

Date: 2 January 2017
 Opposition: Sunderland
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Sunderland Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Echo

2 January 2017

THE TIMES

Mane goes from hero to villain as Liverpool falter

Sunderland 2 Defoe 25 (pen), 84 (pen) Liverpool 2 Sturridge 19, Mane 72
 Referee: A Taylor Att: 46,494

At the end, Jurgen Klopp marched angrily towards the referee as the Sunderland supporters sang the praises of their goalkeeper. That scene might have suggested that Klopp's team were thwarted by two men, Anthony Taylor and Vito Mannone, but this was one of those occasions when Liverpool were their own worst enemies. Twice they took the lead, through Daniel Sturridge in the first half and Sadio Mane in the second, and twice they allowed Sunderland to equalise within ten minutes. Jermain Defoe was the man to take advantage, scoring from the penalty spot on both occasions, and there was no doubt at the final whistle that Sunderland's supporters, players and manager were far happier with the outcome, an unexpected point in the battle to avoid relegation, than their Merseyside counterparts. This had been Liverpool's opportunity to reduce the deficit at the top of the Premier League to three points before Chelsea travel to White Hart Lane to face Tottenham Hotspur tomorrow evening. As has too often been the way of it for Liverpool, though, victory in a heavyweight contest, against Manchester City on Saturday night, was followed by lapses of concentration against lesser opponents. Liverpool have claimed 14 points from six matches against Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea, Manchester United, Everton and City but have dropped points away to Burnley, Bournemouth and Sunderland, conceding eight goals in the process.

Whatever his frustrations over the scheduling of this game, their third in six days and their second in less than 48 hours, Klopp would have expected better from his team -- more precision in their attacking play, more resilience and discipline about their defending, even before the Mane handball that resulted in Defoe's second equaliser. Liverpool enjoyed 71 per cent of the possession and mustered 15 shots on target, more than any away team in the Premier League previously this season, but most of the saves Mannone made would be described as comfortable. The exception was the one the Italian made from Sturridge in the 72nd minute, leading to the penalty from which Mane scored. Mannone and his defenders were worked hard, but they were not stretched quite like they had been in that wretched 4-1 defeat away to Burnley on Saturday afternoon.

David Moyes was entitled to be pleased by his Sunderland team's response to that embarrassing setback. "I thought we did well," he said afterwards. "I honestly thought today the players raised the supporters by the way they got up to Liverpool, put them under pressure and pressed them. Maybe if I was a German manager, you might praise that." If this was a dig at Klopp, or more specifically at the praise that has been sent the Liverpool manager's way, it seemed rather petty. The improvement in Liverpool -- individually and collectively -- has been there for all to see over the first half of this season. At full pelt, in top gear, they are a joy to watch. Yesterday, top gear proved elusive.

When Sturridge opened the scoring on 19 minutes, it seemed only a question of how many Liverpool would add thereafter. It was a careless goal for Sunderland to concede, but Sturridge deserves credit for the instinctive way in which he took the opportunity. There seemed no danger when James Milner sent a right-wing corner towards the penalty spot and Dejan Lovren, stretching, hit a volley into the turf, but Sturridge, on the sixyard line, read the flight of the ball, peeled away from Didier Ndong and leapt to divert his header over and beyond Mannone. Liverpool had looked full of attacking intent, but there had also been the odd sign of encouragement for Sunderland, who equalised through Defoe's first penalty. Liverpool were slow to react to a clever flick from Adnan Januzaj and, when Ndong drifted into the penalty area, he found his progress impeded by a combination of Ragnar Klavan and Georginio Wijnaldum. Taylor pointed to the spot and Defoe did the rest, shooting low to Simon Mignolet's right for his tenth Premier League goal of the season. The big surprise was that Defoe's 11th goal of the season did not follow two minutes later. That looked the most likely outcome when he was sent clear of Liverpool's defence by Januzaj's perceptive through-ball. Defoe attempted to dribble around Mignolet, but the goalkeeper blocked his path, getting his hand to the ball. When it ran loose, Fabio Borini's shot was deflected wide by Klavan. For all Liverpool's possession, for all the pressure that was building on the home goal, notably through Sturridge, there was certainly a feeling, as half-time came, that they were being kept at arm's length.

