

Date: 14 December 2016
 Opposition: Middlesbrough
 Competition: League

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THE TIMES

Karius dropped as Lallana double puts Liverpool in second Middlesbrough 0 Liverpool 3 Lallana 29, 68, Origi 60
 Loris Karius was to be denied the opportunity to show he could heed the waspish advice on offer from his tormentors. Instead, as he sat sourfaced on the substitutes' bench, Liverpool hit back on his behalf.

This was the "shut up and do your job" kind of performance that Jamie Carragher and the Neville brothers had spoken about, a display that owed everything to patience before Jurgen Klopp watched his players cut free and rip Middlesbrough to shreds to move back into second in the Premier League.

Liverpool's second goal on the hour sealed this success and served as a tribute to trigonometry. The rat-a-tattat of one-touch passing was a sheer delight as the ball zipped around in a blur: Sadio Mane to Nathaniel Clyne and then back to Mane, who swapped passes with Georginio Wijnaldum not once, but twice, before the Dutchman released the marauding Adam Lallana. His pass was tucked away by Divock Origi, the Belgian scoring his fifth goal in as many games.

The Riverside is supposed to be a bogey ground for Liverpool, their previous win here having come in 2002, but last night the hoodoo was emphatically lifted. By the end, the focus had shifted from Klopp's decision to reintroduce Simon Mignolet for Karius -- after the latter's costly aberrations against Bournemouth and West Ham United -- and back on to his players' rampant instincts, which made light of a recent dip in form.

Karius's demotion is indefinite and, on this evidence, there will no quick route back into the line-up as Klopp explained: "Now it is Simon's chance. I know how strong Loris Karius is, but unfortunately he couldn't show it in the last one or two games," Klopp said.

"I am absolutely not interested in public pressure, but I am interested in the boy and there is no reason to push him through this situation.

"It's not that he immediately wanted a hug. When you are at the right club and you are not in the best moment, you step aside for a moment, train hard, improve, get back to your best shape and then we will see what happens.

"But, of course, for the player, it was not the best moment in his life."

Mignolet's return ended with a 50th clean sheet in all competitions for the club and he was rarely tested beyond a strong lefthanded save which kept out a rising shot from Viktor Fischer.

By then, Liverpool had already eked out an advantage. In the 29th minute a ball wide from Mane encouraged Clyne to burst into space and his cross to the back post was measured to perfection. Lallana, leaping above Adam Forshaw, dispatched the header.

By the end, Lallana had added another strike and conjured the assist, which means he has had a hand in 12 goals already this term. It took him the whole of the previous campaign to reach double figures in this respect and his redeployment in a midfield three, rather than as part of an attacking triumvirate, has allowed his influence to grow.

Middlesbrough had no one who could come close to matching his guile, and head coach Aitor Karanka knows the task of adding extra quality in January is the toughest part of his job. The pace of Adama Traore troubled Liverpool down the right, but too often Alvaro Negredo was isolated and a visiting defence shorn of the reassuring presence of Joel Matip, who had suffered a recurrence of his ankle injury, never looked like unravelling.

"My thoughts are we have lost against one of the best teams in the country," said Karanka.

"We were more aggressive in the first half, but in the second half it was impossible. Liverpool were much better than us. Their intensity, their quality on the ball, everything.

"Even when they were winning 2-0 they kept the same intensity, they passed with the same speed and won the ball back with the same aggression.

"Like Chelsea, they are the really strong candidates to win the league. We have played all the top teams and they are as good as any of them."

The only surprise was that it had taken until the 60th minute for that spellbinding second goal and breathing space to arrive. Mane had struck the post immediately before the break after bursting onto Origi's pass and found himself thwarted by Victor Valdes, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, soon after the interval.

With Liverpool clicking through the gears, and for once not prone to sloppiness, the third arrived eight minutes later.

Mane was again involved, slipping away from tackles and linking twice with Origi, whose cross evaded Antonio Barragan and Marten de Roon, who were both left floundering hopelessly on the turf, and Lallana side-footed his finish into a gaping goal.

If Liverpool aborted a goalkeeping experiment on Teesside, then more importantly for Klopp, they also managed to stop the rot after a recent wobble. Middlesbrough (4-5-1): V Valdes 6 -- A Barragan 5, C Chambers 5, B Gibson 5, Fabio 5 -- A Traore 6, M De Roon 6, A Clayton 5 (sub: G Leadbitter 56, 5), A Forshaw 6, V Fischer 6 (sub: S Downing 56, 5) -- A Negredo 5 (sub: J Rhodes 77). Substitutes not used: B Guzan, Bernardo, E Nsue, D Nugent. Booked: Gibson. Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet 7 -- N Clyne 7, R Klavan 7, D Lovren 7, J Milner 6 -- J Henderson 7, G Wijnaldum 7 (sub: O Ejaria 87), A Lallana 9 (sub: L Leiva 82) -- S Mane 8, D Origi 7 (sub: T Alexander-Arnold 90), R Firmino 6. Substitutes not used: L Karius, A Moreno, K Stewart, B Woodburn. Referee: J Moss.

the guardian

Lallana scores twice to ease Liverpool to victory over Middlesbrough
 The cameras attempted to pan towards Liverpool's dropped goalkeeper on more than one occasion here but no one was really noticing. Jürgen Klopp's side made sure that Loris Karius was not the story on a night when Adam Lallana starred in a convincing victory and they played the kind of scintillating football that has become their trademark this season.

