

Date: 26 December 2015
 Opposition: Leicester City
 Competition: League

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26 December
 2015

THE TIMES

Victory comes at a cost for Klopp

Liverpool 1
 Benteke 63
 Leicester City 0

Referee: M Atkinson Attendance: 44,123

The history books show that Saturday's game was Liverpool's 4,000th in English football's top flight but in the section of Jürgen Klopp's brain that inspires exaggeration to make a point it probably seems like he has presided over that many in the three months that he has been their manager. For both victorious and vanquished, this was a day when the exertions of the Premier League and the physical toll caused became increasingly apparent.

Gifted an English dictionary in Liverpool's in-house Secret Santa, Klopp is now better placed to come up with the requisite words to portray his feelings about a fixture calendar that he believes puts players under unnecessary strain. Not even the combination of relief and elation prompted by a hard-earned win over the league leaders, Liverpool's first at home for a month, could disguise Klopp's disdain for an endurance test which, in his view, causes excessive fatigue and injury.

Klopp bristles at the idea that the intensity of his training methods might be a contributory factor to the 22 separate injuries that Liverpool have suffered since the German took over as manager on October 9. He also refuses to buy into the view that the Premier League is akin to a survival of the fittest as in his limited experience, the fittest are just as likely to falter with Divock Origi succumbing to a hamstring injury against Leicester that leaves Liverpool with Christian Benteke as their only available forward for the visit to Sunderland on Wednesday.

"It is not the training, because we are not training often enough," Klopp insisted.

"It is no problem for me to take responsibility for all the things, but we cannot train enough to take responsibility for injury. It is the intensity [of games]. If you have injuries, then other players have to play too often.

"For example, look at our situation with centre halves -- two are fit, one goes out and that means the other must come back in straight away. You cannot change this, you cannot change training, you cannot do more or less. You do the things everybody knows is right in recovery, but you have to play football."

On this occasion, it was the superior depth of Liverpool's squad that allowed them to prevail. When Origi was forced off, he was replaced by Benteke and the PS32.5 million man proved the game's match-winner, volleying Roberto Firmino's cross past Kasper Schmeichel, the Leicester goalkeeper, to secure three points. Benteke later conspired to produce one of the misses of the season with Schmeichel stranded upfield but by then his involvement had already served to emphasise the limitations of a Leicester squad that many have predicted to be the undoing of their unlikely but thrilling title challenge.

Just seven days earlier, the attacking trident of Riyad Mahrez, Jamie Vardy and Shinji Okazaki had run amok at Goodison Park as a 3-2 win against Everton ensured Leicester topped the division at Christmas. Less than a mile away at Anfield, though, the trio laboured with both Mahrez and Vardy weakened by fever and Okazaki lacking the energy he had displayed the previous Saturday. Unlike Benteke, their replacements were unable to have a similar impact on the game and a second defeat of the season underlined the feeling that this was a game too far for Leicester.

Ideally, their players would now be afforded the opportunity to recover but the festive fixture calendar does not allow for such luxuries with Leicester hosting Manchester City, the Premier League club with arguably the strongest squad, tomorrow night. Given the importance of that game, Claudio Ranieri knows that he cannot afford to allow his players to believe they are tired even if their display showed energy levels had dropped.

"I don't think we are tired," the Leicester manager said. "I hope we can recover. Now it is important to recover energy. It is more mental. Now it is a question of forgetting this result, of accepting it and moving on."

RATINGS

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): S Mignolet 6 -- N Clyne 7, D Lovren 8, M Sakho 6, A Moreno 6 -
 - E Can 7, J Henderson 8 -- A Lallana 7 (sub: J Allen, 90min), R Firmino 6, P
 Coutinho 6 (sub: L Leiva, 90) -- D Origi 7 (sub: C Benteke, 38 6). Substitutes not
 used: M Bogdan, K Toure, C Randall, J Teixeira. Booked: Lallana, Can.

Leicester City (4-4-2): K Schmeichel 6 -- D Simpson 6, W Morgan 6, R Huth 6, C
 Fuchs 7 -- R Mahrez 6 (sub: A Kramaric, 80), N Kante 7, A King 6, M Albrighton 6 --
 S Okazaki 6 (sub: N Dyer, 69 7), J Vardy 5 (sub: L Ulloa, 69 5). Substitutes not used:
 M Schwarzer, R De Laet, M Wasilewski, G Inler.

Booked: Huth.

the guardian

Christian Benteke strikes as Liverpool end Leicester City's unbeaten run Claudio Ranieri's front-runners had faltered but it was not a second Premier League defeat of the season that troubled him so much as Leicester City's inability to enjoy life at the summit. These are days to savour, according to the experienced Italian, but it was inhibited league leaders who slipped up at Anfield. Christian Benteke emerged from the bench to give Liverpool a first win in five matches and condemn Leicester to a first league defeat since 26 September. A clean sheet against a team that had previously scored in every game this season, with Dejan Lovren excelling on his return from injury in a defence where resilience has recently gone awol, may prove just as important to Jürgen Klopp. For Ranieri, however, there was bewilderment at the passive, subdued display that enabled Liverpool to dominate.

Leicester roused themselves only after Benteke's sixth goal of the season – it reflects badly on Liverpool that the struggling striker is now their leading goalscorer – and, with Manchester City to come on Tuesday, this was a bad time to suggest resources are stretched by the demanding festive schedule. "Sooner or later we have to lose and it's OK," said the Leicester manager. "Liverpool deserved to win but we only started to play when we fell behind and I don't know why. We were too nervous and anxious before that. I don't know why. It is important we recover now mentally but we shouldn't lose confidence." The visitors' approach would not have surprised Klopp but that did not simplify the task confronting Liverpool. Leicester sat deep, absorbed almost constant pressure and struck with pace and aggression on the counterattack, as had been the case throughout their remarkable rise to the Premier League summit. They were content to let Liverpool dominate possession but with Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez blunted on the break – both were suffering from a fever, according to Ranieri – it was a calculated risk minus an outlet.

Kasper Schmeichel was the busier goalkeeper although Simon Mignolet made the finest save of the first half when Mahrez exchanged passes with the livewire N'Golo Kanté and forced the Liverpool keeper to tip over a goal-bound drive from the edge of the box.

Advertisement

Schmeichel also survived unscathed for over an hour thanks to Liverpool's failure to hit the target when given time and space in front of goal. Philippe Coutinho curled two decent chances wide, the second a clear opportunity from Origi's cut-back, and Adam Lallana found the side-netting when put through by Jordan Henderson's long pass, an option he appeared under instruction to take throughout. Injury to the impressive Divock Origi did not help Liverpool's momentum either.

