Liverpool could have capsized at that point. Not so long ago, the concession of such a cheap goal would have effectively finished them but Klopp has been determined to imbue his side with a refusal to be beaten and their response was impressive.

First Christian Benteke forced a scrambling save from Wayne Hennessey, with a header from Jordon Ibe's corner, then the PS32million striker lost his footing after Ibe and Adam Lallana had worked an opening for him. Liverpool had to withstand the loss of Mamadou Sakho with a potentially serious knee injury -- the France international tried to carry on but ended up leaving the stadium on crutches -- yet they were still able to craft an equaliser before the interval.

It was a fine goal, too. Ibe's pass invited Nathaniel Clyne to scuttle forward and he crossed to Lallana, whose backheel was dummied by Benteke and enabled Coutinho to sweep a shot home. Klopp celebrated by swapping high-fives with fans.

Both sides were committed to attack and the pace of the game, aided by the slick surface caused by incessant rain and the intelligent refereeing of Neil Swarbrick, made it a fine spectacle and chances were created regularly after the interval. 'I thought it was a terrific Premier League game,' said Pardew, whose side had to withstand a number of rapid counter-attacks from Liverpool, one of which should have created a goal but Lallana, somehow, ducked his header under a cross from the

Yet there was always the feeling Palace would get the decisive goal and so it proved in the 82nd minute when Dann, a one-time Anfield season-ticket holder, headed in from close range after Mignolet had failed to deal with his initial effort. Since that extraordinary comeback in May 2014, when Liverpool's title hopes evaporated after surrendering a threegoal lead, Palace have enjoyed three consecutive Premier League wins. Little wonder their fans ended up singing 'Can we play you every week?' There was no response to their mocking tone. Anfield had become a sea of empty red seats and Klopp, for the first time since he arrived, felt alone.

## The Daily Telegraph

Fans make early exit as Klopp suffers first Liverpool loss
This will be seen as the day Jurgen Klopp realised he not only had to rebuild
a Liverpool team, but had to have the same galvanising impact on the whole
stadium

There were eight minutes left when Crystal Palace scored their winner and the Anfield exodus began. Scott Dann, a boyhood Liverpudlian, pounced on the rebound after Simon Mignolet's unimpressive reaction to an initial header, and the Londoners had their annual win on Merseyside.

"You must be sick of us," sang the Palace fans.

Klopp, suffering his first defeat at his new club, glanced at his watch and anticipated a surge towards the Kop goal in search of an equaliser - the type of which has been described with such finery in all those history books. Instead, the belief was not there from the players, nor in the stands.

It has been sapped over recent years. The German looked bemused as the stadium emptied, as the tradition of seeking an early commute is more pressing than yelling on the players in search of another goal.

This, one could only conclude, was not the venue Klopp had read and heard so much about in the European folk tales. He may have to lead Liverpool into a Champions League semi-final before he sees that kind of force again.

"After 82 minutes, I saw so many people leave the stadium, I felt pretty alone at that moment," said Klopp. "We decide when it is over. Between 82 and 94 minutes, you can score eight goals if you want but you have to work for it."

Klopp clarified he was not blaming nor criticising the supporters - it was a point he stressed twice - but, inadvertently or not, the observation opened an existing wound within Liverpool's fan base. Klopp is certainly not the first to remark on the habitual early leavers, but he is definitely the most esteemed and bulletproof. It will be a bruise to the ego of Anfield that Klopp does not sense the same frenzied emotion for 90 minutes within his new home as he did in Dortmund.

"I'm not disappointed with the fans," Klopp insisted. "We have to learn that we are responsible and with 82 minutes gone, nobody can leave the stadium. A minute before the final whistle, anything can happen and that is what we have to show the fans. We didn't.

"It feels so bad because it was not necessary to lose that game."

At least one VIP was not leaving early, although for former captain Steven Gerrard it all looked achingly familiar. Gerrard was back for the first time since Palace's last visit. On that day, Alan Pardew's side wrecked his farewell party by outplaying Liverpool in a 3-1 win.

