Date: 17 January 2016
Opposition: Manchester United
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	MEN
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17 January 2016

THE TIMES

Rooney goal has critics eating their words again

Liverpool 0 Manchester United 1 Rooney 78 Referee: M Clattenburg Attendance: 43,865

The "salt in the soup", as Jurgen Klopp calls derby matches, felt more likes salt in the wound forLiverpool. This win for Manchester United really can be described only as a heist. Wayne Rooney, the ex-Evertonian subject of a particularly filthy Kop ditty, scored from Manchester United's only shot on target. His fifth goal in four games brought United's fourth successive win over Liverpool and left Anfield reverberating to the visiting fans' songs for half an hour after the final whistle. Rooney waited so long for this moment. The last time that he scored at Anfield, Elvis Presley was No 1 with Jailhouse Rock, although it was the re-release to coincide with what would have been the King's 70th birthday. It was January 15, 2005 when Rooney last found the mark at Anfield and he celebrated in style. Yards away, the visiting throng in the Anfield Road End writhed in delight. In among them were the injured Phil Jones and Michael Carrick, who tweeted his joy at Rooney's goal adding that he was "nearly thrown down three rows when we scored". Jones and Carrick clearly enjoyed themselves and their presence among United's fans will bring dressing room and support closer during a strange old season. It is not known whether the England pair joined in the United followers' loud chant about Steven Gerrard. But this was all about Gerrard's successor as England captain. Rooney has delivered his more vibrant form for country rather than club in recent months. At 30, he has endured plenty of criticism this season, particularly over whether he still possesses the athleticism to survive in the most demanding of physical environments.

He has responded strongly, providing the beacon to guide United through some dark times recently, possibly keeping Louis van Gaal in his job as manager. United's captain leads by example, running hard, playing selflessly, encouraging team-mates. Nobody can question Rooney's workrate or commitment. Few players in the Premier League strike a ball better. Those who write Rooney off must be aware that he has the right to reply with goals. And often does.

His finish 12 minutes from time kept the statisticians busy. It was United's 100th goal at Anfield. Nobody has scored more for one Premier League club than Rooney's 176 for United, moving clear of Thierry Henry for Arsenal. Statisticians can forget that there was life before the Premier League but it is still an impressive figure. Rooney is six goals short of Charlton's United record of 249 in all competitions. If the identity of their nemesis was galling enough for Liverpool, the manner of the goal 12 minutes from time left many of their supporters speechless and some heading for the an early exit.

It was all so familiar: the failure of Simon Mignolet, the goalkeeper, to take charge of an incoming corner, the inability of outfield players such as Jordan Henderson, Kolo Toure and Mamadou Sakho to deal with Marouane Fellaini's run and header against the bar followed by slow reactions to the loose ball. Do they practise defending corners at Melwood? Amid the recognition of Liverpool's serial flaws at set pieces, there was also admiration for Rooney's speed of thought with the rebound and strength of technique in catching a ball at a difficult height, driving it into the net. Beyond the one-handed save that David De Gea made to deny Emre Can, Rooney's touch was the one moment of real class in an impoverished game. The lack of intensity, skill and ambition was an affront to a historic fixture. The sight of half-and-half scarves on sale almost symbolised how the game has lost much of its ancient enmity. There was no Gerrard or Roy Keane stirring it up, there were no red cards or reducers. There was no spice in the soup.

Rooney understood the game's importance not just for the bragging rights but also for United's hopes of getting back into the Champions League, even becoming involved in the title race. It reflects the low level of quality of this season's Premier League that United are depicted as a team in almost permanent crisis and yet are seven points off the top.

Liverpool are 13 points off the pinnacle and eight from the Champions League positions but need to work on their defence and sort out their centre-forward position. Roberto Firmino offers some elegant touches but they need a proper No 9. Klopp clearly does not rate Christian Benteke, who again started the match on the bench. There is so much good about Liverpool under Klopp, the pressing, the tempo and the commitment to attack, but they need a forward focus and more organisation defensively. They kept attacking, initially targeting the space behind Matteo Darmian on the right. They would have broken through but for De Gea. When Lucas Leiva drilled a long ball through, Adam Lallana tried to head the ball past De Gea. United's keeper, anticipating the danger well, ran out and palmed the ball away. A fixture that frequently featured raised studs and tempers in the past spilled over briefly. It was not even handbags, more satchels. The playground antics involved Fellaini barging into James Milner, Lucas pushing Fellaini and then Nathaniel Clyne shoving Fellaini. Mark Clattenburg, English football's leading referee, summoned Rooney and Henderson, the captains, for a peace summit before warning Fellaini and Leiva. It was hardly the Rumble in the Jungle. It was hardly a derby. Henderson fired straight at De Gea, who then demonstrated his outstanding shot-stopping qualities by stretching out his right hand and pushing away a 20-yard strike from Can after 66 minutes. De Gea leapt up, reacting quickly as Firmino turned the ball back in. The goalkeeper clawed it away.

Having removed Jesse Lingard for Juan Mata, Van Gaal then sent on Memphis Depay for the popular Ander Herrera, who departed to huge and sympathetic applause from the United support. Depay took up a station on the left, Anthony Martial went through the middle with Rooney in the hole and Mata on the right. Van Gaal's changes worked. Martial was soon speeding down the insideleft channel, winning a corner off Toure. Having hitherto done little, Fellaini showed why he was on the pitch, beating opponents in the air. When Fellaini's header crashed back off the bar, Rooney settled the game. Firmino intensified debate about why Liverpool need a centre forward by hesitating in front of a loose ball. The visiting fans were merrily going through their songbook. The salt in the soup tasted good for United.

theguardian

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney stuns Liverpool with late strike

For 78 minutes it was not the icy temperatures that chilled Michael Carrick, Phil Jones and the rest of Manchester United's travelling support at Liverpool but a soul-sapping lack of adventure from the team they had paid to see. One swipe of Wayne Rooney's right foot altered everything and for 25 minutes after the final whistle they revelled in the truism that only the result matters when the Premier League's fallen heavyweights collide. The grim, occasionally gleeful, reality of life under Louis van Gaal was laid bare. Four times Van Gaal has faced Liverpool as United manager and four times he has emerged victorious. Each has had a profound effect on Liverpool's Champions League aspirations, with wins number two and three damaging Brendan Rodgers' job prospects in the process, and the latest may prove no exception, with Jürgen Klopp's team eight points adrift of fourth place. The implications for Van Gaal's future remain to be seen.

