Date: 6 December 2015
Opposition: Newcastle United
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Times	Telegraph	Chronicle
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6 December 2015

THE TIMES

Newcastle rise to occasion after call for character

Newcastle United Skrtel 69 (og), Wijnaldum 90+3 2
Liverpool 0 Referee: A Marriner Att: 51,273

Sometimes it just comes down to the basics, to desire, hard work and pride in the shirt. Newcastle United supporters do not demand total football from their players but they do expect total commitment. And they got it yesterday. From the tone set by the pre-match huddle to the sight of players at the final whistle so utterly exhausted by their exertions that they almost could not stand, St James' Park was treated to a team giving all for the cause. They have not done in recent times but with their credibility on the line, let alone the job of Steve McClaren, they fought hard and delivered their most significant result of the season.

McClaren was so relieved at the end that he shook hands with his staff, his substitutes and then walked on the pitch to congratulate his players and salute the fans. He talked afterwards of the hard work put in by all his players, but particularly Georginio Wijnaldum and Moussa Sissoko because of the strain placed on them by his 4-2-3-1 tactics. The pair had to track back to protect their full backs, provide the attacking width, and also cut inside to assist midfield.

Wijnaldum was rightly named man of the match because he was instrumental in both goals, forcing Martin Skrtel's own goal and then lifting the ball over Simon Mignolet, the Liverpool goalkeeper, in added time to make the game safe at 2-0. But Sissoko's approach work was key in the timing and weight of his delivery to release Wijnaldum on both occasions. The game was hardly a great advertisement for the technical levels of the Barclays Premier League but it did promote the division's main attraction: unpredictability. Liverpool arrived having struck 13 goals in their previous three away domestic games, and with Jurgen Klopp being lauded to the rafters. Yet they lacked creativity and a cutting edge. Joe Allen can grow a beard and play deep in midfield but it does not make him Andrea Pirlo.

Christian Benteke and Roberto Firmino were hooked on the hour after failing to threaten Rob Elliot's goal or close down his defenders. Jordon Ibe was Liverpool's most consistent attacking force until tiring. Daniel Sturridge, Adam Lallana and Divock Origi came on to little effect, although Sturridge should have scored but swept a shot wide. Liverpool had a legitimate grievance when Alberto Moreno's volley was ruled out for offside when Paul Dummett played the left back on. If that had stood, making the score 1-1, Newcastle could have suffered a fit of the vapours. Instead, the men in black-and-white stripes held firm, scored a second and were cheered off. Fine lines.

The most impressive Liverpool performance of the day came from Klopp afterwards. He has worked out the English footballing psyche swiftly, not least the "hero to zero to hero" volatility of fans and media. He pointed out that he will remain calm and grounded amid the high winds of changing opinions.

The former Borussia Dortmund coach has quickly appreciated how damaging it is to English football that there is no winter break, no time for rest or rehearsal, only for the show. "All my ex-players in Germany send me messages because they have a holiday in two weeks," Klopp said. His call for a brief period of hibernation was received with derision on social media along the lines of "welcome to England" and "stop moaning" but he has a point; a winter break in January between the third and fourth rounds of the FA Cup would allow elite players a spell off the treadmill -- provided their clubs did not take them away for lucrative friendlies. Klopp's last meeting with McClaren ended with Dortmund defeating Wolfsburg in the Bundesliga in 2011 and the Englishman losing his job. McClaren's role was under unforgiving scrutiny here so he urgently needed a powerful display from his players. On a cold day, it truly felt that the storm clouds were around St James' Park. Over the past year, Newcastle have beaten only Everton, Hull City, Aston Villa, West Ham United, Northampton Town, Norwich City and Bournemouth, so to defeat Liverpool, a side winning rave reviews of late, felt truly momentous to Newcastle fans.

Home hearts briefly sank when Liverpool forced three corners in the opening minute, and when Nathaniel Clyne and especially the excellent Ibe began charging upfield, but there was a robust response from Newcastle. This was not the supine surrender of last week, the 5-1 humiliation away to Crystal Palace that brought a public apology from Fabricio Coloccini, the captain.

There was a more determined feel to McClaren's team even if a sense of incipient anxiety lurked in the chilly air until the nirvana of Skrtel's own goal. Daryl Janmaat's sliding tackle on James Milner drew sustained, almost manic applause, a sign of the appreciation of his commitment when this should surely be the bare minimum. It reflected recent travails that the basics of a professional's trade, the closing down, competing and challenging, were hailed loudly by Newcastle fans.

Concerns persisted. Sighs were stifled when Siem de Jong was outmuscled by Dejan Lovren. De Jong, who has become almost a ghost at the court of St James, was dropping off Papiss Cisse to link with the midfield in McClaren's 4-2-3-1 system. Klopp's formation was similar with the line led by Benteke, who should have scored after 21 minutes. After Milner's outswinging corners from the right had failed, Moreno curled in a left-footed delivery that Lovren headed down but Benteke shot over from five yards.

