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

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17 October 2016

THE TIMES

## De Gea heroics allow United to make their point

Liverpool 0 Manchester United 0

Manchester United left Anfield far the happier, having stifled a usually vibrant Liverpool, but it needed another reminder of David de Gea's athletic defiance. United's goalkeeper made two superb saves, from Emre Can and Philippe Coutinho, as Liverpool threatened to build up some steam in front of the Kop in the second half. It is not simply the way that De Gea manages to reach a ball struck so hard, but also how his strong hands divert it from the goal. United were also indebted to a brilliant, sliding challenge from Antonio Valencia to thwart Roberto Firmino. United's supporters were the louder at the final whistle as Jose Mourinho's game-plan had paid off to acquire a point in this famous fixture. The ancient enmity had been heard in the jeers that accompanied the car containing Gary Neville and Ryan Giggs driving up the Anfield Road three hours before kick-off. It had been seen in the way Marcus Rashford caught James Milner three minutes in. The antipathy had been heard again in the way the Kop launched into earsplitting derision when Zlatan Ibrahimovic linked with Paul Pogba, especially when an Ibrahimovic free-kick flew over. Pogba was close to Ibrahimovic, the Swede also supported by the pace of Rashford and Ashley Young. Mourinho had gone for pace, and for a pressing game designed to stop Liverpool building any of their usual momentum. In a sterile, scrappy first half, Liverpool had two shots, which Opta confirmed as their joint lowest in the first half of a Premier League game at Anfield since 2003-04. Mourinho's stifling tactics were working. The animosity remained. The rebuilding of the Main Stand had moved the dugouts further apart, and the rivals remained as far apart as ever. Jordan Henderson tried to outmuscle Ibrahimovic but United's No 9 was too strong. Liverpool were pressing with their usual fervour under Jurgen Klopp but United were matching their work-rate, eclipsing it in the early stages. Rashford dropped a shoulder, did a step-over and sped past Milner, drilling in a cross that Loris Karius pushed out. Ander Herrera and Marouane Fellaini settled swiftly in central midfield, building a beachhead in Liverpool's half. Herrera was terrific, closing down players in red one moment, releasing those in blue the next.

Liverpool shook off their diffidence, beginning to impose themselves. They missed the subtlety in the final third of Adam Lallana, who Klopp insisted was fit enough only for the bench. Sadio Mane started running at United, bringing a robust response. Herrera tripped him, then Ibrahimovic flattened him. Liverpool were making inroads, and Henderson hoisted in a ball met by Firmino, whose header was straight at De Gea. Anfield, ambitiously, sensed a change of direction.

United had other ideas, defending well, occasionally cynically. For 43 minutes, Anthony Taylor handled the tussle well, playing advantage and eschewing cautions even when Milner brought down Pogba, Ibrahimovic caught Joel Matip and then Herrera, so fired up for this, left Coutinho in a heap.

United were so well organised. Herrera diligently came back to clear. When Daley Blind darted out from his left back position to confront Mane, Young dropped back to keep the shape. United were all well-drilled, wellmotivated, anticipating keenly. When Daniel Sturridge's touch was heavy, Pogba nicked the ball. Fellaini then dispossessed Mane. Valencia closed down Coutinho. Blind read Mane's run. Containment outdid entertainment. Only in the closing moments of the half did Taylor decide the players had gone too far. Eric Bailly was cautioned for a challenge on Sturridge, which was less aggressive than others, and the Frenchman seemed to be taking the rap for a collective totting-up by Taylor. Anfield cheered loudly. When United were incensed that Henderson was not booked for a similar foul on Herrera, Anfield cheered even louder, especially when Young was booked for dissent. Anfield and a huge global audience craved a moment of magic. There was so much talent on view, so many expensive transfers that glimpses of class soon appeared through the cordite. Pogba spirited the ball sweetly around Henderson and then lifted a cross to the far-post where Ibrahimovic was unmarked. Karius stepped out, narrowing the angle but it was still manageable for a forward of Ibrahimovic's expertise. In keeping with the lax finishing, Ibrahimovic headed weakly across goal. Then came Can, such an under-rated player, a midfielder with huge potential at only 22, giving the Kop hope as he cut between Blind and Chris Smalling. Can forced his way through, ignoring Smalling clutching a huge chunk of his shirt. Even under such pressure, Can managed to get off a left-footed shot with minimal back-lift. De Gea stretched out his right hand to deny him. On the hour, Klopp sent on Lallana for the anonymous Sturridge. He was soon linking up with Firmino, shooting wide, but bringing more ideas and energy to the attack. Liverpool were looking better, more threatening and Coutinho suddenly started drifting across the field before hammering the ball goalwards. De Gea dived to his left and clawed the ball away with his right hand.

Liverpool were pouring forward with greater gusto. Firmino was the focal point with Coutinho and Mane flanking him, and Lallana darting around between the lines. Mourinho had seen the shift and sent on Wayne Rooney, who was welcomed caustically. He assumed Rashford's role on the right, hardly suited to his capabilities, however fading. Now it was United pushing on, Valencia powering down the right and hoisting in a cross destined for Ibrahimovic until Can intervened. After 80 minutes, United had their first corner -- duly wasted.

Liverpool still believed they could break through. Lallana slid the ball down the inside-left channel to Milner, whose cutback rebounded out to Nathaniel Clyne who shot low and hard, straight into Blind.Liverpool then conjured up a magnificent move, Can stroking the ball through the middle towards Coutinho, whose flick released Firmino. He seemed clear on goal, making good ground into the box, but Valencia had stayed with him, stride for stride, and then finally committed himself, sliding in and hooking the ball clear. Brilliant tackle.