Klopp had spoken to Benteke about the faltering start to his Anfield career, and what was required to correct it, having dropped the £32.5m summer signing against Watford last weekend and introduced the inexperienced Origi ahead of him when Martin Skrtel limped off with a hamstring injury. The heart-to-heart did not result in a different approach against the league leaders. Origi was preferred once more and the 20-year-old's work-rate and movement caused Leicester frequent problems on only his third Premier League start. He too succumbed to a hamstring problem shortly before the interval, however, but his misfortune offered a route back into favour for Benteke.

The first time Leicester's defence lost concentration amid the Liverpool pressure, they were punished ruthlessly. Roberto Firmino was again largely anonymous but, having combined with Emre Can, floated an inviting cross towards the penalty spot where Benteke lurked unmarked. The substitute steered a fine half-volley into Schmeichel's bottom left corner at full stretch.

Klopp said: "Benteke did really good in the last week in training but we decided on this line-up because we needed the speed of Origi. Christian is fast but we needed Divock's movement behind the lines. It was not easy for Christian to come in for the first 10 minutes but in the second half he did much better and fought for the team; then he made this goal perfectly. We have to see if he can come in regularly now – we hope so."

Only when behind did Leicester display the necessary intent. Mignolet saved from Nathan Dyer when the substitute connected with Christian Fuchs' cross towards the near post; Huth almost capitalised on Leonardo Ulloa's long throw into the six yard box; and Andy King volleyed another Ulloa throw goalwards only for Can to deflect over.

At the opposite end Coutinho went close from distance and Henderson squandered a glorious opening when played through by Firmino. Leicester besieged the home box in the final moments only to find Lovren in commanding form. Benteke missed an open goal – hitting Wes Morgan instead – when allowed to run through on goal despite being offside with Schmeichel stranded in the Liverpool half having ventured forward for a Leicester corner. Mercifully for the former Aston Villa man, his mantle as the match-winner was confirmed moments later.

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The Mail

Leicester setback at Anfield was all in the mind, insists Ranieri

LIVERPOOL 1

LEICESTER 0

FOR the first time this season it stopped being fun for Leicester City -- and Claudio Ranieri could not understand why.

Part of the charm of Leicester's unexpected and thrilling climb to the top of the table this season has been their carefree attitude and the zest of their rapier counterattacks, the energy that has allowed their talismen Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez to thrive.

But at Anfield on St Stephen's Day those elements were missing. Ranieri, a man whose emotions are so easy to read, stood in his technical area with his arms folded tightly, occasionally shaking his head as Christian Benteke's goal condemned them to a first defeat in 11 league games.

So what now? Is this the sign that the story which has been so captivating is coming to an end? Has the magnitude of leading the field suddenly become inhibiting? Ranieri hopes not. Another big test against Manchester City beckons and he wants to see the enjoyment return.

He has never entertained talk that Leicester are title challengers, nor has Ranieri made bold predictions about what they will achieve. What he does expect, however, is his squad to attack the second half of the campaign with gusto. Why should they do anything else? 'City is another fantastic test,' said Ranieri. 'Our rivals ... you think? You know my idea about it. We are dreaming, we are in good position -- 38 points? Fantastic. It is our dream. I want to see my players enjoy, why were we so nervous at the beginning today? 'Just play football. Enjoy (the position) and enjoy playing football. If we lose then we lose but we should just go out and play and not be nervous. It is all in our mind. We have to recover (physically) but we must recover in the mind.'

'It is a question of forgetting this result, of accepting it and moving on. We knew we had to lose eventually, of course, so we must forget it. It is how we react mentally now. I don't think we are tired.' Ranieri must continue to convey the message that there are no expectations on Leicester. Unlike Manchester City and Arsenal, the two key protagonists in the title race, they should relish the chance to chase down a European spot. This performance may have been disappointingly different to the ruthless way they chopped down Everton on the other side of Stanley Park seven days earlier but it was not one that suggested their world is about to cave in.

And why should they be fearful of welcoming City to their home tomorrow? Manuel Pellegrini's side may have swatted Sunderland away on Saturday but they have travelled poorly in recent months and Vardy and Mahrez have the tools to expose the gaps left by Vincent Kompany's absence.

Certainly, it will be intriguing to see how Vardy -- whom Ranieri reported to be struggling with the effects of a virus -- copes, having been linked with a PS30million move to the Etihad Stadium in the January window. It is the type of occasion he and his colleagues should relish.

'I want to achieve the next three points,' said Ranieri, who substituted Vardy and Mahrez at Anfield to preserve their fitness. 'I want to speak to my players and understand what they think about the team, what we can achieve, and after that I speak about what is my idea about this season. It is the same. We must enjoy our football, we must go out and not be nervous and worried about losing as we were at the start of this game. It is a big match, a big challenge. Sooner or later we had to lose. But it is about how we react mentally now.'

SUPER STAT: Liverpool haven't lost a home St Stephen's Day fixture since 1986, when Manchester United beat them 1-0. LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet 6; Clyne 7, Lovren 7, Sakho 6.5, Moreno 7; Henderson 8.5, Can 7.5; Lallana 6.5 (Allen 90), Firmino 6.5, Coutinho 6 (Lucas 90); Origi 6 (Benteke 38, 6.5). Subs not used: Bogdan, Toure, Teixeira, Randall.

Scorer: Benteke 63. Booked: Lallana, Can, Huth. LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2):

Schmeichel 6; Simpson 7, Morgan 7, Huth 7, Fuchs 7; Mahrez 6.5 (Kramaric 80), Kante 8, King 6.5, Albrighton 6; Vardy 6 (Ulloa 69, 6), Okazaki 6 (Dyer 69, 6). Subs not used: Schwarzer, De Laet, Wasilewski, Inler.

Man of the match: Jordan Henderson. Referee: Martin Atkinson 7.

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp warns Benteke goals are not enough

Liverpool 1

Benteke 63

Leicester City 0

Att: 44,123

Christian Benteke is rivalling Liverpool's Main Stand development as the most expensive work in progress in Anfield history.

But for injuries to the club's other strikers - Daniel Sturridge, Danny Ings and now Divock Origi - it is unlikely that Benteke would have been in place to enjoy his most satisfying day in a Liverpool shirt.

The Belgian condemned Leicester to only their second league defeat of the season, yet it is in keeping with his fledgling career on Merseyside the lingering image was of the striker's limitations as much as his strengths.

He earned a temperate "well done" from his manager, while being served a pertinent reminder that goals are not enough.

"He is a goalscorer, no doubt," said Jurgen Klopp. "We all need his goals, but I don't only think about him and goals. We are not a team who can play with a striker who scores a goal but is not involved in the game for the other 89 minutes. We need the striker for the other options too, to work for the other minutes. He can do this."

There is something about Benteke that cannot stop you thinking about Robbie Keane. In the summer of 2008 Liverpool paid a fortune for the Irishman - a player who seemed perfect for the club when playing against them - yet the red jersey looked like an ill-fitting Christmas jumper.