McClaren had called on his players to show more "character". They did. As the second half progressed, Wijnaldum imposed his undoubted skills, dribbling across midfield, moving the ball from one foot to the other, bamboozling Liverpool. The Dutchman then powered through the middle after 69 minutes, taking a cross from Sissoko at pace, a poor first touch taking him wide of Liverpool's defence. Lovren and Skrtel threw themselves in the way of his cutback, the ball caught Skrtel on the knee and flew past Mignolet. McClaren leapt from his seat, water bottle in his left hand, punching the air with his right. Scenes of unbridled joy swept through the home terraces. Wijnaldum was running in front of fans, revelling in the moment. Liverpool tried to rally. Sturridge shot wide and then Moreno was unfortunate to be denied by the assistant. And then came that sweet moment for Newcastle when Sissoko found Wijnaldum again. Newcastle need such desire week in, week out.

theguardian

Newcastle United and Georginio Wijnaldum shock Liverpool and Klopp

This reminder that Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool are mere mortals after all arrived at the perfect moment for Steve McClaren. As Merseyside reflected on an afternoon that made all the recent talk of an Anfield title challenge seem a little silly, Newcastle United's manager quite possibly saved his job.

The former England coach's taut, tense body language betrayed the reality that, had his side suffered yet another stumble, McClaren could well have been sacked. Instead he not only choreographed a most unexpected win but saw Newcastle keep a rare clean sheet.

It might have been different had Alberto Moreno's exquisite 79th-minute volley not been ruled out for offside, when television replays suggested it should have stood. Not that Klopp made too much of a fuss about that particular piece of officiating on a day when his players produced their worst performance since he succeeded Brendan Rogers.

It had been an awful day at the office for the German but, creditably, he possessed sufficient class to recognise that this was potentially a watershed moment for an old Bundesliga adversary. Once Georginio Wijnaldum had quite sublimely put the result beyond doubt, the German stepped over to the home technical area and embraced McClaren, who spent nine months as manager of Wolfsburg in 2010-11, with real warmth.

An hour and a half earlier the Yorkshireman would not have dared to envisage it ending this well. Jordon Ibe's pace on Liverpool's right flank posed his nervous team – and Paul Dummett especially – persistent problems.

Fortunately for McClaren, Liverpool lacked end product. So much so that a close-range miss on Christian Benteke's part and a shot, curled just over, by Ibe represented the sum of their first-half threat. Perhaps it was a little bit of complacency, a sense that their mere presence on the pitch would be sufficient to beat Newcastle, but collectively they rarely matched Klopp's dynamism in the technical area.

In mitigation, the injury that sidelined Philippe Coutinho and the physical fragility that ensured Daniel Sturridge began on the bench hardly helped the Liverpool cause on a day when their manager experimented with a flexible version of 4-4-2. Granted this configuration was sufficiently fluid to frequently morph into a more familiar 4-3-3 but generally it seemed designed to deploy Ibe and James Milner as orthodox wingers, with a brief to attack Dummett and Daryl Janmaat. This might have been all right in theory but, not for the first time, Milner proved why he is much better deployed as a central midfielder. Meanwhile, without Coutinho and Sturridge around, Benteke looked a little lost – and very ordinary.

Liverpool were playing far too many long balls in the forward's direction but McClaren had no reason to relax. Aware a side in sharper mode than Klopp's might well have punished some needless concessions of possession in central midfield, the Gallowgate End were becoming restless.

Watching the recalled Siem de Jong fail to meet a volley before controlling the bouncing ball with a hand and then shinning it into the touch, it was hard to blame them. That cameo seemed horribly emblematic of a thoroughly underwhelming opening half which ended unadorned by a single shot on target, but almost imperceptibly something was shifting, and Klopp's demeanour slowly shifted from jovially laid-back to scratchy and irritable.

Roberto Firmino, who was beckoned to the technical area and admonished for pulling out of a challenge, summed up Liverpool's strangely tentative mood. Very shortly afterwards the Firmino/Benteke attacking axis was replaced by Sturridge and Adam Lallana.Still, though, Lucas Leiva's passing radar kept going awry.

Finally cottoning on to the fact Liverpool's gegenpressing was malfunctioning, Newcastle's confidence rose and when Moussa Sissoko whipped in a cross, Wijnaldum stuck out a boot. His connection was not the best and the shot was going well wide, but the ball struck Martin Skrtel on the thigh and deflected beyond Simon Mignolet.

Newcastle were ahead without really having had an effort on target all afternoon. Unconcerned, they set about further frustrating opponents who since the arrival of Sturridge and Lallana had been forcing them ever deeper.

Moreno's disallowed strike highlighted their vulnerability but generally intelligent defending from Fabricio Coloccini – who would have been dropped at centre half had Mike Williamson not damaged a hamstring – ensured that Rob Elliot remained relatively untested in goal. Admittedly Sturridge might have done better than shoot wide after being sublimely put through by Lallana, but it was his sole chance.