Klopp appeared visibly deflated as he discussed another display of promise, missed chances and set-piece vulnerability afterwards. Van Gaal was emboldened as he talked up United's title prospects on the back of a second league win since 21 November. The intoxicating effects of a United win at Anfield clearly remain, even if the reverberations no longer make an impact on the Premier League summit. The United manager also described David de Gea's influential performance as mere routine and he had a point – the Spanish goalkeeper twice saved impressively from Emre Can but was hardly besieged – yet the approach, and the quality on display, was modest in the extreme. Far from a collision between the best the Premier Leaguehas to offer, this underlined why two wealthy clubs began the day sixth and ninth in the table. Rooney settled the contest as he reacted sharply to a header from Marouane Fellaini, his fellow ex-Evertonian, that rebounded off the crossbar. It was Rooney's first league goal at Anfield in 11 years and a moment for the United captain, his manager and club to savour. They were on the back foot for much of the game, their timidity in the first half was as bad as their touch on the ball, but they were able to punish Liverpool's weaknesses in defence and in front of goal. "We need to improve but today was enough to beat Liverpool away," said Van Gaal. The armoury at the managers' disposal – the converted Roberto Firmino leading a Liverpool starting XI with only six league goals to their collective credit this season – was also telling. Liverpool spent the opening 10 minutes encamped inside their own half as United controlled possession but initial impressions proved misleading.

Klopp's side almost punished United when Jordan Henderson and James Milner combined to dispossess Morgan Schneiderlin, and Adam Lallana was put clean through by Lucas Leiva's long ball over the top. Lallana opted for a first-time header, saved almost on the 18-yard line by De Gea, and although the rebound broke kindly for Firmino, he was unable to reproduce the accuracy he had against Arsenal and shot tamely wide. Milner almost profited from a first-time ball down Liverpool's right channel, too, driving Firmino's pass wide from a tight angle, and Henderson shot over twice from distance while also missing the best chance of the opening half. In contrast to United, the home side's one-touch football improved considerably as the game wore on and a slick exchange between Lucas, Henderson, Lallana and Firmino released the captain inside the area. Henderson pulled his shot wide of De Gea's far post. Van Gaal's side were measured but rarely threatened until Rooney's late breakthrough. Not even the chance to pressurise Simon Mignolet from a corner was taken, with Daley Blind swinging a series of awful deliveries away from the Liverpool goalkeeper. Ander Herrera's sliced shot wide in the 30th minute represented United's first attempt on goal. The decision to play the left-winger Ashley Young at right-back was aborted shortly before the break when he exited injured following an innocuous challenge on Milner. Mercifully, the second half was more open, enterprising and interesting, the latter the least that should be expected when these clubs meet.

Louis van Gaal says Manchester United are in with a chance of winning the Premier League and the win over Liverpool leaves him 'a happy coach' Greater adventure from Can twice came close to giving Liverpool the lead. Moments after the restart the German international took Lallana's pass and burst beyond Chris Smalling inside the area but his low, goal-bound shot was deflected wide by De Gea. The United goalkeeper subsequently produced a superior save from Can's 25-yard drive, clawing away Firmino's return for good measure, and was relieved when Henderson side-footed tamely into his arms, despite having a free shot from the edge of the area. The missed chances, while not in the gilt-edged category, proved costly. Anthony Martial went close with a low shot across the face of Mignolet's goal but United's travelling contingent had been given no cause for optimism and jeered Van Gaal's decision to withdraw Herrera for Memphis Depay, before finding themselves rejoicing in Rooney's decisive 78th-minute strike. Blind, no doubt learning from earlier errors, played a short corner to Juan Mata and his inviting cross was headed against the bar by Fellaini, towering above

Compiled by Graeme Riley

the Liverpool centre-backs Mamadou Sakho and Kolo Touré. The ball bounced back to the unmarked United captain, who lashed an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net from close range. It was Rooney's 176th league goal for United, the most a player has scored for a single club in the Premier League era, and the seventh goal Liverpool have conceded from a corner this season – more than any other side. Most revealingly, it was the visitors' first shot on target. Smash and grab seems a fair description. Man of the match David de Gea (Manchester United)

The Mail

A REAL SMASH AND GRAB; Rooney steals the points but it's nowhere near a clasico

SO Jurgen Klopp joins a long list of Liverpool managers vanquished first time out by Manchester United. Bob Paisley was the last to win his opening game against them, on November 8 1975 -- United were in Division Two for Paisley's first season at Anfield -- and Wayne Rooney made sure Klopp wouldn't even have the consolation of a point. Not that he was in poor company there, either. Brendan Rodgers, Kenny Dalglish, Roy Hodgson, Rafael Benitez, Gerard Houllier and Roy Evans all lost their initial encounter with the enemy down the M62 -- Graeme Souness the last not to get beaten, in 1991. So this is a tradition, although not one that the locals are too keen on upholding. From Manchester United's perspective, it wasn't a greatly deserved victory, but it was most certainly an important one. United still resemble one of those arthouse films where nothing much happens for an hour, then there is a bit of action, the credits roll and everyone leaves none the wiser -- but this is Anfield, after all. It is not an easy place for any United team to come and win, so they deserve credit for that, at least.

When the final whistle blew, however, it was what it was: a match between the fifth best team in the Premier League, and the ninth. Neither of these sides is currently within the Champions League elite and neither played like it.