Even when Keane scored, striking five times during his six-month spell on Merseyside, any praise from the manager was accompanied by the sound of gritted teeth. You knew Liverpool were waving the receipt in the hope they could offload immediately - as was demonstrated when Keane returned to Tottenham in January 2009 wondering what he had done wrong. Ask Liverpool what they would do if anyone offered PS32 million for Benteke in January and you will hear about preposterous speculation, the need for patience, evolving the forward's game and the potential that can be unlocked. Yet with every fixture it is evident that although much was made about Klopp scouting the Belgian while he was Borussia Dortmund's coach, the more pertinent fact is that he never bid for him. Klopp is in the education as much as coaching business when it comes to developing players, but Benteke seems an expensive trainee.

"When I came here, he was injured, and he's a big boy, so he needs to be fit," Klopp added.

"He wasn't when I came. So this week, he did a really good week in training and is getting fitter and fitter, but we decided we wanted to go with what Origi would bring to the game for the formation.

"It was a close decision, it is how it should be. Christian came in, got a goal, it's good for him, good for us, a better situation than before.

"We had a really good talk in the week, he knows what he has to do, he came in had a really good game - decided the game."

Klopp had already made his point by omitting Benteke from his starting line-up, a decision wholly justified by the impressive Origi, whose terrorising of Wes Morgan and Robert Huth was ended only by a hamstring injury at the end of the first half. Still, Benteke joined an exclusive club in inflicting a rare defeat on the league leaders when classily finishing Roberto Firmino's leftwing cross in the 64th minute. A second should have been added before Leicester finally put pressure on Liverpool's defence, most notably when Benteke inexplicably refused to shoot early at an open goal in injury time.

Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri admitted the defeat was deserved, and with Manchester City the opposition tomorrow, his club are entering what many are presuming will be the bubblebursting stage of their season.

"City is another fantastic test," said Ranieri. "We are still dreaming, we are in a good position with 38 points - it's fantastic. I want to see my players enjoy playing football. Don't be nervous. Play football. If we lose then we lose."

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Result to forget but Ranieri is boosted by great team spirit

Claudio Ranieri arrived at Leicester City's training base in Aylestone early yesterday morning appreciating that he now faces a slightly different challenge to the one posed in the previous 10 weeks when his team had gone undefeated.

Ranieri has done his best to focus efforts on Leicester reaching the supposed Premier League safety mark of 40 points. After losing 1-0 at Liverpool on Saturday, they remain two away from that target, albeit top of the table with their next game a home one to third-placed Manchester City tomorrow night.

"It is in our mind, we have to recover," he said. "It is a question of forgetting this result, of accepting it and moving on. We knew we had to lose eventually, so we must forget. It is how we react mentally now."

It was suggested to Ranieri that, for the first time under his guidance, Leicester looked tired at Anfield. Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez - star performers this season - were substituted, and without their presence the raw belief, which has taken Leicester to improbable heights, appeared to bleed from the side.

Ranieri responded with an old managerial trick - talking up the players when they are down, having dampened expectation throughout the period they were up. Asked whether Leicester possess the strength in depth to sustain, at the very least, a top-four challenge, he responded: "Yes. I believe we have. I don't think we are tired. We were nervous at the beginning and only played when we went a goal down."

"I have been asked many times will I make signings, 'in the window, what's happening?' Nothing! We have a very good team and an incredible spirit. They are friendly together; they are close to each other. That is fantastic, and if we take one, two, three players and wreck the dressing room? No! The team is fantastic. We work hard for each other and we are not tired. We didn't play against Liverpool until it is too late, but we can't be criticised for our effort. We worked very hard."

Ranieri plans to hold a meeting with his squad as soon as they have achieved their next win, but will ask for at least one theme to remain the same. "We must enjoy our football," he said. "We must go out and not be nervous and worried about losing as we were at the start of this game."

Christian Benteke's second-half strike won the game for Liverpool. They face Sunderland on Wednesday, with Jrgen Klopp continuing to insist that Daniel Sturridge must prove his fitness on the grass of the Melwood training centre before his return to first-team action, despite the player's claims on social media that he is ready.

"We really, really have to be patient now, we have to wait," Klopp warned. "We have to train, we have to give the body the right information, and if he can do this, then maybe we can change something. Otherwise we always have to stay here in this situation for the next 10 years and always talk about where is Daniel Sturridge, 'Can you play him?'"



FUEL IF YOU IT'S OVER U THINK; Foxes look out of gas... but that's what Ranieri WANTS their rivals to believe

LIVERPOOL 1

Benteke 63

LEICESTER 0

GIVEN the noise generated by a newly-invigorated Kop, it was hard to pick out even loud-hailer announcements, let alone the sound of a bubble bursting. But Leicester's first defeat since September will surely have a huge impact on the title race and the battle for the top four.

It was significant for many reasons, not least that Liverpool - in becoming the first team to prevent Leicester from scoring a Premier League goal this season - finally looked convincing at Anfield under Jurgen Klopp.

More importantly, it was a game that saw Leicester's highintensity style finally catch up with them.

Put simply, they looked knackered.

There wasn't the verve in counter-attacking associated with Leicester this season. For once there was no pace, thrust or urgency from freescoring Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez, even though the nervousness of Mamadou Sakho in the home defence offered plenty of opportunity.

Vardy had a bug, which certainly diminished him, but there was far more to it than that, and many will now feel - with Manchester City next up in a breathless schedule - that Leicester's time is up.

Which suits manager Claudio Ranieri just fine. He is happy for rivals to believe the bubble has burst because he reckons that's when Leicester are at their most dangerous.

"Are we tired? No. It is all in the mind," he said. "We have to recover, but we must recover in the mind. It is a question of forgetting this result, of accepting it and moving on."

"We knew we had to lose eventually of course, so we must forget. But you know my view - we are dreaming, we are in good position, 38 points, fantastic."

Ranieri complained that his side were nervous in the first half, allowing Liverpool almost total control, and didn't come to life until Christian Benteke had emerged from the bench to remind Klopp he is a goalscorer - a fine finish from Roberto Firmino's clever second-half cross doing the reminding.

Only then did Leicester find the pace and strength on the break that is their trademark, but by then both Vardy and Mahrez had disappeared, subbed for fresh battles ahead.

Kop keeper Simon Mignolet did make two decent saves to deny City but this certainly wasn't Ranieri's team as we have come to know them. Tomorrow's clash with Manchester City is massive because victory in that game will keep Foxes on top and will give them belief they can stay there. And according to winger Marc Albrighton, who has been a revelation this season, that isn't pressure but something to celebrate.

"Pressure? To be honest I don't think we will play another game this season with pressure. We've got ourselves in a brilliant situation and we are doing fantastic - we deserve to be where we are," he insisted.