Klopp's Liverpool were not so timid here and, until Dann's intervention, looked as likely to complete a comeback as finish with nothing, but every time progress is made a game like this offers a reminder of existing flaws.

Palace are as well balanced and as tough an opponent as Klopp has faced since arriving. WhenLiverpool allowed their guard to drop at the start and conclusion of an exciting game, they were punished.

Klopp's desire to see a high-tempo, physical, emotionally exhausting brand of football was realised but it was Palace who looked more equipped to enforce it. "Make the opponent feel terrible," was Klopp's message to the players in one of his first team meetings. As his players wearily made their way off the pitch, beaten by their own defensive errors in a gruelling encounter, Klopp was in no doubt in which dressing room the mental torment was being felt.

Palace attacked from the start, rewarded when Yannick Bolasie took advantage of two errors on 21 minutes, the first from Alberto Moreno and, most crucially, by Emre Can in his own penalty area.

Liverpool started to play midway through the first half and scored a well-constructed equaliser. Jordon lbe combined with Nathaniel Clyne and Adam Lallana to tee up Philippe Coutinho on 42 minutes.

Half-time came to Palace's advantage as they resisted two goalbound headers from Dejan Lovren, and returned after the interval with the same exuberance they showed at the first whistle.

It was an end-to-end second half, more like a scrap between two sluggers or a winner-takes-all cup tie. Christian Benteke was not sharp enough to take the opportunities that came his way, and it was left to Dann to send Klopp (right) home discontented and the early leavers rushing to their cars long before referee Neil Swarbrick called time.

Klopp's remarks will strike a chord - and give the Liverpool board plenty to ponder as they assess how to recreate the An-field vibe as part of their corporate upgrade of the main stand.

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STEVIE JINX; Groundhog day for Kop legend Gerrard as Palace inflict more Anfield agony

8 November 2015

LIVERPOOL 1

CRYSTAL PALACE 2

Coutinho 42 Bolasie 21 Dann 82

DIFFERENT manager, same result. But at least the tannoy was not belting out The End of the World As We Know It this time.

With Steven Gerrard watching from the stands, it may have been tempting for the former Liverpoolskipper to believe little has changed at Anfield since his last game here, which just happened to be a defeat by Palace.

Yet he knows this is a very different team with a very different mindset from the one in which he waved an emotional goodbye to this stadium on the penultimate weekend of last season. It is even a very different team from the one Jurgen Klopp inherited a few short weeks ago.

In his first defeat as Liverpool manager, the German at least displayed his conviction in going for a victory, even if it goes horribly wrong - as it did here when he threw caution to the wind attempting to find a winning goal. Yet in defeat there were positives for the Reds. Not least that they are no longer a side lacking conviction or belief, nor one which immediately run up the white flag when things go against them.

When Gerrard was interviewed on the pitch after that defeat in his final Anfield appearance, he was asked if the future was bright.

That brought howls of derision from supporters who feared the worst without their captain and with the players who had caved in that day, and did so again a week later at Stoke.

There was character here, no doubt. When Liverpool fell behind to a soft goal early in the first half, and even when they conceded the lead again to Palace late on, they kept trying to win.

That created a thrilling, at times spectacular contest, that visiting boss Alan Pardew described afterwards as the Premier League at its best. Liverpool did not cave in, even if their fans seemed to at the end when they streamed out early; a fact noticed by Klopp rather theatrically when he turned and appeared to ask where they were going.

Pardew was right about the excitement, and Palace played a massive part, because in taking the game so boldly to Liverpool he deserved the victory that gave him a remarkable record of being involved in the Eagles' only three league wins here, one as a player and the two, back-toback, as manager.

Perhaps the most significant moment in the game came though, when Klopp revealed exactly what sort of manager he intends to be. With the scores level and the game beautifully poised, he took off a central midfielder to create a five-man forward line.