Sunderland's attacks were rare, but Borini and Defoe both had shots blocked during one scramble midway through the second period and Emre Can was lucky that Taylor took a lenient view when he used his arm to block a Januzaj pass. Liverpool seemed to be running out of ideas as well as energy, but a backheel from Adam Lallana created a chance for Sturridge, which Mannone saved well, and they scored from the resulting corner. Papy Djilobodji rose highest to get his head to Alberto Moreno's corner, but he only succeeded in sending the ball towards the far post, where Mane scored. That looked like the end of the matter, but Liverpool appeared anxious as the game entered its final stages. Klopp was entitled to a grievance over the free kick that led to the goal, with little sign of a foul on Defoe, but not over the penalty that followed when Mane inexplicably stuck out his arm to block Sebastian Larsson's attempt. Defoe kept his nerve to equalise for a second time. It was backs-to-the-wall stuff for the home team after that, but they held firm for a point that looked far more precious to them than it did to a Liverpool team who headed back to Merseyside full of regret.

Sunderland (4-4-1-1): V Mannone 8 -- D Love 6, J O'Shea 6, P Djilobodji 5, P van

Aanholt 7 -- F Borini 6, D Ndong 7, J Rodwell 6 (sub: J Manquillo 65min, 6), S Larsson 6 -- A Januzaj 6 (sub: W Khazri 79) -- J Defoe 7. Substitutes not used: Mika, M Ledger, G Honeyman, E Embleton, J Maja. Booked: Rodwell, Larsson. Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet 6 -- N Clyne 7, D Lovren 6, R Klavan 6, J Milner 5 (sub: A Moreno 46, 6) -- A Lallana 7, G Wijnaldum 5 (sub: D Origi 73), E Can 6, -- S Mane 6, R Firmino 6, D Sturridge 7 (sub: Lucas 80). Substitutes not used: L Karius, K Stewart, T Alexander-Arnold, O Ejaria. Booked: Milner, Lallana, Mane.

