

Date: 23 January 2016
Opposition: Norwich City
Competition: League

Echo	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Mail	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Norwich Eve News

THETIMES

One step back, two forward for Klopp

The look of elation on Jurgen Klopp's face after the dramatic victory at Carrow Road may have given way to one of consternation yesterday morning as he tried to make sense of a bewildering display. In keeping with Saturday's topsy-turvy performance, here are four issues he needs to fix ... and five things that can provide hope.

The Bad Liverpool still can't defend set pieces Liverpool's Achilles heel was all too evident once again as Norwich took full advantage of the hesitancy in defence, particularly in dealing with free kicks and corners. Neither Kolo Toure nor Mamadou Sakho managed to bring calm or dominate from defence, with Norwich reaping the benefits. "I was an under-average player but if I could do something, it was defend set plays it's not that difficult," Klopp said. "Now you see it's like a self-fulfilling prophecy. Everybody is talking about it."

Alberto Moreno a problem The left side of Liverpool's defence was something akin to a treasure trove for Norwich as each time they moved down the flank they invariably plundered. Moreno, whose moment of absolute madness gifted the hosts a penalty after a ridiculous foul on Steven Naismith, allowed Norwich to move 3-1 ahead. He was also caught out for the second goal, which was nicely finished by Naismith, though the amount of time and space he was afforded was criminal. His positioning and lack of judgment constantly placed his side under pressure.

Mignolet still a worry Simon Mignolet might have recently signed a five-year-deal but few expect the Belgian to remain at the club for such a length of time given his performances this season. The defence is in urgent need of a goalkeeper who can organise those in front of him and breathe confidence into them. Mignolet is often credited for being a good shot stopper but surely that's the minimum requirement for a goalkeeper.

More experience needed? Jordan Henderson has been given the almost impossible task of following in the footsteps of Steven Gerrard and it will take time and patience for him to grow into the role of captain. His goal apart, he cut a peripheral figure.

When James Milner ran clear on to Russell Martin's awful back pass to fire Liverpool 4-3 ahead, that should have been the time for the visiting team to shut up shop. That takes experience and a bit of knowhow. Liverpool, having come back from 3-1 down to lead 4-3, were understandably excited and perhaps that enthusiasm got the better of them. It may not be as sexy, but there's a lot to be said for some gratuitous time wasting and the odd "injury" to run down the clock.

The Good Roberto Firmino silencing critics The Brazilian has endured plenty of criticism, most of it unwarranted given every player takes time to settle into a new environment, but Firmino is showing why Liverpool lured him from Hoffenheim for PS29 million last summer. He has scored four goals in his past three league games and was at least two yards ahead of every other player on the pitch in terms of his thought process. "Roberto can make goals and score goals. He is a good option for us. He's flexible, and he's in brilliant shape," Klopp said.

Adam Lallana changed the game There are few players who have frustrated as much as Lallana since he arrived on Merseyside from Southampton for PS25 million in the summer of 2014. Nobody can argue with the talent he possesses, just that he perhaps does not show it often enough. Lallana's introduction as a 59th-minute substitute in place of Jordon Ibe, with his side trailing 3-2, gave an edge to Liverpool's attacking play and his ability to drop into the space between midfield and defence caused Norwich terrible problems. Lallana is at his best when able to go and express himself, with his winning goal the proof in the pudding.

Team showing real character Trailing 3-1 and looking well and truly beaten, Liverpool roused themselves not only once, but twice, after conceding a 92nd-minute equaliser. There are many teams who may boast more talented players, but they do not possess the spirit that Klopp has brought to the club. A win is a win It sounds simple but winning is so crucial to a team's development. After the defeat by Manchester United last weekend, a game which Liverpool dominated but failed to find a way to win, they showed their appetite for a fight. This was only the third time in Premier League history that Liverpool had recovered from a twogoal deficit to win in an away game, the others being at Manchester City in 2008 and Fulham in 2004.

Giving the fans something to cheer While Manchester United supporters are struggling to stay awake at Old Trafford watching their team sleepwalk into mediocrity under Louis van Gaal, Klopp has brought his style of entertaining football to Anfield. This is very much a transition period for Liverpool with the players still adapting to Klopp's philosophies and theories but that is so much easier to do when you're enjoying your football and winning games. Not every game will prove as exciting, or as error-strewn, but winning is winning and it's vital to engendering the spirit of success.

theguardian

Adam Lallana strikes at the death for Liverpool in 5-4 thriller at Norwich

It is a good thing that celebrating players did not smash Jürgen Klopp's glasses until after the ninth goal because it would have been a shame for Liverpool's manager to have missed the chaos that preceded Adam Lallana's winner five minutes into added time. This was, as the German said, "spectacular, wild football" featuring marvellous attacking and slapdash defending. Analysts will spend the next few days trying to make sense of it. Others will need time to get their breath back. No one can deny it was entertaining.

The losing manager, Alex Neil, found words hard to come by after seeing his side relinquish the 3-1 lead they took early in the second half. "I don't know what to say, it's just really, really frustrating," said the Scot. Klopp admitted: "A draw would have been deserved for both teams. But a few days ago we lost a game we should not have lost against Manchester United so here we took something back."