McClaren had pondered omitting Sissoko and Wijnaldum along with Coloccini but his faith was rewarded as Sissoko eluded Moreno and launched an imperious stoppage-time counterattack, concluding with Wijnaldum quite brilliantly dinking the ball over Mignolet.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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The Mail

STEVE GETS IT RIGHT ... JUST; McClaren late call to pick Wijnaldum comes up trumps

IF IT was not Steve McClaren's original intention to start with Georginio Wijnaldum in this match, Newcastle's manager will be mightily relieved that the Dutchman eventually appeared on the team sheet.
Afterwards he would only confirm that he had 'considered leaving out every one of them' after those abject performances against Leicester and Crystal Palace.
But there is little doubt that he had given serious thought to omitting a Dutchman who would end up securing a precious victory for Newcastle and their beleaguered manager. One that almost certainly saved McClaren from dismissal and, by the former England boss's own admission, had enabled his side to 'crawl back' from the 'brink of a crisis'. Even as recently as yesterday the word here on Tyneside was that McClaren was planning to drop Mike Ashley's most expensive signing in favour of Kevin Mbabu. And the word had spread far enough for club officials to think it was the case shortly before the Dutch footright. baller of the year was confirmed to be starting. When the team sheets were circulated it nevertheless prompted the inevitable questions at a club long rumoured to boast a hierarchy that takes more than a keen interest in selection.
And while McClaren would almost certainly refute such a suggestion, the long pause that followed the post-match question about his goalscorer hinted that Wijnaldum had been fortunate to make the cut.
As it turned out he was a central figure in a more energetic secondhalf performance that enabled Newcastle to conquer a surprisingly subdued Liverpool. Wijnaldum forced Martin Skrtel to concede a 69th-minute own goal before adding a second in stoppage time.
McClaren's assessment of his team's performance was about They started nervously but drew confidence from their work ethic as well as the realisation that Liverpool were not on their game.
A first half that produced not a single effort on target might have been hard going for spectators -- there were a few groans of dissent among the more anxious Newcastle supporters -- but it gave the home side hope.
Percentage NEWCASTLE's this season have scored or by Presumably McClaren told his players during the interval that Liverpool -- who had scored 13 goals in their three previous domestic away games -- were here for the taking. The renewed vigour with which Newcastle attacked the secondhalf was evidence of that. In the end their third Premier League victory this season was well deserved.
It was only Jurgen Klopp's second ee th st le nd at loss since arriving at Anfield but the German was dignified in defeat. His side fell short of his own high expectations at 'the start, the middle and the end' and he did not even have too many complaints about what should have been a quite stunning, Marco van Bastenstyle, equaliser from Alberto Moreno in the 79th minute.
The officials thought it offside when television replays suggested it was not.
'Because we weren't good enough today the linesman thought, "Well, don't make world-class goals if you play this s***",' Klopp conceded.
The former Dortmund boss was less amused with the suggestion that his team were ever title contenders. He thought it nonsense in fact, quite rightly pointing out that after so little time in charge it was unfair to expect the level of consistency that will be his longer-term objective.
But they did have the appearance of every team this season that has t of goals which been assisted Wijnaldum. t e threatened to make a serious challenge -- falling at the very next hurdle in a championship race that, with the exception of Leicester, nobody seems to want to win. It did not help that Klopp thought it necessary to start with Daniel Sturridge, Adam Lallana and Divock Origi on the bench. Klop sary As a consequence Liverpool were a shadow of the side that so impressed against Southampton earlier in the week; a transformation from six-goal winners to a team that, Moreno's disallowed goal aside, had a weak header from Dejan Lovren as their one effort on target all game.
Liverpool started reasonably well, securing three corners in the opening couple of minutes and very nearly scoring when a 21st-minute delivery from Moreno reached Christian Benteke in the six-yard box. Somehow he diverted the ball over the crossbar. Newcastle, by contrast, were a little too reliant on long balls hit towards Papiss Cisse, even if a cross from Vurnon Anita almost resulted in the opening goal for the Newcastle striker. He pounced on Nathaniel Clyne's failure to intercept but guided his effort wide of the far post.
In fairness to McClaren, his team finished the first half in more promising fashion, building on that momentum after the break and eventually making the breakthrough when Wijnaldum unleashed a cross that flew past Simon Mignolet via Skrtel's thigh.
It was all the more disappointing for Klopp because a decision, seven minutes earlier, to send on Sturridge and Lallana had had the desired effect. Liverpool were most definitely in the ascendancy.
In the end, however, Moreno was not rewarded for the manner in which he converted a long ball from James Milner and Wijnaldum punished Liverpool further on the break, accelerating on to a pass from Moussa Sissoko before lifting his finish over the advancing Mignolet.
McClaren's relief, after all the talk of widespread dissent in Newcastle's ranks, was tangible. 'I won't have to go home and start banging my head against a wall,' he said afterwards. No, he can just be glad he picked Wijnaldum.