the guardian

Liverpool drop two points as Jermain Defoe strikes twice from the spot
 Wearside proved an unexpectedly hazardous staging post on Liverpool's road towards a potential title with two Jermain Defoe penalties and some defiant goalkeeping from Vito Mannone restricting Jürgen Klopp's side to an unwelcome draw. It leaves them five points behind the leaders Chelsea, who visit Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday, and Klopp appeared personally affronted by this setback. Irritated by the Anfield manager's annoyance at not winning, David Moyes mischievously suggested that had he been German rather than Scottish he might have collected some praise for choreographing a resilient, pressing performance which keeps his third-bottom team in touching distance of safety from relegation. If Defoe was, once again, Moyes's saviour, it should be acknowledged that Liverpool's Sadio Mané discarded two points for the visitors with a ludicrous handball in the 84th minute. That came 12 minutes after Mané had given the visitors the lead for the second time on an afternoon when Daniel Sturridge also scored, and impressed enormously, before limping off with an unspecified ankle injury the manager trusts is not overly serious. Jordan Pickford's knee injury has offered Mannone a chance to show off his goalkeeping reflexes and they looked reassuringly sharp as the Italian dived smartly to repel Sturridge's early low shot before tipping away Georginio Wijnaldum's curler. It was a bitter afternoon, with temperatures hovering just above freezing, but Mannone must have felt increasingly warm as he kept out another curving shot, dispatched by Sturridge this time, following some fine approach work on Roberto Firmino's part. Mannone, though, is only human and after his defence had failed to deal with the fallout from a James Milner corner in the 20th minute, Dejan Lovren's miscued shot bounced into Sturridge's path and from around six yards out, the sometime England striker directed a looping header into the net. While that was only Sturridge's second Premier League goal this season, Defoe soon registered his 10th, equalising from the penalty spot after Didier Ndong stole between Wijnaldum and Ragnar Klavan as he accelerated into the area and the latter sent him tumbling. Although Simon Mignolet guessed the direction correctly, Defoe's low, unerring execution proved far too good for the Belgian keeper as the ball arched snugly inside a post and into the bottom corner. West Ham remain extremely keen on spiriting Sunderland's leading scorer back to east London but that represents a doomsday scenario Moyes surely cannot even bear to contemplate. Within minutes of drawing level, Sunderland should have taken the lead after Adnan Januzaj's fancy footwork set up Defoe for a shot Mignolet performed wonders to get a hand to and push away, with Fabio Borini directing the rebound wide. Moyes had dubbed his players "useless" -- among other things -- after they surrendered 4-1 at Burnley on Saturday but rearranged in a 4-4-1-1 formation they, initially at least, seemed in much better shape. So much so that Mignolet was required to make a couple of decent saves from Defoe and then Jack Rodwell before Sturridge scored the opener. Klopp, meanwhile, simply looked frozen through as he shivered on the touchline. The German was furious about having to play again less than 48 hours after his side's New Year's Eve tea-time win over Manchester City and as Liverpool's attempts to bypass John O'Shea and Papy Djilobodji in the Sunderland defence became increasingly jaded, those dire prophecies of physical and mental fatigue appeared close to fulfilment. Yet even though the visitors were missing the injured Jordan Henderson and Philippe Coutinho, and were further hampered by rather flat displays from Adam Lallana, Emre Can and Wijnaldum in particular, they continued to dominate possession and should really have regained the lead when Nathaniel Clyne crossed well but Mané somehow missed the most inviting of openings. Moyes was convinced his team should have had another penalty after Borini's chip struck Can on an arm but it did not look deliberate and the referee had no hesitation about waving play on. Liverpool, meanwhile, felt they might have had a penalty of their own due to Seb Larsson's tug on Clyne. It seemed the sort of day when set pieces would decide matters but Klopp's players belatedly rallied and proved they were not quite all out of ideas after all. Lallana and Sturridge exchanged passes before Lallana's cute backheel cued the striker up for an angled shot Mannone performed acrobatics to divert to safety. When the resultant corner was inadvertently flicked on by Djilobodji, it fell to Mané who, completely unmarked at the far post, guided it into the net from close range. Not for the first time, Sunderland paid the price for slapdash defending, with their protestations Mané had been in an offside position irrelevant as Djilobodji's intervention played him inside. Creditably refusing to fold, Moyes's side fought back and won another penalty. It came after Defoe collapsed in the face of a joint challenge from Lucas Leiva and Can and Larsson's resultant free-kick was handled by, of all people, Mané who blatantly, ridiculously, stuck an arm up. Up stepped Defoe again. This time, he sent Mignolet the wrong way, the ball flying low into the same corner as his first as Sunderland stuck two strictly metaphorical fingers in Klopp's direction.

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The Mail

THE BLAME GAME; Klopp: Ref got crucial decisions all wrong
 SUNDERLAND 2

Defoe 25 pen, 84 pen
 LIVERPOOL 2

Sturridge 19, Mane 72

JURGEN KLOPP insisted that refereeing errors cost his side as Sunderland twice came from behind to secure a point.

Klopp's Liverpool were 2-1 up approaching the final five minutes when referee Anthony Taylor awarded the hosts a free-kick after Jermain Defoe fell under the challenge of Lucas Leiva.

Sadio Mane -- scorer of Liverpool's second goal -- handled from Seb Larsson's subsequent dead-ball effort and Defoe netted his second penalty of the afternoon.

But an irate Klopp said: 'It is tough for me to accept. If there is no free-kick, there is no handball. And there was no foul for the free-kick. I saw it again and there was no contact.'

'It was also 100 per cent a foul on Daniel Sturridge (at the other end). It was a similar situation and we would have had a chance to shoot at somebody's arm. Obviously we didn't get that chance.' David Moyes, meanwhile, hit back at Klopp after he had called Sunderland 'the most defensive team I've ever seen' when Liverpool won 2-0 at Anfield in November.

'I feel we weren't too defensive today,' he said. 'I felt the players raised the fans by the way they got up to Liverpool, how they put them under pressure, how they pressed them. Maybe if I was a German manager you might praise that.' A 2-2 draw against Sunderland is hardly the stuff of champions. Chelsea, after all, came here and won last month, and that was when Sunderland were mid-revival.

In contrast, Moyes' side were stuffed 4-1 at Burnley on Saturday with a performance the manager labelled shambolic and dire.

Liverpool, then -- on the back of four straight victories -- should have run their opponents right off the road.

What Mane had given his side with one hand -- it was he who poked home to make it 2-1 in the 72nd minute -- he had taken away with the other.