It finished honours even, but United left with smiles, as well as a point.

theguardian

## Liverpool held to draw by hand of Manchester United's David de Gea

There was blood and thunder, as there always is in this fixture, but there was also a fair amount of thud and blunder. After all the hype – including a non-stop 12-hour build-up on one Norwegian channel – the latest meeting between these old rivals certainly fell short, no matter what it showed us about how the modern-dayManchester United are evolving and where Liverpool still need to improve.

This was not one of those occasions when José Mourinho could face allegations of unremitting negativity. His team did, however, play with the structure and organisational qualities that are automatically associated with their manager when it comes to category-A fixtures. This was a tough, obdurate performance from what Jürgen Klopp described as a "very physical, strong team" and it is difficult to know the last time a United side had as little as 35% possession in aPremier League match. That figure is the lowest since Opta began collating statistics in 2003 and that alone should guide United's supporters about what they might have to expect occasionally under their new manager.

Mourinho seemed reasonably satisfied but, equally, he was exaggerating when he said United "controlled the game tactically and emotionally" and again when he mentioned David de Gea was "on holiday for nearly 90 minutes". De Gea did not have a great deal to do but his night did incorporate one of the outstanding pieces of goalkeeping the Premier League will witness all season. His save from Philippe Coutinho – one-handed, at full length, in front of the Kop – left the Brazilian holding his head in disbelief and Klopp applauding on the touchline. "That is how he plays when he plays us," Klopp noted afterwards of United's goalkeeper. "Last year was similar. He loves games against Liverpool." That save can certainly be added to the list of occasions when De Gea has spared United over recent seasons but it was not the only occasion that made Klopp grimace afterwards and it needed a brilliantly executed tackle from Antonio Valencia to deny Roberto Firmino the possibility of a late winner. These, however, were extraordinary moments in an otherwise ordinary match and if it was true, as Mourinho pithily observed, that Liverpool's attack have been acclaimed as "the last wonder of the world", this was not a night when that became apparent. Coutinho's usual refinement was not always there. It was unusual to see Sadio Mané make such little impact and Daniel Sturridge was substituted after a difficult hour. Sturridge, to give him his due, came up against two resilient centre-backs in Eric Bailly and Chris Smalling and Klopp made the point afterwards that there was not a great deal of service for the striker. The early pressure that might have been anticipated from the home side never really materialised and it quickly became apparent Liverpool were not going to have the freedom to dictate the tempo as they had in their previous Anfield fixtures. The game, Klopp noted afterwards, was played more in the way that United would have wanted than his own team. Everything can feel very rushed in these fixtures and sometimes it is not such a bad thing to have a player who puts his foot on the ball. "The game was very hectic," Klopp said. "We couldn't get rid of the hectic pace. When you have the ball you have to calm down, immediately. We wasted a lot of energy, for nothing really."

Plus this is a different United team to the ones we are used to seeing. "Physical-wise, they are stronger than we are," Klopp said. Taller, too. Klopp also talked about knowing his team would need to guard against "a lot of high balls" once he saw the United line-up, with Wayne Rooney starting on the bench for the fourth successive match.

In the end, Liverpool can be satisfied with their first clean sheet of the season and though Mourinho called it a "very positive performance", the truth is United created very little after an encouraging start in which Marcus Rashford looked lively and Zlatan Ibrahimovic seemed intent on playing a prominent role.

United's best opportunity came 10 minutes into the second half when Paul Pogba, playing in a slightly more advanced role than usual, eluded Jordan Henderson before crossing to the far post. Ibrahimovic had an awkward angle to negotiate but a striker with his reputation still ought to have done better with his headed chance.

Otherwise, Liverpool were emerging as the more likely winners but even then, Henderson and Emre Can usually hung back rather than joining the team's attackers. One exception almost led to the breakthrough when Joël Matip strode elegantly forward and played the first pass of the night to open up the United defence. It took an age before Can, surrounded by opponents, took aim and De Gea's one-handed save, low to his right, was the first reminder of the goalkeeper's brilliance.

The second, from Coutinho, had Anfield howling in anguish but Klopp's praise for the opposition goalkeeper was mixed with criticism of his own players for not being telling enough with their passing. "We had 65% possession but you have to do more things with it," he complained.

Instead, the most positive aspect, perhaps, was that nobody could argue the referee Anthony Taylor's performance was crucial to the result, despite all the scrutiny on the Altrincham-based official beforehand. Taylor made a few mistakes and was reasonable without being immaculate – but the same could be said of both teams on a strangely subdued night.

*Compiled by Graeme Riley*

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The Mail

## JOSE CRUSHES KOP'S SPIRIT; Mourinho frustrates Liverpool as United snatch a point from Anfield bore draw

LIVERPOOL 0 MAN UTD 0

THEY may talk about this game for some time to come. They will talk about the day Jose Mourinho brought Manchester United to Anfield and almost nothing happened. Has there been a worse game between these fabled clubs? If there has, it is hard to recall. This was supposed to be the night when Mourinho brought United to Merseyside and laid his reputation on the line. It was supposed to be the night when his pragmatic methods were eased into the shadows by Jurgen Klopp's hard-running, dynamic Liverpool team.

It did not happen and we should have known it would not. Mourinho has achieved too much in his gilded career, poured too much into his life's work, to submit to popular whim. As such, he emerged from this night the happier man. Maybe the moral victory was his on a night when Liverpool brought just two saves -- fantastic as they were -- from United goalkeeper David de Gea all night.

What was beyond dispute, however, was the lamentable quality of this game. Liverpool came to life in the second half, raising the volume at their reconfigured stadium. United, for their part, were the betbooking ter side before the interval. There was no cut and thrust, though. No punch and counter-punch. This was just a poor game of football.

Klopp had laughed at suggestions that Mourinho may come here and attempt to close the game down. 'I can't see them playing only in their own half,' the Liverpool boss said of United. Even he could not have imagined United would spend so much of the first 30 minutes in Liverpool territory, though.