Yet for much of the match it looked like Liverpool were intent on giving things away. Luckily for them, Norwich outdid them in that regard.

The visitors took the lead against the run of play in the 16th minute, through a superbly crafted goal at odds with their sluggishness up to that point. After a zesty move featuring Jordon Ibe, Alberto Moreno and James Milner, the latter nudged the ball through to Roberto Firmino, who shot across the advancing Declan Rudd and in off the far post. Liverpool were transformed, their play infused with new energy. Milner should have increased their lead moments later after being sent clear by Firmino, but the midfielder's dawdling allowed Robbie Brady to poke the ball away.

Liverpool were made to regret that miss all the more when their difficulty with defending set-pieces re-emerged. Klopp's men floundered as they tried to clear, and when Brady nodded the ball back into the box, Dieumerci Mbokani collected it with his back to goal, held off Mamadou Sakho and then backheeled the ball through the Frenchman's legs and into the net from seven yards. Klopp was outraged at his defenders for not exposing the striker as offside. "You have to be offside, it's not possible, it's unbelievable," he said.

Liverpool's defence seemed on the verge of breaking down several times thereafter, as Norwich attacked with gusto. They took the lead in the 41st minute. A rapid advance down the right culminated with Wes Hoolahan collecting the ball on the edge of the area and slipping a cute pass through to Steven Naismith, who lashed a low shot into the far corner.

It was the perfect way for the striker to announce himself to his new home crowd following his £8m transfer from Everton. Naismith won a penalty early in the second half, although it would be more accurate to say that Moreno conceded it with a ludicrous foul. The Spanish full-back is prone to rashness but the two-footed lunge from behind on Naismith was senseless even by his standards. Hoolahan was a model of composure as he dinked the penalty down the middle as Mignolet dived left.

The Carrow Road faithful were still crowing about their two-goal lead when Liverpool cut it in half. Nathaniel Clyne hurtled down the right and delivered a cross that Firmino flicked on to Jordan Henderson, who had darted into the box undetected by any defender. He swept the ball into the net from 12 yards.

Klopp replaced Ibe with Adam Lallana before the hour and the change made a difference, playing a key role in the equaliser. The move was started and finished by Firmino, who followed up excellent recent performances with another here. After flipping the ball to Milner near halfway, the Brazilian spun and dashed towards the box. Thus he was on hand to receive the ensuing cross from the left by Lallana and clip the ball past Rudd.

There was still more than half an hour to play and more goals looked likely. Neil cursed the way the next one arrived, as Russell Martin inadvertently put Milner through on goal with a reckless back pass. Unlike in the first half, Milner took the chance, slotting past Rudd to trigger jubilation among the away players and fans. But it was not time for them to celebrate just yet. Because two minutes into stoppage time Bassong plundered an equaliser with a ferocious low shot from 20 yards. "Well done Norwich, but I couldn't believe it," said Klopp.

Fortunately for the manager who had complained to the fourth official about five minutes being added for stoppages, Liverpool came out the right end of the final twist. Steven Caulker, introduced up front again by Klopp, made a nuisance of himself in the Norwich box and one of his shots was cleared only as far as Lallana, who battered a bouncing ball first-time into the net.

Now Liverpool could celebrate in style, and as their players and staff staged a mass pile-on on the sideline Klopp's glasses were crushed. The manager was not bothered by that but admitted to concern about his team's tendency to concede at set-pieces. "It's not always possible to score five; after the game it feels funny but it's really rubbish what we are doing and we have to solve this."

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TheMail

Jurgen doesn't need glasses to see Reds' faults

NORWICH 4

LIVERPOOL 5

IT'S hard to turn a corner when you cannot defend one and Jurgen Klopp is increasingly aware that his rearguard is holding Liverpool back at the moment. Even in victory and without his glasses, which were smashed in the extraordinary madness at Norwich, the German could spot a glaring problem -- his team simply cannot deal with set-pieces.

Why, Klopp asked, are they finding it so hard? Then, in his usual style, he acted out what he meant, driving his head at imaginary balls in a Norfolk corridor.

'I was an under-average player,' he said. 'But if I was good at something it was defending set-plays. It's not that difficult.' The evidence of Liverpool's blind spot is piling up and Klopp is ready to pop. Exeter scored direct from a corner in their FA Cup tie, Arsenal's second in their 3-3 thriller at Anfield was from a corner, and a failure to mark Marouane Fellaini at a set-piece cost Liverpool the game against Manchester United a week ago. In among the brilliant shambles of Saturday's fixture,Liverpool gifted Norwich their first equaliser because they could not deal with a corner.

Liverpool have the worst record in the Premier League for goals conceded from corners (eight) and the third worst for defending setpieces in general (13 goals). Those 13 goals account for 41 per cent of all league goals they have conceded, which itself is the highest proportion in the division.

Klopp is convinced his team are improving in dealing with the initial crosses, but they are yet to find a way to then deal with the second phases of attacks, as in the case of Norwich's first goal, scored by Dieumerci Mbokani, who had been played onside by Mamadou Sakho.