Mane leaves for the Africa Cup of Nations this week and Liverpool will miss the Senegal forward's energy and attacking intent in the coming weeks, especially against Manchester United and Chelsea.

Sturridge looks set for an extended run in the side -- the ankle injury which forced him off late here is not serious -- and this first Premier League start since October was encouraging.

He opened the scoring with only his second league goal of the season and drew save after save from Vito Mannone.

But it was Defoe who drew the first save of an entertaining afternoon when his low blast from 20 yards was smothered at the second attempt by former Black Cats goalkeeper Simon Mignolet.

Mannone, the home side's current No 1, had something to prove after the loss at Burnley and the Italian made a fine save to deny Sturridge and then tipped acrobatically over the crossbar from Georginio Wijnaldum's curler.

There was only so long the keeper could keep them in the game and Sturridge had his goal in the 19th minute. James Milner swung over a corner from the right, Dejan Lovren made a hash of an attempted volley and the ball landed on the brow of Sturridge, who improvised to spin a six-yard header beyond Mannone.

Yet Sunderland were level within six minutes. Didier Ndong drove between Ragnar Klavan and Wijnaldum, before falling under a clumsy challenge from the former. Defoe duly took responsibility from the spot.

But, surprisingly, he failed to handle the pressure when through on goal two minutes later.

After checking for a linesman's flag, his hesitancy allowed Mignolet to block.

Defoe should have had the chance to redeem himself in the second half when Emre Can handled from Adnan Januzaj's flick inside the area but referee Taylor waved away the appeals.

Mannone then made a trio of saves from Roberto Firmino, Can and Sturridge, but again his resistance could only endure for so long and Mane restored Liverpool's lead when hooking in from Alberto Moreno's corner.

Just as they had done in the first half, Sunderland rallied and Defoe won the free-kick from which Larsson lined up 25 yards out. It was, in fairness, a soft award, Defoe tumbling under minimal contact from Lucas. But there was no argument when Mane blocked Larsson's effort with his arm. Again, Defoe kept his nerve to hammer low into the corner.

The handbrake was off and Sunderland even pressed for a winner. Now that really would have had Klopp in a spin.

MATCH FACTS

SUNDERLAND (4-3-3): Mannone; Love, O'Shea, Djilobodji, Van Aanholt; Larsson, Ndong, Rodwell (Manquillo 65); Januzaj (Khazri 79), Defoe, Borini. Subs not used: Mika, Maja, Ledger, Honeyman, Embleton. Booked: Larsson, Rodwell.

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Mignolet; Clyne, Lovren, Klavan, Milner (Moreno 46); Can, Wijnaldum (Origi 73), Lallana; Mane, Firmino, Sturridge (Leiva 80). Subs not used: Karius, Stewart, Ejaria, Alexander-Arnold. Booked: Milner, Mane, Lallana. Referee: Anthony Taylor. Attendance: 46,494. Man of the match: Jermain Defoe.

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp in foul mood as Defoe spot-kicks frustrate Liverpool

The last thing that Jurgen Klopp did before he left the Stadium of Light was to apologise for his own mood, and it was bleak indeed at times from a manager whose side are unbeaten in their last six games and finish their hectic Christmas schedule in second place.

The Liverpool manager knows that tomorrow night Chelsea can open up an eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League if they beat Tottenham at White Hart Lane, and although his team have taken 13 points from their past 15, he will fear that is not enough.

For that reason, one assumes, there were sighs aplenty and arguments picked as he reflected on a victory that became a draw when Jermain Defoe converted his second penalty of the afternoon.

Klopp did not disagree with referee Anthony Taylor's award of either spot-kicks that Defoe dispatched, he just felt that in the general course of things one rarely gets all the penalties one deserves, let alone two in one game.

There was also some quibbling over the free-kick that led to the second penalty - and a general reluctance to accept that sometimes these things happen.

"We have a long trip home," he said when it came to the time to wrap things up.

"Sorry for my mood." He was not explicit in his condemnation of a fixture programme that served up three games in seven days but the Liverpool manager pointedly said that he had no idea what he could reasonably expect of his players in such a punishing run of matches.

The scorer of the first Liverpool goal, Daniel Sturridge, limped off injured and James Milner was replaced at half-time, although Klopp, already without the injured Jordan Henderson, did not seem unduly concerned. There will be plenty of rest time dished out over the FA Cup third-round weekend.