"There will probably be a lot of pundits who think now we are going to lie down and relax with our 30-something points. We're not a side to do that."

"You lose on Boxing Day but it's only three days before you're running out again against a team like Manchester City in front of your home fans. It is something to relish, it's not pressure."

LIVERPOOL: Mignolet 7, Clyne 7, Lovren 8, Sakho 6, Moreno 6, Henderson 8, Can 7, Lallana 6 (Allen 90), Firmino 6, Coutinho 6 (Lucas 90), Origi 6 (Benteke 38, 6)

LEICESTER: Schmeichel 6, Simpson 6, Huth 7, Morgan 7, Fuchs 7, Mahrez 6 (Kramaric 80), Kante 8, King 7, Albrighton 6, Okazaki 6 (Dyer 69, 6), Vardy 6 (Ulloa 69, 6)

REF: Martin Atkinson ATT: 44,123

MOTM JORDAN HENDERSON

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Reds deliver festive cheer - and a show of solidarity for Jurgen Klopp
 A beaming Jurgen Klopp applauded all four sides of Anfield before disappearing down the tunnel. There was no hand-holding in front of the Kop this time but the show of solidarity was still clear as Liverpool delivered some much needed festive cheer. The manager's appreciation for the backing his players had received throughout a frenetic contest was returned with interest from the stands. This was a world away from the lifeless capitulation at Vicarage Road a week earlier. Klopp got the response he had demanded as Liverpool tossed their December woes aside by ending Leicester City's three-month unbeaten run. The Reds deserved the scalp of the surprise Premier League leaders as they re-ignited their push for the Champions League spots after a miserable return of one point out of the previous nine.

Having stood accused of lacking the stomach for a fight against Watford, this time there could be no such complaints as Klopp's men delivered a performance brimming with desire and commitment. The sight of Liverpool out-working their opponents was a welcome throwback to the early days of the German's reign. To their credit, they did that in all departments as the Reds retained a vice-like grip on the contest prior to a predictably nervy finale. Liverpool expertly nullified the threat of prolific duo Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez as Leicester failed to score for the first time this season. The Foxes' success under Claudio Ranieri has been built on their ability to sit deep and contain teams before hitting them at pace on the counter-attack. However, Liverpool rarely gave them a sniff as they remained organised and compact throughout. Jordan Henderson delivered a true captain's performance at the heart of the midfield as his energy and range of passing kept driving the Reds forward. If Klopp picked the wrong team against Watford, this time he got his tactics spot on as Liverpool didn't try to over-complicate matters against the sea of blue shirts in front of them. The ploy to play more direct on occasions paid dividends as the Reds regularly got in behind the Foxes. A first win in five matches was secured courtesy of substitute Christian Benteke's neat finish just past the hour mark. Klopp had spelt out to the big frontman exactly what's required for him to succeed at Anfield during a midweek heart to heart at Melwood. And Benteke showed that he had been listening as he clinically dispatched Roberto Firmino's cross. After a difficult start to his Reds career, the hope is that this proves to be a launchpad for the £32.5million striker.

The odd cameo role is of little use to Klopp. Liverpool need Benteke taking centre stage week in, week out and leading the charge towards the top four. With Divock Origi limping off with a hamstring injury, Benteke's importance to the Reds is greater than ever.

It wasn't a vintage display from the Belgian by any means and he still has to make adjustments to his game and be more mobile in order to truly fit Klopp's style, but this was a welcome step in the right direction.

Certainly, bagging a goal of such significance should boost his confidence levels. With strikers Origi, Daniel Sturridge and Danny Ings all sidelined, Benteke should now get the kind of extended run in the side that he hasn't enjoyed in a stop-start first campaign with the Reds. Much rests on his broad shoulders.

Losing Origi before the break was another cruel injury setback for the Reds. The youngster had been Liverpool's standout performer during the first half as he stretched Leicester's backline at every opportunity with his clever movement. Origi's inclusion for only his third league start was one of three changes from the defeat to Watford as Simon Mignolet and Dejan Lovren also returned. Adam Bogdan, the injured Martin Skrtel and Lucas Leiva made way. With the flags back on the Kop following a resolution to the unseemly row between the club and fans groups, Anfield was blessed with an injection of colour and vibrancy.

Klopp's recent efforts to crank up the decibel levels in a bid to transform the Reds fortunes in L4 has had the desired impact and that vociferous support inspired the hosts. Philippe Coutinho whipped a 25-yarder narrowly wide before lashing over from Origi's pull-back. There was a purpose and a slickness to the Reds' approach play which has been lacking in recent weeks.

Adam Lallana ruffled the side-netting after being picked out by Henderson's incisive through ball. Kasper Schmeichel thwarted Emre Can and then Origi, who had expertly got away from Wes Morgan.

On this occasion there were no gifts at the other end. Lovren shone on his return to the side as the Croatian centre-back carried on where he had left off prior to his knee injury. Mamadou Sakho had the odd rush of blood alongside him but that partnership has got potential. Mignolet enjoyed a relatively serene afternoon after proving his fitness following a minor hamstring issue. There were ironic cheers when he held on to a corner but the applause was genuine when he brilliantly pushed over Mathrez's piledriver. Henderson was outstanding – repeatedly winning back possession and launching wave after wave of attacks. Twice, the skipper fed Benteke but the openings were wasted.

'Jurgen, get that Firmino off,' bellowed an agitated fan in the Main Stand towards the touchline just seconds before the Brazilian belatedly came to life. Firmino exchanged passes with Can and his cross was tucked away by Benteke. Frustration turned to unbridled joy. After that it all got horribly anxious as Firmino and Henderson passed up chances to kill off the Foxes. Mignolet saved from Nathan Dyer and then clung on after a long throw had sparked panic.

With Schmeichel stranded up field, Benteke should have doubled his account in the dying seconds but with team-mates queuing up to score he somehow enabled Morgan to make the block. It mattered little. A torrid year for Liverpool at Anfield ended on a glorious high. This provided some long overdue home comforts.

Match facts

Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Lovren, Sakho, Moreno, Can, Henderson, Lallana (Allen 90), Coutinho (Lucas 90), Firmino, Origi (Benteke 38). **Not used:** Bogdan, Toure, Teixeira, Randall

Leicester City: Schmeichel, Simpson, Huth, Morgan, Fuchs, Mahrez (Kramaric 80), Kanté, King, Albrighton, Okazaki (Dyer 69), Vardy (Ulloa 69).

Not used: Schwarzer, De Laet, Wasilewski, Inler.

Referee: Martin Atkinson **Attendance:** 44,123 **Goals:** Benteke 63

Bookings: Lallana, Can, Huth,

Star man: Jordan Henderson. Led by example as he kept Liverpool on the front foot throughout.