The Daily Telegraph

McClaren rouses life from Newcastle to halt Klopp revival

Newcastle United 2
Skrtel 69 og, Wijnaldum 90
Liverpool 0
Att: 51,273

Liverpool have built up too much positive momentum under Jurgen Klopp to suggest this was anything more than a useful lesson for the German, but there will be much for him to ponder in the aftermath of Newcastle United's shock win. There were two major concerns raised by his team's poor performance, following their emphatic 6-1 victory over Southampton in the Capital One Cup.
Ultimately, while this may have just been a bad day after weeks of rapid improvement, it was a wonderful chance spurned to close the gap on the two Manchester sides, City and United, against a Newcastle side short on confidence. Title contenders need to win games like this, even when they are playing badly, something Klopp nodded to in his post-match observations.
If Klopp is going to turn Liverpool into a team capable of winning the league, there is still much to be done and it could even require a slight change in approach from their charismatic new manager.
The first query is whether his high-octane, lung-bursting pressing game can always be deployed twice in the space of a few days in the Premier League.
No league is more physically demanding and although he rested Daniel Sturridge and Adam Lallana on the bench, while Emre Can was ruled out, Liverpool looked jaded and with it unimaginative. They lacked any sparkle up front - Christian Benteke missing their one clear chance in the first half - and were beaten at their own pressing game - at least when they ventured into the opposition's half - by a Newcastle side unrecognisable to the team beaten by Leicester City and Crystal Palace since the international break.
The second is whether these Liverpool players have the mentality of champions or whether they raise their game only against the glamorous names. It would have been easy for some of them to believe privately that Newcastle were too weak to compete, given they were second from bottom in the table and apparently in disarray under head coach Steve McClaren.
There was a whiff of complacency from the visitors.
It is a well-worn cliche, but there really are no easy games in the Premier League and if your performance and energy levels drop, you can be beaten by anyone.
Klopp is not a manager who looks for excuses when he knows his team have fallen short. Where others would have preferred to focus most of their post-match chat on the fact Alberto Moreno had what would have been a perfectly good equaliser incorrectly disallowed for off-side, the former Borussia Dortmund manager concentrated on the fact his team's performance, rather than the match officials, had disappointed and frustrated him.
The quality of Newcastle's performance should also not be ignored. They were all the things they have not been this season. Strong, disciplined, dogged, resolute and organised. McClaren had said he would take the team back to basics on the training pitch and it worked. If nothing else, that hints at his skill as a coach.
Yet, as always seems to be the case with Mike Ashley's Newcastle, even in a positive there hides a negative.
Newcastle have saved their best performances for the live television cameras, with all three of their league wins coming when they are in attendance. It reinforces the suspicion that too many of their players see the club as a shop window rather than a career plan.
There has been a pattern set, not just this season, that Newcastle tend to play well against the big teams and slack off when the spotlight is not on them and wider scrutiny of their effort - or lack of it - is less intense. They need to remove that suspicion by playing like this more than once a month.
As McClaren admiited, this is the third time Newcastle have won a game and the third time they have pointed to a brighter future. A benchmark has been set, but they have failed to live up to it before. There is a reason consistency has been McClaren's favourite buzzword in his first few months at St James' Park.
What his players must appreciate is that, even when they are not playing thrilling attacking football, their supporters will encourage and inspire them if they believe they are working hard enough to justify it. As Liverpool continued to tire in the second half, Newcastle's home crowd got louder and pushed the team forward, helping the players block out their own weariness.
If there was an element of good fortune about Newcastle's first goal, it came because Georginio Wijnaldum - easily the best of their summer signings; a classy character and player - sprinted into the area to get on the end of Moussa Sissoko's cross. His reward was a shot on goal that was deflected past goalkeeper Simon Mignolet by Martin Skrtel.
Newcastle's second also came because of the speed and desire of their counter-attack, as Sissoko again combined with the tireless Wijnaldum, who this time finished well with a chip over Mignolet as he dived at his feet.
Newcastle upset odds Talking points from St James' Park Alberto Moreno was denied one of the goals of the season after his stunning finish was incorrectly ruled out for offside, with replays confirming the Spanish fullback was being played onside by Paul Dummett when James Milner passed to him.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Newcastle find fight, energy and desire to counter Klopp

The final twist of the knife for Liverpool came in the 95th minute, when the Gallowgate End of St James' Park burst into the Beatles' "Hey Jude".

It is a song that was adopted years ago by the Newcastle support and it is aired as a symbol of pride in the region and the team, the word "Geordies" belted out at the end of the finale's stirring chorus. That same end of the stadium, so called because it used to house the gallows of the area, had come more in expectation of another culling, more change in their club, Steve McClaren this time with his head in a noose. No one in the city of Newcastle, before a ball was kicked yesterday, foresaw what would follow; fight, energy, shape, desire.

Before a ball was kicked, they were arguing about how many Liverpool - so rampant of late - would score. Rarely has there been such fear, such acceptance that their team had so much surrender in it.

Rarely has McClaren had so much riding on a game, not quite in terms of its importance to members of the boardroom - although a thumping would have made his grip on his job seriously precarious - but more to show those fans that he can turn the tide of misery that has washed over Tyneside for three-and-a-half years. Somewhere inside the club this week, they found spirit.

The significance of that cannot be understated, nor the brittle nature that had seen the team concede eight goals in successive games to Leicester City and then Crystal Palace. That the particular waving of the white flag was to former manager Alan Pardew at Palace added another component to the cocktail of anger.

They do not wave white hankies at St James' to call out their own team's failings. Instead in every office, house, shop and bar, they dismissed their team in conversation for a week. They spoke only of how many free-scoring Liverpool would put past their team.

Two years ago, when Pardew was in charge, Newcastle conceded six at home to Liverpool. It was the worst defeat on home soil since 1925. It was felt that statistic would be revisited. That was the starting point for yesterday's game. That was what something in the region of 48,000 Geordies expected to see. There were even muffled jeers when their captain, Fabricio Coloccini, had his name read out before kick-off. It was muted for the rest of the players.

This was breaking point. There was no hiding from that. McClaren had managed just 14 Premier League games, but the weight of failure, of exasperation, fell on his shoulders. In his words afterwards, when phrases like "brink of crisis" were used, came the admission of what was on the line.