We imbue this fixture with clasico status, but it's a cheque these squads can no longer cash. United did not have a serious chance until Anthony Martial struck wide in the 57th minute, and Rooney's goal was their first shot on target. It also took his Premier League goal total for United to 176 -- the most by any player for one club. For such a rotten striker, he does seem to break a lot of records.Liverpool had the best chances in the first half and a fair few after half-time, too, but this was an old-fashioned smash and grab raid.

With 12 minutes remaining, Memphis Depay took a short corner, which Juan Mata whipped in and Marouane Fellaini won commandingly in the air. His header hit the bar, but Rooney was quickest to react, lashing the ball in with the surrounding Liverpool players sluggish. Christian Benteke was then introduced to try to revive the game as he did against Arsenal last week but, this time, it was too late. Having failed to play with an out-and-out goalscorer, Liverpool can hardly complain at ending with nil. It was the sort of match that Alex Ferguson used to earmark for Darren Fletcher, combative and furious at times. Of course, in those days both clubs had players of the calibre of Cristiano Ronaldo, Fernando Torres, Steven Gerrard and Paul Scholes to provide balance.

No such luck here. This was very much the lite version of Liverpool and Manchester United, although not in touch. The levels of distribution and quality were not markedly different to a game between teams in the bottom half of the table and it is fitting that Rooney, whose presence is a reminder of better times, should prove the decider. Lucas is perhaps the equivalent of Fletcher now, and his better games often seem to be blood-and-thunder scraps against Liverpool's elite rivals. So it was here. We may wonder what would happen if Floyd Mayweather fought a heavyweight, and this was its equivalent: Lucas versus Fellaini in the heart of midfield. It is fair to say that, pound for pound, the little man gave as good as he got. The game was only minutes old when the pair clashed heads tussling for a loose ball. The collision looked accidental but Fellaini came off worse and appeared to take umbrage. Not long after, the pair were scrapping again over by the touchline, with referee Mark Clattenburg required to restore order amid the standard melee. YET, much like the match, their duel failed to spark and the game took a predictable slant. United had much of the ball, but absolutely zero threat on goal for long periods. Liverpool played a high-energy game without the quality necessary to make it count. They pressed and harried, but too often finished wildly. David de Gea was busier than Simon Mignolet but should have been made to work harder. Jordan Henderson's contribution was particularly frustrating. He got into good shooting positions but was too often wayward. What he did get on target equated to little more than pre-match practice for De Gea. Henderson is charged with assuming Gerrard's mantle at Liverpool, but it wasn't just will that made the former captain such a magnificent player. He had the ability to back it up. Henderson lacks Gerrard's range -- and in more ways than one. Still, Liverpool had the best of the action in the first half and could have gone in at half-time ahead. In the 10th minute, Lucas clipped a ball over the top for Adam Lallana to run free. He outstripped the United back line and tried to head the bouncing ball past De Gea, who blocked, with it running to Roberto Firmino -- only for his shot to fly wide of the far post. Two minutes later, Firmino -- increasingly impressive under Klopp -- switched the play to James Milner in a lot of space on the right. His shot was snatched, however, flying high over the bar -- not what watching England manager Roy Hodgson would have wanted to see. There are glimpses of what can be achieved under Klopp's tuition, though, and in the 30th minute a passing move involving Lucas, Henderson, Lallana, Firmino and Henderson again, ended with the England midfielder shooting wide, a trend that continued in the second half. Emre Can forced a good save from De Gea in the 50th minute, and a superb one 16 minutes later -- when he also recovered in time to keep out Firmino's follow-up -- and Mamadou Sakho couldn't get sufficient purchase on an excellent cross by Milner in the 73rd minute.

Yet all the time, United were growing stronger -- buoyed by the arrival of positive substitutes such as Depay and Mata. Martial had their first real opportunity after 57 minutes, when Rooney played back a cross from Cameron Borthwick-Jackson, and maybe one day Manchester United will have a manager who will play the Frenchman in a dangerous position through the middle.

If there is a negative in this result for United it is that Louis van Gaal could interpret it as vindication of his ploy to use Rooney as his centre forward and Martial wide. Title talk, post-match, from the manager, suggests this is so.

AND, of course, Manchester United are still in touch, and a club with their resources should never be underestimated; but neither should the evidence of our own eyes. This may have been a title-winners' result, but it was not a title-winners' performance. United have had four shots on target in two games against Liverpool, and scored from them all. It is hard to see how a title challenge can be maintained with such slender margins. All that can be said of Manchester United is that they are considerably further ahead in their rebuilding project than Klopp and Liverpool. The revolution, for both clubs, is slow in coming. Unfortunately for the neutrals watching at home, it is always televised.

The Daily Telegraph

Rooney strikes late to deliver Anfield smash and grab

Liverpool 0 Manchester United 1 Rooney 78 Att: 43,865

Jurgen Klopp had said that derbies were the salt in the soup. But here was the salt in the wound with Wayne Rooney delivering the painfully smarting dose that was torture for Liverpool - but a balm for Manchester United and their underpressure manager, Louis van Gaal. Indeed Van Gaal appears to have that lucky general knack of gaining an unexpected victory just when it appears that the battle has turned against him; that the chips are down. Maybe that is part of the argument at United to keep him in place until the summer at least.

This was a fortunate result and, rather extraordinarily, a fourth successive Premier League win for Van Gaal against Liverpool - which may say more about the state of Liverpool than United. Still it is a record that Van Gaal will wallow in especially when it comes to those chats he has with the United chef Mike Donnelly which he likes to relay in his press conferences.

Local bragging rights? For so long in this combative, jarring contest between these two giants of the North West, giants of English football it felt like there would be no bragging rights. At the kick-off it was ninth against sixth in the league table and it looked that, and worse, for long periods. Eventually Liverpool, who played with more purpose and ambition cruelly paid the price for squandering opportunities in a classic smash and grab that left them shattered, Klopp shell-shocked and Van Gaal able to suggest afterwards that United might be back in the title race. That felt like a stretch; a big stretch. But it was a result that changed the landscape for United and quite possibly for Van Gaal who would have felt the icy blast, as the January cold snap begins, of another backlash had his team slumped to a defeat here. Instead they are up to fifth and have closed the gap on fourthplaced Tottenham Hotspur to two points. Defeat would have left it at a daunting five points and once more raised the questions over whether Van Gaal can - or should - survive this season.