'It's like a self-fulfilling prophecy,' said Klopp. 'Everybody's talking about it, we're thinking about it. We know how to defend but we have to do it.' Major defensive errors, at setpieces or otherwise, were obvious in all four of the goals they gave away. But it is also a measure of how well Liverpoolattacked that they won a game in which they trailed 3-1. Roberto Firmino scored their opener, assisted the goal for Jordan Henderson that made it 3-2, and then netted again for 3-3.

His selection ahead of big Christian Benteke against a team with their own major vulnerabilities to crosses would indicate, once again, that there is no long-term future for the Belgian at Anfield.

Firmino, however, is starting to look like the player Liverpool valued at PS29million in the summer.

His two goals, added to the pair he got against Arsenal 10 days earlier, have given some life to his season. They also addressed the scepticism shown towards his selection by BT Sport pundit and former Liverpool striker Michael Owen.

It was put to Klopp that Owen questioned Firmino's selection and the German said: 'Roberto is a striker. A lot of strikers are 1.60m (5ft 3in). Leo Messi, what is he? Roberto can play and score goals and he is for us a good option to play with. Having the option with Christian, that's good. Against Norwich, I made this decision.' With a first league win in four, the question is whether Liverpool have turned a corner. Klopp said: 'That's what we all hope. But I feel nearly everything is a turning point. I can go tomorrow to the toilet and it's a turning point.' Norwich manager Alex Neil desperately needs a turning point of his own after a third straight defeat brought his side closer to the bottom three. Neil said: 'If you don't pick up home wins, you start looking below you. Simple as that.' SUPER

STAT:Liverpool have conceded from the first shot on target they faced in all four of their league games this year.

NORWICH (4-4-1-1): Rudd 5; Pinto 5, Martin 4.5, Bassong 6, Brady 5; Redmond 6.5 (Jarvis 70min, 6), Dorrans 6.5, Howson 6, Hoolahan 7 (Olsson 70, 6); Naismith 7.5 (Jerome 82); Mbokani 6.5. Subs not used: Ruddy, Klose, Mulumbu, Odjidja.

Scorers: Mbokani 29, Naismith 41, Hoolahan 54 (pen), Bassong

90+2. LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet 5; Clyne 6, Toure 5, Sakho 5, Moreno 4.5 (Caulker 90); Lucas 6, Henderson 7.5 (Benteke 76); Can 4.5, Milner 7, Ibe 6 (Lallana 59, 7); Firmino 8. Subs not used: Ward, Flanagan, Allen, Teixeira. Scorers: Firmino 18, 63, Henderson 55, Milner 75, Lallana 90+5. Booked: Lallana. Man of the match: Roberto Firmino. Referee: Lee Mason 6.

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp orders Liverpool to cut out defensive blunders

Norwich City 4

Mbokani 29, Naismith 41, Hoolahan 54 pen, Bassong 90

Liverpool 5

Firmino 18, 63, Henderson 55, Milner 75 Lallana 90

Att: 27,108

Jurgen Klopp let out a laugh when he was told that all he needed to do tomorrow night, to book a cup final place at Wembley, was keep a clean sheet. Liverpool will host Stoke City in their Capital One Cup semi-final with a 1-0 lead from the first leg. Although Klopp could see the funny side of that clean-sheet comment, the Liverpool manager knows there are psychological problems creeping into his team's defence which urgently need to be rectified.

Of the four goals they leaked in this extraordinary contest against Norwich City, two originated from set-pieces - a corner and a long free-kick.

Stoke are a far more refined side these days but their set-piece threat remains with height and aggression in their armoury.

"Maybe we can score five again and they get four - there are lots of ways to get in a final," Klopp said, before reverting to a more serious mindset. "It's not something I like to make jokes about."

His tone became more sharp as he sent out a message to his players that they need to change their mentality. "I was an under-average player but if I could do something, it was defend set plays. It's not that difficult. But now, as you saw, it's like a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"Everybody is talking about it, we are thinking about it and you see it in situations. At second balls, we are thinking 'oh my God'. That's the situation."

The flip side was that the goals conceded gave Liverpool the chance to show they have the firepower to fight back in the most challenging of circumstances, culminating in the emotional scenes after Adam Lallana's winning goal in the fifth minute of injury time - three minutes after Norwich had levelled the score at 4-4.

Klopp said: "I'm not sure we would have scored five if we didn't concede four."

Liverpool's manager was asked if he felt that the sense of belief generated by this comeback could be a turning point for his side. Klopp quipped that "I feel nearly everything is a turning point - I can go tomorrow to the toilet and it's a turning point." What he means by that is he sees the positives in every situation, but his players will now also be more likely to see difficult situations through rose-tinted spectacles after completing this rescue mission.

Klopp memorably had his glasses knocked off in the pandemonium that followed their late winner. He thought it was Lallana who was the culprit - but it was Christian Ben-teke. Even when he was knocking the manager's glasses off, Benteke still could not attract his boss's attention, having been left on the bench until the final 15 minutes.

The Shakhtar Donetsk forward Alex Teixeira, a Liverpool transfer target, has declared his desire to move in this transfer window, so Benteke should be a worried man. The more mobile Roberto Firmino was preferred as a starter up front in this match and he scored twice with deft finishes.