Leicester Mercury

Christian Benteke inflicts first away defeat on Premier League leaders Liverpool (0) 1 Benteke (63) Leicester City (0) 0

Leicester City's astonishing run came to an end at Anfield as they suffered their first away defeat of the season. It looked as though the herculean efforts which have taken them to the top of the Premier League had taken their toll as Claudio Ranieri succumbed to Christian Benteke's second half winner.

It was City's first away defeat since losing at Tottenham in March and the first game this season in which they had failed to score.

While there was no shortage of effort or commitment from City, they lacked the spark that has lit up the Premier League so far this season amidst the gloom of Anfield. City made just one change to the side that won on Merseyside seven days ago against Everton and it was no surprise to see Robert Huth return after his one-game ban to replace Marcin Wasilewski. City certainly needed their first choice back four in action against a Reds side that may have been missing several first team regulars but had decided they would go hammer and tongues at City. City's fast pressing style under Ranieri was modelled in part to Jurgen Klopp's high pressing and fast approach which proved so effective at Borussia Dortmund and it made for a fast and ferocious spectacle in the first half.

City started the game unbeaten away from home this season but they were probably tested more than at any other time as Liverpool exploded out of the blocks. While the pace of the game was frightening at times it made quality play difficult at such break-neck speed. Philippe Coutinho went close with two efforts from just outside the box, while City keeper Kasper Schmeichel was forced to make saves from Divock Origi and Dejan Lovren, while skipper Wes Morgan repeatedly threw his body into make vital blocks as the hosts applied plenty of pressure. There is no surprise element about City anymore and the Reds knew where the danger lay as they doubled up on top scorer Jamie Vardy and City's mercurial winger Riyad Mahrez, who came into the game having scored six in his last three games. However, despite the attention it was Mahrez who provided City's brightest moments. He ghosted past Alberto Moreno and Coutinho to wriggle into the box in the first few minutes but keeper Simon Mignolet blocked his low cross with his legs and then the Algeria international beat two Reds defenders on the edge of the box before getting his shot away and forcing Mignolet into a good save.

Vardy, who was struggling with illness, was his usual industrious self but was given little service except from a Marc Albrighton cross which he was unable to keep down and his header sailed over the bar.

The unrelenting pace continued in the second half but neither side could manage to forge a chance of significance until just before the hour when Roberto Firmino got in behind the City defence and into a dangerous position but again Morgan was on the spot to block his low cross inside the six-yard box.

Morgan was having an outstanding game and he did enough to put Christian Benteke off from making significant contact on Jordan Henderson's teasing cross shortly afterwards.

However, City's rear-guard were finally breached in the 63rd minute when Firmino was able to pick out Benteke, who had just drifted off Morgan and Huth to find space and the Belgian found Schmeichel's bottom corner.

City made a double substitution with Leonardo Ulloa and Nathan Dyer replacing Shinji Okazaki and Vardy and it nearly paid off in the 75th minute when Dyer met Christian Fuchs' near-post cross but Mignolet made a good save.

The game began to open up and City came more into it as an attacking force and Mignolet was now the busier of the two keeper's and he bravely saved at the feet of Huth from Fuchs' long throw in the final ten minutes.

But that left them open defensively as well and Coutinho had Schmeichel beaten with a long-range effort in the 84th minute but his shot struck the frame behind the goal instead.

Right at the death Andy King had a great chance from Ulloa's flick on but his volley was deflected just wide.

In the last minute, there was a bizarre moment as Schmeichel having joined the attack at City throw into the Reds' box, which was cleared and Liverpool broke five-on-one with only Morgan defending, but although Benteke got away with a clear off-side in the build-up, the hosts still could not score.

Teams:

Leicester City: 01 Kasper Schmeichel. 17 Dannv Simson. 06 Robert Huth. 05 Wes

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Morgan, 28 Christian Fuchs, 26 Riyad Mahrez, 10 Andy King, 14 N'Golo Kante, 11 Marc Albrighton, 20 Shinji Okazaki, 09 Jamie Vardy
Subs: 02 Ritchie De Laet, 19 Andrej Kramaric (for 26 Mahrez 80 mins), 23 Leonardo Ulloa (for 09 Vardy 69 mins), 24 Nathan Dyer (for 20 Okazaki 69 mins), 27 Marcin Wasilewski, 32 Mark Schwarzer, 33 Gokhan Inler.
Liverpool (4-2-3-1): 22 Simon Mignolet, 02 Nathaniel Clyne, 17 Mamadou Sakho, 06 Deja Lovren, 18 Alberto Moreno, 24 Jordan Henderson, 23 Emre Can, 20 Adam Lallana, 11 Roberto Firmino, 10 Philippe Coutinho, 27 Divock Origi.
Subs: 34 Adam Bogdan, 04 Kolo Toure, 09 Christian Benteke (for 27 Origi 38 mins), 21 Lucas (for 10 Coutinho 90 mins), 24 Joe Allan (for 20 Lallana 90+3 mins), 53 Joao Carlos Teixeira, 56 Connor Randall.
Referee: Martin Atkinson.
Attendance: 44,123
Yellow cards: Can, Lallana (Liverpool), Huth (City)



Benteke gets the better of Foxes

This was an outcome defined by contradicting subplots. Liverpool's match-winner was Christian Benteke, a striker whose heart to heart with Jurgen Klopp earlier in the week was advertised by the manager only for his subsequent selection as a substitute. It would have been generous to describe Leicester's response to the goal as an onslaught. They had scored in each of their Premier League games this season but could not find a way to score past Liverpool, even with Simon Mignolet panicking at crosses and Mamadou Sakho attempting to twist his way out of mistakes like a battleship lost in a brook.

Benteke should have settled Liverpool's victory in injury time, racing towards the Kop with Kasper Schmeichel stranded after Claudio Ranieri sanctioned the goalkeeper's motivation to attack a corner. And yet, despite Benteke's earlier contribution, the Belgian's confidence appeared to drain as he got closer to a goal patrolled by only Wes Morgan and improbably the defender did enough with his legs to ensure Leicester's second defeat of the campaign was by one rather than two. Liverpool merited their win here and the managers were consistent about that. "We only started to play late and I don't know why," Ranieri protested. "At the beginning we were too anxious."

Klopp admitted that in last Sunday's defeat at Watford, he had "over-complicated" his team's approach. On this occasion, he spoke of "the simple things" being executed correctly, though his satisfaction was not absolute following another injury sustained to one of his players.

Divock Origi had started instead of Benteke and up until the 38th minute, the striker concerned Morgan and his defensive partner Robert Huth with the swiftness of his movement as well as the boldness of his direction. Suddenly, Origi stopped; slumping to the floor, having attempted to move too far, too quickly. "Hamstring is the shit word of the year for me," Klopp groaned.