He was indebted to David De Gea, quite clearly United's man of the match, although Van Gaal brushed aside an invitation to praise the goalkeeper by countering that the string of saves he made were those expected of a United goalkeeper. Maybe so. But the flaw in that argument is the displays turned in by many other United players were not up to the standard expected.

De Gea was exempt. So, too, was Anthony Martial while Rooney will claim the headlines even if, up until his goal, his contribution had not been great. But he scored. And scored a fifth goal in four matches with Van Gaal able to reiterate that having "put all my money on Wayne as a striker" here was an important dividend. Rooney's goal was also his 176th in United colours, taking him one ahead of Thierry Henry's total for Arsenal and meaning that no other player has scored more times for one Premier League club. But, for the former Evertonian Rooney, scoring against Liverpool meant even more and especially at Anfield; it was only his second goal here for United and a desperately important one.

It came deep into an uncompromising contest and the nature of it will have hurt Liverpool even more. Yet again they conceded from a corner. It was their seventh concession in such circumstances this season, more than any other top-flight club. Martial won the corner which Daley Blind took short to substitute Juan Mata. Mistake No 1 came as Jordon Ibe reacted too late to try to close down that danger. Mistake No 2 came as Jordan Henderson failed to track Marouane Fellaini with mistake No 3 following as the United midfielder easily beat Mamadou Sakho and Kolo Toure in the air. His header crashed back off the crossbar with mistake No 4 being that no Liverpool player reacted allowing Rooney to hook his half-volley high into the net with goalkeeper Simon Mignolet stranded. That analysis, for Liverpool, was familiar and painful and Klopp has to close down their defensive weaknesses or his own gloss will start to fade.

Van Gaal has long since given United a matt finish. They are functional, at best, with little to quicken the pulse. They needed to win but did not demonstrate the

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ability to do so even if the Dutchman argued, unconvincingly, that the secondhalf was more even and under control than the first period. Beyond Rooney's goal there was a clever burst from Martial, as he collected possession and worked his way deep into the penalty area, but his low cross-shot swept past the far post without troubling Mignolet. By contrast De Gea was busy. Very busy with Van Gaal more accurate in conceding that United were fortunate to survive a firsthalf onslaught when his team lacked aggression and Liverpoolthreatened to overwhelm them. They had chances. A host of chances. Adam Lallana should have scored when he was put clear but De Gea pushed away his header and then Roberto Firmino's follow-up narrowly skimmed past the post. Henderson then snatched at a trio of shooting opportunities, James Milner fired over, and then De Gea intervened again to deny Emre Can by diverting his low shot. The link-up play by Lallana and, in particular, the impressive Firmino was slick and incisive butLiverpool just could not finish. That was summed up when Firmino teed up Henderson but his side-footed shot was sent straight to De Gea who, soon after, was forced into a fine one-handed save from Can's fierce drive from outside the area. The Spanish international then pushed away Firmino's follow-up before Sakho got underneath Milner's cross and headed over from close-range.
Klopp threw on Christian Benteke and used Steven Caulker as an auxillary striker but there was no breakthrough. "It's a derby and in a derby you have one job to do - that's to win," he said. Rooney gave United that killer instinct and Van Gaal lived to fight another day.

