

Date: 9 February 2016
Opposition: West Ham United
Competition: FA Cup

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	BBC

9 February 2016

THE TIMES

Ogbonna's towering late header adds to Klopp pain
West Ham United Antonio 45, Ogbonna 120+1 Liverpool Coutinho 48
aet; 1-1 after 90min
When it counted most, when this compelling tie was heading to penalties, Angelo Ogbonna rose highest and headed West Ham United into the fifth round of the FA Cup, where they will meet Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park on February 21.
Once again, Liverpool were frustrated by the brilliance of Darren Randolph, the goalkeeper, and were ultimately punished at set pieces, as Dimitri Payet delivered a free kick that was finished expertly by the Italy defender.
Liverpool had subsidised ticket prices for their 6,000 travelling fans, cutting PS5 off the original PS25 price. They were treated to another much-changed selection in the FA Cup, including the welcome return of Philippe Coutinho since he suffered a hamstring injury in the Capital One Cup semi-final, first leg win away to Stoke City on January 5. The Brazil playmaker brings such invention to Jurgen Klopp's team, and a goal threat too, as shown by his clever free kick in the second half to equalise after Michail Antonio's opener.
There was also a starting chance for Christian Benteke, whose runs to the far post at Liverpoolcorners drew two outstanding saves from Randolph in the first half. Such was the zest of some of their attacks in the first period that Liverpool did not deserve to be trailing to Antonio's strike, however good it was. Coutinho's threat at set pieces was intermittently seen during the first period, and was to serve Liverpool well immediately after the break.
The replay had brought another test for some of Klopp's youngsters. Brad Smith, 21, had to contend with Antonio and the overlapping Joey O'Brien, but impressed with his buccaneering runs forward. One of his crosses after 26 minutes deserved a finish by Benteke, but the Belgium striker failed to react with sufficient conviction. Kevin Stewart, 22, anchored midfield with Pedro Chirivella, 18, pushing on. Stewart was quick to close down West Ham players, though went in too strongly on Cheikhou Kouyate and was booked. Joao Teixeira, 23, played some neat passes, linking well with Coutinho. From another Smith run, Teixeira had a wonderful chance but fired his shot wide.
The game was sold out, with home West Ham reducing tickets costs and fans seizing one of the remaining chances to savour life at Upton Park before next season's move to the Olympic Stadium. West Ham grew into the game, their fans appreciating a deft flick from Mark Noble to Kouyate and the uplifting sight of Payet, whose agent is in negotiations with West Ham over a new, improved deal. Payet soon played the ball right to O'Brien, but Lucas Leiva managed to cover across, stretching to deflect the left back's shot on to a post.
Liverpool then had two great chances. Coutinho stole the ball and sent Benteke down the inside-left channel. The Belgian calmly held the ball up and touched it inside back to the Brazilian, whose left-footed strike thudded against a post, before Stewart's follow-up effort was deflected wide. West Ham had clearly not remembered Liverpool's corner routine, and Benteke again appeared at the back post to meet Coutinho's delivery, but again Randolph saved.
West Ham finished the half the stronger side, eventually taking the lead. Payet made light of a six-man Liverpool wall, curling the ball over the wall, but Simon Mignolet touched it on to a post before reacting well to push away Antonio's follow-up header. The winger was getting closer.
The 25-year-old has quickly grown to like Upton Park, scoring his fourth goal in his last six appearances here just before the break. It climaxed a fine move, an attack accelerated by Payet down the left, creating some space for Enner Valencia to run to the byline. Valencia's cross clipped Jon Flanagan's foot, sending it just out of Smith's reach. Antonio had peeled away from the young full back, who might have been perfectly placed had the deflection not lifted the ball over him. Antonio's measured side-foot volley was exceptional nonetheless, the ball flying past Mignolet, much to the frustration of the visiting fans stationed yards away in the Sir Trevor Brooking Stand. But they were soon celebrating, three minutes into the second half. Presented with a free kick on the edge of the area after a foul on Benteke, Coutinho weighed up his options. He shaped as if to dink it over the wall and ran in as if preparing a curled effort.
As West Ham's wall jumped, and Teixeira moved out of the way, Coutinho drilled the ball low and underneath Ogbonna and into the back of the net.
On the hour, Klopp withdrew Coutinho and Teixeira and sent on Daniel Sturridge and Divock Origi. Liverpool's attack was now Jordon Ibe on the right, Sturridge and Benteke through the middle and Origi on the left. Stewart and Chirivella patrolled the midfield, with Ibe frequently tracking back. Benteke had a free kick saved and there were signs of Sturridge's class, a nutmeg here, a scampering break there, in his first appearance since December 6 and only his seventh game of a season ravaged by injury. Injuries bit deep into West Ham, depriving them of Winston Reid, Kouyate and O'Brien. They should have been awarded a penalty when Valencia was impeded by Tiago Ilori but Roger East, the referee, waved play on. Noble almost scored but his snapshot was held by Mignolet. Ibe also went close in a frantic finale to normal time. During the eight minutes of injury time, Sturridge curled a shot over. West Ham fans, and Slaven Bilic, their manager, continued to be vexed by some of East's decisions, not least an obvious foul on Pedro Obiang as the game headed towards extra time.
Benteke should have scored nine minutes into the first period of extra time. Sturridge timed his delivery perfectly, guiding the ball through the middle to Benteke, who never exuded confidence as the excellent Randolph sprinted out to

save. Benteke then headed over from an Origi cross before Sturridge shot over. Flanagan somehow escaped punishment for poleaxing Andy Carroll in the second period.