Simon Mignolet replaced Karius after his recent errors but the saga that dominated the build-up to this game was soon forgotten. Liverpool started steadily after dropping points in their last two games but when they hit their stride Middlesbrough were simply no match. If the hosts' manager, Aitor Karanka, was being brutally honest a three-goal defeat was probably not the worst result. Each goal was the result of sharp team interplay and Lallana's fine campaign continues. He opened the scoring with a header, set up Divock Origi for the second and made the points secure with a brilliant third, as Liverpool went above Arsenal in the Premier League to second place.

Karius watched from the bench as Liverpool controlled the tempo throughout. Klopp said afterwards that the German would not be restored to the starting XI immediately and that Mignolet -- who had little to do on Teesside -- would keep his place for the foreseeable future.

"I'm not interested in public pressure, I'm interested in the boy and there's no reason to push him through this situation," said Klopp of the decision to drop Karius. "At the end they were little mistakes and they can happen. There is no reason to push him [Karius] through this situation, especially when you have a goalkeeper like Simon Mignolet."

Asked how Karius took the news, Klopp added: "How you can imagine. It was not that he immediately wanted a hug, but it's normal. It's football. It's all OK but of course for the player it was not the best moment in life. Now it's Simon's chance." Mignolet therefore started a Premier League match for the first time since mid-September. The Belgian spooned a clearance high early on but was relatively assured during a half in which Liverpool had the edge.

After a tight opening 20 minutes when the only effort on target was a 25-yard strike from Middlesbrough's left-back, Fábio, Klopp's side began to take control. They had pressed and dominated possession without creating too much, until a fine team move gave them the lead.

In the 29th minute Georginio Wijnaldum played a fizzing ball out right to Nathaniel Clyne, who ran on to the pass with pace and made room to cross deep. Lallana timed his run well in the penalty area and rose superbly to nod Clyne's accurate ball past Víctor Valdés and in at the far post.

It was the kind of team goal that Liverpool have become accustomed to producing this season, and the lead was one that they probably deserved. Middlesbrough almost responded immediately, Viktor Fischer forcing a smart stop from Mignolet at the near post, yet it was Liverpool who came closest to another before half-time through Sadio Mané, who struck a post after being sent through by Origi. Middlesbrough were on the back foot immediately in the second half and Klopp praised his side's slick attacking. He said: "It's not the first time this season. The boys are capable of doing things like this, it is really good. The third goal, it's perfect. It looks simple but it isn't. It was a good game tonight. I wouldn't have expected it but the reaction was great."

Liverpool were well on top and Mané, in particular, was in the thick of it. In the 55th minute the away supporters appealed for handball against Calum Chambers after Mané's shot from Roberto Firmino's low cross, but although the ball appeared to strike an arm it was tucked into Chambers' body.

Soon, though, those supporters were celebrating a second and once again it was a fine team move with Lallana at its heart. The midfield interplay was simply too good for Middlesbrough and by the time Wijnaldum slipped the ball through to Lallana, the red and white Boro shirts were spinning. Lallana raced to the by-line and pulled it across for Origi who finished coolly from close range.

Karanka had already tried to stem the tide by bringing on Stewart Downing and Grant Leadbitter, but his team were being comprehensively outplayed and the game was done soon enough. This time Origi was the provider and Lallana the scorer, his sixth of the season from another fine move in the 68th minute that had similarities to Liverpool's second. Origi raced on to a loose ball and as Firmino made the decoy run to the near post, Origi pulled it back to the far instead where Lallana finished emphatically.

"We've lost against one of the best teams that we've played so far this season," said Karanka. "When teams like them play at that level it's difficult. We tried in the first half, in the second I tried to put two fresh players on for more high pressure but it's difficult because of the way they move the ball."

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The Mail

Lallana's leap as Mignolet keeps clean sheet
 MIDDLESBROUGH 0
 LIVERPOOL 3

SO it turns out Jurgen Klopp called this one wrong: Loris Karius could have played and the final result would not have been in any semblance of danger.

After 72 hours of the news agenda being driven by Karius' erratic form, Klopp decided no good could have come from subjecting him to an ordeal on the barren banks of the Tees, at a venue where Liverpool historically falter. As it turned out, this became the easiest game of the campaign for any Liverpool goalkeeper, so dominant were the outfield players, so totally ruthless when the chances came, it made no difference who was standing between the posts at Middlesbrough.

'Judging Loris in this moment makes no sense,' said Klopp.