The last time United had been here -- in the Europa League last spring -- they were all but swallowed whole by a rampant Liverpool side. Early on last night, however, it was Liverpool who had to do the chasing, Liverpool who found it impossible to get the ball down and play.

Mourinho, as we should have expected, picked an unusual team. Marouane Fellaini started, as did Ashley Young for the first time in the Premier League this season. But United began with cohesion and certainty as Liverpool struggled to show their true selves.

In the opening minutes, all we seemed to see were fouls. There were five in the first five minutes as the game wore a disjointed and fractious look.

Mourinho would have been delighted about that. The one thing the United manager knew his team could not afford was for Liverpool to get off to a flyer. Things soon got better for United, too, as they passed the ball neatly in and around Liverpoolplayers, who looked as though they needed to be re-introduced to each other after the international break.

At times, Klopp's players could not even perform the basics. Emre Can turned one first touch into a tackle before Jordan Henderson erred similarly in presenting the ball to Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

As time wore on, though, the one thing United did not have to show for their control of the game was a goal or indeed a decent shot on target. Ibrahimovic ballooned an early free-kick into the Kop before Paul Pogba did likewise from open play. A cross from Marcus Rashford on the right did present Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius with a problem in the 25th minute but the German dealt with the threat well on his Anfield debut, diving to push the ball to safety on the far side. On the touchline, Klopp was showing signs of concern and it was no surprise. This was not hisLiverpool side he was watching, not in terms of their play anyway. Can did float one good long pass over Eric Bailly's shoulder and on to the toe of Daniel Sturridge in the 10th minute, only for the forward to fail with a difficult piece of control. Beyond that, Liverpoolwere not evident as an attacking threat until they grew into the game in the last 10 minutes of the half.

Still they lacked fluency but at least they developed momentum and generated some structured possession. Indeed it could be argued they created the best -- maybe the only -- opportunity of a poor half as a deep cross from Can allowed Robert Firmino to head in to De Gea's hands from an angle at the far post.

Referee Anthony Taylor, subject of so much unnecessary fuss before the game, was having a decent night. Not until the 44th minute did he make a meaningful intervention, United defender Bailly for bundling over Sturridge.

Young was also booked, for dissent, before half-time, then Liverpool keeper Karius tried to liven things up. His contributions had hitherto been assured but in presenting the ball to Rashford in the 48th minute he gave United a real chance. Rashford showed a rare lack of composure, however, and played the ball forward to Ibrahimovic who was clearly offside. As quickly as it had appeared, the opportunity was lost. Soon after Ibrahimovic had a real chance. Pogba had been quiet but his shimmy and cross from the right were superb as the hour approached and United's Swedish forward should have done an awful lot more than head the ball back across goal. It was a great chance.

Liverpool's first attacking contribution of the second period was to make a total hash of a training ground free-kick. Moments later, Can wriggled free in the penalty area to bring a wonderful low save from De Gea. Were we finally about to witness something approaching a watchable game?

It did improve. That was beyond dispute. Klopp sent on Adam Lallana and pushed Firmino through the middle. Before long the initiative was theirs and the save De Gea produced to deny Phillipe Coutinho from 25 yards with 18 minutes left was out of this world.

The Daily Telegraph

## United's short-term need thwarts Klopp's long view

Before you apply for a refund of whatever watching this game cost you, credit Liverpool with staying true to their big idea. They tried, at least, to inflict their energetic, enterprising style of play on a Manchester United side who took a page from Jose Mourinho's old Chelsea playbook of containment.

Liverpool have an animating purpose. United are still looking for theirs.

For them to use strength and power to shut down Liverpool's buzzy, pressing game was no surprise. Anfield is where Mourinho most likes to stamp out fun. But as United's manager searches for a formula for his expensive but unbalanced squad, Liverpool are more sure of where they are heading.

"They tried everything, but maybe with the wrong tools," Jurgen Klopp said of his players, bemoaning their lack of composure, and denying that favouritism was a hindrance. "We were not favourites in the dressing room because it's not important," Klopp said. "Tonight nobody thought about this. You can see Manchester United are a little bit more physical than us. In those situations when you have the ball you need to calm down immediately."

Favouritism in these loveless North-West clashes is what Liverpool wanted. To be expected to beat United is a new level for Klopp's emerging team. A new level of pressure, that is, and one which United were determined their hosts would not enjoy. Did we see the next Premier League champions on this pitch? Probably not, though Liverpool-United 'derbies' (many fans hate you calling them that) seldom cast these teams in a flattering light. The one safe conclusion is that Paul Scholes was right to say United lack an "identity", while Liverpoolare further forward in that respect. They know what they want to do to opponents.

United, on the other hand, are mainly power and pragmatism. On the touchline, Jose Mourinho, who called it an "acceptable" result, plays the percentages while searching for a long-term plan. That quest will be troubling him at nights. "Is there an identity to the team yet?" Scholes asked amid the hype around this game. "I don't think there is."

Liverpool, on the other hand, have thrilled their followers with a daring, dashing style that requires a kind of gang activity high up the pitch and speed of thought and action from the front five. Of these, only Daniel Sturridge, who lasted less than an hour before giving way to Adam Lallana, is a doubtful fit for Klopp's template.

The first night game at Anfield since the new Main Stand rose so imposingly opened out the old cauldron where, when the ground was smaller, a suffocating intensity would prevail, certainly on big European nights.

Now the stage feels wider, brighter, more mainstream European. The crowd in the Main Stand have been pulled further from the pitch, by upward construction, and Anfield feels more of an 'arena'. And a good thing too. The club needed to grow beyond their old architectural confines. Walking across Stanley Park now, at nightfall, you see modernity as well as tradition up ahead.

A blend of passion and panache is what Klopp is aiming for, without the ideology espoused by Pep Guardiola at Manchester City. Guardiola is always talking about his religion - the beliefs on which he will never compromise.