As for David Moyes, this was the response he had hoped for from his Sunderland team after a defeat at Burnley that proved so crushing. There is no love lost between him and Klopp, who was fiercely critical of what he perceived as Sunderland's defensive tactics at Anfield earlier this season, and Moyes wondered aloud if he would be treated differently were he a German manager.

For Klopp, there was no desire to criticise Sadio Mane, who scored his side's second goal and then gave away the penalty for Sunderland's second when he reached out an arm in the defensive wall lined up against Sebastian Larsson's freekick. Klopp was angry a foul on Defoe was given for the award of the free-kick, and so it went on.

"We scored the second goal - it felt good, it felt deserved," Klopp said. "Then I would say no foul [on Defoe], no free-kick. I saw it again and there was no contact. Then [Mane's] handball, 2-2, I must be honest it doesn't feel good.

"Sunderland got a point because of two penalties in a game. What do you usually have to do to get a penalty? [Or] to get two?"

He was particularly upset that there was no foul given for an infringement minutes earlier on Sturridge, which would have given Liverpool a promising free-kick. "It's not the worst [referee's] mistake in the world," he said.

As for Mane's handball, the Liverpool manager dismissed any suggestion of blame, claiming it was "a reflex". Others might be less generous about what the Senegal striker was trying to do.

"In this moment it is hard for me to accept but I have to be professional," Klopp said. "Obviously it [the title race] is not finally done. Maybe I look like not the best loser in the world. I have no problem with that. Two penalties against us feels not good. Usually I like to talk about football. It is difficult today."

Without the injured Lamine Kone and Victor Anichebe, and Billy Jones through suspension, there was an opportunity for Jack Rodwell, only for him to lengthen his record run of starts without a victory to 34.

Moyes's team, however, started well. Goalkeeper, Vito Mannone, restored in Jordan Pickford's absence, was excellent when Liverpool created opportunities of their own.

Sunderland scored from the penalty spot, Defoe stroking the ball in after a foul on the impressive Didier N'Dong by Ragnar Klavan who, had he not brought down the midfielder, might well have seen the job done by team-mate Georginio Wijnaldum. The two of them formed two sides of a quickly closing gap that N'Dong tried to dash through and was clipped by Klavan.

Defoe should have scored again two minutes after his penalty when Adnan Januzaj's pass left him with just goalkeeper Simon Mignolet to beat. Liverpool had scored when Sturridge redirected Dejan Lovren's volley into the ground past Mannone on 19 minutes.

Sunderland held firm in the second half until Sturridge and Adam Lallana combined well for the former to force a save from Mannone. The ensuing corner flicked Papy Djilobodji's head to Mane, lurking at the back post, to score. Klopp changed formation again, bringing on Divock Origi and then Lucas, but Liverpool could not quite shut Sunderland down.

It was Lucas and Emre Can whom referee Taylor penalised for what he saw as a foul on Defoe. Mane poked out an arm in the wall at Larsson's free-kick and Taylor gave his second penalty of the day, as Klopp fulminated on the touchline. If Tottenham win tomorrow it may not seem quite so bad for the Liverpool manager.

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Defoe's penalty double frustrates Liverpool

Liverpool have blinked. In the staring match with Chelsea at the top of the Premier League, Jurgen Klopp's men had the rare advantage of playing before Antonio Conte's, but after an enterprising opening 20 minutes during which Daniel Sturridge gave the visitors the lead, weariness caught up on Liverpool. Twice in front, twice Liverpool allowed third-bottom Sunderland to come back " each time through a Jermain Defoe penalty.

It meant that instead of narrowing the gap to three points, and putting pressure on Chelsea before they go to Tottenham on Wednesday, the space is now five points.

Klopp was infuriated with referee Anthony Taylor and at the final whistle the German was on the pitch giving Taylor his opinion of the 84th minute free-kick Taylor awarded to Defoe. It was for an alleged foul by Lucas Leiva on Defoe and it led to the second equaliser.

Klopp had a case, the free-kick was soft. But there was still time to organise an effective wall as Seb Larsson prepared to take the kick. Liverpool did, or so they thought, with Sadio Mane on the end. But when Larsson struck from the D', Mane's right arm stopped the ball; Taylor was given no choice.