'Simon Mignolet is on the bench and we have to have competition. It's all about Liverpool. The boys have good character. Loris is still a great keeper.'

While Karius suffered on the bench, Mignolet was given the privileged view of watching Liverpool regain the winning habit by outpacing and outclassing their hosts. They scored three -- two from Adam Lallana, one from Divock Origi -- but might have finished with six. Here was an emphatic answer to those asking if they could keep up with the pacesetters. Lallana, in particular, was terrific, but so were many others, not least the spring-heeled Sadio Mane, whose pace terrified Boro all evening.

For all the hullabaloo over who had said what, it had been easy to lose sight of one thing: Karius had come under fire because he had cost his title-chasing team priceless points.

So, with Chelsea setting a relentless pace and showing no signs of stopping, Klopp had to act. This has been a bogey stadium that has frequently caused them nightmares. The last time they were here, in February 2009, defeat was fatal to Liverpool's title charge. Klopp, then, could not afford to gamble and his team were quick to find a flowing rhythm in their play.

Just before the half-hour, Mane saw Nathaniel Clyne scurrying forward from right-back. Clyne delivered a perfect cross to the back post, where Lallana planted his fifth goal of the season with a fine header. Just before half-time, Origi's reverse ball enabled Mane to race clear but his shot hit the woodwork. Origi, on the rebound, could only fire into the side netting.

But Klopp need not have worried. Liverpool resumed the second period in the same mood -- calm, efficient, passing the ball in triangles that left Middlesbrough seeing stars and, in the 61st minute, they killed the game when Origi applied the finish to a pinpoint Lallana cross. Soon after, the favour was repaid. Referee Jon Moss allowed play to go on after Ben Gibson had clattered into Mane and Origi picked out Lallana at the back post, who rifled in left-footed.

By now, Klopp was a picture of happiness, back-slapping his assistant Zeljko Buvac as Liverpool players engulfed Lallana. Once again, all was right with the world.

The Daily Telegraph

Lallana leads Liverpool rout after Klopp gets ruthless

It was the night Jurgen Klopp showed there is a ruthless streak behind his toothy smile, and his Liverpool side displayed their class in a crushing away win.

Middlesbrough held their own in the first half, but some of Liverpool's pass-and-move football was a joy to watch, and the way they moved through the gears in the second half was like a sports car pulling away from a family saloon.

Middlesbrough are solid and reliable, but Liverpool have a touch of class that means they can always accelerate away in games like this.

Their defensive frailties may yet cost them the title - Boro did not do enough to prove those problems at the back no longer exist - but there is not a more attractive side to watch in the Premier League than Liverpool in this sort of form. Having looked a little vulnerable in recent weeks, shaken by the defeat at Bournemouth and frustrated by the draw with West Ham, this was a powerful return to form.

It was also a reminder that, while Klopp exudes charm, he can also be brutal when he needs to be, as Loris Karius discovered.

Klopp may have thrown a protective arm around his error-prone goalkeeper, but it was more out of a paternal sense of duty than conviction. No manager can allow one of his players to be subjected to the sort of criticism fired at Karius during a difficult few weeks for the German, but neither can he ignore it.

By rounding on former Manchester United defender Gary Neville and his younger brother Philip, Klopp diverted headlines this week and amused supporters. He has shown he will always support his players in the face of outside abuse. However, in dropping Karius just 24 hours after verbally mauling the Neville brothers, Klopp also displayed a ruthless streak.

Forget the spite that may have fuelled the criticism, Karius's performances have not been good enough, and just two months after declaring the former Mainz goalkeeper was his first choice, Klopp has been forced to change his mind. Whether he doubts Karius's confidence or his ability is a moot point, the decision to take him out has been made because it had to be. A successful team cannot carry a shaky goalkeeper.

Up stepped Simon Mignolet - someone who has also made the occasional blunder and had his fair share of criticism on Merseyside since arriving from Sunderland in 2013 - for his first league appearance since September, knowing a mistake-free display would almost certainly guarantee him a lengthy run in the side.

Unlike his rival, Mignolet was well-protected by his defence, as Boro surprisingly had the better of the first 20 minutes. Middlesbrough's problem is they do not create enough chances, and although they played some nice football, their lack of sparkle in and around the area meant they rarely sliced Liverpool open.

Mignolet, though, did what he had to do well and he made one excellent save in the first half, sticking out a firm left hand to tip a shot from Viktor Fischer wide after he had tried to sneak it inside his near post. Liverpool were not at their best. In fact, they were strangely sluggish in much of their play, but when they needed to be they were clinical. The opening goal was a devastating move; a training-ground exercise impeccably executed, as Sadio Mane span away from his marker and played an inch-perfect pass for right back Nathaniel Clyne to run on to without breaking his stride.

His first-time cross was just as precise, dropping exquisitely on to the head of Adam Lallana as he arrived at the far post. It was Lallana's fifth goal of an extremely impressive season. Liverpool almost scored a second before the break, when Divock Origi slipped a through ball in for Mane, whose shot came back off the post.