Klopp is more laid back about his principles, except when one of his players fails to observe them. Midway through the first half, Klopp broke into a sideways shuffle, like something from a barn dance, to show one of his defenders what he had been doing in the face of an attack. Then the jig stopped abruptly, and Klopp let rip. The rebuke was short, sharp, and unambiguous. Confidence and character are no small virtues in the manager of a team who have not won the title for 26 years. Since Klopp was appointed, Liverpool had scored a leagueleading 73 goals; they were aiming here for a fifth consecutive league win, but found United big, obdurate and good at spoiling. United's one win in four league outings swung the pendulum in favour of the club who dominated the 1970s and 1980s but then saw United annex the 1990s and Noughties. Last season's Europa League conquest of the old enemy was a lively business - but it could not conceal Liverpool's inability to dominate where it really counts: in the domestic competition United have collected 20 times and which Liverpool have not won since 1990.

In truth, United have not displayed a consistent identity or style since Sir Alex Ferguson stepped down, unless you count Louis van Gaal's ice age, which, Mourinho said recently, was still affecting his players.

Van Gaal's successor may have underestimated the imbalances in this squad - and the shortage of title-winning calibre. So he is stuck in a phase of grabbing what he can from games and identifying those for whom he has no use, while also trying to instill some zest. It would be easy to recoil at the idea of a Man United side placing so much emphasis on height and set pieces, but Mourinho is no purist. If he has a weapon, he will use it. Yet among the noises off stage were Scholes saying Mourinho was "confused" about his best starting XI and Borussia Dortmund's general manager suggesting Henrikh Mkhitaryan made a mistake in moving to Old Trafford. Liverpool have made countless mistakes in the transfer market, but no one joining now could feel he has taken a wrong turn, unless these signs of promise peter out.

The early talk of Liverpool as title contenders was not the usual hot air of late summer, early autumn. It was based on the vibrancy of their play and early league wins at Arsenal and Chelsea. United, though, were not here to give the Liverpool bandwagon a push, unless it was into the Mersey.

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THE INDEPENDENT

## Red Monday ends in disappointing deadlock as United frustrate at Anfield

Not for the first time, Jose Mourinho emerged from Anfield having seen his tactical blueprint work to the letter, but on this occasion he had to thank goalkeeper David de Gea for administering another dose of frustration for Liverpool. It was cagey, rarely exciting, and wholly lacking in controversy " much to the relief of referee Anthony Taylor " but a point at Anfield is always a valuable currency for any visiting team and with Chelsea to come at the weekend and a League Cup tie against Manchester City next midweek, Manchester United will regard this as a point gained. Liverpool, so adventurous so this season, failed to turn up at the party, but two second-half saves by De Gea from Emre Can and Philippe Coutinho, plus a crucial goal-saving tackle by Antonio Valencia on Roberto Firmino, ultimately denied them a victory they would barely have deserved. Facing the prospect of falling five points adrift of the top four with a defeat against United(tm)s greatest rivals, the stakes seemed so much higher for Mourinho than Jurgen Klopp ahead of the game. Liverpool(tm)s more eye-catching start to the season, their impressive victories at Arsenal and Chelsea, and Klopp(tm)s record of having lost just once in five previous encounters with Mourinho suggested that Anfield was the last place United would be kick-starting their season. They may have won their last four league encounters with the old enemy from the other end of the M62, but the timid surrender on this ground in the Europa League last season was the performance that had set alarm bells ringing in the ears of the United supporters. Even Gary Neville, the former United captain, had admitted to being frightened of what lay ahead at Anfield prior to the game. So with Mourinho starting without Juan Mata and Wayne Rooney, at the same time as handing Ashley Young his first league start since United(tm)s 1-0 win here on January 17, United(tm)s game-plan appeared to be one of containment. But the former Chelsea manager went the other way, setting out his team in a 4-2-3-1 formation, with [pounds sterling]89m world record signing Paul Pogba in an attacking role behind Zlatan Ibrahimovic. United were anything but set up to contain, with the visitors taking the game to Liverpool from the kick-off. Anfield was screaming for the home team to take the game to United, but Mourinho(tm)s blue shirts were first to every ball and Daniel Sturridge, making his 100th appearance for Liverpool, cut an isolated figure as he watched in frustration from his lone forward role at the other end. Mourinho, dressed all in black like the pantomime villain, applauded and encouraged from the technical area, but his players were unable to make their early dominance count. Ibrahimovic had the first opportunity with a sixth minute free-kick, but the Swede only achieved cheers of derision from the Kop with his effort flying high into the stand behind Loris Karius(tm)s goal. Pogba then sent another long range effort over before the Frenchman, still finding his feet at Old Trafford, sent a Marouane Fellaini shot goalwards with a deflection off his back. Karius caught that one easily, as he did with a deflected Ibrahimovic shot moments later. Klopp, meanwhile, was going frantic in his technical area " and out of it " with his players repeatedly coming second best. Emre Can responded with a run upfield, but the German(tm)s shot was as accurate as those from Ibrahimovic and Pogba, with the ball once again sailing high into the stand.

It was not until the 30th minute that David de Gea was forced into action, with the United keeper making easy work of plucking Roberto Firmino(tm)s header out of the air. So much for the week-long hype on Sky Sports ahead of this game. Billed as Red Monday, it was dead Monday as far as the first-half was concerned. United unquestionably went in happier at the interval. The game may have been edgy and lacking in quality, but Mourinho(tm)s tactics came out on top.