They had not looked like a group of men you would want fighting for your future. No one foresaw that they would almost crawl from the pitch, around 97 minutes after the opening whistle, with victory to their names and the stadium reclaiming a modicum of the region's pride. There is a mountain of work still to be done at Newcastle, but to have blunted Jrgen Klopp'sLiverpool - 13 goals scored in their previous three away games - and to have found a priceless victory in the fight to stay in the Premier League was a rarefied moment.

They slowly found a path into the game. McClaren stood in his technical area from the start. He held the hands of his players as they faced three corners in the first 70 seconds. Newcastle grew into the game. Liverpool grew out of it. Nothing they did matched the start. By the close of the half, Papiss Ciss[c] had spurned a good opportunity and Chancel Mbemba had headed over. They were chinks of light for the home side. Their opening goal would come in the 69th minute and it carried good fortune. There was debate about whether Georginio Wijnaldum should be in the starting XI, as McClaren tinkered with formations. The manager called it a lightbulb moment on Thursday to keep faith with many of those who had failed before.

Wijnaldum ran himself into the ground for victory. He remains the most likely goalscorer in the side.

In the 69th minute he timed his run perfectly into the Liverpool penalty area, taking a pass from Moussa Sissoko, out wide on his right. The chance appeared to be fading as he moved across theLiverpool box, but he struck a shot that clipped the leg of Martin Skrtel to beat Simon Mignolet.

Afterwards McClaren would repeatedly use the mantra about luck following hard work. Given that Klopp would say he thought the start, the middle and the end of the game went wrong for his side, there was substance to his words.

There was nothing lucky about the second goal, which came in the 93rd of the official 95 minutes that were due to be played. Sissoko did extremely well, once more from the right, to wait for the run of Wijnaldum. The player had earlier asked if he could come off because of his exertions when all three substitutes had been used. In the 93rd minute he drove into the Liverpool penalty area and cleverly lifted Sissoko's cross over Mignolet.

McClaren gritted his teeth and repeatedly punched the air in celebration. There would even come a handshake of congratulations before the game had finished from Klopp. The substitute Daniel Sturridge had shot horrendously wide earlier and there was a volley from Alberto Moreno that cleared Rob Elliot and landed in the far corner of the Newcastle goal when it was 1-0. It was not offside, which it was ruled out for, but the Newcastle goalkeeper claimed he was aware of the infringement.

They would prove minor details for Newcastle.

For once they got the bigger picture correct.

DAILY Mirror

TOON TRIBE GO TO WAR

THERE have been many tales of the unexpected in this frankly ridiculous edition of the Premier League.

But this was right up there on the Richter Scale of lunacy as a Newcastle side apparently shot of fighting spirit, with their supposedly hapless manager Steve McClaren clinging to his job, deservedly defeated Dr Feelgood Jurgen Klopp and his resurgent Liverpool.

Georginio Wijnaldum forced an own goal from Martin Skrtel, then added the second himself in injurytime to force a result which dragged McClaren back off the gangplank.

The Newcastle boss (left) had used the word 'confidence' so often before the game he was almost willing this elusive quality back into his team. Liverpool, after 13 goals in their previous three away matches, should have been surging with the stuff.

Yet Klopp was left to lament how his side could have been so 's**t' - but also to point out that none of the sudden talk of Liverpool as title contenders had emanated from inside Anfield. There was a time when this fixture forged the Premier League's global reputation for white-knuckle football - the seven-goal thrillers and the lastgasp winners as Kevin Keegan's cavaliers went toe-to-toe with the club he had illuminated as a player.

Yet this encounter lacked a single effort on target for either side until the 89th minute - with Skrtel having diverted an off-beam Wijnaldum effort into his own net for the 69th-minute opener.

Newcastle won it the only way they could - by working themselves breathless for 90 minutes and displaying the ballsy qualities many doubted they were capable of.

They remain in the bottom three, but only just, and after a PS46million net spend last summer they really ought to have enough quality to pull clear.

Wijnaldum, who had expected to be dropped until a late change of plan, has seven goals from midfield now - and his fellow Holland internationals Vurnon Anita and Daryl Janmaat had set Newcastle's high-tempo tone.

With McClaren so fluent in the Dutch lingo, it should be little surprise that these were the three players he had inspired to save his skin.

For Klopp this was only a second defeat in 12 matches, and in some perverse way he may welcome the fact that it punctures the bubble of hype inflated by Wednesday's 6-1 Capital One Cup success at Southampton.

Klopp's energising effect seemed to have marked him out as some sort of Keegan with tactical nous. But the Geordies would have left wondering what all the fuss was about.

The German opted not to start Daniel Sturridge or Divock Origi, who had rattled up five goals between them at St Mary's, and instead his side frequently chose an unproductive direct game towards Christian Benteke (above).

Their passing lacked crispness, their crossing was poor and, the longer the game snoozed away, the more emboldened Newcastle became.

The last time McClaren faced Klopp, his Wolfsburg side were beaten 3-0 by Borussia Dortmund and he was sacked the following week. This time there is no chance of any repeat. He must now hope this spirited performance will act as a turning point.

Benteke screwed a shot over from close range early on, Papiss Cisse squandered a couple of decent openings, and Chancel Mbemba cleared the crossbar with a header.