Defoe stepped up. This was a big moment for Sunderland as well as Liverpool, but the former England striker was nerveless. He drilled in his eleventh goal of the season " Defoe now has eleven of his team's 19 league goals this season. No wonder Moyes calls him priceless'.

After the 4-1 mauling at Burnley on Saturday, this was a stabilising result for Moyes. He had termed the performance at Turf Moor oeshambolic. This was a much more organised, coherent effort, in which stand-in goalkeeper Vito Mannone, Defoe and Adnan Januzaj stood out.

Yet had Liverpool been in the form we have seen at times this season, then surely Sunderland would have been eased aside.

Missing his captain, Jordan Henderson, Klopp moved Emre Can into that midfield pivotal role. There were spells when Can was subdued and that spread to his colleagues.

But not initially. With Sturridge in up front and Adam Lallana moving back to join Can and Georginio Wijnaldum in midfield, Liverpool began to weave those patterns of theirs. Sunderland sat back to contain but they also offered glimpses of attacking of their own and Defoe and Jack Rodwell both made former Sunderland keeper Simon Mignolet make saves.

But Mannone was busier at the other end. His first block on a hectic afternoon was from Sturridge on seven minutes. Another from Wijnaldum followed seconds later, then Sturridge again and then there was almost a Larsson own goal. It was eventful and this was all before Liverpool scored - in the 19th minute.

It was a bad goal defensively. James Milner's corner was met by the unmarked Dejan Lovren 14 yards out; his scuffed shot bounced nicely for the unmarked Sturridge, four yards out, to nod over Mannone. Sunderland's defenders looked at each other blankly.

Liverpool's superiority was assumed, but just five minutes later it was 1-1. Didier Ndong squeezed himself between Wijnaldum and Ragnar Klavan and went down in the Liverpool area.

As penalties go, it could not be called nailed-on'. Maybe stapled on, or attached by paper clip. But Taylor gave it and Defoe, naturally, thought only about the consequence. He buried it.

Two minutes on, Defoe was thwarted by Mignolet in a one-on-one, so it could have been worse for Liverpool than 1-1 at half-time.

The vitality we associate with Klopp was missing. Indeed, the travelling fans were singing for Divock Origi when Mane struck on 72 minutes.

Sturridge and Lallana exchanged a one-two, Mannone palmed away Sturridge's effort and from the resulting corner, taken by Alberto Moreno, Sunderland's Papy Djilobodji flicked the ball backwards to the unmarked Mane who stabbed home.

Liverpool's task was to close the game down from there. They almost did but when Lucas and Defoe tussled, Defoe went to ground. Taylor gave the free-kick and that led to the equaliser.

There was still enough time for Liverpool to force a couple of scrambles and for the unceasing Lallana to test Mannone again. But it was not to be. It's Manchester United away next for Klopp and Co.

Over to Chelsea.



JERMAIN 2 GERMAN 2; Defoe scores a penalty and leave Reds relying double to wipe the smile off Klopp's face on Spurs to keep their title chances alive

SUNDERLAND

Defoe 25 pen, 84 pen

LIVERPOOL 2

Sturridge 19, Mane 72 Man

JERMAIN DEFOE scored twice from the penalty spot, to leave Jurgen Klopp saying: "I'm sorry about my mood."

For the German there was frustration at the result. Simmering anger at disputed decisions.

Bubbling annoyance at how victory slipped away.

It clearly felt like a defeat for the Liverpool boss against prime relegation candidates. A giving away of two points in a title race where it's now down to Spurs to prevent Chelsea establishing an eight-point lead at the top.

Sadio Mane was at the centre of the action - first claiming a possible victory with a hard-fought late goal that put Liverpool in the lead.

He tapped in at the back post for his ninth of the season but, just as the key man was ready to celebrate a parting gift before he heads off to the Africa Cup of Nations, Mane threw it away.

First referee Anthony Taylor gave a free-kick, as Defoe went to ground on the edge of the box.

Sub Lucas Leiva didn't look to have made much contact with the Sunderland striker, the cause of Klopp's rage, and Seb Larsson fired the free-kick goalward.