Could Klopp engineer a swing in the opposite direction in the second-half and somehow ignite the high-intensity game that has proved so destructive this season? At the outset, the answer was no, with the Liverpool manager sticking with the eleven players who had started the game and his lack of action enabled United to maintain their stranglehold on the game. Pogna and Ibrahimovic continued to chase down Karius and the Liverpool defenders whenever they had the ball and the goalkeeper almost gifted United a goal on 49 minutes when his loose ball was picked up by Pogba, only for the United midfielder to wastefully pass the clearly offside Ibrahimovic. Five minutes later, Pogba picked out Ibrahimovic with a perfect cross from the right, but on this occasion, it was the centre-forward who fell short, with his header bouncing across the face of the goal when he really should have hit the target. Liverpool continued to look disjointed and Can summed up their evening when he stumbled into the box, created a scoring chance and scuffed the ball goalwards. De Gea, nonetheless, was forced to produce a crucial full-stretch save to keep it out. Klopp, however, had seen enough and the hopelessly ineffective Sturridge was replaced with Adam Lallana. With half an hour left to play, both teams appeared to become consumed by the fear of losing rather than driven on by the fruits of victory. And it required a stunning save by De Gea from Coutinho to spark the game back into life on 71 minutes. Nothing looked to be on when the Brazilian picked up the ball 35 yards from goal, but he unleashed a right-foot strike that appeared destined for the top corner until De Gea palmed the shot away with his upper hand. It was a remarkable save, but Valencia produced an equally crucial intervention on 84 minutes with a perfectly-timed tackle inside the penalty area to take the ball off Firmino's toes, just as the Liverpool midfielder was set to shoot from six yards.

DAILY Mirror

## JOSE WINS THE SPOILS

LIVERPOOL 0
MANCHESTER UNITED 0

IN the end, it lived down to expectations.

After all, over the years we have come to expect Jose Mourinho to be the arch-spoiler and Jurgen Klopp is not quite ready to step completely out of his shadow.

It was not for the want of trying, of course, as only the brilliance of Manchester United keeper David De Gea with two stunning second-half saves denied Liverpool victory.

But these were rare moments of true quality in a blood-andthunder battle at Anfield which was more about commitment than composure.

Premier League number crunchers reported the visitors had just 35 per cent possession, their lowest since the stats were first used in the 2003-04 season. Hardly the football United are famed for.

Mourinho was asked about the figures in his press conference and then, 10 minutes later, came back into the room wagging his finger and telling anyone who would listen that it was wrong.

"We had 42 per cent possession," said Mourinho. "Our guy is better, he says 42 per cent." He was determined to make his point after leaving Anfield with a point.

But ultimately Liverpool did not make their superior possession count, with United probably shading the first half but ending up hanging on as Klopp's men finished strongly. Yet no one can paint this as a classic and, after all the hype, it probably suggested neither team is quite ready to step forward and dominate just yet.

Klopp was philosophical as even he enjoyed Liverpool's first clean sheet in 10 league games but, as an attacking force, it took them far too long to get going.

They were uncharacteristically slow out of the blocks, causing Klopp to become frustrated in his technical area as his men sat back rather than pressed.

That allowed United to take charge of the first-half even if they failed to create many clearcut chances, with Zlatan Ibrahimovic reduced to shooting from long range.

Liverpool finally created some momentum and Jordan Henderson's cross found Roberto Firmino at the back post but the Brazilian planted his header straight at De Gea.

Mourinho attempted to stir up a row about referee Anthony Taylor living just six miles from Old Trafford, but the official did not rise to the bait and did not hand out a yellow card until the 44th minute.

That was to Eric Bailly for going straight through the back of Daniel Sturridge while Ashley Young - a surprise inclusion in the United line-up - also got a yellow for dissent before the break.

United should have gone ahead on 54 minutes when Paul Pogba's cross picked out Ibrahimovic, but the Swede headed across goal rather than at the target and a glorious chance was gone.

Klopp brought on Adam Lallana just before the hour and his introduction lifted Liverpool, who could easily have gone on to win.

A black cat walked across De Gea's goalmouth during the warm-up.

But rather than bringing bad luck, perhaps it was a good omen because the United keeper produced two stunning saves.

Liverpool defender Joel Matip brought the ball out of defence, Emre Can picked it up and ran into the box only for his closerange effort to be brilliantly tipped away by De Gea.

The Spaniard's stop in the 71st minute was even better.

Philippe Coutinho cut in from the left and unleashed a brilliant curling right-foot shot which De Gea pushed away at full stretch.

Liverpool finished on top as Firmino raced into the box but, just as he was about to pull the trigger, right-back Antonio Valencia made a brilliant lastditch tackle.

It was not pretty, and hardly an epic clash between the bitter rivals, even if Mourinho, at his most argumentative, might disagree.

Klopp, the more attacking and cavalier manager, was disappointed but Liverpool did not do enough to earn a win which would have been a huge statement for their season.