theguardian

Angelo Ogbonna heads West Ham past Liverpool in FA Cup replay
If this was to be the last Cup tie played on this old ground, it was a fittingly dramatic one to finish, both cruel and joyous in equal measure. After 121 long minutes, Angelo Ogbonna rose at the death to head West Ham into the fifth round and break the young hearts of Liverpool.
It is Slaven Bilic's side who progress to play Blackburn Rovers but, in a week where the cost of football has been in acute focus, it is fair to say that both sets of fans got their money's worth. Liverpool will be glad of Daniel Sturridge's impressive return from injury, but the profligacy of Christian Benteke late on ensured an exit for a fledgling side that had performed admirably in the face of a high-octane display by the Hammers.
Michail Antonio had given West Ham the lead just before half-time, but Philippe Coutinho's free-kick crept under the wall to equalise three minutes into the second half. From thereon in, the game ebbed and flowed with chances for both sides, until Ogbonna rose in the dying moments to head Dimitri Payet's cross over Simon Mignolet and in.
The Boleyn Ground erupted, Bilic danced, but Jürgen Klopp just stood. "We created chances but we didn't score goals, that's the major mistake you can make in football," said the Liverpool manager. "But it's better to create chances and miss in this moment than to not create chances. So if we want we can see a positive."
On Benteke's display, he said: "Ask 80-90% of all strikers in the world, high quality, low quality, no quality, they will tell you they had times like this. You have to carry on. He did a lot, he worked a lot."
Yet while Klopp lamented the result, Bilic was jubilant. Blackburn have been on a poor run in the Championship and, with a quarter-final place in this competition a real possibility, the chance to secure a trophy in their final campaign at Upton Park remains alive.
Both sides made significant changes from their previous league matches. Mignolet was the only player who remained in Liverpool's starting lineup from the 2-2 draw against Sunderland, while West Ham made five alterations from the team who lost narrowly at Southampton. Klopp's was a youthful selection and, most notably, Lucas Leiva started in central defence alongside Tiago Ilori. Coutinho was involved throughout a first half during which posts were hit and goalkeepers tested.
Payet was a constant threat to a Liverpool defence containing Jon Flanagan and Brad Smith as full-backs, but the white shirts had plenty of attacking gusto themselves. Smith's deflected ball across goal from the byline fell to the young midfielder João Teixeira, whose shot flew narrowly wide.
Coutinho then came even closer for Liverpool, hitting the post after Benteke showed quick feet to beat his marker and find his team-mate in the 34th minute. The woodwork was rattled at the other end soon after, Payet's curled free-kick from the edge of the 'D' beating Mignolet but not his left-hand post, and the goalkeeper produced a smart save to keep out Antonio from the rebound.
Antonio, though, was not going to be denied for long. With one minute until half-time, Enner Valencia retrieved the ball just outside the area on the left. The Ecuadorian beat a cluster of white shirts before drifting a precise ball to the far post, where Antonio volleyed in.
Unfortunately for West Ham, the lead had gone three minutes into the second half. Benteke was caught in a bundle of claret and blue on the edge of the area and, despite the protestations from the home crowd, the referee, Roger East, awarded a free-kick. Up stepped Coutinho. It seemed too close to goal to get a shot up and over but the Brazilian did not need to. Instead, he hit a grass-cutter under the wall and past Randolph.
The intensity increased. Valencia went down in the opposition penalty area and appeared to be dragged back by Ilori, but despite the appeals inside the stadium and Bilic's gesticulations, the referee ignored the penalty claims.
In the closing stages Sturridge nutmegged Joey O'Brien to win a free-kick, which Randolph saved from Benteke, but it was to be Ogbonna who had the final word. Bilic said: "I can't control the emotions. I don't want to control them totally. It is a special night. There is no harm in saying it's a special night for our club. We're so proud and happy for our players. It is a great night for West Ham."
"OK, it is only for the last 16, but it was a late night kick-off, it's against Liverpool, it's our last season at Upton Park, it went to the 120th minute, and we scored a great header in the last second of the game, and we had injuries, and we overcame all of that. That's why this will go down in history as one of the greatest nights and greatest games for our club."

Date: 9 February 2016
Opposition: West Ham United
Competition: FA Cup

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	BBC

9 February 2016

The Mail

OGBONNA DOES THE HONOURS; Liverpool are buried by towering header in closing seconds

THIS time there was no Steven Gerrard to drag them back from the brink. Liverpool's young ones fought almost to the last kick, to additional time of additional time, but it was too much for them in the end. West Ham won, with a header from Angelo Ogbonna in the 121st minute. Hardly revenge for that 2006 FA Cup final defeat, but the dream continues.

Had West Ham lost, this would have been the last FA Cup tie at Upton Park, which shuts its doors for eternity at the end of this season. Now there is a last-16 visit to Blackburn to look forward to and after that, if they win, who knows? This is a campaign that West Ham will want to end in style -- much as they ended this match. It was a magnificent effort from Slaven Bilic's side, despite the weakened nature of Liverpool's starting line-up. In the second half West Ham lost Winston Reid to what appeared to be a hamstring injury, Cheikhou Kouyate to a clash of heads, plus Joey O'Brien. Andy Carroll and Enner Valencia both suffered injury scares after that as West Ham were hobbling towards the finishing line.

It was the perfect moment, then, for the unusually quiet Dimitri Payet to play his best pass of the night, an inswinging free kick from the right. He placed it perfectly on Ogbonna's head and the ball nestled in the far corner of the net, Simon Mignolet beaten. Liverpool looked shattered. They had fought for this, played their part in a magnificent cup tie, but it was not to be.

Payet is already in contract negotiations midway through his first season at West Ham. There is talk of a PS38million offer from China, of exorbitant salary demands, too. This was a reminder of what he can bring, the pure quality he can deliver to a club with big ambitions.