Chances came, many which the home side should have accepted. Yet it also left the contest almost manically open, and gave Palace the space their willing runners in the outstanding Yannick Bolasie, Wilfried Zaha and Bakary Sako were able to exploit with such impunity.

The tone was set in the opening seconds when Mamadou Sakho's mistake gave Bolasie a chance, and a catalogue of mistakes from Moreno, Sakho and then disastrously Emre Can offered him another on 21 minutes that he buried. Previously this season, that would have signalled a Liverpool surrender. Instead, they almost blew away the visitors, creating fine chances for Adam Lallana, Christian Benteke and sub Dejan Lovren - on for Sakho, who picked up a serious knee injury - before levelling with a breathtaking move.

It was the everimproving Jordon Ibe who created it just before the break, with a fine pass for the marauding Nathaniel Clyne to cross, Lallana to back heel flick and Coutinho to convert emphatically.

Benteke should twice have put the Reds ahead, but carelessly missed close-range headers. And Lallana seemed to duck too, when a jump may have converted an lbe cross, but the isolation of Lucas as the sole midfielder was also a source of inspiration for the visitors.

Then Liverpool fan Scott Dann showed what strength of character and singleminded determination he has, bundling the ball in from Yohan Cabaye's corner at the second attempt, taking two Reds defenders with him in the process. Liverpool had chances, with Coutinho coming closest. Gerrard urged them on as those around him left, but it was not to be.

THEX INDEPENDENT

Dann haunts Liverpool to inflict Klopp's first defeat

"You must be sick of us," the Crystal Palace supporters chanted, as the sense that Liverpool would slither to their first defeat under Jrgen Klopp was too overwhelming to really contest the assertion with any force.

After all but killing Liverpool's title dreams in 2014 and wrecking Steven Gerrard's farewell here last May, Scott Dann's header with eight minutes remaining was the clinching moment for Palace.

The centre-half, who grew up a few miles away in Kirkdale and was spotted by Walsall scouts 12 years ago playing in the Anfield Junior Sunday League, having been ignored by both Merseyside clubs, celebrated the goal like his life's mission had been completed.

Dann's intervention sucked the energy out of a Liverpool team that for all but two fixtures a season, he supports; a team that made history by losing to Palace for a third league game in succession, the first time it has ever happened.

Klopp remained in his technical area, urging Liverpool forward. Earlier, when Philippe Coutinho had struck an equaliser at the end of a fabulous move, Klopp turned to the fans in the Paddock and high-fived the ones he could get close to in the front row.

Now, with Palace ahead again, he was disappointed with the contrasting reaction behind him, admitting that the early exit of supporters suddenly made him feel "very alone," before adding an important caveat that it was his team's responsibility to ensure nobody leaves the stadium prematurely, "not one minute before the end".

"We decide when it is over," he said, exaggerating that between the 82nd minute when Dann scored, and the conclusion of injury time, Liverpool could have plundered eight goals.

"Big decisions are made in moments when you are tired," he reasoned. "Tonight it feels so bad because it was so absolutely not necessary."

It must have already dawned on Klopp that his principal task is the undertaking of a relatively recent cultural shift that has scourged Anfield, one that dictates when it feels like Liverpool are verging on a bad result, it usually happens.

It had perhaps felt like a breakthrough had been made on the issue, considering the response when Mamadou Sakho fell writhing in agony and holding his knee towards the end of the first half, withLiverpool already behind.

Though Sakho left Anfield on crutches and with his leg in a brace, he tried to carry on despite the fact Dejan Lovren was ready for his introduction as a substitute. Sakho, hearing the crowd sing his name, gave it another go; his defiance proving to be an immediate inspiration because Coutinho pounced shortly afterwards. That, ultimately, Sakho could not continue for more than a few more minutes was a devastating blow for Klopp who said he'd rather lose 4-1 than lose him for what

could be a considerable period of time.

Alan Pardew, the Palace manager, was rather more positive about Liverpool's performance than Klopp, with the German frustrated that his players could only meet the standards he expects for 60 minutes rather than 95.