*Compiled by Graeme Riley*

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LIVERPOOL ECHO

## Frustration the overriding emotion for Klopp's Reds as Mourinho spoils party

A sense of anti-climax hung over Anfield at the final whistle.
After all the hype, all the expectation, the occasion fell decidedly flat.
The logo on Liverpool's shirts read 'Seeing is Believing' but there was nothing here that will live long in the memory. Frustration was the overriding emotion for Jurgen Klopp's men after they failed to find a way past Manchester United.
Once again Jose Mourinho was basking in the glory of being the party pooper in L4 as for only the second time in the Premier League era English football's arch rivals fought out a drab goalless stalemate. Having already seen Liverpool swat aside Arsenal and Chelsea this term, the sense of disappointment at the final whistle was understandable. Kopites wanted United to feel the full force of their resurgence under Klopp and for the Reds to prove they are genuine title contenders. A run of five straight wins in all competitions ground to a halt as the goals dried up. Liverpool's late surge was in vain as they were ultimately left to rue their sluggish first-half performance. It was undoubtedly an opportunity missed. However, when the dust has settled this result should do little to burst the bubble of optimism which has grown steadily over the past two months.
The fact is that Liverpool sit just two points behind leaders Manchester City having endured a more difficult start to the campaign than any of their rivals.
A first league clean sheet of the season should also be a source of pride as Klopp seeks to address an area of weakness.
United celebrated like they had won the game but the reality is that they couldn't beat a below-par Liverpool and ended up holding on grimly for a share of the spoils. You don't get much for £165million these days.
Klopp's men were expected to fly out the traps in a bid to do to United what they had done to both Leicester and Hull on home turf so far this term.
But it simply didn't happen. Rather than be energised by the electric atmosphere and stamp their authority on the contest from the start, Liverpool looked like a team wracked by nerves and anxiety.
Maybe by showing a modicum of ambition Mourinho caught the hosts by surprise. United didn't simply 'park the bus' and in fact they produced the greater threat during a frenetic but horribly scrappy opening 45 minutes.
Anfield let out a collective roar when Philippe Coutinho shut down Antonio Valencia and expertly won the ball back early on. But around the tireless little Brazilian there was far too much mediocrity. Liverpool gave United a helping hand with a string of careless errors as possession was repeatedly tossed away cheaply.
How the Reds missed the energy of Adam Lallana, who was only fit enough for a second-half cameo, and the composure of Gini Wijnaldum.
Their absence from the starting line up handed opportunities to Daniel Sturridge and Emre Can but both replacements were well off the pace. This was Can's first Premier League start of the season and it showed as the German's touch regularly let him down. Sturridge was starved of decent service but he was far too static and when he was picked out he failed to test David de Gea.
The result of the enforced changes was that the Reds were disjointed with little fluency to their play. United got around Liverpool's pressing by hitting long diagonal balls forward with Zlatan Ibrahimovic dropping off into space to influence proceedings, while Marcus Rashford's pace down the right was a source of concern. Both Ibrahimovic and Paul Pogba peppered fans in the Kop with wayward long-range strikes before Joel Matip expertly blocked a Pogba piledriver.
Klopp couldn't hide his disdain for what he was witnessing. He raged at the fourth official, referee Anthony Taylor and any Liverpool player who came within earshot. At one stage he was five yards outside his technical area desperately trying to get orders across. Belatedly, Liverpool began to click into gear with Coutinho starting to pull the strings.
De Gea was finally forced into action when Firmino connected with Henderson's cross but his header was tame. It was the biggest night of Loris Karius' career after he was once again preferred to Simon Mignolet.
The young German keeper did well to push Rashford's dangerous low cross to safety but then flapped at Ashley Young's delivery. He was lucky that Ibrahimovic was penalised for a shove on Dejan Lovren. Much had been made about the appointment of Greater Manchester-based Taylor for this fixture but neither team could point an accusing finger in his direction.
At Swansea a fortnight earlier a half-time rollicking from Klopp triggered a major second-half transformation. But when battle resumed at Anfield they continued to struggle. Karius' ability with the ball at his feet is supposed to be the one big advantage that he has over Mignolet but he's kept that talent well hidden during the early stages of his Reds career. The summer signing from Mainz breathed another sigh of relief after United failed to punish his wayward pass for Lovren which was seized upon by Pogba. United were wasteful with Ibrahimovic nodding harmlessly back across goal when he looked set to put away Pogba's inviting cross. Can forced a smart low save from De Gea but with Liverpool still spluttering urgent action was required and on the hour Klopp summoned Lallana with the ineffective Sturridge making way.
Lallana has arguably been the Reds' outstanding performer so far this term and his importance to this side was once again reinforced.
His introduction instantly improved Liverpool, who looked more potent with Firmino in the No 9 role vacated by Sturridge. Lallana lashed high and wide as the Reds cranked up the pressure and enjoyed their best spell of the night.
Coutinho thought he had broken the deadlock with a curling 30-yarder but somehow De Gea denied him with a stunning finger-tip save.
The little Brazilian's flick then released Firmino, who was thwarted by a last-ditch sliding challenge by Antonio Valencia just before he could pull the trigger.
Divock Origi and Alberto Moreno came on for the shattered Firmino and Milner as Klopp demanded one final push and United merely sought to waste time and run down the clock. It was classic Mourinho. This was far from vintage Liverpool under Klopp but no harm was done.

Match Facts

**Liverpool:** Karius, Clyne, Lovren, Matip, Milner (Moreno 86), Henderson, Can, Coutinho, Firmino (Origi 86), Mane, Sturridge (Lallana 60).
**Not used:** Mignolet, Grujic, Lucas, Klavan
**Manchester United:** De Gea, Valencia, Bailly, Smalling, Blind, Herrera, Pogba, Fellaini, Rashford (Rooney 77), Young (Shaw 90), Ibrahimovic.
**Not used:** Romero, Rojo, Mata, Lingard, Carrick.
**Referee:** Anthony Taylor **Attendance:** 52,769 Goals: none Bookings: Bailly. Young, Ibrahimovic, Fellaini **Man of the match: Philippe Coutinho. At the heart of everything best about Liverpool.**

Manchester Evening News

## Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho wins battle vs Klopp as Reds work hard for Liverpool draw