But the opening hour was hugely forgettable and, even when Klopp threw on Sturridge and Adam Lallana, he could not seize the initiative.

When Moussa Sissoko centred from the left, Wijnaldum first failed to control it, then failed to get his shot on target - yet Skrtel turned it home and St James' Park went ape-dung.

Alberto Moreno had an outstanding volley wrongly ruled out by an early offside flag and Sturridge spurned one clear opening when he shot wide across goal.

But deep into five minutes of injury time, Sissoko led a Toon break and fed Wijnaldum, who lifted over Simon Mignolet to allow McClaren some sweet relief.

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LIVERPOOL ECHO

Klopp revival halted with shock defeat

Liverpool's revival under Jurgen Klopp ground to a halt as they crashed to a shock 2-0 defeat at the hands of lowly Newcastle United at St James' Park.
The Reds paid the price for a wretched performance in the North East as standards slipped alarmingly following a run of four straight wins.
They fell behind when Martin Skrtel inadvertently turned home Georginio Wijnaldum's shot midway through the second half.
Wijnaldum wrapped up the points in stoppage time with a classy finish as Newcastle deservedly eased their relegation fears and delivered a blow to Liverpool's Champions League aspirations.
Klopp's side struggled to function as an attacking force throughout. Passes went astray and their build up play lacked both tempo and guile.
Christian Benteke failed to impress after being handed the opportunity to lead the line. The big frontman was far too static and unable to provide a real focal point in attack.
The Reds' only chance f note in the first half was squandered by the Belgium international.
Alberto Moreno's corner was nodded down by Dejan Lovren but from three yards out Benteke somehow blazed over the bar.
Newcastle grew in confidence and Papiss Cisse burst through only for a combination of Skrtel and Nathaniel Clyne to deny him.
The hosts' best opportunity fell to Chancel Mbemba but he nodded over after Cisse had flicked on Jack Colback's corner.
In the second half it was a similar story and when Alberto Moreno was penalised for a foul throw it summed up the Reds' plight.
Klopp rung the changes just past the hour mark as he brought on Adam Lallana and Daniel Sturridge for Benteke and Roberto Firmino.
However, it was Newcastle who made the breakthrough in the 69th minute.
Wijnaldum latched on to Moussa Sissoko's cross and his shot took a big deflection off Skrtel to leave Simon Mignolet beaten.
Divock Origi replaced Ibe as Liverpool went in search of an equaliser.
Sturridge should have provided it when he latched on to Lallana's through ball but got his finish horribly wrong.
Moreno found the net with a stunning volley from Milner's cross but the Spaniard was wrongly flagged offside.
Rob Elliot kept out Dejan Lovren's glancing header before Wijnaldum coolly added Newcastle's second in stoppage time.
MATCH FACTS
Newcastle: Elliot, Janmaat, Mbemba, Coloccini, Dummett, Anita, Colback (Gouffran 77), Sissoko, De Jong (Perez 68), Wijnaldum, Cisse (Thauvin 82) .
Not used: Sterry, Mbabu, Mitrovic, Darlow.
Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Skrtel, Lovren, Moreno, Milner, Lucas, Allen, Ibe (Origi 75), Benteke (Lallana 62), Firmino (Sturridge 62).
Not used: Toure, Henderson, Bogdan, Randall.
Referee: Andre Marriner
Attendance: 51,273
Goals: Skrtel OG 69, Wijnaldum 90.
Bookings: Colback, Lucas, Anita, Cisse

ChronicleLive

Is this, finally, the turning point for Magpies?