It was a temporary let-off for Boro. Liverpool were superb in the second half, passing around their hosts almost at will, and the only surprise was it took so long for them to score a second goal.

Mane should have supplied it, but missed two good chances before the visitors made sure of the three points on the hour-mark with a second goal that was even better than their first.

Mane and Georginio Wijnaldum played some quick one-touch passing in the middle of the pitch, before feeding the ball into Lallana. The England international's decision-making was as delightful as his technique and he laid a perfect pass across for Origi to side-foot home.

Boro simply are not a team with the attacking imagination to pull back a two-goal deficit. Even after manager Aitor Karanka had made a bold double substitution, his side remained on the back foot. It was game over when Liverpool notched their third. Mane and Origi were again involved as Lallana timed his run to side-foot past Victor Valdes.

Player ratings Middlesbrough Liverpool 4-3-3 5 Valdes 6 Barragan 6 Chambers 5 Gibson | 7 Fabio 6 De Roon 5 Clayton 5 Forshaw 5 Traore 5 Negredo 6 Fischer 4-3-3 7 Mignolet 7 Clyne 7 Lovren 6 Klavan 7 Milner 8 Lallana 6 Henderson 7 Wijnaldum 7 Firmino 7 Origi 7 Mane Substitutes Middlesbrough Downing (Fischer 57), Leadbitter (Clayton 57), Rhodes (Negredo 77).

Liverpool Lucas (Lallana 83), Ejaria (Wijnaldum 87), Alexander-Arnold (Origi 90).

Subs not used Karius (g), Moreno, Stewart, Woodburn.

Subs not used Bernardo, Guzan (g), Nsue, Nugent.

Referee Jonathan Moss (W Yorkshire)

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Lallana inspires dominant Liverpool win on Teesside
 Liverpool avoided a drama morphing into a crisis with a controlled and comfortable victory over unambitious Middlesbrough. Jurgen Klopp had made the dramatic call of dropping under-scrutiny goalkeeper Loris Karius and replacing him with Simon Mignolet, but to Klopp(tm)s pleasure and perhaps relief, this was all about Liverpool at the other end of the pitch.

Adam Lallana scored his fifth and sixth Premier League goals of the season, while Divock Origi made it five consecutive scoring appearances when he tapped in a Lallana cross to make it 2-0 on the hour.

The points and the goals lifted Liverpool above Arsenal into second place. It was an ideal way for Liverpool to prepare for next Monday(tm)s Merseyside derby. The win will also take some of the attention away from Karius. Mignolet made a couple of saves in the first half, but Boro are a cautious team. This had been a difficult place for Liverpool - it was a first win on Teesside since 2002 " but not tonight.

Boro now face a nervy 90 minutes with Swansea here on Saturday.

Mignolet had become the club(tm)s League Cup keeper(tm). His last Premier League start was at Chelsea in September " a game Liverpool won 2-1. The Belgian has been known to make the odd error but had been solid at the beginning of this season.

As a predictably cagey opening unfolded, Karius may have reflected from the bench that this was an ideal game in which to play. Middlesbrough, the lowest scorers in the division, were unlikely to mount a bombardment.

Sure enough, it was almost 20 minutes before Boro produced a shot. It came from left back Fabio and Mignolet will have been glad that it was straight at him. He saved with comfort.

Three minutes later there was a dive to Mignolet(tm)s left to grab a Ben Gibson header.

Yet while the focus fell understandably on Liverpool(tm)s goalkeeping situation, once again Klopp felt forced to name three teenagers on bench " Woodburn (17), Ejaria (18) and Alexander-Arnold (19).

Phillipe Coutinho is the most high-profile absentee but with Daniel Sturridge and Emre Can also injured, Liverpool(tm)s squad is stretched.

As the visitors probed without success through the first 28 minutes, it looked it. There was a lack of imagination.

Then, suddenly, two sharp passes later and Liverpool were 1-0 up. Sadio Mane started it with a smart turn 30 yards out. Mane(tm)s pass found Nathaniel Clyne overlapping and the right back(tm)s deep cross was met on the run by Lallana. It was a fine goal and, having upped the tempo, Liverpool nearly got a second before the interval. This time Divock Origi was the supplier, feeding Mane from the centre circle on a rare breakaway " Middlesbrough had pushed up for once. Mane struck a shot left-footed from 18 yards and it beat Victor Valdes but the ball came back off the far post. Origi, following up, had a try on the rebound but hit the side-netting.

In between, Mignolet had his his best moment, getting a strong hand to a fierce drive from Victor Fischer.

The home side needed more of that, but less than a minute after the re-start, it was Valdes blocking from Mane. Calum Chambers then got his body in front of another Mane effort. This was the opposite of what the Riverside wanted. But Liverpool were not stopping. Mane was in the thick of it and it seemed only a matter of time before it was 2-0. It was.