THE INDEPENDENT

Liverpool's limitations leave Anfield yearning for yesteryear

It was a catalogue of scruffy passes and unruly clearances amid a wider mood of attrition here at Anfield yesterday. It seemed as though the two busiest players would define the result. For Liverpool, Mamadou Sakho stretched his long limbs to cover up his own mistakes, somehow shackling Wayne Rooney whose presence was irrelevant for almost the entire match. For Manchester United, Marouane Fellaini - the primary target of the visiting team's attacking play - was found chasing his own misdirected flick-ons. Despite Simon Mignolet being Liverpool's obvious weakness, the goalkeeper was not troubled. Then United delivered one decent cross towards Fellaini following a short corner. Rooney became active in the corresponding chaos. And with that, victory fell into United's lap.
Though he did not attempt to meet the cross, it was not entirely Mignolet's fault that the home team lost. A scrum of Liverpool defenders could not prevent Fellaini from jumping the highest, with Lucas Leiva abandoning Rooney, affording him the necessary space. Yet David De Gea made four crucial saves at the other end. First he saved from Adam Lallana, albeit the midfielder did not possess the conviction to pass him. He saved brilliantly from Emre Can twice. And then from Roberto Firmino. Liverpool possibly look at Mignolet as a financial asset but if they deem he is worth a new five-year contract, United should be looking to strap De Gea to Old Trafford until the end of time. United might be utterly joyless to watch and Champions League qualification might not seem like much of an achievement for a club of this size but at least they have a realistic chance of being there next season; mainly because of De Gea, who saves points; and sometimes due to the abilities of Rooney, who can still produce moments that win games. For Liverpool, the quest for success lands exclusively with Jrgen Klopp's training tactics and man-management, as all of the players capable of instinctively raising the collective have either been sold to the highest bidder or moved on towards the pasture of retirement without adequately being replaced, though the manager reminded here that he "cannot provide" the finishing touch whenLiverpool need it on the pitch.
Louis van Gaal spent much of his post-match press conference distracted by the televisions inside Anfield's former trophy room, wondering whether a bad result for Arsenal at Stoke might place United back in contention for the Premier League title. Van Gaal was proud of his win here but if he thinks United have a chance, he contradicted himself in describing Liverpool as "competitors".
Klopp, indeed, spoke quietly and slowly, staring into the middle-distance with his chin nuzzled into the palm of his hand; surely appreciating Stoke's result rather than Arsenal's would affect Liverpoolmore, for it is Stoke who are closer to them in the table and not Arsenal, who were 12 points ahead at the beginning of the day. This is how far Liverpool have fallen. Klopp was a more comfortable fit than any of those making the biggest decisions at Fenway Sports Group expected, having been advised against his appointment when it was decided that Brendan Rodgers should go. He arrived at Anfield because he claimed during interview that things were not as bad as they seemed; that the players who had failed Rodgers and undermined Liverpool's transfer committee were actually quite good and that he could improve them; make Liverpool better. Klopp must realise now that there is so much work to do; that the job at Anfield is much bigger than he first thought - as Jamie Carragher insisted on Saturday by relating his challenge to Bill Shankly's when he inherited a club struggling in the Second Division in 1959. The comparison is relative and fair. Klopp wants to execute fast, aggressive, counter-attacking football, yet he has inherited a squad with a skill set that is jumbled, one that lacks any sort of common identity; one without any local influence.
This is the legacy of a predecessor and a committee that traded favours when it came to recruitment: Rodgers got what he wanted in Christian Benteke but so did the committee when Firmino arrived. Liverpool do not necessarily need to spend big to change the mood but they need to spend wiser in an undiluted manner, making accountability clear rather than blurred, especially for the person who cannot hide - the person whose neck is on the chopping board so publically: the manager. On this occasion, Firmino - the closest thing Liverpool had to an inspiration - created an opportunity for Jordan Henderson by furrowing for stray ball and Henderson chose the safest possible shot when he needed to be bolder and certainly more convincing, reminding that wonder-strikes in front of the Kop from a similar distance belong to Steven Gerrard and an era that is becoming sepia-tinted. There was no Gerrard on show here and there was no Roy Keane for United either. There was no Eric Cantona, nor a Luis Suarez. Liverpool continue to miss Daniel Sturridge while United should improve when Michael Carrick returns from injury and he brings self-assurance to the midfield.
On chances, Liverpool merited a win and Van Gaal admitted that United's first-half performance especially concerned him. Improbably, they muddled through, relied on De Gea and in doing so, were able to look towards someone else to enforce the most extreme punishment when the opportunity came along.
United had spent the latter stages of the warm-up immersed in the same routine: centre-midfielders with limited passing ranges compared to those of the past, spraying possession out to wingers that are not really wingers, before a series of crosses aimed at the No 10s acting as centre forwards. The rehearsal proved a significant forewarning, with a disjointed display disguised by a late winner from a wide area. Van Gaal had told Daley Blind and Juan Mata to try a short corner as it altered the line of vision for aLiverpool defence known for struggling when faced with such prospects. In the end, it was his advice that mattered the most and determined the outcome on a scruffy afternoon.

DAILY Mirror

ONE SHOT ON TARGET, 1-0 TO UNITED ..AND LVG'S IN DREAMLAND;
Dull, scruffy and just the sort of win Louis

THIS was, you'd imagine, the sort of day Louis van Gaal fantasises about in his most self-satisfied dreams. One shot on target, one goal and a derby victory which means that Manchester United's manager has now masterminded four wins out of four against his club's most bitter rivals. It left him talking up United's title prospects, even though few others reckon they have any.
Van Gaal is not a shy man and he believes this side's efficiency is enough to give them a genuine chance of being crowned champions of England in May.
This is the perfect fixture for the Dutchman, given that nobody cares about entertainment value in a derby. The result is all. Since Jurgen Klopp rocked up at Anfield, the German's charisma has contrasted sharply with Van Gaal's prickly egotism. But United's manager won a grim tactical battle here, his side absorbing Liverpool's pressure before Wayne Rooney hammered a fifth goal in four games to keep them in touch with y ur the Champions League places. This was, for the large part, a match devoid of excitement and lacking in quality. A few years ago, they started describing this fixture as the English 'Clasico' but it was nothing of the sort. It was the Premier League's fifth-best team team pipping its ninth, nothing more. Neither of England's most historically successful clubs - with eight European Cups between them - look likely to be playing Champions League football next season and neither will be sorely missed on the basis of this.
The day had started with Klopp's predecessor Brendan Rodgers aiming pot-shots at Liverpool's transfer committee - and nothing here suggested that the club's recruitment has been up to scratch. Liverpool may be severely hit by injuries right now but their squad players lack the quality to mount a challenge on the top four. Klopp's starting line-up had mustered just six league goals between them this season and the manager's lack of trust in his one proven available goalscorer, Christian Benteke, is becoming a serious sticking point. United showed little ambition until the final quarter, when Van Gaal did at least make positive substitutions in bringing on Juan Mata and Memphis Depay. Klopp did not even call upon Benteke until after Rooney had rammed home his 78th-minute winner, pouncing when Marouane Fellaini headed against the bar from a Mata centre. Liverpool lack goalscorers and can't defend corners. It is not a recipe for success.
The hosts created all the chances in the opening hour and David de Gea made three decent saves, but Klopp's men hardly made a compelling case for deserving victory. This was a U-rated derby, save for Lucas Leiva attempting to start a few early rucks with Fellaini his chief target. It was Lucas who sent Adam Lallana through for perhaps Liverpool's clearest opening on 11 minutes - but De Gea raced off his line to thwart him and Roberto Firmino was wide with the follow-up. James Milner and Jordan Henderson were both well off target after Klopp's men carved out two more decent first-half opportunities. It wasn't until early in the second half that De Gea was truly tested, as he deflected Emre Can's effort wide across goal. Henderson drilled one straight at United's keeper - then De Gea pushed away a long-ranger from Can and stuck out a hand to deny Firmino from the rebound. But then came the sucker punch, Daley Blind's short corner to Mata, who swung across for Fellaini to crash a header off the bar, with Rooney finishing emphatically. It was only his second goal at Anfield in 11 years but, after Firmino had miscontrolled when well-set, it turned out to be a critical one.
Van Gaal had slipped free of the hangman's noose after Christmas, when even his own mighty self-confidence had been wobbling. Now Rooney has discovered his shooting boots and Van Gaal is considering himself ever clogs a right old again.
a right old clever clogs again.