Pardew conceded that his ambition was fortunate to be rewarded with a victory considering periods of intense Liverpool command, with Palace playing on the counter-attack.

Pardew, though, had recognised that Liverpool's Thursday night trip to Rubin Kazan posed an opportunity to expose fatigue. His conviction was illustrated by a bold selection policy: starting with two centre forwards with qualities than can unsettle entire defences.

It was quite clear that Yannick Bolasie and Bakary Sako must have been told to simply charge at their opponents every chance they had. In the opening 40 seconds, Sako set after goalkeeper Simon Mignolet, who wanted to take his time switching the ball from one foot to the other.

Bolasie's presence, as it was in each of Palace's previous triumphs over Liverpool, was significant; his balance almost defying belief, with bulky defenders like Martin Skrtel and Sakho bouncing off those oxen thighs of his as if Mike Tyson were swatting an over eager amateur boxer to one side.

Skrtel and Sakho attempted to readdress the power balance by separately cracking into tackles on the Congolese early on. Yet his movement occupied the minds of others. For Palace's opening goal, he seemed to dominate half of the pitch, with Alberto Moreno too worried by his position infield to control properly, enabling Wilfried Zaha the space to deliver a cross aimed at, you guessed it, Bolasie.

From there, Emre Can made a mess of the clearance, and Bolasie was able to turn on the edge of the box before releasing a thumping shot that may have cut Mignolet in half had he been able to get near it.

Coutinho's equaliser came following a three-man sequence involving Jordon Ibe, Nathaniel Clyne and Adam Lallana and although Liverpool looked more likely to score again thereafter, Palace's strengths were Liverpool's weaknesses; Dann being able to win two headers from Yohan Cabaye's corner kick to force the ball over the line.

Dann, once a season-ticket holder at Anfield, must have dreamt of this happening. "I really think he has been underestimated throughout his career," Pardew said of his captain. "Now I manage him I realise how good he is."

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3 November 2015



Reds bubble bursts after familiar failings at both ends

The gloating chant from the away end in the dying minutes summed it up perfectly. "You must be sick of us," the Crystal Palace fans crowed.

They were spot on. Right to the back teeth. Once again Liverpool suffered at the hands of the Eagles as the momentum generated over the past three weeks was halted on a miserable afternoon at Anfield. Having stormed Stamford Bridge and then ended the Reds' three-year wait for a win on their travels in Europe, ridding Palace of their bogey team tag proved beyond Jurgen Klopp.

The German tasted defeat for the first time since his appointment as a six-game unbeaten run brimming with promise and optimism ground to a halt.

Not content with killing off Liverpool's title dream two seasons ago and then

Not content with killing off Liverpool's title dream two seasons ago and then wrecking Steven Gerrard's Anfield farewell back in May, Palace played the role of party poopers with relish once again. For Gerrard, who was sat in the directors box following his return from Los Angeles, there was a painful sense of deja vu as Alan Pardew's side departed with the spoils.

This was a game Liverpool should never have lost. But they ultimately paid the price for familiar failings at both ends of the field.

Boyhood Reds fan Scott Dann wheeled away in delight after becoming the latest to benefit from their vulnerability when it comes to defending set-pieces.

Yannick Bolasie had punished some equally shoddy defending earlier with those goals sandwiched by Philippe Coutinho's equaliser just before the interval. Once back on level terms, Liverpool dominated for long periods but weren't able to make it count as chances went begging. Klopp threw caution to the wind in search of a winner but they were caught by a sucker punch late on when Dann nodded home. During a frenetic contest the mood inside Anfield lurched from frustration to joy to hope and, finally, to bitter disappointment.

With expectation levels rocketing with every recent step forward under Klopp, this was a reality check for the Reds going into the international break.