On the hour Mane and Georginio Wijnaldum exchanged quick passes before the Dutchman slid in Lallana behind the Boro defence. Lallana(tm)s square pass into the middle was into the path of Origi and from six yards he could not miss. He didn(tm)t.

Nine minutes later, the move was reversed as Lallana swept in the third from Origi. No drama.

Middlesbrough (4-1-4-1): Valdes; Barragan, Chambers, Gibson, Fabio; Clayton (Leadbitter 56); Traore, De Roon, Forshaw, Fischer (Downing 56); Negredo (Rhodes 77).

Subs not used: Guzan, Bernardo, Leadbitter, Nsue, Nugent, Downing, Rhodes.

Liverpool (4-3-3): Mignolet; Clyne, Lovren, Klavan, Milner; Lallana (Lucas 82), Henderson, Wijnaldum (Ejaria 87); Mane, Origi (Alexander-Arnold 90+1), Firmino. Subs not used: Karius, Alexander-Arnold, Ejaria, Woodburn, Leiva, Moreno, Stewart.

Referee: J Moss



LALLA LAND; Adam can't stop scoring as Kop cruise to victory against Boro

MIDDLESBROUGH 0

LIVERPOOL

3 Lallana 29, 68, Origi 60

TO think Adam Lallana used to get hammered for his lack of goals.

Now the Liverpool playmaker can't stop scoring and he tortured Middlesbrough at the Riverside last night, scoring twice to put the Reds back on track after their two-game wobble.

The England star has now netted nine times for club and country this season and, for good measure, he also laid on Liverpool's other goal for Divock Origi.

Chuck in his six assists for the Merseysiders and he is a major reason why they are chasing Chelsea hard in this season's title race.

Liverpool's title hopes died on their last visit to the Riverside Stadium in February 2009 when Xabi Alonso scored an own goal.

But Lallana breathed new life into this season's bid following Liverpool's stumbles against West Ham and Bournemouth.

It was the perfect night for the Reds - Simon Mignolet even made a couple of decent stops in place of the axed Loris Karius to justify Jurgen Klopp's big call.

And it eased the worries of Klopp, who has been hit by so many injuries that his bench looked like the cast of Bugsy Malone.

The German boss lost defensive linchpin Joel Matip REF: Jon Moss AT to add to his selection problems. A glance at Liverpool's bench underlined Klopp's lack of options - he named teenagers Ovie Ejaria, Trent Alexander-Arnold and the club's youngest scorer, Ben Woodburn, among his substitutes.

Liverpool settled into their passing rhythm and Boro's red wall tried to keep Liverpool's fluorescent yellow tide at bay.

Boro withstood early pressure to create a couple of openings, the first fashioned by Fabio.

The former Manchester United defender's every touch was booed by the Liverpool fans and T: 32,704 t he tried to silence them when he unleashed a shot which was comfortably dealt with by Mignolet.

Mignolet, playing his first league game in three months, made a better stop when he dived low to his left to save Ben Gibson's back-post header from boyhood Liverpool fan Adam Forshaw's free-kick.

Boro tried to frustrate Liverpool but the visitors opened them up when Sadio Mane fed Nathaniel Clyne on the right and he crossed for Lallana to head home in the 29th minute.

It was Lallana's fifth Premier League goal of the campaign, meaning he has already bettered his tally from last season.

Mignolet blew away the cobwebs with those early stops and he made an even better save to keep out Viktor Fischer's angled shot at his near post with his left hand.

Adama Traore was Boro's main attacking outlet down the right and he skinned Jordan Henderson to cross for Forshaw to hit a shot which Lallana diverted behind.

Boro were leaving more space as they pushed forward and Mane was denied a second by the upright after being put through by Origi.

The rebound fell to Origi, who fired into the side-netting.

Lallana and Origi combined on the hour to double Liverpool's lead. After a good move involving Henderson and Mane, the ball fell to Lallana and his pass was perfect for Origi to sweep into the net.

Liverpool couldn't relax - in their last away game they were 2-0 up at Bournemouth and somehow contrived to come away emptyhanded.

So when Lallana slotted home the third, you could hear the sighs of relief on the Kop bench.

This time Origi was the architect, finding possession on the right in the 68th minute and crossing for in-form Lallana to apply the finish.

Lallana and Origi were Liverpool's scorers in the 2-2 draw with West Ham at Anfield on Sunday so it's clear they are sharing the goalscoring burden with Daniel Sturridge and Philippe Coutinho out injured.

Boro's troubles continue and this loss makes it just two wins from their last 14 games.