There were other moments which reflected precisely why Liverpool are positioned away from where they aspire to be, albeit not many which illustrated why Leicester have confounded expectations. In one particular sequence, Nathaniel Clyne proved to be too strong for Riyad Mahrez and Anfield roared in approval. Rather than building on the momentum, Emre Can then checked back, stunting Liverpool's progression and Can's decision clearly infuriated Klopp who is desperate for Liverpool to be more aggressive in everything they do.

The first half followed the same pattern of all the home games under Klopp: Liverpool having an overwhelming amount of possession but generally not being fast or brave enough with it. There was a sense that Leicester were happy to wait for Anfield to go quiet and then strike, sending the atmosphere into a deeper mood. That almost proved to be the case. Despite Liverpool's control, Leicester had the clearest chance when Mahrez penetrated the home side's defence before striking fiercely with his instep. Mignolet, returning to the starting side, did just about enough to save it.

Liverpool had three players operating between the lines of Leicester's defence and midfield and although the performances of the three were not particularly spectacular, their positioning was significant; ensuring that Leicester were not able to release long passes from defence when attempting to launch counter attacks. Of Philippe Coutinho, Adam Lallana and Roberto Firmino, the latter had been the quietest of the three, yet it was his contribution that proved to be defining. Liverpool's winner came from a quick throw-in by Alberto Moreno and then interchange between Can and the Brazilian. Ranieri was disappointed that despite being the obvious target, no Leicester players had spotted the most conspicuous figure on the pitch 12 yards out, and with that, Benteke slid a shot beyond Schmeichel's grasp.

What followed from the visitors was not entirely convincing but a feeling pervaded that Liverpool might transpire as masters of their own downfall. Mignolet flapped at a Christian Fuchs corner and as Sakho hesitated, the goalkeeper recovered. Substitute Nathan Dyer then appeared unmarked and this time, Mignolet spotted the threat, tipping wide. Ranieri was later asked what the defeat means for Leicester, whether they will be able to recover spirit in time for Tuesday's match with Manchester City.

"It is important to recover our mental energy," Ranieri said. "Why should we lose

confidence? We have to remember it is ok to lose. It is how you respond."

Liverpool: (4-2-3-1) Mignolet; Clyne, Lovren, Sakho, Moreno; Henderson, Can; Lallana (Allen, 90), Firmino, Coutinho (Lucas, 90); Origi (Benteke, 38).

Leicester City: (4-4-2) Schmeichel; Simpson, Morgan, Huth, Fuchs; Mahrez (Kramaric, 80), King, Kant[c], Albrighton; Vardy (Ulloa, 69), Okazaki (Dyer, 69).
 Referee: Martin Atkinson.

Man of the match: Lovren (Liverpool)

Match rating: 5/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Benteke strike ends Leicester's winning run

Liverpool 1 Benteke 63 Leicester City 0 Att: 44,123

It's a phrase you don't often hear from a defeated Leicester manager in the Liverpool press room: "We can't win every week." The leaders were beaten, deservedly so at Anfield, but Claudio Ranieri's post-match appraisal carried more than a tinge of irony having suffered a league setback for only the second time this season. Boxing Day at Anfield is not, by tradition, a match for Leicester City to circle and consider 'must-win' when a fixture calendar is published, so there lingered a surreal and somewhat uncomfortable feeling when the Italian was quizzed on title ramifications having succumbed to Christian Benteke's 64th-minute winner. "Can you recover from this?" must be one of the strangest questions thrown his way during his managerial career. One almost wished for Ranieri to meet this by throwing his arms in the air and describing in detail how the failure to extend his club's lead by five points must be the beginning of the end of a potentially historic campaign.

A few days ago he was being pinned to the wall and being compelled to declare his side's title contenders. Now he may need to start rehearsing inevitable questioning as to whether the galloping first half of the season will take its toll. Certainly, Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez cut weary figures as they were substituted in the second half, although the striker had a fever and was 'being protected' according to his manager. Having won at Goodison Park a week ago, a Merseyside double would have been the most telling of all statements to date, but in truth Leicester never threatened to replicate their away form here. Liverpool were smart enough not to leave gaps for the pace men to stretch their legs, and on the rare occasions the visitors threatened through Mahrez and Nathan Dyer test-Simon Mignolet made fine saves. Ultimately, this amounts to a mere setback at one of the Premier League's toughest venues, far too soon to start discussing reality checks. Nor should we form an orderly queue to start popping any bubbles. "We are very down because we wanted to win," said Ranieri. "If there is another team that plays better then you are not happy but it is OK because Liverpool deserved to win and we started to play so late. I don't know why. We were anxious and nervous at the start."

Leicester's greatest threat came during a frantic finale when Liverpool's nervy defence started to scramble away set-pieces, but the game should have been long since decided thanks a most peculiar performance by the PS32 million matchwinner. For an hour you were left to wonder what Jurgen Klopp's pre-match heart-to-heart with Benteke involved. Kept on the bench, bereft of confidence when initially summoned, and continuing to give the kind of performance that made Mario Balotelli's displays at Anfield last season look like dynamic, tactical masterclasses, the Belgian looked ill-equipped to stall the leaders' title charge. Then twice within a space of four minutes came Anfield's eureka moment. Midfielders made progress beyond the Leicester defence, sent over a couple of crosses and Benteke's game located a pulse. First he headed over Adam Lallana's diagonal ball, before - more decisively - connecting perfectly with Roberto Firmino's weighted cross on 64 minutes, picking his spot beyond Kasper Schmeichel. Knockout: Christian Benteke slides in the winner as Liverpool get back on track by dealing Leicester a rare defeat. It was Benteke's sixth goal in a Liverpool jersey, and it would be premature to describe this as a turning point, but he has continued to fire intermittently.

He'd have had another but for a hapless attempt to find the empty net in the fourth minute of injury time, somehow contriving to shoot at Wes Morgan's thigh when Schmeichel was caught up-field trying to equalise from a corner.

It's been that sort of Liverpool career for Benteke, the smooth overshadowed by the rough. Benteke was only on the pitch for his winner due to the misfortune of Divock Origi. Klopp's decision to favour the younger of his Belgians looked justified in the early stages, as Origi harassed Morgan and Robert Huth, twice outpacing the centre-halves before shooting powerfully, most significantly when provoking Schmeichel into a 25th minute save. Sadly for the youngster, his exertions took their toll when he was forced off with what a hamstring problem, ushering Benteke into the action. Leicester's defenders seemed happier dealing with the static striker than the nippy Origi, but whatever Benteke's limitations he needs no sat-nav to direct him to goal.

"He came in and it was not easy and then in the second half he worked hard for the team and made this goal," said Klopp. "It was the perfect situation and then he had another chance close to the final whistle.