Klopp said Firmino was answering critics, who questioned if the Brazilian - lacking the physical presence of Benteke - was a striker.

"It's a wide word, 'striker', a wide spectrum," the former Borussia Dortmund coach said. "Roberto is a striker. He is a very offensive player. I know a lot of strikers that are onemetre-60-plus [5ft 3in] in height. Lionel Messi, what is he?"

He denied Firmino was ahead of Benteke in the pecking order now, though. "We have so many games that I can't say 'this' or 'this' is number one," Klopp said.

Firmino helped his cause by opening the scoring in this match, but Liverpool then meekly slid 3-1 adrift. The first of those Norwich goals came from Liverpool's poor defending of a corner, which allowed Dieumerci Mbokani to backheel the ball in.

Steven Naismith then beat Simon Mignolet from a testing angle and Norwich went on to make the score 3-1 when Alberto Moreno recklessly conceded a penalty, allowing Wes Hoolahan to score from the spot.

Liverpool's fightback began when Jordan Henderson swept the ball in and an equaliser followed as Firmino dinked in his second. Russell Martin's horrific back-pass then allowed James Milner to giveLiverpool the lead again.

It looked like Martin's error would not be costly when Sebastian Bassong struck to make it 4-4, asLiverpool failed to clear a free-kick, before Lallana's late volley.

Alex Neil, the Norwich manager, said: "Russell apologised to the players when he came in. But we are past the stage of being disappointed and apologising for mistakes. Just don't make the mistakes."

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LIVERPOOL

ECHO

How to make sense of such a crazy, chaotic afternoon at Carrow Road?

There was Jurgen Klopp stood on the turf cradling his broken specs as his triumphant players celebrated in front of the jubilant 2,600-strong travelling Kop. Sweat-stained shirts were thrown into the away end in tribute to the inspiration those fans had provided. Elation was mixed with both relief and bemusement. The manager's glasses had been collateral damage during the manic scenes which followed substitute Adam Lallana's dramatic 95 minute winner. Having charged on to the field to embrace the topless Lallana, Klopp came off second best in the bundle that followed. It was a small price to pay. As the German headed off in search of some new frames, supporters went looking for something for their blood pressure. This was a day when Kopites went through the full spectrum of emotions as Liverpool showcased both their encouraging strengths and their embarrassing weaknesses. Not since Leeds away a quarter of a century ago have the Reds won a league game by such a ridiculous scoreline.

This was a contest they should have won at a canter as they finally clicked as an attacking force. However, the defensive deficiencies which have dogged Liverpool all season repeatedly gave lowly Norwich a helping hand. Two points appeared to have been carelessly tossed away. When Sebastien Bassong slammed home from 20 yards in stoppage time to make it 4-4 this looked destined to be another tale of woe following the demoralising defeat to Manchester United.

Klopp was raging in the dugout as two points appeared to have been carelessly tossed away. But Lallana, who had missed most of the week's training due to a knock, spared the Reds' blushes when he picked the perfect moment to silence his critics and end his eight-month wait for a league goal.

It was a glorious finale and the perfect morale-booster ahead of Tuesday's Capital One Cup semi-final second leg with Stoke City at Anfield.

Forget the blunders or the standard of opposition, winning a game in such thrilling fashion will have a real galvanising effect.

Concerns about the quality of Liverpool's squad remain but there can be no doubting the never-say-die spirit Klopp has nurtured over the past three months. Prior to his arrival this was a group of players who when the going got tough, they got up and went. Too often when the odds were stacked against them their shoulders hunched and they looked resigned to their fate.

That's no longer the case. They fight to the bitter end and Lallana's last-gasp volley was testament to that.

Benteke now a £32.5m Plan B

For most of the opening half hour Liverpool were cruising and deservedly went in front courtesy of Roberto Firmino. Klopp's decision to overlook Christian Benteke will continue to fuel debate because the Reds have a £32.5million frontman who is now effectively their Plan B. However, Firmino showed why Klopp has tasked him with leading the line as he continued his exciting resurgence. The Brazilian offers Liverpool the kind of mobility in attack they simply don't get with Benteke. The opening goal was a classy team move. Jordon Ibe and Alberto Moreno combined before James Milner picked out the run of Firmino, whose scuffed shot went in off the far post. With Jordan Henderson pulling the strings in midfield, Liverpool should have added to their tally but Milner dallied and a golden chance went begging. From a position of control, Klopp's side imploded. Yet again a corner proved their undoing because of an inability to do the basics right from set-pieces. Two headers were lost before Mamadou Sakho hesitated and Dieumerci Mbokani punished him by back-heeling an equaliser.

Suddenly, the mood around Carrow Road was transformed and four minutes before the break the Canaries led.

Steven Naismith, who was lucky to get away with a reckless challenge on Lucas Leiva early on, delivered on his promise to score following his £8.5million move from Everton. But the Scot was given a helping hand as nobody tracked his run and Simon Mignolet was beaten too easily from a tight angle.

Nine minutes into the second half Liverpool looked doomed as their kamikaze defending plumbs new depths. Moreno stupidly upended Naismith inside the box and Wes Hoolahan stepped up to convert from the spot.