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Lallana nets brace as Reds get back on track
 Adam Lallana struck twice as Liverpool re-ignited their Premier League title challenge with an emphatic 3-0 win over Middlesbrough.
 It was the perfect response to the setbacks against Bournemouth and West Ham as the Reds triumphed at the Riverside for the first time in eight attempts dating back to 2002.
 Lallana nodded Jurgen Klopp's side ahead before the break and they went on to dominate the second half.
 Divock Origi slotted home to make it 2-0 and Lallana wrapped up the points as Liverpool moved back above Arsenal into second place.
 Simon Mignolet produced a faultless display after being recalled at the expense of Loris Karius.
 Mignolet wasn't the only Liverpool player making his first league start since September.
 There was also a return to the fold for Ragnar Klavan, who got his opportunity after Joel Matip was ruled out after complaining of discomfort in his ankle.
 Aitor Karanka's side were set up to contain and frustrate the Reds and for the best part of half an hour they succeeded.
 Liverpool dominated both possession and territory with captain Jordan Henderson's range of passing keeping them on the front foot.
 But in the final third there was little penetration. Boro soaked up the pressure and then looked to hit Liverpool on the counter. Mignolet was alert to hold on to Ben Gibson's header from Adam Forshaw's free-kick.
 Liverpool were crying out for a bit of quality to unlock the door and Nathaniel Clyne provided it.
 Sadio Mane laid it off to him on the right flank and the England international whipped in the most enticing of deliveries.
 Lallana needed no second invitation as he arrived to power a header past Victor Valdes. It was the Reds' 50th goal of the season in all competitions.
 Boro almost produced an instant response. When Fischer broke away down the right most inside the Riverside were expecting a cross but the Dane tried to catch Mignolet out at his near post. The keeper reacted brilliantly to keep it out.
 Just before the break Origi's pass released Mane, whose low drive beat Victor Valdes but bounced back off the post. Origi hammered the rebound in the side-netting.
 After the restart Liverpool played with a tempo and intensity Boro couldn't live with. Klopp's men hunted in packs to win back possession and some slick build up play left the hosts chasing shadows.
 On the hour mark Liverpool finally made their pressure count. It was a classy move with Mane and Wijnaldum combining before Lallana's low cross was turned in by Origi from close range.
 Referee Jon Moss had been playing the advantage after Mane was chopped down and eight minutes later the Reds made it 3-0 in similar fashion.
 After Gibson upended Mane, Origi pounced on the loose ball and returned the compliment as he centred for Lallana to kill Boro off with his second of the night.
MATCH FACTS
 Middlesbrough: Valdes, Barragan, Gibson, Chambers, Fabio, De Roon, Forshaw, Clayton (Leadbitter 56), Traore, Fischer (Downing 56), Negredo (Rhodes 78).
 Not used: Guzan, Bernardo, Nsue, Nugent.
 Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Lovren, Klavan, Milner, Henderson, Wijnaldum (Ejaria 87), Lallana (Lucas 82), Mane, Firmino, Origi (Alexander-Arnold 90).
 Not used: Karius, Moreno, Stewart, Woodburn
 Referee: Jon Moss
 Attendance: 32,704
 Goals: Lallana 29, Origi 60, Lallana 68
 Bookings: none
Man of the match: Adam Lallana. Reds' two-goal hero led the way for Klopp's men.



Boro simply outclassed on a rough night at the Riverside
 In the end, the full-time whistle was most welcome.
 Not for the Liverpool fans. They were having the time of their life over in the East Stand, noisy and appreciative of what they were watching.
 And not for Jurgen Klopp, who was no doubt delighted with his side's return to form.
 But for Boro, the end couldn't come soon enough. In truth, the end came the moment Adam Lallana beat Adam Forshaw to the ball and headed the visitors ahead.
 From that moment on, the result was never in doubt. From that moment on, Boro couldn't get a touch.
 By the time Lallana grabbed his second and Liverpool's third, teed up by Origi who had doubled the lead and set the tone for what was a blistering second period from the visitors, Boro were in damage limitation territory. Liverpool, on the other hand, offered the impression that they could have scored as many as they wanted.
 It's not often you say that about a team when they're coming up against the usually stubborn and organised bunch that are the Boro defenders.
 In the second half here, though, the wall crumbled. It was all too easy for a side armed with sheer quality; a side that will do this to many an opponent this year.
 And that's the thing. Being schooled by Liverpool is no real disgrace given the class they possess in the final third, though Aitor Karanka will have to dig rather deep in his search for positives.
 The focus was on Simon Mignolet after he was recalled in place of the out of form Loris Karius. Well the Belgian landed on his feet. He couldn't have asked for an easier game to make an impression.
 A Viktor Fischer strike shortly after Liverpool grabbed the opener confirmed that Mignolet was still awake, but other than that and a couple of routine saves in the first half, he had it easy.
 As did Liverpool. Boro's goals scored column - something Karanka insists he's not concerned about - never looked like being boosted here.
 The recalled Negredo made way late on, no doubt with Swansea in mind. Surely Clayton - on four yellows for the season - was replaced with the same thought, given the fact he was Boro's best midfielder on the night.
 On the whole, though, the midfield was over-run. And the defence simply couldn't cope with the running of the forward players whose batteries never seem to run out.
 Adama Traore was Boro's brightest spark but James Milner coped. Liverpool's defence never looked anything other than comfortable.
 This was a rough night for Boro. There's been talk of a few learning curves since promotion yet this was the harshest to date. In the second half, it was men against boys as Boro desperately searched for answers which they simply didn't have.
 That won't be the case against Swansea. At least it shouldn't be. It can't be. That game is huge.
Key moment
 The opener. Until that stage Boro had acquitted themselves well and the gaps in the defence were hard to find. Once Lallana's header hit the net, Liverpool never looked back.
Best on the night
 If Adam Clayton had a neck like a tawny owl he'd have still struggled to keep track of the outstanding Liverpool attacking players. He stuck at his task, though, in tireless fashion before being replaced.
The opposition
 Chelsea are the team breaking the records but Liverpool are the best team Boro have come up against this season.
 At least that's the case on this evidence. Jurgen Klopp's side have suffered a blip of late but looked back to their free-flowing best at the Riverside.