"There are more pluses from this game. It was deserved. We made the game we should make against this opponent. We knew if we stayed concentrated we would get our chances." Liverpool will look towards the top six again. What follows for Leicester is Manchester City, as the games that will define their true quality manoeuvre into view.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Benteke's wake-up call shocks Leicester

The only time Leicester City lost a league game this season before yesterday's narrow one to Liverpool, they were swamped by freeflowing Arsenal. It proved to be a turning point, but not in the way their legions of doubters imagined. Rather than being found out, Leicester found out much more about themselves and nearly all of it was positive.

Yesterday's defeat, the first time Leicester had failed to score since they visited Sunderland in May, will surely mark another watershed, whether it proves to be another mere hiccup or signs of something more debilitating. Either way, the Foxes were outfoxed by a revitalised Liverpool as the leaders came up against the wrong team, at the wrong place, at the wrong time. As Claudio Ranieri, the Leicester manager, readily admitted, the best team won.

"Why were we so nervous at the beginning? Why, why?" he asked. "We did our best, but if the other team play better than you, I'm not happy, but it's okay and we have a good match to recall.

"We're in good condition, we're in a good position and that's fantastic."

Leicester's ascent has been remarkable. A year ago, they were bottom of the Premier League, bound for the Championship and their manager Nigel Pearson was about to undergo the footballing equivalent of self-immolation. Precisely 365 heady days later, Leicester sought their first three points at Anfield since 2000 (but their second in the city of Liverpool in seven days) as the number one team in the land; possibly bound for Europe and with a manager who has taken Pearson's Great Escapers to another dimension.

One they settled, Leicester looked to their predictable, but fiendishly difficult to counter, strengths: the knack of Riyad Mahrez to take defenders on, hurtle to the goal line and pull back for an onrushing teammate. He did it in the third minute yesterday. Alberto Moreno knew what was coming, anticipated it even, but he was utterly powerless to prevent it. They defended Liverpool's wave of attacks deeply, they broke like lightning and, in the diminutive frame of N'Golo Kante, they had a giant of a midfield helmsman.

Liverpool, though, were transformed in the wake of the abject surrender at Watford.

"We were too complicated there," admitted manager Jurgen Klopp. "It wasn't easy today, but we were never under pressure and we knew if we stayed concentrated, we would get chances and I'm really pleased. Now we must recover quickly, although not as quickly and I can't believe I'm saying this as those who are playing on Monday."

Intriguingly, of Klopp's three changes after Watford, only one was tactical. Simon Mignolet returned from injury to oust Adam Bogdan. Dejan Lovren deputised for hamstring victim Martin Skrtel, while Divock Origi replaced Lucas. Shortly before the break, Origi hobbled off, clutching his hamstring. Christian Benteke emerged without the benefit of a warm-up and, accidentally, Liverpool had their match winner.

Grateful for their reprieve, Liverpool's players were turbo-charged and gegenpressing. They out-Leicestered Leicester. Philippe Coutinho and Adam Lallana were rampaging dervishes and even Roberto Firmino resembled a necessity rather than a luxury. For all the hypnotic bustle, though, neither goalkeeper was extended until the 42nd minute when Mahrez pirouetted and let fly, only for Mignolet to tip over. From there Mahrez would fade and Leicester, with a subdued Jamie Vardy suffering from a virus, would never come as close again. After the break, Mamadou Sakho, who has the same comedic cult-hero status on the Kop of Neil Ruddock and Torben Piechnik, almost let Leicester through with some haphazard distribution. Jordan Henderson, meanwhile, gradually evolved into the afternoon's outstanding contributor. When he dispossessed Kante and launched a glorious through ball to Benteke, the confidence-challenged Belgian dallied and squared to a blue shirt. The Belgian's big moment soon came. Following Moreno's throw-in on the left, Emre Can and Firmino's deft interchange ended with the Brazilian pulling back low and Benteke guided in his first Premier League goal since October past Kasper Schmeichel. Ranieri swiftly made a double substitution and, overrun in midfield for most of the second period, his troops rallied with intermittent menace. One of the replacements, Nathan Dyer, was soon turning Christian Fuchs's cross towards goal and bringing out the best in Mignolet. By the end, Ranieri had given the PS9m misfit Andrej Kramaric his first kick of a Premier League ball since September and Leicester were attempting to bludgeon their way to parity, although Coutinho's vicious dipper and Henderson's curious decision to square into space rather than shoot was a reminder that Anfield was not entirely a one-way street.

As the home crowd implored the final whistle, Benteke should have taken advantage of Schmeichel being upfield for a corner but made a hash of things. A second goal would have flattered Liverpool, but as is the way in a toe-to-toe tussle, one was enough.

Liverpool: Mignolet 7, Clyne 6, Lovren 6, Sakho 5, Moreno 6, Henderson 7, Can 7, Firmino 7, Coutinho 7 (Lucas, 90 mins), Lallana 7 (Allen, 90+2 mins, 2), Origi 6 (Benteke, 36 mins, 6) Leicester City: Schmeichel 6, Fuchs 6, Morgan 6, Huth 6, Simpson 6, Mahrez 7 (Kramaric, 79mins, 4), Kante 7, King 5, Albrighton 5, Vardy 6 (Ulloa, 69mins, 5), Okazaki 6 (Dyer, 69 mins, 6)

The Observer

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Leaders Leicester saw their nine-match unbeaten Premier League run ended by Liverpool substitute Christian Benteke's second-half winner. The Reds dominated the first half at Anfield, but failed to fully test Foxes keeper Kasper Schmeichel. They were rewarded when Roberto Firmino's pull-back from the left was steered in by a stretching Benteke. Leicester offered little threat, Nathan Dyer going closest as they failed to score for the first time this season.

Festive woe for Foxes
 Leicester spent Christmas Day on top of the Premier League, capping a marvellous turnaround after being bottom of the table 12 months ago. Their first league defeat since losing 5-2 at home to Arsenal on 26 September left them vulnerable to be overtaken by the Gunners later on Saturday. But Arsene Wenger's men failed to capitalise after a 4-0 loss at Southampton, meaning the Foxes are still two points clear at the summit. Can Claudio Ranieri's side react positively to defeat? That's the question many sceptics have been asking about the surprise leaders. After a toothless display at Anfield, where they managed just three shots on target, Leicester will have to improve dramatically if they are to maintain their lofty position. "We have to clean this result away and restart," said Ranieri afterwards. Vardy and Mahrez fail to shine

Two of the brightest stars in Leicester's resurgence have been England striker Jamie Vardy and Algeria playmaker Riyad Mahrez. The two men have contributed 29 of Leicester's 37 Premier League goals this season, as well as providing 10 assists for each other or their team-mates. But neither made an impact against Liverpool, with Ranieri revealing afterwards that Vardy played with a fever and Mahrez was "very tired". As a team, Leicester lacked their usual energy and managed to muster just seven attempts at the Liverpool goal.