There is a lot of money in the Chinese market; but where would West Ham find another like him? The same could be said of Philippe Coutinho and Liverpool. Without doubt their momentum dipped when he was withdrawn for Daniel Sturridge in the 59th minute. Sturridge, returning from injury, was ineffective -- Coutinho had already conjured up the moment of the night.

It is a historic final season at this stadium and the goal that took the match into extra time was at least memorable -- albeit for the wrong side. Coutinho scored with the freekick equivalent of the Panenka penalty. The attempt to fool all of the people, all of the time. Hit it low, hit it soft, and wait for those dolts in the wall to jump right over it. Whether Coutinho's team-mates thanked him for another 30 minutes at the coalface in an already exhausting season is another matter; this was Liverpool's 40th match of the campaign. The equaliser came three minutes into the second half but the sheer cheek of it was arguably the highlight of the two hours. It takes guts to take a free-kick that way.

Fail and the kicker looks ridiculous. Instead, Coutinho made mugs of half the West Ham team. Christian Benteke was bundled over on the edge of the area. Coutinho stood over the ball, the wall jumped to repel a dipper or a curler and instead missed a bobbler. The culprits? Choose from Reid, Ogbonna, Kouyate and O'Brien. All jumped higher than is sensible, some turned their backs, too. Darren Randolph, in West Ham's goal, was unsighted and didn't even dive, having left that side of the goal to his team-mates. All things considered, a draw after 120 minutes would probably have been the fair result. Liverpool had the best of the chances in extratime and the first-half of 90 minutes, West Ham were better in the second half -- including a clear penalty denied.

Michail Antonio hit an excellent cross from the right which would surely have found Enner Valencia in front of goal had he not been dragged down by Liverpool defender Tiago Ilori. Inexplicably, referee Roger East waved West Ham's appeals away. To their credit, despite the injury setbacks, West Ham kept pushing. Antonio had a lobbed cross that required Mignolet's full attention, Mark Noble a snap shot well saved. Mignolet got himself into a terrible tangle coming out for another clearup operation and there were appeals for a penalty this time, too. It was unconvincing, though.

There will be those who question Jurgen Klopp's selection for this match, even accuse him of disrespecting the FA Cup. He did nothing of the sort. For a start, a man standing on the touchline roughly three days after an appendix operation is hardly treating the competition with contempt.

Klopp was supposed to stay seated throughout, but could not resist the odd march into the technical area to bark an instruction. His team, too, was not what it seemed on paper. There may have been few first-team regulars -- and one of them, Lucas Leiva, was played out of position at centre half -- but a shake-up is long overdue at Liverpool and who knows where some of these new names will be when it is completed. Brad Smith, certainly, has to be a contender in the left full back position next season, if only for his attacking qualities. Yes, he sometimes shows the defensive naivety of youth -- illustrated by his marking for the opening West Ham goal -- but by then he could have put Liverpool clear had his team-mates been alive to his forward runs. It was Smith whose cross was missed by Benteke and Jordon Ibe in good positions in the 26th minute and Smith whose shot was deflected out to Joao Teixeira eight minutes later, the Portuguese midfielder striking a low shot wide of Darren Randolph's near post.

REVERSING the usual narrative, Liverpool were dangerous from corners, too -- with the reintroduction of Coutinho and Benteke as his target making an immediate difference. In the 14th minute, a Coutinho corner from the left picked out Benteke, forcing a goalmouth scramble and another corner. Coutinho took it, found Benteke once more and this time Randolph was forced to save.

Then, in the 34th minute, Benteke turned provider, pulling the ball back for Coutinho to strike a low shot against the near post. The ball rebounded only for Kevin Stewart's shot to be deflected wide. From the corner, Coutinho took a familiar route, straight onto Benteke's head at the far post -- Randolph equal to it again. What West Ham lacked in quantity of chances, however, they made up in quality. They didn't do much, but every time they got around Liverpool's goal, they looked capable of scoring. In the 16th minute, O'Brien struck a fierce shot on the right, the merest touch from Lucas diverting it onto a post.

Then, seven minutes before half time, Payet took a free-kick from range which curled out of reach of the wall and towards Mignolet's left post, only for the goalkeeper to divert it onto the woodwork. The ball came out for Antonio to head powerfully towards goal, but Mignolet recovered to save again.

He had no chance with West Ham's opener, though, which came from the final attack of the firsthalf. Valencia found room on the left and crossed, and Antonio took advantage of Smith's dawdling to volley the ball into the net at the far post. Liverpool shaded extra time and Benteke had two good chances to end the contest. He screwed a fine shooting opportunity wide, then lost out to Randolph when through one on one. For PS32m he is expected to decide games like this. That fee makes Payet look very cheap indeed.

The Daily Telegraph

Ogbonna's last-gasp header seals epic win for West Ham

West Ham United 2 Antonio 45, Ogbonna 120 Liverpool 1 Coutinho 48 aet;1-1 at 90 mins Att: 34,433

The mood was already turning to penalties when Angelo Ogbonna headed home the winner after 210 minutes of FA Cup football that means West Ham survive in the old competition in their last season at the Boleyn Ground.

It was a fitting end to a splendid night of full-on FA Cup football, during which Liverpool had plenty of chances to win this fourth-round replay before, eventually, West Ham's Italian defender got his head to Dimitri Payet's beautifully flighted free-kick in time added on at the end of extra time, and the tie was over without the requirement for penalties. For an FA Cup fifth-round place away to Blackburn Rovers that neither manager particularly needs in a hectic schedule - certainly not Jurgen Klopp's Capital One Cup fi-nalists - these two sides fought each long into the February night for the right to that trip to Ewood Park.