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Adam Lallana scored twice and created another goal to give Liverpool their most emphatic away Premier League win of the season in a dominant display at Middlesbrough.

The Reds arrived at the Riverside Stadium having taken just one point from their past two matches and manager Jurgen Klopp chose to drop goalkeeper Loris Karius.

However, his replacement Simon Mignolet had little to do after Lallana headed home Nathaniel Clyne's cross before the break as Liverpool seized complete control.

Sadio Mane wasted several opportunities but Lallana was clinical, first crossing slickly for Divock Origi to prod home a fine team goal, then side-footing in a pass from the Belgium striker for the third.

The three-goal margin was enough to move Liverpool second, while Boro - competitive in the first half but abject after the break - drop to 17th.

The gulf in class between these two teams was clear. Often keeping possession with 10 home shirts behind the ball, Liverpool waited for key moments to inject pace into attacks with devastating effect.

Klopp's decision to replace Karius drew focus before kick-off, but that will switch to his side's qualities after this display.

Lallana was at the centre of everything they did well. Shortly after arriving at the back post to head home the opener, he slid in to block a stinging Adam Forshaw shot at the other end.

Mane struck the woodwork, giving the hosts hope in the second half, but a one-touch interchange involving the Senegal international, Georginio Wijnaldum, Lallana and Origi for the second goal epitomised all that was good about the classy visitors. Lallana has now been involved in 12 goals this season, scoring six and making six - a healthy improvement on the 10 he was involved in across 30 appearances in 2015-16. And at the other end Liverpool also answered questions. They have scored 40 goals in the league after 16 matches - the last time they did that they won the title in 1978-79 - but the fact they have still conceded one more goal than Boro is worrying. Even without the composure Joel Matip often offers, his replacement Ragnar Klavan formed part of a solid defence alongside Dejan Lovren, with Mignolet only making one key save to deny Viktor Fischer before half-time.

Karanka's attacking dilemma

Even against a Reds side who had conceded six goals in their past two matches, Boro could not overcome their growing tendency to be blunt in front of goal.

A three-goal margin suggests their problems were defensive, but with striker Alvaro Negredo constantly isolated, perhaps more support for him in the final third could have at least offered them a footing.

Their 13 goals and their tally of 41 shots on target are both league lows. They managed three on target on Wednesday but have not had four in a match this season.

Aitor Karanka's side are clearly committed - they have made more tackles than any side this season - but they are yet to win two games in a row since being promoted.

At this stage last season Newcastle had a point more than Boro but ended up being relegated.

Middlesbrough will have far easier nights, but they are edging close to trouble and solving their attacking difficulties could go a long way to aid their fortunes.

Man of the match - Adam Lallana

Klopp's Lallana chat - what they said

Middlesbrough boss Aitor Karanka: "We have to remember how good we've been in the games before this, against Bournemouth and Hull City. I think they were the best team we've faced this season. "We tried, especially in the second half with two new players, to press higher. It proved impossible to stop them. I can admit they were much better than us." Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "We had moments in the first half where we were static and even I was confused. We did much better second half, we could have finished more often.

"Adam Lallana is improving even when he doesn't score, but it's nice he's in that situation. About a year ago I had sat him in the office and I was happy with him but he was like 'I'm not scoring' - and I said he wasn't in the right positions.

Tonight he was twice in the right position and it was wonderful."

Lallana England's spark - top stats

Liverpool picked up their first Premier League win at the Riverside Stadium since March 2002, ending a run of seven trips there without victory

Boro conceded more goals on Wednesday than they had in their four previous Premier League home games

It was Middlesbrough's heaviest home defeat in the Premier League since October 2008 when they were beaten 5-0 by Chelsea

Lallana's first goal was the first time an English player has assisted another English player for Liverpool in the Premier League this season

Lallana has both scored and assisted a goal in three different Premier League games this season - no player has done so more

Up next?

Middlesbrough have another home league fixture against relegation-threatened Swansea City on Saturday (15:00 GMT kick-off), while Liverpool travel to Everton on Monday (20:00) for what will be Ronald Koeman's first Merseyside derby in charge of the Toffees.