Canaries' win would have been first since Last Day of the Kop

Norwich were on course to secure their first win over the Reds since the final game in front of the standing Kop 22 years ago. The long trip to Norfolk for those who had set off from Merseyside by coach at 4.30am looked set to be a futile one. Liverpool had a mountain to climb but the captain showed his team-mates the way. The response was instant as Nathaniel Clyne's cross was touched on by Firmino and Henderson hammered it past Declan Rudd.

"Fight," the Reds skipper screamed as he raced back to the centre circle with the ball. The message got through loud and clear.

Lallana, who replaced Ibe, took up the baton. Bursting down the left, the England international crossed for Firmino, who controlled expertly and coolly converted. Liverpool received a gift of their own to make it 4-3 with 15 minutes to go when Milner pounced on Russell Martin's awful backpass and fired past Rudd.

Benteke replaced Henderson as Klopp looked for greater reward rather than shutting up shop. They were on the cusp of victory when a hopeful punt forward sparked more indecision at the back and Bassong profited.

Chins were on the floor. It would have been a draw which felt like a defeat.

But there was one final twist as heartache quickly turned to joy.

The ball dropped kindly to Lallana who dispatched a left-footed volley before whipping his shirt off and racing into the welcoming arms of his manager.

The specs took a battering at the end of an unforgettable afternoon but Liverpool's stuttering campaign received a much needed shot in the arm.

MATCH FACTS

Norwich City : Rudd, Pinto, Martin, Bassong, Brady; Redmond (Jarvis 70), Dorrans, Howson, Hoolahan (Olsson 70), Naismith (Jerome 82), Mbokani

Not used : Ruddy, Klose, Mulumbu, Odjidja.

Liverpool : Mignolet, Clyne, Toure, Sakho, Moreno (Caulker 90), Lucas, Henderson (Benteke 76), Can, Milner, Ibe (Lallana 59), Firmino. Not used: Ward, Flanagan, Allen, Teixeira

Referee : Lee Mason Attendance : 27,108

Goals : Firmino 18, Mbokani 29, Naismith 41, Hoolahan 54, Henderson 55, Firmino 63, Milner 75, Bassong 90+2, Lallana 90+5.

Bookings : Lallana Man of the match : Roberto Firmino. Scored twice and caused Norwich loads of problems with his movement.

Norwich

Evening News

Norwich City crashed to a heart-breaking 5-4 stoppage time defeat in a breathless Premier League encounter against Liverpool at Carrow Road.

Alex Neil's side were 3-1 up when Wes Hoolahan slotted a penalty in the 54th minute but Jordan Henderson reduced the deficit a minute later before Roberto Firmino notched his second and James Milner pounced on a woeful back pass from Russell Martin. Firmino had opened the scoring prior to the interval before Dieumerci Mbokani levelled and Steve Naismith hammered a superb debut goal.

Neil handed a debut to Naismith days after his move from Everton and former Dinamo Zagreb defender Ivo Pinto. Timm Klose was also included on the bench after completing a transfer from Wolfsburg earlier this week.

Captain Martin switched to central defence alongside Bassong with Ryan Bennett and Alex Tettey not part of the matchday. Graham Dorrans and Nathan Redmond came into the line up from the 3-0 Premier League defeat at Bournemouth as Vadis Odjidja dropped to the bench.

Naismith started as the central support to Mbokani, with Hoolahan playing off the left, and the debutant was keen to make an early impression with a lunging challenge on Lucas that earned a lecture from referee Mason.

Redmond and Dorrans sliced through the Reds' rearguard in the eighth minute but Mamadou Sakho thumped a low cross clear from the England Under-21 starlet. Jordan Ibe squared up Pinto in a moment of alarm at the other end, but Norwich had numbers to clear the cut-back.

Bassong failed to deal decisively with Alberto Moreno's angled pass but Firmino hooked over from 18 yards. Norwich were punished in the 18th minute when James Milner cushioned a pass Firmino guided into the far corner with the aid of a deflection from the grounded Declan Rudd.

Brady's last-ditch sliding tackle foiled Milner in the aftermath with the Canaries' backline exuding distress signals. Bassong was then penalised for tugged the shirt of Firmino 19 yards out, but Moreno's low effort fizzed wide.

City did finally lift the siege after Mbokani was bundled over, Simon Mignolet punching Martin's cross away under pressure from Naismith.

Norwich levelled from Brady's corner in the 29th minute, with a brilliant back heel from Mbokani through the legs of Sakho after Martin and Dorrans had kept the corner in play. Howson drove purposely from deep to underline the dramatic sea change in the contest, but Lucas got a decisive touch to his hooked attempt for another City corner, which Liverpool cleared.

But Norwich's surge produced a second four minutes from the interval when Naismith linked with Hoolahan to lash an angled, low finish beyond Mignolet into the bottom right-hand corner. Mbokani and Pinto combined straight after the restart but the Portuguese defender's deep cross drifted behind.