#### Questions over squad quality

The former Borussia Dortmund has achieved so much since replacing Brendan Rodgers a month ago. He has revived a season which was going nowhere by instilling some much needed belief and putting in place a clear style of play where everyone is at ease with their role. Yet doubts about the quality of the squad he inherited remain. And Klopp's task hasn't been made any easier by a crushing run of injuries which has severely depleted his options. He has already lost Danny Ings and Joe Gomez to anterior cruciate ligament tears and the worry is that Liverpool have just completed an unwanted hat-trick. Mamadou Sakho will undergo a scan to determine the full extent the knee injury he suffered after landing awkwardly in the first half but the signs aren't good.

The France international left Anfield on crutches with his right knee in a brace. Sakho has shone as brightly as anyone under Klopp and losing the centre-back for an extended period would be a crushing blow to the Reds' hopes of glory this term. It's also worth remembering that the new boss has yet to be able to call upon either captain Jordan Henderson or striker Daniel Sturridge – two of the club's biggest assets. The next fortnight will at least enable Klopp to catch his breath after a whirlwind start of seven games in the space of just 22 days.

Considering the hectic schedule and how little time he has been able to spend with his squad on the training ground, the 48-year-old can be proud of the initial progress that's been made. The fact that defeat to Palace was accompanied by sympathetic applause rather than howls of derision underlined how far Liverpool have come since Rodgers' sacking.

### Work in progress remains

Yet Klopp's mission to transform the Reds into one, relentless united force remains a work in progress both on and off the pitch. Those supporters who didn't stick around until the bitter end clearly irked Klopp, who was left to reflect on feeling "pretty alone" at the sight of fans heading for home after Dann's header rather than staying put and trying to inspire a late rally. He won't convince everyone to stop trying to beat the traffic but you could understand his point.

But a bigger issue remains how you juggle the demands of domestic and European duties. In the build up to the game Klopp was adamant that fatigue wouldn't be a factor against Palace – despite the fact that there were just 60 hours between touching down from Russia and returning to Premier League duty.

But in reality heavy legs did play a part. How else can you explain the paucity of Liverpool's efforts in the opening half hour? Playing such a strong side in Thursday night's victory over Rubin Kazan came at a price. In contrast to the Reds' 5,000-mile round trip, Palace had enjoyed the luxury of a full week to prepare and it showed. The energy and tempo just wasn't there from Liverpool, who shot themselves in the foot midway through the first half.

The erratic Emre Can made a hash of dealing with Wilfried Zaha's cross and Bolasie accepted the gift. Belatedly, the Reds came with life. Jordon Ibe, who was deservedly handed his first league start since August, led the charge as he surged forward with menace. The teenager linked up well with Nathaniel Clyne, who put in an eye-catching shift at right-back.

Three minutes before the break Liverpool were level. Clyne's cross was flicked on by Adam Lallana into the path of Coutinho and the Brazilian finished in style. The atmosphere was transformed. Substitute Dejan Lovren twice went close as the

Reds finished the first half with a flourish.

In the second half they remained on top but Christian Benteke spurned some giltedged opportunities. Klopp went for broke as he replaced Can with Roberto Firmino but the Reds lost control. It all became too stretched, too open, too frantic. With eight minutes to go Dann cashed in on some slack marking to power Yohan Cabaye's corner goalwards. Simon Mignolet kept it out but could only flap it straight back to the defender, who made no mistake with the rebound. Liverpool's bubble has been burst.

#### MATCH FACTS

Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Sakho (Lovren 40), Skrtel, Moreno, Lucas, Can (Firmino 65), Ibe (Origi 87), Coutinho, Lallana, Benteke. Not used: Bogdan, Allen, Brannagan, Teixeira

Crystal Palace: Hennessey, Kelly, Dann, Delaney, Souare, McArthur, Cabaye (Mutch 86), Zaha, Sako (Wickham 65), Puncheon (Ledley 80), Bolasie. Not used: Speroni, Ward. Hangeland. Bamford.