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17 January 2016

LIVERPOOL ECHO

Reds only have themselves to blame after mugging by bitter rivals

"Somehow the worst Manchester United side for decades secured the spoils – despite having just one shot on target and spending most of the afternoon grimly holding on for a point" Anfield bore witness to a mugging.

Those in red sloped away ashen-faced, trying to come to terms with the fact they had ended up with nothing from a contest they had dominated against their most bitter rivals. This was the ultimate smash and grab raid as Liverpool crashed to a demoralising defeat .

Somehow the worst Manchester United side for decades secured the spoils – despite having just one shot on target and spending most of the afternoon grimly holding on for a point. Wayne Rooney's emphatic finish 12 minutes from time enabled United to complete a league double over Liverpool for the second successive season. Jurgen Klopp's first experience of this fixture proved a painful one. After sampling a contest he had labelled as "the salt in the soup", the Reds boss was left with the most sour of tastes.

The outcome was cruel. Liverpool didn't deserve to lose. Yet they only had themselves to blame for a setback which effectively kills off any lingering hopes of launching a push for a top-four finish. The only realistic route into the Champions League now is winning the Europa League and that will only happen if Klopp can quickly address familiar failings at both ends of the field.

25 goals scored is pathetic - and striking department is a mess

United became the latest beneficiaries of Liverpool's embarrassing lack of firepower. Louis van Gaal's side also cashed in on the Reds' inability to defend set-pieces. The fact that Liverpool's goal difference is minus three in mid-January speaks volumes. Their 22 league games have yielded a pathetic return of just 25 goals. Liverpool had 19 shots against United but just four of them troubled David De Gea. It was hardly a surprise given that Liverpool's starting line up boasted a combined tally of just six league goals between them all season.

Klopp inherited a major problem and coming up with a solution has proved problematic. The reality is that the club's striking department is currently a mess. Danny Ings is out for the season, Divock Origi is sidelined following knee surgery and Daniel Sturridge remains unable to convince the manager he's fit for duty .

The one recognised striker who is available just happens to be the second most expensive signing in Liverpool's history and their top scorer with seven goals this term. But Christian Benteke faces an uncertain future having failed to nail down a starting role under Klopp. Once again the £32.5million frontman was sat on the bench as the Reds toiled in search of a breakthrough. Little blame could be placed at the feet of Roberto Firmino, who led the line against United.

The Brazilian attacker couldn't hit the heights he had reached against Arsenal in midweek but there was still plenty to admire about the shift he put in.

The problem was the absence of any real quality around him as Firmino remained horribly isolated for long periods. By the time Klopp belatedly introduced Benteke late on, the game had gone. The introduction of Steven Caulker as a makeshift striker at the death smacked of desperation.

Appalling recruitment to blame for failings

How did it come to this? Twenty months ago Liverpool had one of the most deadly marksmen on the planet leading the line in Luis Suarez.

Now they are throwing on a centre-back who is on loan from a Championship club up front. Liverpool have spent nearly £300million in the transfer market since Brendan Rodgers' appointment in the summer of 2012.

Yet their recruitment has been largely appalling . Vast sums of cash have been squandered on striking flops like Fabio Borini, Iago Aspas and Mario Balotelli.

After Rodgers paid the price with his job last October, Klopp has been left to pick up the pieces. Another Anfield rebuilding job awaits and days like this highlight the full extent of it. The absence of any real match-winners is glaring.

Even if it's merely another loan which acts as a sticking plaster until the summer, signing a striker during the current window is a necessity if Liverpool are going to secure anything tangible between now and May.

No complaints about passion - but an alarming lack of composure

This was a very different Reds performance to the lifeless display served up in the defeat at Old Trafford back in September. On this occasion there could be no complaints about the passion or the commitment levels. After a cagey opening, Liverpool took control and United rarely ventured outside their own half.

Bringing in Lucas Leiva for Jordon Ibe was hardly a positive move by Klopp but the long-serving Brazilian provided a much needed combative edge in midfield.

It was Lucas' searching pass which sent Adam Lallana scampering clear only for De Gea to deny him. Firmino fired the rebound wide. Liverpool enjoy plenty of joy down United's left but in the final third there was an alarming lack of both composure and conviction. James Milner and Jordan Henderson were both wasteful as chances were squandered. The second half brought more of the same with Liverpool on the front foot and United showing zero ambition.

Emre Can burst past Chris Smalling in the box but once again De Gea rescued the visitors. The Spanish shot-stopper then clawed away Can's piledriver and reacted smartly to keep out the follow up from Firmino. Liverpool were fast running out of ideas. Fresh legs were required but it was Ibe rather than Benteke who got the call with Lallana taken off.

Defensively, the Reds had rarely been troubled. Kolo Toure could hold his head high after an accomplished display from the veteran Ivorian.

United had barely had a sniff. But they hung in there and then capitalised on Liverpool's Achilles heel. It was the seventh time in the league this season that the Reds have conceded from a corner – the worst record in the top-flight.

Marouane Fellaini's header cannoned off the bar and nobody was alert to the danger as Rooney pounced on the rebound. Finally, Benteke was summoned but Liverpool were deflated and looked resigned to their fate. Firmino fluffed their one opportunity to restore parity. United could scarcely believe their luck. They came for a point and walked away with all three.

MATCH FACTS

Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Sakho, Toure (Benteke 81), Moreno, Lucas, Can, Henderson, Milner (Caulker 90), Lallana (Ibe 76), Firmino.

Not used: Ward, Smith, Allen, Teixeira

Manchester United: De Gea, Young (Borthwick-Jackson 42), Smalling, Blind, Darmian, Schneiderlin, Fellaini, Lingard (Mata 66), Herrera (Memphis 72), Martial, Rooney. **Not used:** Romero, McNair, Varela, Pereira

Referee: Mark Clattenburg **Attendance:** 43,865 **Goals:** Rooney 78.