The stand out plus for Manchester United at Anfield is that when Jose Mourinho 's anniversary of his first match in charge comes up the Reds might be further along the road in his revolution than Liverpool are in Jurgen Klopp's.
It was a year since the German first took charge of a Liverpool game and it has only been this season that the force of his style has begun to sink completely in.
Mourinho had been worried early in his Old Trafford tenure that it might take a long time to flush out Louis van Gaal's ideas out of United players' heads.
But on a night when the Reds' manager had a game plan to counter his opponent's dangerous blueprint his selection had no problem taking it on board and executing it.
As a positive it was something other than a point United could take from a match they were supposed to wilt under the hurricane force of Liverpool's strategy.
It has been obvious to everyone that Klopp goes for high intensity fury as his favoured way of playing.
Hit 'em hard, hit 'em high up the pitch and when they get up hit 'em again with another wave of attacks.
It is ferocious and full of energy.
In their heart of hearts United fans must have wondered if Mourinho's side could cope with such a fierce onslaught.
The Reds have largely done nothing more than okay under the new boss and all the pre-match talk from the TV experts was that they wouldn't survive such a blitzkrieg. But canny Jose played them at their own game.
When Paul Pogba lined up on the centre circle with Zlatan Ibrahimovic for the kick off you suspected it might be the last time the pair would be in close proximity up front. But the Swede and the Frenchman were as near to a front two partnership as you could get. It pushed United up the field and Liverpool initially didn't know how to handle it. The Reds' tanks were full to the brim and using up fuel to keep breathing down Liverpool's necks.
The Kop didn't like it and were irritated that their own side were reduced to cute little flicks and passes in a desperate bid to create room to work in and hurt United. But a dark blue shirt was attached to them every time they touched the ball. The whole plan relied on United having the energy to keep it going and the executed it expertly.
When it did flag late in the first half Liverpool began to start playing and can have been United's only concern after the interval that they might not have the vigour and strength to keep it going.
Liverpool rely on Coutinho to turn their powerplay into chances but Ander Herrera was superb looking after the Brazilian.
With 700m watching in over 200 countries all that was required was for someone to turn the frantic action into something that might bring the goalkeeper's into the night's action.
David de Gea has had some top grade outings against Liverpool but hadn't looked like he'd need to pull one out until Emre Can dug a shot out of a ruck of players and then Philippe Coutinho curled in an excellent shot that had half the Kop out of their seats ready to hail a wonder strike. Instead they sat back down in awe of the Spaniard's fabulous airborne tip around the post.
But it was a period that signalled that Klopp's pressing game was finding out some of the Reds' legs.
But they had enough left in them to stifle the onslaught and it was certainly United who were celebrating at the final whistle more than their hosts.

*Compiled by Graeme Riley*

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

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17 October 2016

BBC

Liverpool and Manchester United played out a goalless and uneventful stalemate on a disappointing night at Anfield.
Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool would have drawn level on points with leaders Manchester City with a fifth successive Premier League victory, but were subdued by a classic Jose Mourinho performance of defensive organisation and discipline.
United did not allow Liverpool to build the momentum and intensity that has characterised their game this season, while Mourinho's limited attacking ambitions ensured chances were at a premium.
The Portuguese was still grateful for two fine second-half saves from goalkeeper David de Gea, who dived low to stop Emre Can and saved athletically from Philippe Coutinho's 25-yard effort.
United's best chance also came in the second half, but the unmarked Zlatan Ibrahimovic directed Paul Pogba's cross off target.
The visitors had just 35% of possession - their lowest in a Premier League match since Opta began recording the data in 2003-04.
While this deadlock does little for the ambitions of both teams, there is no doubt who will be the happier manager.
This was, in so many respects, the most Mourinho performance of his short time at United.
Klopp came on to the pitch at the final whistle to applaud Liverpool's fans, but there was a tinge of disappointment in his measured tread as he trudged off.
His side's promising start to the season has been built on pressing opponents into submission - a high-pressure style that has brought victories at Arsenal and Chelsea, as well as nine goals in two home wins against Leicester City and Hull City.
But Mourinho picked a powerful, athletic side and instructed them to turn the tables on Liverpool's pressing game.
Ander Herrera was at the heart of United's smothering gameplan, almost operating in the pockets of Coutinho and Roberto Firmino in midfield, while Liverpool were never given a second.
They simply could not find a way through.
United held their shape and discipline, much to their manager's satisfaction, although he still needed those two superb saves from De Gea, and a magnificent saving tackle from Antonio Valencia to stop Firmino as he raced in on goal.
It was classic Mourinho, a tactic he has perfected and utilised throughout his career, and Anfield's increasing anger and frustration will have been music to his ears.
Peripheral Pogba
This match should have been the perfect stage for the £89m Pogba - but once again he was a peripheral figure.
The world's most expensive player was used in a more advanced role and is certainly on the same wavelength as Ibrahimovic, delivering a perfect cross which the Swede should have converted.
In other aspects, though, he operated on the margins of the game and failed to exert the influence expected of a player of his quality and experience.
United will expect much more as the season goes on.
Referee Taylor keeps control
Anthony Taylor was the man in the middle in every sense after the heat generated by the appointment of the Manchester-based official for a meeting between these two fierce rivals.
Mourinho said the appointment made it "difficult" for Taylor, and put him under pressure - comments being investigated by the Football Association - while former referee Keith Hackett even suggested it represented a risk to his and his family's safety.
It certainly increased the scrutiny on Taylor, who felt the wrath of The Kop within minutes - complete with colourful reminders about his place of residence - when he did not book Marcus Rashford for a foul on James Milner.
It was to the official's credit that he did not buckle in the atmosphere, kept discipline without resorting to a rash of yellow cards, and controlled a game that always has explosive potential.
Man of the match - Ander Herrera
What they said:
Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "I am not frustrated but I am not happy with the performance. No-one will show this game in 10 or 20 years but we could have played better.
"It was a hectic game, interrupted here and there, but we lost patience with our passing game. The attitude of my team was really good. We were ready to fight but when you can play better, you have to.
"The kind of defence is difficult to play. The man-marking is really difficult, they are stronger than us. We wasted energy in the first half for nothing. The second half was better and with fresher legs in second half we could have created more."
Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho: "It is not the result we wanted but it is a positive result. It is a result that stops a direct opponent getting three points at home, so not a bad result.
"The game was difficult for both teams but for longer periods it was more difficult for them than us.
"We controlled the game not just tactically but the emotion of the game. That was probably the quietest Anfield I had and I was expecting it to be the other way.
"It was a positive performance."
Analysis:
Former Wales midfielder Robbie Savage on BBC Radio 5 live: "Liverpool have not played well tonight and United have done a job.
"It is the first points that Liverpool have dropped at Anfield. Mourinho has done his job.
"He got a point so it was the right thing to do. They lost a few games this season and have come to Liverpool and got a draw, so you have to say job done.
"But in an attacking sense they offered nothing."
The stats you need to know
This is only the second time in Premier League history a meeting between these sides has finished 0-0 (also September 2005).
This is Mourinho's lowest points total after his first eight league games with a new club since his stint with Uniao de Leiria (10 points).
United had two more points at this stage last season under Louis van Gaal (16) than they do this season (14).
Liverpool have failed to score in only two of their 18 home Premier League games under Klopp - both against United.
After scoring with four of his first 15 shots in the Premier League, Ibrahimovic has failed to find the net with any of his past 26 in the competition.
What next?
United are next in action when they host Fenerbahce in the Europa League on Thursday (20:05 BST) before returning to Premier League action at Mourinho's former club Chelsea on Sunday (16:00 BST).
Liverpool host West Brom in the 17:30 BST Premier League match on Saturday.