They may still be in the relegation zone, but Newcastle United recorded a massively important 2-0 victory over Liverpool that could have huge implications for their Premier League campaign. Not only has Steve McClaren seen the pressure on him alleviate slightly with just a third league win of the season, but he also saw the fight from his side that has been severely lacking in recent weeks.
Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool headed to Tyneside with most observers expecting them to steamroller a United side who folded desperately last week.
However, the home side showed stern resistance to claim all three points thanks to a Martin Skrtel own goal, courtesy of the brilliance of Georginio Wijnaldum , who also added a second in injury time. This is just one small step along the right track for United, but it could be an extremely significant one. That's certainly what McClaren and the St James' Park faithful hope after this encouraging display.
Inside the first 75 seconds, the visitors had three corners, and none were defended with any sort of conviction by a nervous-looking United, as Liverpool pressed. As is so often the case, Jurgen Klopp barely even took his seat from the first minute. Steve McClaren, who usually stays seated for as long as possible, joined him. You get the sense he realised how important this game could be for his tenure, and so he lived every kick with his players. Shouting at them from the technical area – and even beyond, with the fourth official having a quiet word after the United boss strayed a couple of feet on to the playing surface.
The game's first real clear-cut chance, perhaps unsurprisingly, came from a Liverpool corner. Alberto Moreno whipped an in-swinger into the box, Newcastle failed to clear and then Christian Benteke prodded over from just a couple of yards out when he really should have scored.
In all honesty, the first half-hour of the game passed with little goalmouth action; instead, Newcastle enjoyed a fair amount of the ball without being too threatening. In the 31st minute, however, United were almost ahead. Vurnon Anita played a delightful dinked ball across to Papiss Cisse at the backpost, who controlled, before firing across goal and just wide.
It was unlucky, but it wouldn't have counted; referee Andre Marriner adjudged the Senegal forward to have fouled Reds right-back Nathaniel Clyne before unleashing his effort. Just before the 40-minute mark, Cisse then had another golden opportunity. Fabricio Coloccini did brilliantly at the back to dispossess Benteke, before feeding it to Siem de Jong in the middle. The Dutchman found Wijnaldum, who gained space for himself before feeding Cisse.
Cisse ran at the Liverpool defence, bamboozling them, but then he appeared to confuse himself as he continued into the box before being tackled. Eventually; the Reds scrambled it clear. Then, just before half-time, Jack Colback's corner found Cisse at the front post, and the forward nodded it to an unmarked Chancel Mbemba. Although the centre-back rose well, he could only direct his header upwards and over the bar.
Wijnaldum also saw a 30-yard free-kick miss, before Jordan Ibe responded in kind by firing over an effort from the edge of the box. At the interval, Newcastle deserved to be level – if not ahead. The second-half started as the first finished, with neither side able to really get a foothold. In fact, the first real action saw Mbemba almost lose possession, but the centre-back battled to win it and then advanced before seeing a shot blocked.
Joe Allen curled an effort past Rob Elliot's post after good work from Roberto Firmino, as both sides tried to get an opening effort on target.
De Jong played reasonably well, without showing real match sharpness, before he signalled to the bench to be replaced by Perez.
Just moments after that, Newcastle were ahead. And deservedly so.
Sissoko crossed from the right, Wijnaldum controlled and then the Liverpool defence were confused by Cisse crossing his path. The Dutchman then advanced right, hit an effort at goal and it deflected off Skrtel and past Mignolet.
It was an own-goal, but the St James' Park faithful did not care how the breakthrough came. It arrived, and that's all that mattered.
Substitute Daniel Sturridge's influence on the game then started to grow at the visitors' intensity stepped up another level. First, he smashed an effort wide from 25 yards, before whipping one across Elliot's goal when he should have scored.
Newcastle then got their lucky break with 11 minutes remaining. Moreno was played in behind the United defence, and he lobbed Elliot, but it was ruled offside. Paul Dummett played him onside, but the linesman still flagged. It was the fortune Newcastle needed.
There was still time for Dejan Lovren to nod a header over and another straight at Elliot, but this was to be United's day.
In injury time, Sissoko burst down the right wing. Wijnaldum was in acres of space in the middle and continued his run. His French team-mate found him, before Wijnaldum delightfully dinked it past Mignolet.
St James' Park erupted. It was a brilliant goal to wrap off a very good Newcastle performance. It is just three points, but it was an unexpected three, and offered a little respite to a team woefully short of confidence.
This side could certainly not have been accused of slacking, however; they ran themselves into the ground.
And got their rewards.
It's about time too.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 6 December 2015
Opposition: Newcastle United
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Chronicle
Guardian	Mirror	Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

6 December 2015

BBC

Georginio Wijnaldum inspired Newcastle to their third win of the season as they beat in-form Liverpool.
The Magpies moved above Sunderland into 18th place in the table after Wijnaldum's shot was deflected off Martin Skrtel's knee, before the Dutchman added a second in injury time.
Liverpool, who had won seven of their last eight games, were poor.
Alberto Moreno was wrongly denied by an offside flag as Reds boss Jurgen Klopp suffered a second defeat in 12 games.
But in a scrappy game which lacked quality, Newcastle achieved a much-needed victory for Steve McClaren, who admitted earlier this week that confidence at the club has been "fragile".
After conceding eight goals in their last two games, the result came courtesy of an improved defensive display from the hosts.
And in Wijnaldum, who took his tally to seven for the season following his £14.5m move from PSV Eindhoven in July, they have a player who has offered the goal-scoring threat they have been previously missing.
Did Liverpool waste chance to close on top four?
Following Liverpool's 6-1 win at Southampton in the Capital One Cup on Wednesday, Klopp's reputation at Liverpool reached new heights.
But his decision to make six alterations, including the omission of Daniel Sturridge and Divock Origi, who scored five goals at St Mary's between them, seemed to backfire.
Winger Jordon Ibe was their best outlet going forward but Christian Benteke was left isolated ahead of him and wasted a good chance from a corner, while Roberto Firmino looked a vastly inferior player to the one who tormented Manchester City two weekends ago.
Once Benteke and Firmino were replaced by Sturridge and Adam Lallana after the hour mark, Liverpool found a better rhythm to their play.
However, Sturridge, playing in only his fifth Premier League game of the season after injury, wasted a good chance to equalise and Moreno was denied a wonderful volley from an angle.
The result leaves Liverpool in seventh place, six points behind fourth-placed Manchester United.
Newcastle show resilience previously lacking
Liverpool did not reach the levels of recent weeks, when they secured away wins at Chelsea and Manchester City, but Newcastle showed a ruggedness and willingness to track back which has been in short supply this season.
Right-back Paul Dummett had a busy afternoon as he came up against the energetic Ibe, but kept the Liverpool youngster at bay, while Vernon Anita and Jack Colback were robust in central midfield.
Elsewhere, forward Siem de Jong, on his first Premier League start of the season, often tracked back to help out his team-mates which helped Newcastle set up a platform for the victory.
Liverpool were more positive once Sturridge was introduced, yet it allowed McClaren's team to sit back and break, which suited the pace of Sissoko and Wijnaldum, and they combined superbly for the second goal, which sent St James' Park into raptures.
Manager reaction
Newcastle manager Steve McClaren on the win: "It's absolutely huge, absolutely massive. Once or twice we've taken ourselves to the brink of crisis and clawed our way back and that's what we've done today.
"We worked hard, it is so tough to get a result in this league. We've crawled off the field, we've put in so much effort. That's what we need every week."
Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp: "I think we deserved a point maybe but not more because we didn't play well enough. I like to play the dirty points too - it's no problem. If Alberto's goal was given it was 1-1 then the game can change. Until then we didn't play as well as we like to.
"I have to watch the game again. We were not really in the game. We were not aggressive enough or close enough. There were good moments for pressing but we didn't do it."
Stats you need to know
Newcastle have won four of their last six home Premier League matches against Liverpool (D1 L1), including the last two.
The Magpies netted as many goals in this game versus Liverpool as they had in their past five Premier League games combined.
All seven of Georginio Wijnaldum's Premier League goals for Newcastle have arrived at St James' Park.
Martin Skrtel now has seven Premier League own goals - only Richard Dunne (10) has more (Jamie Carragher also has 7).
Fabricio Coloccini made his 200th Premier League appearance. Only one other Argentine (Carlos Tevez - 202) has bettered this milestone.
What next?
Newcastle travel to Tottenham next Sunday before hosting Aston Villa the following Saturday, while Liverpool are at FC Sion in the Europa League and host West Brom next Sunday.