It was more a case of the missed chances that both sides had towards the end of regulation time and on into extra time, and a disproportionate number fell to Christian Benteke, who just could not seem to get the coordinates lined up however promising the opportunity. There was a first sighting of Daniel Sturridge in boots and kit since Dec 16 and he acquitted himself well for an extended evening's work. There was nothing to show for all the grazed posts and penalty-area pinball in terms of goals, until the very last moment of the first half when Michail Antonio scored for West Ham.

It took a strong run from Enner Valencia down the inside left channel and then a cross to the back post, where Antonio met the ball on the full, to make the breakthrough. The two sides had traded punches until then with neither capable of making the d-ecisive intervention. Klopp opted for the FA Cup combination of a defence and midfield from rookies and irregulars, building up towards a much more seasoned attack that included Philippe Coutinho, Christian Benteke and Jordon Ibe. On the bench was Sturridge, about whom Klopp said beforehand there was a "99 per cent chance" he would play at some point, and the urgency for a goal was that much greater after Antonio struck.

There were 10 changes from the side who drew 2-2 with Sunderland on Saturday, with only Simon Mignolet retained. He was more reliable in the first half and may even have got the slightest of glove-brushes on Payet's swerving free-kick on 38 minutes that struck a post. Whether he did or not, he was back on his feet within a moment to push away the follow-up header from Antonio.

West Ham had hit a post in the 16th minute when Joey O'Brien struck a heavily deflected shot. Otherwise it was a difficult first half for the club's third-choice right-back, who found his right side targeted by Liverpool. They came closest when Winston Reid gave the ball away and Benteke and Coutinho combined, only for the latter to shoot against a post.

Liverpool went down that right side more than once with full-back Brad Smith, whose cross on 26 minutes was missed by Benteke and Coutinho.

Minutes later Joao Carlos Teixeira missed again when the ball was deflected into his path. Mignolet had just kept out Antonio's follow-up effort from Payet's free-kick when the 25-year-old Englishman finished powerfully at the back post for the first goal. Liverpool were back in it within three minutes, shortly after Benteke tried to force his way through a group of West Ham shirts on the edge of the area, and Cheikhou Kouyate brought him down. The free-kick looked inviting even before referee Roger East insisted the wall stand so far back their presence was virtually immaterial - but then they jumped in anticipation and that was where it all went wrong for West Ham.

Coutinho's shot ran under West Ham's wall and found the corner of the net that Darren Randolph could not reach. It was an embarrassment for Slaven Bilic and his players and they seemed to feel that as Liverpool started to exert themselves. Klopp sent on Sturridge and Divock Origi, leaving himself with an attacking four of those two supplemented by Ibe and Benteke.

With Sturridge and Benteke in partnership, Liverpool had the potential for goals -

Date: 9 February 2016 Opposition: West Ham United Competition: FA Cup	Times	Telegraph	Echo		9 February 2016
	Guardian	Mirror	Standard		
	Independent	Mail	BBC		

it just was not quite clear what would come to pass at the other end. Thiago Ilori seemed to drag down Valencia as he ran on to Antonio's cross. West Ham lost Winston Reid to injury. Sturridge looked sharp for one who has been away for so long. He challenged the home defence at times in a way they had not been challenged up to then.

Had Coutinho remained on the pitch there might have been more opportunities for him. West Ham sent on Andy Carroll as a replacement for Kouyate, who went down heavily after a challenge with Jon Flanagan.

By the end of the 90 minutes - with eight added on for the treatment to Kouyate - it had turned into the reckless kind of FA Cup tie that neither manager wanted to lose but neither wanted to see go to extra time either, and risks were being taken. Liverpool had more of the possession and more of the finesse in the closing stages but West Ham looked dangerous on the break.

That changed in the first period of extra time when the home side were the more promising in the opening stages. They had Antonio at right-back, and limping, and Mark Noble shielding the back four. He had space for a shot seven minutes in and Mignolet saved well.

Once again, it was Liverpool with the best chances and Benteke who missed them. The first came from a header upwards by Sturridge that dropped perfectly for the Belgian and he missed the goal altogether with the right-foot shot. Perhaps that was playing on his mind less than a minute later when he went through on goal and could not get the ball past Randolph, who had done well to get out quickly.



Ogbonna's late winner is hammer blow to Liverpool

It was 10.17pm when these teams were finally separated by Angelo Ogbonna, the West Ham defender's header from Dimitri Payet's free-kick beating Simon Mignolet to win an epic FA Cup tie for West Ham United. Slaven Bilic's side will now head to Ewood Park in the fifth round, although the Boleyn Ground was so loud at the winner, in added time at the end of extra-time, it sounded as if they might have won the trophy.

West Ham had, in fact, been the lesser team over the two hours of football. Liverpool had far more of the play and the chances, and only Christian Benteke's profligacy meant that the tie lasted for as long as it did.

At least there were two positives for Jrgen Klopp, in the form of the returns from injury for his two best players. Philippe Coutinho and Daniel Sturridge played for one hour - although that was not the initial plan - after one and two months out injured respectively. Coutinho scored Liverpool's equaliser, with a clever free-kick under the wall at the start of the second half of normal time. Sturridge, who was roared on by the fans, did not score but looked sharp, lively and imaginative, especially given he has spent most of this season in the treatment room.

Some Cup replays at this time of year can get lost and forgotten, but that was never going to happen here. West Ham only have seven league games left at this stadium and this crowd is desperate to stretch out their goodbye for as long as possible. Liverpool had 6,000 vocal fans of their own and the result was an atmosphere which reminded these tired players on both sides just how much this mattered. This was the 40th game of Liverpool's season and, quite understandably, Klopp made 10 changes from the side that limped to a 2-2 draw with Sunderland on Saturday. It was no sign of disrespect, especially given the return of Coutinho, Liverpool's best player, after one month out with a hamstring injury. Benteke also returned and the result was a Liverpool side that had more firepower up front than many might have expected.