Belgian pair boost the Reds
 Liverpool's revival under Jurgen Klopp has showed signs of slowing down in recent weeks, with the Reds picking up just one point in their three previous Premier League matches. Following the 3-0 defeat at Watford, Klopp decided to recall Belgium striker Divock Origi to provide more pace and movement as the focal point of his attack. Origi's speed caused problems for the Leicester defence in the opening half an hour, as the hosts began at a brisk tempo. But a hamstring injury curtailed Origi's afternoon, meaning his international colleague Benteke was summoned from the bench. Benteke, a £32m summer signing from Aston Villa, had not scored a Premier League goal in six appearances and wastefully headed over an early second-half opportunity. However, he clinically finished when it mattered - sliding in the winner as Liverpool moved up to eighth.

Man of the match - Jordan Henderson
Post-match reaction
Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "After four games with no result, that was very important today. Everybody knows of the quality of Leicester and what we had to do today was play simple football. "The first half was really good and then we had to change. Christian Benteke was not warm, it's not easy to come into the game. "We made the goal, it was a brilliant situation where the boys showed their quality in small situations. We were never really under pressure."
Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri: "We started to play too late. Liverpool pushed from the beginning and for this reason they deserved to win. "We tried to do our best but maybe in the first half we were too nervous to play our football. The second half was much better."
What's next?
 Another big match for the Foxes - the visit of third-placed Manchester City on Tuesday. Liverpool return to action on Wednesday, when they travel to struggling Sunderland.

The stats you need to know
 Liverpool are unbeaten in their past seven league games against the Foxes, winning five and drawing two. The Reds are also unbeaten at home in the Premier League on Boxing Day, winning six and drawing three. Claudio Ranieri's side lost their first away match of the season, last losing on the road in the Premier League in March (4-3 at Tottenham). Christian Benteke scored his first Premier League goal since Liverpool's 3-1 win against Chelsea in October. Leicester have won just one of their past 11 top-flight Boxing Day fixtures, drawing three and losing seven. Liverpool kept their first clean sheet in the Premier League since November, having conceded at least twice in each of their last three fixtures before Saturday.

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Full time Match ends, Liverpool 1, Leicester City 0.
 90:00+5:24 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Leicester City 0.
 90:00+5:17 Attempt missed. Andy King (Leicester City header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Marc Albrighton with a cross.
 90:00+4:56 Offside, Liverpool. Christian Benteke tries a through ball, but Lucas Leiva is caught offside.
 90:00+4:51 Attempt blocked. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 90:00+2:10 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Joe Allen replaces Adam Lallana.
 90:00+0:38 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva replaces Philippe Coutinho.
 89:21 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 89:21 Nathan Dyer (Leicester City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 88:40 Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Emre Can.
 88:39 Attempt blocked. Andy King (Leicester City right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Fuchs.
 86:06 Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right.
 84:43 Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool.
 84:43 Nathan Dyer (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 83:04 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 81:10 Offside, Liverpool. Simon Mignolet tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.
 79:18 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Leicester City. Andrej Kramaric replaces Riyad Mahrez.
 78:44 Offside, Leicester City. Marc Albrighton tries a through ball, but Robert Huth is caught offside.
 77:53 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
 77:53 Leonardo Ulloa (Leicester City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 77:20 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 74:58 Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Philippe Coutinho is caught offside.
 73:57 Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 73:34 Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
 73:31 Attempt saved. Nathan Dyer (Leicester City left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Christian Fuchs with a cross.
 72:48 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
 72:48 Leonardo Ulloa (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 69:56 Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Alberto Moreno.
 68:49 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
 68:49 Nathan Dyer (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 68:31 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Leicester City. Leonardo Ulloa replaces Jamie Vardy.
 68:18 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Leicester City. Nathan Dyer replaces Shinji Okazaki.
 65:39 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 65:39 Foul by Wes Morgan (Leicester City.
 64:58 Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.
 62:23 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 1, Leicester City 0. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a cross.
 61:08 Booking Robert Huth (Leicester City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 60:58 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 60:58 Foul by Robert Huth (Leicester City.
 59:24 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.
 57:08 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Wes Morgan.
 54:47 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 54:47 Foul by Christian Fuchs (Leicester City.
 52:30 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 51:55 Booking Emre Can (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.
 51:48 Delay in match Jamie Vardy (Leicester City because of an injury.
 50:28 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Marc Albrighton.
 45:19 Attempt saved. Jamie Vardy (Leicester City left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner.
 45:08 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
 45:07 N'Golo Kanté (Leicester City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 0, Leicester City 0.
 45:00+2:50 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 0, Leicester City 0.
 45:00+2:32 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.
 45:00+2:32 Robert Huth (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 45:00+1:59 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Andy King.
 45:00+0:48 Booking Adam Lallana (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.
 45:00+0:37 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
 45:00+0:36 Marc Albrighton (Leicester City wins a free kick on the left wing.
 44:32 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 44:32 Foul by Wes Morgan (Leicester City.
 42:20 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.
 41:10 Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

41:07 Attempt saved. Riyad Mahrez (Leicester City left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by N'Golo Kanté.
 39:00 Attempt blocked. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can.
 37:39 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Christian Benteke replaces Divock Origi because of an injury.
 37:19 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 36:12 Delay in match Divock Origi (Liverpool because of an injury.
 35:44 Attempt blocked. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 34:48 Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 33:05 Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
 33:05 Shinji Okazaki (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 32:05 Attempt saved. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.
 31:26 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 31:26 Foul by Shinji Okazaki (Leicester City.
 27:29 Attempt missed. Jamie Vardy (Leicester City header from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Marc Albrighton with a cross.
 26:41 Attempt missed. Divock Origi (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is too high. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 24:03 Attempt saved. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 23:12 Attempt missed. Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho following a corner.
 23:11 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Dejan Lovren following a corner.
 23:00 Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 22:46 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Kasper Schmeichel.
 22:42 Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.
 21:06 Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool.
 21:06 Wes Morgan (Leicester City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 19:30 Foul by Danny Simpson (Leicester City.
 19:24 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 17:58 Attempt blocked. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 16:50 Corner, Leicester City. Conceded by Jordan Henderson.
 16:04 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 15:11 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Divock Origi.
 14:15 Attempt missed. Shinji Okazaki (Leicester City left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by N'Golo Kanté.
 12:14 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by N'Golo Kanté.
 11:57 Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.
 11:34 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Wes Morgan.
 11:27 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.
 10:44 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
 10:29 Attempt blocked. Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Dejan Lovren.
 9:39 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Wes Morgan.
 9:37 Attempt blocked. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can.
 8:12 Hand ball by N'Golo Kanté (Leicester City.
 7:37 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 7:37 Foul by Marc Albrighton (Leicester City.
 3:51 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.
 3:51 Riyad Mahrez (Leicester City wins a free kick on the right wing.
 2:34 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
 0:00 First Half begins.
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.