Referee: Neil Swarbrick Attendance: 44,115 Goals: Bolasie 21, Coutinho 42, Dann 82 Bookings: Puncheon, Souare, Clyne

Man of the match: Nathaniel Clyne. Solid defensively and shone going forward as he linked up well with Jordon lbe down the right.

# **EveningStandard**

Scott Dann sinks Reds as Jurgen Klopp suffers first defeat
Scott Dann ended Jurgen Klopp's unbeaten start as Liverpoolmanager with a late
header which gave a vibrant Crystal Palace their third successive Premier League
victory over the Reds.

In a game of end-to-end attacking and bumps, scrapes and bruises, the visitors struck at an 82nd-minute corner to settle an entertaining affair 2-1 in their favour. Slack defending allowed Yannick Bolasie to score with Palace's first shot on target in the 21st minute and despite Philippe Coutinho's third goal in two games just before the break Dann exploited more set-piece weakness to grab the winner. Not only did it inflict Klopp's first loss, after three wins and three draws, but it also ended Liverpool's longest unbeaten run - 12 matches - since September 2013. Palace, who started at lightning speed and came alive again late on after a period on the back foot, were rewarded for not settling for a draw and going for the win when other sides would have closed down the game a lot earlier happy to leave Anfield with a point.

They were no doubt encouraged by the fact they were viewed as Liverpool's bogey side, at the back of their mind that 3-3 draw from 3-0 late in the season Brendan Rodgers almost won the title - something the watching Steven Gerrard, back from Los Angeles Galaxy in Major League Soccer's off-season, needed no reminding of.

The hosts were captained for only the second time by Lucas Leiva as James Milner missed his first league match for the club he joined in the summer after sustaining a hamstring injury in the midweek Europa League win over Rubin Kazan in Russia. That meant Klopp had to restructure his midfield but it was the defence which was found wanting again for the opening goal as Alberto Moreno's initial weak tackle allowed Wilfried Zaha to get the ball on the right and his cross was virtually teed up for Bolasie by Emre Can.

Spurred into life, Christian Benteke's header was clawed away by Wayne Hennessey before the striker completely mis-hit a shot from Lallana's pull-back. Liverpool lost Mamadou Sakho to what looked like a serious knee injury, although the France international attempted to play on after treatment and immediately almost gifted Yohan Cabaye a goal before he was replaced by Dejan Lovren. The hosts' right flank had looked their best avenue of attack and that is where the equaliser came from, with Adam Lallana's backheel of Nathaniel Clyne's cross crucial in doing just enough to divert the ball way from Palace's defenders and into the path of Coutinho who bent in a shot at the far post.

A late first-half flurry saw Lovren's header cleared off the line by James McArthur with Lucas volleying over the rebound. Benteke blazed over early in the second half, and headed over an even better opportunity from Alberto Moreno's cross on the hour - just after Bakary Sako had shot into the side-netting at the other end. The last half-hour felt like a cup tie with both sides going for the win as Klopp sent on the attack-minded Roberto Firmino for the more defensively secure Can and switched to a 4-1-4-1 formation, while Pardew swapped like-for-like with Connor Wickham replacing Sako.

Jason Puncheon tested Simon Mignolet from distance, but while the Belgium international had sure hands for that one when Dann headed Cabaye's corner goalwards he could only parry and the defender nodded in the rebound. At the end Palace fans were chanting "You must be sick of us" and "Can we play you every week?".

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	ввс

8 November 2015

### BBC

Jurgen Klopp suffered his first loss as Liverpool manager, seeing his side beaten by Crystal Palace at Anfield. Defender Scott Dann nodded in the 82nd-minute winner, reacting quickest after Simon Mignolet parried his header.

The visitors took the lead in the first half through winger Yannick Bolasie, who swivelled inside the box to fire in after the Reds failed to clear.