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Match ends, Middlesbrough 0, Liverpool 3.
 90'+4' Second Half ends, Middlesbrough 0, Liverpool 3.
 90'+3' Foul by Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool).
 90'+3' Calum Chambers (Middlesbrough wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 90'+1' Substitution, Liverpool. Trent Alexander-Arnold replaces Divock Origi.
 90'+1' Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 90' Delay in match Divock Origi (Liverpool because of an injury).
 88' Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked).
 88' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked).
 87' Substitution, Liverpool. Ovie Ejaria replaces Georginio Wijnaldum.
 87' Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 87' Foul by Antonio Barragán (Middlesbrough).
 85' Corner, Middlesbrough. Conceded by Ragnar Klavan.
 84' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 84' Foul by Jordan Rhodes (Middlesbrough).
 82' Substitution, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva replaces Adam Lallana.
 82' Attempt missed. Adam Forshaw (Middlesbrough right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Marten de Roon.
 81' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).
 81' Jordan Rhodes (Middlesbrough wins a free kick on the left wing.
 80' Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.
 78' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 78' Foul by Antonio Barragán (Middlesbrough).
 77' Substitution, Middlesbrough. Jordan Rhodes replaces Álvaro Negredo.
 72' Offside, Middlesbrough. Grant Leadbitter tries a through ball, but Stewart Downing is caught offside.
 69' Ben Gibson (Middlesbrough is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 68' Goal! Middlesbrough 0, Liverpool 3. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Divock Origi with a cross.
 68' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).
 68' Antonio Barragán (Middlesbrough wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 67' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 67' Foul by Adama Traoré (Middlesbrough).
 66' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 66' Foul by Marten de Roon (Middlesbrough).
 65' Foul by Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool).
 65' Stewart Downing (Middlesbrough wins a free kick on the left wing.
 64' Attempt blocked. Fabio (Middlesbrough right footed shot from outside the box is blocked).
 64' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool).
 64' Adama Traoré (Middlesbrough wins a free kick on the right wing.
 62' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 62' Foul by Calum Chambers (Middlesbrough).
 60' Goal! Middlesbrough 0, Liverpool 2. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 58' Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.
 58' Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 58' Foul by Fabio (Middlesbrough).
 56' Substitution, Middlesbrough. Grant Leadbitter replaces Adam Clayton.
 56' Substitution, Middlesbrough. Stewart Downing replaces Viktor Fischer.
 56' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool).
 56' Marten de Roon (Middlesbrough wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 55' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked).
 53' Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool).
 53' Fabio (Middlesbrough wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 50' Offside, Liverpool. Dejan Lovren tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.
 49' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Sadio Mané.
 47' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a headed pass.
 46' Attempt saved. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.
 46' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Antonio Barragán.
 Second Half begins Middlesbrough 0, Liverpool 1.
 45'+2' First Half ends, Middlesbrough 0, Liverpool 1.
 44' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).
 44' Adam Clayton (Middlesbrough wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 43' Attempt missed. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses to the right.
 43' Sadio Mané (Liverpool hits the right post with a left footed shot from the centre of the box. Assisted by Divock Origi.
 39' Corner, Middlesbrough. Conceded by Adam Lallana.
 39' Attempt blocked. Adam Forshaw (Middlesbrough left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Adama Traoré with a cross.
 38' Foul by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool).
 38' Álvaro Negredo (Middlesbrough wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 37' Foul by Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool).
 37' Adam Clayton (Middlesbrough wins a free kick on the right wing.
 36' Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool).

36' Ben Gibson (Middlesbrough wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 35' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 35' Foul by Ben Gibson (Middlesbrough).
 34' Attempt blocked. Adam Clayton (Middlesbrough right footed shot from outside the box is blocked).
 34' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).
 34' Adama Traoré (Middlesbrough wins a free kick on the right wing.
 32' Hand ball by Marten de Roon (Middlesbrough).
 31' Corner, Middlesbrough. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
 31' Attempt saved. Viktor Fischer (Middlesbrough right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Marten de Roon.
 30' Corner, Middlesbrough. Conceded by James Milner.
 29' Goal! Middlesbrough 0, Liverpool 1. Adam Lallana (Liverpool header from very close range to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.
 24' Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Adam Lallana is caught offside.
 23' Attempt saved. Ben Gibson (Middlesbrough header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Adam Forshaw with a cross.
 22' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).
 22' Adama Traoré (Middlesbrough wins a free kick on the right wing.
 20' Foul by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool).
 20' Álvaro Negredo (Middlesbrough wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 20' Attempt blocked. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.
 18' Attempt saved. Fabio (Middlesbrough right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal.
 18' Attempt blocked. Adam Forshaw (Middlesbrough right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Clayton).
 16' Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.
 14' Foul by Marten de Roon (Middlesbrough).
 14' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 7' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.
 5' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 5' Foul by Adam Clayton (Middlesbrough).
 5' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool header from a difficult angle on the right is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross following a corner.
 4' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Gibson.
 1' Corner, Middlesbrough. Conceded by James Milner.
 First Half begins.
 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.