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6 December 2015

BBC

Full time Match ends, Newcastle United 2, Liverpool 0.
90:00+6:48Full time Second Half ends, Newcastle United 2, Liverpool 0.
90:00+5:26 Offside, Liverpool. Dejan Lovren tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.
90:00+2:56Goal scored Goal!Goal! Newcastle United 2, Liverpool 0. Georginio Wijnaldum (Newcastle United right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Moussa Sissoko with a through ball.
90:00+1:18 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
90:00+0:18 Delay in match Martin Skrtel (Liverpool because of an injury.
88:31 Attempt saved. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.
88:07 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Moussa Sissoko.
85:16 Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from very close range misses to the left. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.
84:59 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Vurnon Anita.
82:58 Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool.
82:58 Paul Dummett (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
81:53 Offside, Newcastle United. Florian Thauvin tries a through ball, but Ayoze Pérez is caught offside.
81:17Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Newcastle United. Florian Thauvin replaces Papiss Demba Cissé.
78:38 Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Alberto Moreno is caught offside.
76:33Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Newcastle United. Yoan Gouffran replaces Jack Colback.
74:33 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Adam Lallana with a through ball.
74:05Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Jordon Ibe.
73:42 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jordon Ibe.
68:27Goal scored Goal!Own Goal by Martin Skrtel, Liverpool. Newcastle United 1, Liverpool 0.
68:26 Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Newcastle United right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Moussa Sissoko with a cross.
67:11Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Newcastle United. Ayoze Pérez replaces Siem de Jong.
66:33 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
66:33 Foul by Jack Colback (Newcastle United.
62:19Booking Papiss Demba Cissé (Newcastle United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
62:05 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
62:05 Foul by Papiss Demba Cissé (Newcastle United.
61:45Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Roberto Firmino.
61:31Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Adam Lallana replaces Christian Benteke.
59:30Booking Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
59:25 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
59:25 Foul by Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United.
57:05 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool.
57:05 Georginio Wijnaldum (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
54:05 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
54:02 Attempt blocked. Georginio Wijnaldum (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jack Colback.
52:01 Attempt missed. Joe Allen (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
50:32 Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Newcastle United right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Moussa Sissoko.
48:54 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
48:54 Papiss Demba Cissé (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
47:14 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
47:14 Jack Colback (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
45:43 Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by James Milner.
45:00 Second Half begins Newcastle United 0, Liverpool 0.
45:00+1:15Half time First Half ends, Newcastle United 0, Liverpool 0.
45:00+0:42 Attempt missed. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Christian Benteke.
44:52 Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is too high from a direct free kick.
44:03Booking Lucas Leiva (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
43:57 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
43:57 Siem de Jong (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the attacking half.
43:10 Attempt missed. Chancel Mbemba (Newcastle United header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Papiss Demba Cissé following a corner.
42:41 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Jordon Ibe.
41:46 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.
41:46 Jack Colback (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
37:26 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.
37:26 Georginio Wijnaldum (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
34:12 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.
34:12 Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
33:01Booking Jack Colback (Newcastle United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
32:58 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
32:58 Foul by Jack Colback (Newcastle United.
32:31 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
32:31 Foul by Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United.
31:13 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
31:13 Foul by Papiss Demba Cissé (Newcastle United.
30:01 Attempt blocked. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Benteke.
26:12 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Paul Dummett.
20:45 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Joe Allen with a headed pass following a corner.
20:08 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Paul Dummett.
18:44 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.
18:44 Jack Colback (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
1:40 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
1:40 Chancel Mbemba (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
1:09 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jack Colback.
1:07 Attempt blocked. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
0:40 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jack Colback.
0:14 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Fabricio Coloccini.
0:00 First Half begins.
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.

Compiled by Graeme Riley