Liverpool began the match on top, dominating possession thanks to the nifty scheming of Coutinho, Joao Teixeira and Pedro Chirivella in midfield. They knew to find Benteke quickly and the Belgian striker should have done better with two chances at the far post from in-swinging corners.

Sensing the vulnerability of Joey O'Brien at right-back, Liverpool started to feed Adam Smith down the left. When he cut a cross back to Teixeira, the 23-year-old should have hit the target. When Coutinho and Benteke exchanged passes on the break, Coutinho should have done better than hitting the near post.

West Ham had looked very disjointed, as they often do at the start of games under Slaven Bilic. But they grew into the first half, speeding up their play, and starting to cause Liverpool problems. When Jordon Ibe pushed Cheikhou Kouyat[c] in the back on the edge of the box, it took the far post to keep Payet's free-kick out of the net. The crowd came alive and West Ham were empowered. With the final attack of the first half they scored the first goal. Payet played in Enner Valencia, who reached the byline and crossed far too easily. Michail Antonio, at the far post, jumped and volleyed the ball right-footed into the net. Liverpool began the second half with a sense of grievance at themselves for being so sloppy. They got the ball forward and Pedro Obiang fouled Benteke on the edge of the box. From the same position, minutes earlier, Payet had hit the post. This time Coutinho went one better. Knowing the West Ham wall would jump, he drove the ball underneath them, into the exposed section of the goal away from the powerless Darren Randolph.

Klopp's team had the momentum again and they threw on two more forwards. Divock Origi came on, for his first appearance since Boxing Day. He was joined by Daniel Sturridge, who has been out for two long, acrimonious months. He can be excused being rusty, and his first attacking action was to be caught offside.

The game opened up and West Ham attacked. Antonio skipped through Smith, whipped in a cross, and when Tiago Ilori dragged down Valencia, only the referee Roger East did not think it was a penalty kick.

West Ham were forced into changes of their own. Winston Reid pulled a hamstring and was replaced by James Collins. Kouyat[c] collided with Jon Flanagan, appeared to be knocked out and was replaced by Andy Carroll. O'Brien pulled up and was replaced by Victor Moses.

There were so many attacking players on the pitch that the game fully opened out, each team taking turns to go forward without the required precision to win the game. Benteke had a good free-kick saved by Randolph. Valencia headed over from a Payet cross. Ibe, in added time, made Randolph dive low to deny his driven shot. But no one on either side had enough to decide this tie before it entered its fourth hour. With neither team offering very much in midfield, they continued to take turns to attack and create opportunities. Mignolet had to palm away Mark Noble's 20-yard shot before a good spell for Liverpool, in which Benteke missed three glaring chances. First he drove wide when in far too much space in the box. Then he spun Collins and ran in behind, only to be blocked by the on-rushing Randolph, who earned a standing ovation from the home fans. When Benteke headed over from Origi's clever cross, he looked like a man who might have to wait a few games for his next chance. Sturridge was Liverpool's best player in the second half of extra-time, always wanting the ball and trying to take it away from opponents. His best shot went high and over the bar, but he had one clever backheel blocked with just two minutes of extra-time remaining.

That felt like the last opportunity of the night, but it was not. Ogbonna stepped up to win the game four minutes later.



KLOPP'S SO GUTTED; Jurgen's back from his op.. only for last-gasp Hammers to twist knife

JURGEN KLOPP will be pleased to say goodbye to the Boleyn Ground. West Ham's famous old stadium has been an unhappy hunting ground for Liverpool this season and defeats do not come much more painful.

It was 24 seconds into injury time in extra time when West Ham defender Angelo Ogbonna headed home the winner from Dimitri Payet's high ball into the box. A goal out of keeping with the West Ham tradition but it kept their FA Cup dream alive as they chase a trophy as an Upton Park farewell before they move to the Olympic Stadium this summer. It also meant that Liverpool have failed to beat West Ham in four games this season, losing three and drawing the other - a good indication of where they are as a club right now.

Behind West Ham in the Premier League table, dumped out of the FA Cup, it was not exactly a therapeutic night for Klopp, in the dugout just three days after having his appendix out. You would never have known it because Klopp was his usual self on the touchline, shouting in frustration as Christian Benteke missed chance after chance on an awful night for the Belgium striker.

Klopp made 10 changes to his starting line-up as he looked to rotate his squad but the gamble backfired. At least there was a return for fit-again Daniel Sturridge, who looked sharp and dangerous after coming on as a 59th-minute substitute. But Liverpool just could not find a way through in an exciting, end-to-end FA Cup tie which was more basketball than football match.

As the game wore on, West Ham keeper Darren Randolph got better and better and ended up man of the match after a string of super saves.

That tells its own story of Liverpool's night because they did not take advantage of their possession. They created plenty of chances but, when they got sight of goal, Randolph was there to make a save. It was a lively first half with first West Ham's Joey O'Brien hitting the post and then Philippe Coutinho crashing a close-range effort against the woodwork. Payet hit a free kick against the post and, when Michail Antonio's follow-up header was saved by Simon Mignolet, it looked like it would be one of those nights. But suddenly, West Ham brought it to life.

Payet, playing as if he was trying to squeeze every last penny out of his contract negotiations, found Enner Valencia and his deflected cross was volleyed spectacularly home by Antonio. Within three minutes of the restart, Liverpool were level. From a free-kick 20 yards out, the West Ham wall were expecting Coutinho to lift the ball over them and jumped to make his task more difficult. But the little Brazilian had other ideas, impudently placing a soft free-kick beneath them and into the near corner.