The game sparked again when Moreno lunged at Naismith inside the Liverpool box before a second nibble from behind prompted referee Mason to award a penalty. Hoolahan calmly stepped up to lift his spot kick over Mignolet diving to his right but within a minute of the restart the Reds had reduced the deficit when the unmarked Henderson swept home from 12 yards.

Klopp introduced Adam Lallana for Ibe and the England man made an instant impact when he raced away from Pinto to square for the unmarked Firmino to roll past Rudd from eight yards.

Norwich tried to clear their heads with Redmond picking out Bassong but his header lacked the power to trouble Mignolet.

Neil made a double change in the 70th minute to try and stem the flow with Martin Olsson and Matt Jarvis replacing Hoolahan and Redmond respectively.

Moreno lashed a shot at Rudd from long range as Christian Benteke prepared to enter the fray but before Klopp's side nudged in front in a quite remarkable turnaround before his arrival.

Martin's blind pass went straight to Milner who coolly drew Rudd to slot from close range. The excellent Naismith made way eight minutes from the end to huge applause for Jerome as City tried to salvage a game they had looked to be in control after Hoolahan's early second-half penalty.

Firmino lined up Pinto but his shot was at Rudd. Bassong then appeared to have

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salvaged a point when he rifled home from the edge of the area deep in stoppage time but there was still one dramatic twist when Lallana hooked home a bouncing half-volley after the Canaries’ were unable to clear their lines from Emre Can’s deep cross.

- Norwich City: Rudd, Pinto, Martin, Bassong, Brady, Redmond (Jarvis 70), Dorrans, Howson, Hoolahan (Olsson 70), Naismith (Jerome 82), Mbokani. Subs (not used): Ruddy, Klose, Mulumbu, Odjidja.
- Goals: Mbokani (29), Naismith (41), Hoolahan (54), Bassong (90)
- Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Toure, Sakho, Moreno (Caulker 90), Lucas, Henderson (Benteke 76), Can, Milner, Ibe (Lallana 59), Firmino. Subs (not used): Ward, Flanagan, Allen, Teixeira.
- Booking: Lallana (ungentlemanly conduct, 90)
- Goals: Firmino (18, 63), Henderson (55), Milner (75), Lallana (90)
- Added on time: 2 minutes / 5 minutes
- Referee: Lee Mason (Lancs)
- Attendance: 27,108

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Lallana's twist in the tale

An intoxicating, unholy mess of a game, featuring six second-half goals, posed more questions than answers for both managers. Substitute Adam Lallana finally ended the magnificent chaos with a dramatic winning goal four minutes into stoppagetime.

In microcosm, this was a game that said much about not only the seasons being experienced by the two combatants, but about the Premier League as a whole: high in entertainment and unpredictability, low on technical ability and organisation, particularly in defence. A statistic of nine goals scored from 12 shots on target illustrated the glaring defensive deficiencies demonstrated by both teams.

But to dwell on the negatives from a game that demanded the observer's full, relentless attention for its entire 95 minutes would be crass.

This was an unforgettable contender for game of the season, featuring two goals from Liverpool's suddenly prolific Roberto Firmino, Norwich racing into a 3-1 lead in the second half, the visitors scoring three times in 20 minutes to regain the lead and then apparently dropping two points when Sebastien Bassong scored goal four to equalise after 92 minutes.

Jurgen Klopp, the Liverpool manager, had been furiously debating the five minutes added on by referee Lee Mason with the fourth official before Bassong's equaliser but in the end he was more than happy with all that stoppage time when Emre Can's cross ended with a Steven Caulker volley blocked into the path of Lallana, who finished from 15 yards.

"It's not always easy to judge and stay cool in a game like this," Klopp said.

"Nothing really happened. I asked [the referee] 'Why five?' I got an answer, I was not satisfied with the answer; the referee was not satisfied with the question. That's life."

As Liverpool players celebrated their fifth goal with their manager, Klopp's glasses were smashed. "I've had this before [smashed glasses]. They are in a museum at Dortmund because we won for the first time against Bayern Munich and Nuri Sahin broke my glasses -- and now today it's Adam [Lallana].

"Usually I have a second pair but it's really difficult to look for glasses without glasses!" Where to begin with a game that James Milner described as "ridiculous"? Milner, scorer of Liverpool's fourth goal, appeared to be checking the final score with Lallana as they left the field.

Firmino's blindside run after 18 minutes was picked out by Milner for the first goal of the day, in off the keeper and far post, before Dieumerci Mbokani back-heeled an intuof itive finish from six yards when Graham Dorrans headed back into the area from an uncleared corner.

The hosts, who had not beaten Liverpool in 22 years, would end the half ahead with PS8.5m debutant Steven Naismith, an Evertonian until last week, scoring with a low shot across Simon Mignolet from a Wes Hoolahan pass and then Hoolahan himself converting a penalty after Alberto Moreno inexplicably had two stabs at upending Naismith in his area on 54 minutes. That put Norwich 3-1 ahead.

However, there is a reason Norwich had conceded three goals in each of their last three games before yesterday. Only a matter of 96 seconds after the penalty, Nathaniel Clyne's cross was converted clinically by Jordan Henderson from a dozen yards, and eight minutes later substitute Lallana started an influential afternoon with the pass that allowed Firmino to score an impressive second.