Liverpool 1-2 Crystal Palace: Jurgen Klopp bemoans 'unnecessary' defeat Philippe Coutinho curled in Liverpool's leveller three minutes before half-time following Adam Lallana's flick. But Liverpool-born Dann then inflicted a first defeat in 13 matches for the Reds, who were watched by former captain Steven Gerrard. Palace moved above their hosts - and Liverpool's city rivals Everton - into eighth place in the Premier League, having ended a four-match winless run. Liverpool's bogey team? Palace are quickly becoming Liverpool's bogey team,

Liverpool's bogey team? Palace are quickly becoming Liverpool's bogey team inflicting damaging results on the Reds over the past three seasons.

Liverpool 1-2 Crystal Palace: 'Terrific' Palace pleases Alan Pardew

In the the 2013-14 campaign, when the Reds were in the hunt for their first league title since 1990, Palace came back from 3-0 down by scoring three times in the last 11 minutes to dent their championship hopes.

Last season, the Eagles spoiled Liverpool legend Steven Gerrard's farewell appearance at Anfield, winning 3-1 as they completed a league double over their opponents.

This time, boss Klopp experienced his first defeat in seven games since taking over from Brendan Rodgers. And, although Liverpool dominated possession and territory, Palace held firm defensively and posed a threat on the attack through the pace of Bolasie, Wilfried Zaha and Jason Puncheon.

Palace quick out of the traps

With Liverpool returning from a near 5,000-mile round-trip at Russian side Rubin Kazan in the Europa League on Thursday, Eagles boss Pardew spoke to his players about the importance of making a fast start at Anfield to take advantage of any lethargy in the limbs.

And it looked like the travelling had taken its toll on the home side in the early exchanges.

The Reds made a slow start to the game as Palace pressed high and attacked with speed. The Eagles had 63% possession in the opening 20 minutes, making it count as Bolasie drilled in a finish after some sloppy Reds defending.

Liverpool unable to make dominance count

Liverpool eventually picked up the tempo, equalising shortly before the interval through Coutinho.

The Brazilian ran onto Nathaniel Clyne's right-wing cross inside the Palace area, bending the ball past Wayne Hennessey for his third goal in two matches. It was a deserved leveller based on the pattern of play following Bolasie's opener, but the Reds were unable to push on and force a second-half winner.

Reds striker Christian Benteke came close with a header and, moments after Dann's goal, Hennessey denied Coutinho from the edge of the area with a fingertip save.

But, in truth, Liverpool did not test the Wales keeper enough. The Reds had almost 65% possession over the 90 minutes, but only managed to hit the target with four of their 22 attempts.

Man of the match - Wilfried Zaha

Manager reaction

**Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp:** "Today is a bad feeling - it was not necessary to lose this game. We were the better team but for the first 15 minutes we were not on the pitch. We got the goal, we were awake, we started creating chances.

"But after the break, we gave them chances to cause us problems. Then we woke up again but couldn't make a goal. It feels so bad because it was not necessary. This was not enough for us - we can do more. We have to learn from this."

**Crystal Palace boss Alan Pardew:** "We came here with ambition. The worst thing that happened to us was scoring, we then lost the ambition. Liverpool came on to us.

"We went toe-to-toe against Manchester United and got a draw, we went toe-toe toe with Liverpool and got the win.

"Sometimes it is about our own belief. We have been unlucky in the last few games. We have started really well this year. We need to make sure we capitalise on that."

Stats of the day

Alan Pardew played in Palace's first league win at Anfield in 1991 and has managed the side to their two other wins there in 2015  $\,$ 

Philippe Coutinho has scored as many goals in his last two appearances under Jurgen Klopp as he did in his final 17 under Brendan Rodgers

Palace have won 10 away games in the Premier League in 2015, only Arsenal (11) have more

what's next?

That's next?

International break. But when Klopp's squad returns they must regroup for a trip to Premier League leaders Manchester City on Saturday, 21 November.

Palace return to action a couple of days later, hosting second-bottom Sunderland

at Selhurst Park on Monday, 23 November.

Times	Telegraph	Echo
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Independent	Mail	BBC

8 November 2015

Full time Match ends, Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 2.

90:00+4:04Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 2.

90:00+2:13 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.