Bookings: Smalling, Fellaini.

Manchester Evening News

Like it or not, Louis van Gaal's plan worked perfectly

Louis van Gaal might not have a lot going for him on his Manchester United CV for many fans and critics - but you cannot dismiss a 100 per cent record against Liverpool in four Premier League matches.

At times you wonder how he has managed it and this was one of those kind of matches.

He was probably heading for another ultra-critical postmortem and for those who believe this was a make-or-break game for him, possibly the final nail in a coffin that has been being prepared for him for a while in some quarters.

But as he said in his Friday press conference that Wayne Rooney makes it easier for him when he scores because he's "put all his money on him."

The way this match was heading you wouldn't have put much cash on anybody breaking the deadlock, but having had so much faith put in him by the United boss Rooney is repaying that with his fifth goal in four matches.

Goals that have effectively secured United six much needed league points and a place in round four of the FA Cup.

But the judgement on this latest offering was teetering for so long and could have gone either way.

This was one of those occasions where it wasn't exactly as it said it was on the tin.

It was a pretty desperate sell by all concerned including TV, Van Gaal and Klopp that this was still the biggest box office match of the Premier League calendar.

This wasn't top four fare, it was sixth against ninth and sadly no matter how you attempted to sugar coat it and wrap it up that is exactly how it looked.

There was an understandable air of optimism that this might actually mimic some of the thrillers from yesteryear after both clubs had been involved in 3-3 dramas in midweek against Newcastle and Arsenal.

But there was no sustained resemblance of that kind of edge of your seat theatre with two sides desperately searching for former glories.

There was little finesse and not all that much blood and thunder either.

After United's improved output attacking wise at St James' Park there was genuine hope that Van Gaal might see some credit in letting his side off the leash especially against a side who clearly have their own deficiencies in defence.

Fortunately Klopp's revolution looks like it could also be a slow burner and for all the animated jack-in-a-box antics in the technical area that hasn't fully transferred itself to his team.

Liverpool passed the ball better to a United shirt than United were able to do and their attacking ideas, while brighter than the Reds for the most part, was blunt when it reached the last third.

It allowed United to survive at a time when once again they didn't seem too keen on attempting to send keeper Simon Mignolet into a darker place than he already is.

The Anfield number one has been suspect at corners and crosses and you didn't have to pore long over recent Liverpool performances to work that one out.

But on the rare occasions they did get the chance to do that corners swung our rather than to his vulnerable area.

It was mind-numbingly second rate for so long but Van Gaal's philosophy on occasions like this is to force the opponent into frustrating submission.

And whether you like it or not it worked.

As Liverpool became more and more tense and edgy after failing to make anything count United put in one decent cross.

No matter what you think of Marouane Fellaini he does cause disruption and panic and he rose to head a 78th minute Juan Mata delivery against the woodwork and Wayne Rooney, considering how little he'd had to do, was amazingly sharp to snap up the rebound.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 17 January 2016
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BBC

Wayne Rooney's late strike settled a scrappy encounter to give Manchester United and manager Louis van Gaal a vital victory at Liverpool.

In a game that was a pale shadow of previous meetings between these two Premier League superpowers, Liverpool had the better chances and United keeper David de Gea kept his side in it with fine saves from Adam Lallana and Emre Can. Jurgen Klopp's side wasted other opportunities and paid the price 12 minutes from time when Rooney fired United's first shot on target high past Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet after Marouane Fellaini's header came back off the bar. Van Gaal's position had been under scrutiny after only two wins in United's previous 11 games - but victory at Anfield is the perfect tonic and his team are now in fifth, just two points off the Champions League places.

Rooney still vital for United

Rooney's status as United and England's main man is often questioned - but once again he proved he remains, along with the outstanding De Gea, one of Van Gaal's most crucial players. The 30-year-old lifelong Evertonian relishes winning at Anfield, and his delight was plain to see after he hammered home his first goal here since January 2005. It was further proof he is undergoing a rejuvenation after criticism earlier this season, scoring twice in the 3-3 draw at Newcastle United and the winning goals in the FA Cup third-round victory against Sheffield United and the league match with Swansea City. The question may be asked again soon - but there is still no evidence to suggest the Red Devils are a better side without Rooney than with him.

Klopp's task made clear

Liverpool have shown signs of promise in two big games at Anfield this week - but only earned a point against Arsenal with an injury-time equaliser and were beaten here. Klopp is still trying to impose his "gegenpressing" style on Liverpool and it has worked better away - in impressive wins at Chelsea, Manchester City, Southampton and Stoke City - than it has at Anfield. Liverpool were arguably the better team here but once again demonstrated a vulnerability to crosses and ran out of steam badly towards the end. The philosophy will not bear fruit until his defenders can clear a cross. The struggles Klopp faces are summed up by the fact that, for the second game running, he was reduced to throwing defender Steven Caulker, a loan signing from QPR, on as a late substitute in attack.

The German has much work to do.

The friendly 'derby'?

Tongue in cheek, perhaps - but this was a far cry from the thunderous collisions between Liverpool and Manchester United when Scousers such as Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher faced local products Gary and Phil Neville, as well as Paul Scholes and Ryan Giggs. Anfield, not helped by the lack of quality on offer, was subdued and the aggression that used to be this fixture's hallmark flared only briefly in a couple of early skirmishes involving Liverpool's Lucas and United midfielder Fellaini. This was every inch a game between sides sitting sixth and ninth in the Premier League before kick-off.

It may have even come as a disappointment to Klopp after the build-up and the history. He called these games "the salt in the soup" - this one needed an awful lot of seasoning. United's Jesse Lingard, born in Warrington, was as close to local as it got in the starting line-ups - and perhaps that explains the lack of fire and brimstone that used to be a starting point in these confrontations.