West Ham should have had a penalty when Tiago Ilori pulled back Valencia, while players began dropping like flies with either injuries or cramp as it developed into a war of attrition in extra time. Mark Noble saw a curling shot saved by Mignolet, Sturridge went close, Benteke missed a big chance after being denied by Randolph when clean through, and it seemed penalties were inevitable.

But, as the game entered injury time at the end of the 120 minutes, Lucas Leiva conceded a free-kick which Klopp insisted was unfair and Payet sent over a free kick which Ogbonna headed home.

There will not be many more celebrations like it at Upton Park.

Date: 9 February 2016
Opposition: West Ham United
Competition: FA Cup

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	BBC

9 February 2016



FA Cup delivers another painful kick in the guts to Klopp - but Reds deserved better

Still nursing the stitches from that emergency surgery to remove his appendix, Jurgen Klopp endured another painful kick in the guts. A night of rich promise for Liverpool in the capital culminated in heartache as they were dumped out of the FA Cup by Angelo Ogbonna's last-gasp winner at Upton Park.

Just seconds away from their third penalty shootout of this marathon campaign the Reds were floored by the Italian's defender pin-point header from Dimitri Payet's free-kick. The curse of the set-piece once again.

It was a cruel end to a gutsy performance which had surpassed all expectations given the personnel on duty. Having climbed off his sick bed to resume control after missing the miserable weekend capitulation against Sunderland, Klopp saw his faith in youth richly rewarded. Pedro Chirivella, Kevin Stewart, Tiago Ilori, Joao Carlos Teixeira and Brad Smith – who boasted just 21 appearances between them before kick-off – could all hold their heads high. Jon Flanagan was a rock on his return to the side. Pity poor Lucas Leiva, crestfallen at the end, who produced such an heroic shift as a makeshift centre-back as he repeatedly put his body on the line. The long-serving Brazilian, who was Liverpool's fourth captain in as many FA Cup ties this season, led by example throughout.

This was a fourth round replay Liverpool should have won with something to spare but a glut of missed chances came back to haunt them.

The injection of quality provided by the return to action of attacking trio Philippe Coutinho, Daniel Sturridge and Divock Origi had the desired impact.

Thunderous ovation greets returning Sturridge

Their efforts may have ultimately been in vain in East London but their presence provides a comfort blanket for fans to cling to.

Sturridge looked surprisingly sharp for a striker who hadn't kicked a ball for two months and he received a thunderous ovation from the 6,000-strong travelling Kop. Liverpool suddenly look a much more potent attacking force for the challenges ahead as Klopp eyes Wembley glory in the Capital One Cup and a prolonged run in the Europa League, as well as lifting the club out of mid-table mediocrity domestically. How much of a part Christian Benteke will play in that mission is unclear? This was a big night for the £32.5million frontman, who started with Sturridge and Origi waiting in the wings, and he fluffed his lines alarmingly. Benteke will be having nightmares about the two gilt-edged opportunities he spurned in extra time. He's not scored in 11 appearances since the turn of the year and his Anfield nightmare shows no sign of abating.

As Liverpool became the first Premier League club to reach the 40-game mark this season, Klopp made 10 changes for what was a 14th match in the space 45 days dating back to Boxing Day.

Klopp's young guns did him proud

Yet concerns about a centre-back partnership of Lucas and Ilori, as well as a holding midfield double act of Stewart and Chirivella, were quickly eased.

Klopp's young guns did him proud with a show of real composure as they refused to be intimidated by their surrounding. Stewart snapped into tackles, while Chirivella used the ball intelligently. They were helped by the returning Coutinho, who showcased how much he has been missed having sat out the previous nine matches with a hamstring strain. In his absence, Liverpool had won just twice.

At times Coutinho was predictably rusty but his eye for a pass provided a new dimension. Teixeira, relishing a central role just behind Benteke, linked up expertly with Coutinho as their movement caused the Hammers plenty of problems. Benteke was denied by Darren Randolph before at the other end Joey O'Brien's deflected strike cannoned back off the post.

For the most part Liverpool were on the front foot and looking menacing.

A blistering counter-attack involved Stewart, Benteke, Teixeira and Coutinho saw the impressive Smith race clear on the overlap. Somehow his pull-back eluded both Benteke and Jordon Ibe. Smith kept on rampaging down the left and another cross fell kindly into the path of Teixeira. However, with the net gaping he drilled wide. Coutinho then fired against the post and Stewart's effort from the rebound was forced behind. From the resulting Coutinho corner, Benteke won the aerial battle but Randolph saved with his feet. Dimitri Payet's free-kick hammered against the upright and Simon Mignolet, who was erratic throughout, reacted well to keep out the follow up from Cheikhou Kouyate.

Then just seconds before the break Liverpool were rocked. Payet found Enner Valencia whose cross to the far post was brilliantly volleyed home by Michael Antonio. Liverpool's response was emphatic as just three minutes into the second half they were level. Coutinho stepped up to take a 20-yard free-kick and as the wall jumped he simply rolled it under them and past the stranded Randolph.

It was a touch of class and the first goal the Reds had scored against the Hammers in over five hours of football this season.

Klopp made a double change just before the hour mark with Sturridge and Origi on for Coutinho and Teixeira. Liverpool enjoyed a major let-off when Roger East waved away penalty appeals after Ilori blatantly pulled back Valencia inside the area. Ilori had the look of someone heading for the gallows when he turned to face the referee, only to be granted the most unlikely of pardons.

The Reds continued to probe with Benteke's free-kick pushed away before Ibe

forced a sprawling save from Randolph. In the first period of extra-time Mignolet was called into action to push away Mark Noble's 20-yarder.

Benteke had two glorious chances to book the Reds a trip to Blackburn in the fifth round but first he volleyed wide and then failed to beat Randolph when clean through. It was the finish of a man whose confidence is shot to bits.