90:00+2:13 Joe Ledley (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90:00+1:53 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half. 90:00+1:53 Foul by Connor Wickham (Crystal Palace.

90:00+1:16 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.

90:00+1:16 Connor Wickham (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

89:59 Attempt missed. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right following a corner.

89:38 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Wayne Hennessey.

89:07 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.

86:51Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Jordon Ibe. 86:01Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Crystal Palace. Jordon Mutch replaces Yohan

85:02 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.

85:02 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Wayne Hennessey.

83:22 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.

81:16Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 2. Scott Dann (Crystal Palace header from the centre of the box to the top left corner following a corner

81:15 Attempt saved. Scott Dann (Crystal Palace header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Yohan Cabaye with a cross.

80:45 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Alberto Moreno.

78:56Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Crystal Palace. Joe Ledley replaces Jason Puncheon.

77:06 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.

77:06 Damien Delaney (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

76:21 Attempt missed. Yohan Cabaye (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left following a set piece situation.

75:28Booking Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul. 75:24 Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool.

75:24 Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the left wing.

74:56 Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

73:58 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Scott Dann.

73:53 Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

73:18 Attempt blocked. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Benteke.

72:20 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

72:00 Attempt saved. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by James McArthur.

70:39 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.

69:49 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Christian Benteke.

67:38 Offside, Liverpool. Nathaniel Clyne tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is 66:28Booking Pape Souaré (Crystal Palace is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

66:19 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half. 66:19 Foul by Pape Souaré (Crystal Palace.

64:36Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino replaces Emre

64:13Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Crystal Palace. Connor Wickham replaces Bakary Sako.

63:32 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.

61:46 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from very close range is just a bit too high. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.

61:16 Attempt missed. Bakary Sako (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Wilfried Zaha with a cross following a fast break

60:40 Corner, Liverpool, Conceded by Martin Kelly.

59:30 Corner, Liverpool, Conceded by Bakary Sako.

58:33 Attempt blocked. Yohan Cabaye (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Wilfried Zaha.

56:43 Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.

56:43 Damien Delaney (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

55:41Booking Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace is shown the yellow card.

52:37 Attempt missed. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace right footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Pape Souaré.

51:29 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.

51:29 Scott Dann (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half.

47:50 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

46:04 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

46:04 Foul by Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace.

45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 1.

45:00+3:38Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 1.

45:00+3:14 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by James McArthur.

45:00+3:12 Attempt blocked. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.

45:00+3:05 Attempt blocked. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.

45:00+2:35 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Martin Kelly.

44:54 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Alberto Moreno.

43:51 Attempt saved. Deian Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross.

43:28 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.

41:26Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 1. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

39:41Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool, Deian Lovren replaces Mamadou Sakho because of an injury.

38:38 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Jordon Ibe.

38:00 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Pape Souaré.

36:54 Offside, Crystal Palace. Yohan Cabaye tries a through ball, but Yannick Bolasie is caught offside.

36:15 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

34:02 Delay in match Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool because of an injury.

32:36 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.

31:46 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana

30:38 Offside, Crystal Palace. Jason Puncheon tries a through ball, but Yannick Bolasie is caught offside.

28:27 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jason Puncheon.

28:15 Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Jordon Ibe with a cross

27:53 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.

27:29 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

27:29 Foul by Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace.

26:30 Attempt missed. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne following a set piece situation.

25:29 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

25:29 Foul by Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace.

25:06 Attempt blocked. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked.

25:05 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordon Ibe.

24:14 Attempt blocked, Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can.

20:03Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 0, Crystal Palace 1. Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner

19:10 Attempt missed. Yohan Cabaye (Crystal Palace right footed shot from more than 35 vards is too high.

17:06 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool. 17:06 Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the right wing.

15:28 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

12:36 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Pape Souaré.

7:12 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Nathaniel Clyne. 5:14 Foul by Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace.

5:14 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half. 0:55 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Mamadou Sakho.

0:00 First Half begins.

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