Man of the match - David de Gea (Manchester United)

What the managers said

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "I didn't see too many chances for Manchester United and we didn't take ours. Of course it is frustrating. We lost a game that we should not have lost. "The goal was to defend and we didn't do it. That is our responsibility. We have to defend set pieces better.

"We did really well creating the chances, but there were a lot of situations where we could have created more chances and didn't. There were a lot of positive things but we lost in a derby against Manchester United."

Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal: "We know Wayne Rooney has played for Everton and now plays for United so he wants to score against Liverpool, it means a lot for him.

"We have made a good start in 2016, to beat Liverpool for the second time in a row is it marvellous, it gives a big boost for the players and the fans so I hope it shall continue with winning. "That is why we are here, to win our games and at end of the season to be in the first three positions of the league."

Stats of the day

Rooney (176) has overtaken Arsenal's Thierry Henry (175) as the scorer of the most goals for a single club in Premier League history. Rooney has scored in four successive games for United for the first time since March 2012.

Liverpool have conceded more goals from corners than any other team in the Premier League this season (7). United have scored with all four of their shots on target against Liverpool this season in the Premier League.

Liverpool's failure to find the net ended an eight-game Premier League run of scoring at Anfield. It is the first time under Klopp they have not scored at home. Van Gaal has won all four Premier League games against Liverpool.

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Full time Match ends, Liverpool 0, Manchester United 1.
90:00+3:26Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 0, Manchester United 1.
90:00+2:42 Offside, Liverpool. Mamadou Sakho tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.
90:00+2:16 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
90:00+2:16 Foul by Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United.
90:00+0:34 Hand ball by Juan Mata (Manchester United.
89:19Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Steven Caulker replaces James Milner.
88:37 Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Benteke.
88:04 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jordon Ibe with a cross.
85:50 Attempt blocked. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.
85:35 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
85:35 Foul by Morgan Schneiderlin (Manchester United.
84:58 Attempt missed. Wayne Rooney (Manchester United right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Morgan Schneiderlin.
84:03 Offside, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.
81:48 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Memphis Depay.
81:26 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
81:26 Foul by Morgan Schneiderlin (Manchester United.
80:56 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
80:56 Foul by Anthony Martial (Manchester United.
80:23Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Christian Benteke replaces Kolo Touré.
79:24 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
79:24 Foul by Anthony Martial (Manchester United.
77:38Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 0, Manchester United 1. Wayne Rooney (Manchester United right footed shot from the centre of the box to the high centre of the goal following a corner.
77:37 Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United hits the bar with a header from the centre of the box. Assisted by Juan Mata with a cross following a corner.
77:04 Corner, Manchester United. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
75:11Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Jordon Ibe replaces Adam Lallana.
74:50Booking Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
74:47 Foul by Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United.
74:47 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
71:54 Attempt missed. Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool header from the left side of the six yard box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a set piece situation.
71:19Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Manchester United. Memphis Depay replaces Ander Herrera.
70:53 Hand ball by Daley Blind (Manchester United.
68:46 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cameron Borthwick-Jackson.
67:36 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.
65:58 Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner.
65:31Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Manchester United. Juan Mata replaces Jesse Lingard.
64:22Booking Chris Smalling (Manchester United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
64:21 Foul by Chris Smalling (Manchester United.
64:21 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
63:29 Anthony Martial (Manchester United wins a free kick in the attacking half.
63:29 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
63:05 Foul by Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United.
63:05 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
62:34 Attempt saved. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
61:25 Attempt missed. Matteo Darmian (Manchester United left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left following a corner.
60:36 Corner, Manchester United. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
59:13 Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left.
56:27 Ander Herrera (Manchester United wins a free kick in the attacking half.
56:27 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
55:38 Attempt missed. Anthony Martial (Manchester United left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left misses to the right. Assisted by Wayne Rooney.
52:24 Attempt missed. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right following a corner.
51:55 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Daley Blind.
51:53 Attempt blocked. Kolo Touré (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle and long range on the right is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
51:40 Attempt blocked. Kolo Touré (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Lucas Leiva with a headed pass.
51:18 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
51:18 Foul by Chris Smalling (Manchester United.
50:00 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by David de Gea.
49:58 Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
49:35 Hand ball by Ander Herrera (Manchester United.
46:18 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jesse Lingard.
45:24 Foul by Anthony Martial (Manchester United.
45:24 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 0, Manchester United 0.
45:00+2:06Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 0, Manchester United 0.
45:00+0:05 Attempt blocked. Anthony Martial (Manchester United left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Wayne Rooney.
41:34Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Manchester United. Cameron Borthwick-Jackson replaces Ashley Young because of an injury.
41:27 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
40:46 Delay in match Ashley Young (Manchester United because of an injury.
40:13 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
39:38 Delay in match Ashley Young (Manchester United because of an injury.
37:11 Corner, Manchester United. Conceded by Kolo Touré.
33:32 Corner, Manchester United. Conceded by James Milner.
32:19 Offside, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva tries a through ball, but Jordan Henderson is caught offside.
31:04 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by James Milner with a headed pass.
29:51 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
29:01 Attempt missed. Ander Herrera (Manchester United right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Anthony Martial.
27:19 Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
24:30 Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.
24:30 Ashley Young (Manchester United wins a free kick on the right wing.
22:04 Kolo Touré (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
22:04 Foul by Wayne Rooney (Manchester United.
19:21 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
19:21 Foul by Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United.
16:45 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
16:01 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
16:01 Ander Herrera (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
13:13 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
13:13 Foul by Morgan Schneiderlin (Manchester United.
12:41 Hand ball by Ashley Young (Manchester United.
11:29 Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a through ball.
9:44 Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
9:39 Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool header from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Lucas Leiva with a through ball.
9:10 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
8:12 Delay in match Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United because of an injury.
7:48 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
7:48 Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
6:17 Foul by Morgan Schneiderlin (Manchester United.
6:17 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
3:13 Anthony Martial (Manchester United wins a free kick on the left wing.
3:13 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
0:00 First Half begins.
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.

Compiled by Graeme Riley