Then, after 74 minutes, a disastrous Russell Martin backpass, from the halfway line, found Milner who showed excellent composure to beat Declan Rudd.

The head said that Liverpool could surely now see out the remaining minutes but, of course, this was a game without little logic. Two minutes into stoppage time Liverpool failed, yet again, to deal with a set-piece and Cameron Jerome's touch allowed Bassong to score his first goal in three years with a left-foot shot from 20 yards.

"We were makers of our own downfall," said Alex Neil, the Norwich manager, who may have regretted leaving midweek defensive signing Timm Klose on the bench. "When you score four goals and don't end up winning, that's a big, big problem.

"It is really frustrating, we worked really hard this week and we put in a good performance but made it a bit of a rabble with our defending."

"A rabble," perhaps, but, for the neutral at least, long may that continue.

Norwich: Rudd 5, Pinto 5, Martin 5, Bassong 6, Brady 7, Dorrans 6, Howson 6, Redmond 6 (Jarvis 69min, 6), Naismith 7 (Jerome 81min, 5), Hoolahan 6 (Olsson 69min, 6), Mbokani 7 Liverpool: Mignolet 5, Clyne 6, Toure 6, Sakho 6, Moreno 5 (Caulker 90min, 5), Henderson 6 (Benteke 75min, 6), Lucas 7, Can 5, Milner 7, Firmino 8, Ibe 7 (Lallana 58min, 9)

TheObserver

Date: 23 January 2016
Opposition: Norwich City
Competition: League

Echo	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Mail	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Norwich Eve News

BBC

Adam Lallana's injury-time strike saw Liverpool edge a nine-goal thriller at Norwich in one of the most dramatic Premier League games of the season. Roberto Firmino scuffed the Reds ahead but Dieumerci's Mbokani's backheel levelled and Steven Naismith's debut strike put the home side in front. Wes Hoolahan added a penalty before Jordan Henderson and Firmino struck. James Milner put the away side ahead and though Sebastien Bassong netted in added time, Lallana delivered a twist.

The England midfielder's volley - which was fired into the ground and bounced agonisingly in for the home side - sparked chaotic scenes as Reds boss Jurgen Klopp raced along the touchline to celebrate with his players.

Just moments earlier, Klopp had been visibly incensed by his side's lapse in allowing Bassong to level - but the change in his mood was fitting in a game which ebbed and flowed like this one.

The German had his glasses knocked off by striker Christian Benteke during the celebrations and later said: "I have a second pair of glasses but I can't find them. It's really difficult looking for glasses without glasses."

Catch your breath

The contrast in emotion on the touchline was as pronounced as anything the season has delivered so far and Norwich will have to recover before Tuesday's trip to Tottenham.

Their record now stands at 32 Premier League games without a win in matches where they have fallen behind - but having been 3-1 up, few will sting like this. The first five shots on target in this game found the net and neither side could claim to have deserved a win, with each guilty of lapses which at times led to chaos and resulted in just the fourth 5-4 result in Premier League history. Russell Martin will feel worse than most after gifting Milner the chance to put Liverpool 4-3 up with a weak, blind backpass.

And though Bassong's crisp strike from 20 yards appeared to have reprieved his fellow defender, substitute Lallana's first league goal of the season capped a frenzied finish.

Reds must buy to relieve the stress

The Reds are four points worse off than at this stage last season but could this win be a catalyst for a spell of consistency and a move higher than seventh place? One wonders what reception Liverpool's players would have got from Klopp had it stayed 4-4, such was his demeanour, and his side masked some common inefficiencies in taking three points.

Mbokani's brilliant back-heeled finish arrived after failing to clear a corner, meaning the Reds have conceded eight goals from corners this season - a league high.

Their passing - at 75% accuracy - was not at its best, their defending was sometimes rash but they found key goals, despite having scored fewer times than relegation-threatened Sunderland before kick-off.

Much has been made of the need to sign a striker but after such a result, neglecting their defensive issues seems a big risk for Klopp who will surely be keen to have less stressful afternoons in the dugout.

Pain comes from the back

"When you concede five goals you deserve to lose the game," concluded Norwich boss Alex Neil after the match.

The Scot admitted defensive errors have been his side's "downfall" this season and the 43 goals they have leaked in 23 games paints a damning picture - and only Sunderland (45) have let in more.

However, the performance of Naismith at the other end does offer something positive to take forward.

Making his debut alongside full-back Ivo Pinto - who had a tough afternoon - Naismith showed quality throughout.

He managed 18 goals in 52 league starts at Everton but may need to adopt the role of talisman rather than impact substitute at Norwich if they are to survive. That said, they have now conceded 11 goals in three games - a stat which must improve if any Naismith contribution is to prove telling.

Man of the match - Roberto Firmino

The stats you need to know

Steven Naismith has now scored his first Premier League goal for both Everton and Norwich against Liverpool.

Liverpool have conceded from their first shot on target faced in all four of their Premier League games in 2016.

The Canaries have conceded a league-high 21 Premier League goals in the last half hour of games this season, six more than any other team.