*Compiled by Graeme Riley*

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17 October 2016

BBC

Match ends, Liverpool 0, Manchester United 0.
90'+4' Second Half ends, Liverpool 0, Manchester United 0.
90'+2' Substitution, Manchester United. Luke Shaw replaces Ashley Young.
90'+1' Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
90'+1' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
90'+1' Foul by Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United.
90' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
90' Paul Pogba (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
90' Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
90' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
90' Foul by Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United.
89' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
89' Foul by Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United.
86' Substitution, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno replaces James Milner.
85' Substitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Roberto Firmino.
83' Attempt blocked. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.
83' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
83' Foul by Paul Pogba (Manchester United.
81' Attempt missed. Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Daley Blind with a cross following a corner.
81' Corner, Manchester United. Conceded by Emre Can.
79' Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right.
78' Attempt blocked. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
77' Substitution, Manchester United. Wayne Rooney replaces Marcus Rashford.
77' Offside, Manchester United. Marouane Fellaini tries a through ball, but Zlatan Ibrahimovic is caught offside.
76' Offside, Liverpool. Adam Lallana tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.
76' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked.
73' Delay over. They are ready to continue.
72' Delay in match James Milner (Liverpool because of an injury.
72' Delay in match Marcus Rashford (Manchester United because of an injury.
72' Foul by Joel Matip (Liverpool.
72' Chris Smalling (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
71' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by David de Gea.
71' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Emre Can.
69' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
69' Antonio Valencia (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
69' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
69' Foul by Daley Blind (Manchester United.
66' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
66' Chris Smalling (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
66' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Chris Smalling.
63' Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.
63' Daley Blind (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
62' Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
62' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
62' Foul by Paul Pogba (Manchester United.
62' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
62' Foul by Paul Pogba (Manchester United.
61' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
61' Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
60' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
60' Ashley Young (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
60' Substitution, Liverpool. Adam Lallana replaces Daniel Sturridge.
59' Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Joel Matip.
57' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
57' Foul by Ander Herrera (Manchester United.
54' Attempt missed. Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United header from the left side of the six yard box misses to the right. Assisted by Paul Pogba with a cross.
54' Joel Matip (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
54' Foul by Ashley Young (Manchester United.
53' Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.
53' Antonio Valencia (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
51' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool.
51' Ander Herrera (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
49' Offside, Manchester United. Paul Pogba tries a through ball, but Zlatan Ibrahimovic is caught offside.
Second Half begins Liverpool 0, Manchester United 0.
45'+2' First Half ends, Liverpool 0, Manchester United 0.
45'+1' Ashley Young (Manchester United is shown the yellow card.
45'+1' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
45'+1' Ander Herrera (Manchester United wins a free kick on the right wing.
45' Offside, Manchester United. Zlatan Ibrahimovic tries a through ball, but Ashley Young is caught offside.
44' Eric Bailly (Manchester United is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
44' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
44' Foul by Eric Bailly (Manchester United.
42' Joel Matip (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
42' Foul by Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United.
36' Offside, Manchester United. Ashley Young tries a through ball, but Zlatan Ibrahimovic is caught offside.
34' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ashley Young.
32' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
32' Foul by Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United.
30' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
30' Foul by Ander Herrera (Manchester United.
30' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
30' Foul by Antonio Valencia (Manchester United.
29' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.
29' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
29' Foul by Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United.
26' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
26' Foul by Ander Herrera (Manchester United.
24' Joel Matip (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
24' Foul by Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United.
23' Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
17' Attempt saved. Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Antonio Valencia.
17' Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.
17' Ander Herrera (Manchester United wins a free kick on the right wing.
16' Attempt missed. Marouane Fellaini (Manchester United right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.
15' Attempt blocked. Paul Pogba (Manchester United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Zlatan Ibrahimovic.
14' Attempt missed. Paul Pogba (Manchester United right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Daley Blind.
11' Offside, Manchester United. Ashley Young tries a through ball, but Marouane Fellaini is caught offside.
10' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
10' Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United wins a free kick in the attacking half.
6' Attempt missed. Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United right footed shot from outside the box is too high from a direct free kick.
5' Foul by Joel Matip (Liverpool.
5' Paul Pogba (Manchester United wins a free kick in the attacking half.
5' Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.
5' Ander Herrera (Manchester United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
4' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
4' Foul by Ander Herrera (Manchester United.
3' Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.
2' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
2' Foul by Marcus Rashford (Manchester United.
1' Foul by Daley Blind (Manchester United.
1' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
First Half begins.
Lineups are announced and players are warming up.

*Compiled by Graeme Riley*