Klopp made his final change with James Milner on for Chirivella.

West Ham were clinging on for most of the second period. Sturridge's fierce left footer whistled passed the angle of post and bar before Origi and Benteke both lashed wide. Flanagan saw his header forced behind before in the closing seconds Liverpool were hit by the ultimate sucker punch. Payet swung a free-kick into the box and Ogbonna climbed highest to leave Klopp feeling as flat as a pancake on Shrove Tuesday. Liverpool deserved better.

MATCH FACTS

Liverpool : Mignolet, Flanagan, Ilori, Lucas, Smith, Chirivella (Milner 101), Stewart, Ibe, Coutinho (Sturridge 59), Teixeira (Origi 59), Benteke.

Not used: Ward, Enrique, Henderson, Randall.

West Ham : Randolph, O'Brien (Moses 82), Reid (Collins 65), Ogbonna, Cresswell, Noble, Obiang, Antonio, Kouyate (Carroll 75), Payet, Valencia

Not used: Adrian, Oxford, Cullen, Parfitt-Williams

Referee : Roger East Attendance : 34,433 Goals : Antonio 45, Coutinho 48, Ogbonna 120 Bookings : Stewart, Antonio.

Man of the match : Lucas Leiva. A real captain's performance.

EveningStandard.

Angelo Ogbonna's late header puts Hammers into fifth round of the FA Cup

Angelo Ogbonna scored a dramatic extra-time winner as West Ham booked an FA Cup fifth round tie against Blackburn with a 2-1 victory over Liverpool at Upton Park. The Italian centre-back climbed highest to meet Dimitri Payet's free-kick in stoppage time at the end of the additional 30-minute period to earn the Hammers their third win against the Reds this season.

The Hammers had already completed their first Premier League double over Liverpool in 53 years and Michail Antonio set them on their way once again with a fine volley just before the interval before Philippe Coutinho equalised in the 48th minute. However, just as the game appeared to be heading for a penalty shoot-out, Ogbonna produced a towering header to score his first goal for the club and send his team into the last 16. West Ham made five changes with Joey O'Brien making his first start since July following a serious ankle injury. Cheikhou Kouyate also returned after an eye infection while Liverpool recalled Coutinho to the starting line-up for the first time in a month after a hamstring problem.

Jurgen Klopp had claimed Daniel Sturridge was "99 per cent likely" to feature but despite making ten alterations to the team that drew 2-2 against Sunderland, the England striker was left on the bench.

Klopp missed Liverpool's previous outing after undergoing an emergency operation to remove his appendix and warned prior to the game that he may not be able to celebrate goals with the usual vigour.

Christian Benteke very nearly tested his manager's health in the 15th minute. Coutinho swung a corner deep to the far post, where Benteke had escaped his marker to meet it but Hammers goalkeeper Darren Randolph spread himself well to keep the ball out. West Ham responded immediately. Dimitri Payet, the subject of a club statement earlier in the day insisting contract talks were progressing smoothly, fed O'Brien in space just outside the box and his shot deflected off Lucas Leiva and struck the base of Simon Mignolet's left-hand post.

Joao Carlos Teixeira wasted a presentable opportunity midway through the half after Liverpool broke quickly down the left in a sharp move involving left-back Brad Smith. As the ball broke to the Portuguese youngster 16 yards out, he could only drive an effort well wide of goal.

West Ham then lost the ball cheaply in midfield allowing Liverpool to break three-versus-two. Coutinho forced Benteke wide with his pass but the former Aston Villa striker still found his team-mate with a return ball. Coutinho's sidefooted effort struck the post and Kevin Stewart's follow-up effort was deflected behind. From the resulting corner - in a carbon copy of Liverpool's first chance of the game - Benteke stole in at the back post but once again Randolph was on hand to keep the home side level.

West Ham almost took the lead in the 38th minute when Jordan Ibe's needless push on Kouyate gave Payet the chance to line up a free-kick 20 yards out. The Frenchman curled a superb effort at goal which Mignolet did brilliantly to tip onto the post. Kouyate was just unable to contort his body sufficiently to turn home the rebound but Antonio managed to get his head to the loose ball and force it goalwards, only for Mignolet to acrobatically beat the ball clear.

He would bury his next chance. Enner Valencia wriggled clear in the box before getting to the byline and delivering a cross to the back post where Antonio was waiting to steer a controlled yet powerful volley past Mignolet and give the Hammers a lead their strong finish to the opening period deserved.

Liverpool were sent out early for the second half and took three minutes to equalise. Pedro Obiang clipped Benteke as he twisted and turned on the edge of the box and Coutinho gambled on the Hammers wall jumping in unison by firing a low shot straight at them. They obliged, Randolph was stranded and Liverpool were level.

9 February 2016

Times

Telegraph

Echo

Guardian

Mirror

Standard

Independent

Mail

BBC

</

Date: 9 February 2016 Opposition: West Ham United Competition: FA Cup	Times	Telegraph	Echo		9 February 2016
	Guardian	Mirror	Standard		
	Independent	Mail	BBC		

107' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

107' Foul by Andy Carroll (West Ham United.

Second Half Extra Time begins West Ham United 1, Liverpool 1.

105'+1' First Half Extra Time ends, West Ham United 1, Liverpool 1.

105' Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.

103' Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Divock Origi with a cross.

101' Substitution, Liverpool. James Milner replaces Pedro Chirivella.

101' Foul by Pedro Chirivella (Liverpool.

101' Pedro Obiang (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

99' Foul by Kevin Stewart (Liverpool.

99' Victor Moses (West Ham United wins a free kick on the right wing.

99' Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge with a through ball.

99' Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left.