This is only the third time in Premier League history that Liverpool have recovered from two goals behind to win an away game - also against Manchester City in October 2008 and Fulham in October 2004.

Up next

Norwich travel to Tottenham in the Premier League on Tuesday and Liverpool will be in action at the same time as they try to protect their 1-0 League Cup semi-final first-leg lead against Stoke City.

Date: 23 January 2016
Opposition: Norwich City
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Echo	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Mail	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
BBC	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Norwich Eve News

BBC

Full time Match ends, Norwich City 4, Liverpool 5.
90:00+5:33Full time Second Half ends, Norwich City 4, Liverpool 5.
90:00+4:40Booking Adam Lallana (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for excessive celebration.
90:00+4:19Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 4, Liverpool 5. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner.
90:00+4:12 Attempt blocked. Steven Caulker (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.
90:00+1:57Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 4, Liverpool 4. Sebastien Bassong (Norwich City left footed shot from outside the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Cameron Jerome following a set piece situation.
90:00+1:33 Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.
90:00+0:59 Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Benteke with a headed pass.
89:31Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Steven Caulker replaces Alberto Moreno.
88:39 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
88:39 Foul by Martin Olsson (Norwich City.
88:05 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
88:05 Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
84:11 Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Christian Benteke.
81:19Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Norwich City. Cameron Jerome replaces Steven Naismith.
76:10 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.
76:10 Matthew Jarvis (Norwich City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
75:23Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Christian Benteke replaces Jordan Henderson.
74:07Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 3, Liverpool 4. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal.
72:40 Attempt saved. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
70:59 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Dieumerci Mbokani.
70:25 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ivo Pinto.
69:45Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Norwich City. Matthew Jarvis replaces Nathan Redmond.
69:26Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Norwich City. Martin Olsson replaces Wes Hoolahan.
68:11 Attempt saved. Sebastien Bassong (Norwich City header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Nathan Redmond.
67:40 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.
67:40 Ivo Pinto (Norwich City wins a free kick on the right wing.
66:50 Foul by Kolo Touré (Liverpool.
66:50 Steven Naismith (Norwich City wins a free kick on the left wing.
65:07 Offside, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva tries a through ball, but Adam Lallana is caught offside.
64:38 Kolo Touré (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
64:38 Foul by Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City.
63:36 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Adam Lallana is caught offside.
62:39Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 3, Liverpool 3. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
58:25Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Adam Lallana replaces Jordon Ibe.
57:35 Hand ball by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool.
54:46Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 3, Liverpool 2. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
53:06Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 3, Liverpool 1. Wes Hoolahan (Norwich City converts the penalty with a left footed shot to the centre of the goal.
52:11 Penalty Norwich City. Steven Naismith draws a foul in the penalty area.
52:11 Penalty conceded by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool after a foul in the penalty area.
50:07 Foul by Nathan Redmond (Norwich City.
50:07 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
49:24 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
49:24 Sebastien Bassong (Norwich City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
48:50 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
48:50 Foul by Wes Hoolahan (Norwich City.
48:35 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
48:13 Delay in match Roberto Firmino (Liverpool because of an injury.
45:18 Hand ball by James Milner (Liverpool.
45:00 Second Half begins Norwich City 2, Liverpool 1.
45:00+2:10Half time First Half ends, Norwich City 2, Liverpool 1.
45:00+0:07 Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.
44:19 Foul by Robbie Brady (Norwich City.
44:19 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
40:36Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 2, Liverpool 1. Steven Naismith (Norwich City right footed shot from the right side of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Wes Hoolahan.
39:48 Corner, Norwich City. Conceded by Nathaniel Clyne.
39:25 Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City wins a free kick on the right wing.
39:25 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.
37:23 Foul by Nathan Redmond (Norwich City.

37:23 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
35:04 Corner, Norwich City. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.
35:00 Attempt blocked. Jonny Howson (Norwich City right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Dieumerci Mbokani.
33:41 Steven Naismith (Norwich City wins a free kick on the right wing.
33:41 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
31:02 Delay in match Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City because of an injury.
31:02 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
30:32 Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City wins a free kick in the defensive half.
30:32 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
29:58 Offside, Norwich City. Robbie Brady tries a through ball, but Dieumerci Mbokani is caught offside.
29:37 Attempt blocked. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
28:04Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 1, Liverpool 1. Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Graham Dorrans with a headed pass following a corner.
27:04 Corner, Norwich City. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
26:18 Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City wins a free kick on the right wing.
26:18 Foul by Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool.
25:28 Foul by Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City.
25:28 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
24:33 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by James Milner following a set piece situation.
23:17 Foul by Sebastien Bassong (Norwich City.
23:17 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
22:10 Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordon Ibe.
20:49 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Robbie Brady.
17:50Goal scored Goal!Goal! Norwich City 0, Liverpool 1. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by James Milner with a through ball.
17:01 Foul by Ivo Pinto (Norwich City.
17:01 Jordon Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
15:56 Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
12:23 Steven Naismith (Norwich City wins a free kick on the right wing.
12:23 Foul by Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool.
4:45 Foul by Steven Naismith (Norwich City.
4:45 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
1:36 Dieumerci Mbokani (Norwich City wins a free kick in the attacking half.
1:36 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
0:00 First Half begins.
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.