97' Attempt saved. Mark Noble (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Dimitri Payet.

96' Attempt missed. Aaron Cresswell (West Ham United left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left following a corner.

96' Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Tiago Ilori.

91' Offside, Liverpool. Brad Smith tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.

First Half Extra Time begins West Ham United 1, Liverpool 1.

90'+9' Second Half ends, West Ham United 1, Liverpool 1.

90'+7' Attempt missed. Pedro Obiang (West Ham United left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.

90'+7' Foul by Brad Smith (Liverpool.

90'+7' Victor Moses (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90'+6' Kevin Stewart (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90'+6' Foul by Andy Carroll (West Ham United.

90'+4' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high following a corner.

90'+4' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Michail Antonio.

90'+4' Attempt saved. James Collins (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Andy Carroll with a headed pass.

90'+3' Attempt blocked. Enner Valencia (West Ham United left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Andy Carroll with a headed pass.

90'+3' Foul by Tiago Ilori (Liverpool.

90'+3' Andy Carroll (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

90'+1' Attempt saved. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Pedro Chirivella.

90'+1' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

90'+1' Foul by Angelo Ogbonna (West Ham United.

90' Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Jon Flanagan.

88' Offside, West Ham United. Mark Noble tries a through ball, but Andy Carroll is caught offside.

87' Michail Antonio (West Ham United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

87' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

87' Foul by Michail Antonio (West Ham United.

86' Attempt saved. Mark Noble (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Dimitri Payet.

86' Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool.

86' Michail Antonio (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

84' Offside, West Ham United. Pedro Obiang tries a through ball, but Andy Carroll is caught offside.

83' Attempt missed. Enner Valencia (West Ham United header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Dimitri Payet with a cross.

83' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

83' Substitution, West Ham United. Victor Moses replaces Joey O'Brien because of an injury.

81' Delay in match Joey O'Brien (West Ham United because of an injury.

80' Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner.

79' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

79' Foul by Joey O'Brien (West Ham United.

79' Jon Flanagan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

79' Foul by Enner Valencia (West Ham United.

78' Kevin Stewart (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

78' Foul by Joey O'Brien (West Ham United.

77' Offside, West Ham United. Mark Noble tries a through ball, but Michail Antonio is caught offside.

76' Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.

76' Angelo Ogbonna (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

75' Substitution, West Ham United. Andy Carroll replaces Cheikhou Kouyaté because of an injury.

74' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

72' Delay in match Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United because of an injury.

71' Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.

71' Enner Valencia (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

66' Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.

66' Angelo Ogbonna (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

65' Substitution, West Ham United. James Collins replaces Winston Reid because of an injury.

64' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

64' Delay in match Winston Reid (West Ham United because of an injury.

63' Offside, Liverpool. Christian Benteke tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

63' Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Brad Smith.

62' Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

61' Foul by Tiago Ilori (Liverpool.

61' Enner Valencia (West Ham United wins a free kick on the left wing.

60' Pedro Chirivella (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

60' Foul by Joey O'Brien (West Ham United.

59' Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Philippe Coutinho.

59' Substitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces João Teixeira.

58' Attempt blocked. Aaron Cresswell (West Ham United left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.

58' Attempt blocked. Pedro Obiang (West Ham United left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

58' Attempt blocked. Aaron Cresswell (West Ham United right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.

56' Attempt blocked. Christian Benteke (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.

55' Brad Smith (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

55' Foul by Joey O'Brien (West Ham United.

52' Attempt blocked. Mark Noble (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Dimitri Payet.

48' Goal! West Ham United 1, Liverpool 1. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool from a free kick with a right footed shot to the bottom left corner.

47' Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

47' Foul by Pedro Obiang (West Ham United.

46' Jon Flanagan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

46' Foul by Enner Valencia (West Ham United.

Second Half begins West Ham United 1, Liverpool 0.

45'+2' First Half ends, West Ham United 1, Liverpool 0.

45'+1' Foul by João Teixeira (Liverpool.

45'+1' Michail Antonio (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

45' Goal! West Ham United 1, Liverpool 0. Michail Antonio (West Ham United right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top left corner.

39' João Teixeira (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

39' Foul by Joey O'Brien (West Ham United.

38' Attempt blocked. Michail Antonio (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Dimitri Payet.

38' Hand ball by Enner Valencia (West Ham United.

38' Attempt saved. Michail Antonio (West Ham United header from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Cheikhou Kouyaté.

38' Attempt saved. Dimitri Payet (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner.

37' Foul by Jordon Ibe (Liverpool.

37' Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

35' Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from the right side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross.

34' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Angelo Ogbonna.

34' Attempt blocked. Kevin Stewart (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

34' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool hits the left post with a left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box. Assisted by Christian Benteke.

29' Attempt missed. João Teixeira (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

28' Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.

28' Angelo Ogbonna (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

27' Attempt blocked. Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

26' Kevin Stewart (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

26' Foul by Kevin Stewart (Liverpool.

26' Cheikhou Kouyaté (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

23' Corner, West Ham United. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.

22' Hand ball by Brad Smith (Liverpool.

21' Foul by João Teixeira (Liverpool.

21' Mark Noble (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

20' Jon Flanagan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

20' Foul by Enner Valencia (West Ham United.

20' Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.

20' Enner Valencia (West Ham United wins a free kick in the attacking half.

16' Foul by João Teixeira (Liverpool.

16' Winston Reid (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

16' Attempt blocked. Joey O'Brien (West Ham United right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Dimitri Payet.

15' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Darren Randolph.

15' Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross.

14' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Darren Randolph.

14' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Pedro Obiang.

4' Foul by Brad Smith (Liverpool.

4' Michail Antonio (West Ham United wins a free kick in the defensive half.

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up. 0