Mane instinctively stuck out his hand and conceded a penalty - this second Sunderland spot-kick not in dispute. Who better than Defoe to step up for his 11th of the season and second of the game to clinch a point for his relegation threatened side?

It was a dispiriting way for the second half of the season to start for the Merseysiders. Their 43 points was their best first-half since 2008, and they'll need a repeat to catch Chelsea.

This was a slightly jaded Kop performance, but with huge possession, and a lack of cutting edge to exploit their superiority.

They spent the first half cruising in second gear, soon discovering they were facing a gritty home side stung by being labelled "dire" and "shambolic" by manager David Moyes, 48 hours earlier.

Daniel Sturridge, starting his first league game since October 17, showed he deserved the recall with the opening goal.

The striker flicked a clever header past keeper Vito Mannone as the Black Cats' marking went awry at a corner. James Milner swung in the kick, Dejan Lovren volleyed into the ground and Sturridge poached six yards out to make it two goals in two games and eight this season.

Moyes' men showed some spirit and mounted a revival. Ref Taylor gave them a way back when he awarded a penalty against Ragnar Klavan and Gini Wijnaldum.

Didier Ndong burst into the penalty area and tried to squeeze between the Liverpool pair and went to ground. It looked a generous decision.

Defoe converted to reach double figures, joining Alan Shearer, Frank Lampard and Wayne Rooney as the only players to get 10 goals in 10 seasons or more in the Premier League.

Defoe could have had a second when sent clear on goal by Adnan Januzaj's brilliant through-ball, but former Sunderland keeper Simon Mignolet saved expertly at his feet. The hosts should have had another penalty when Emre Can controlled with his arm after Januzaj's flick.

Sturridge had four long-range shots that forced the excellent Mannone to push clear at full stretch. Wijnaldum also had a good shot tipped over.

Moyes could only field four first-choice starters, and three unknown teenagers, on the bench - but his men turned in a forceful spoiling display.

Klopp was so disgruntled he had words with the ref on the pitch at the final whistle.

The charming smile had gone.

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Tiredness no excuse for Reds as Sturridge summed up in nutshell

Paying the penalty

It was a draw that felt like a defeat. Wagging his finger and clearly less than impressed, Jurgen Klopp greeted the final whistle by making a beeline straight for referee Anthony Taylor and his assistants. The Reds boss wasn't impressed with the award of the free-kick that led to Sunderland's second equaliser. His chief frustration, though, will surely be at the manner in which Liverpool twice threw away winning positions. Christmas was more than a week previous yet here were his team offering gifts to Jermain Defoe, who rarely misses from the penalty spot. As anybody who has had to drag themselves into work over Christmas and New Year will attest, this time of year isn't one for your best efforts. It's about doing what's required. Doing the job. This was a rare opportunity for Liverpool to close the gap on Chelsea having spent much of the past month playing their games after the Premier League leaders. And while the Reds were nowhere near their best, after the interval they appeared the only side capable of taking three points. Chelsea would have won this. Indeed, they did earlier this campaign. The gap has indeed been cut at the top. But nobody at Anfield feels like celebrating the fact.

Rhythm is a chancer

The hectic festive schedule is the same for everyone unless you're Chelsea, and managers throughout the Premier League have had to dig deep into their reserves. Liverpool fans weren't expecting anything different at the Stadium of Light, not least as there were less than 44 hours between this match and the end of the draining win over Manchester City on Saturday evening. But when the teamsheet dropped, there was just the one change – and even that was enforced following the injury to Jordan Henderson. "Rhythm is important," explained Klopp before the game, mindful of the momentum his side have built to keep hold of Chelsea's shirt-tails heading into the New Year. However, this was most certainly a risk from the Reds boss, even if hardly any of those that started against will be involved in the FA Cup tie with Plymouth Argyle on Sunday. Raymond Verheijen, long-time Klopp critic, was no doubt sat with Twitter open, fingers at the ready. Injuries weren't the issue here, though. Instead, tired minds and limbs contributed to a fragmented Liverpool performance that for spells – particularly in the first half – saw them second best to a frisky Sunderland side. Yet come the end of the game, it was the Reds who finished by far the stronger as they sought to go ahead for a third time. Klopp said tiredness wouldn't be used as an excuse for failure here. And nor should it.

Sturridge in a nutshell

If ever there was a game that encapsulated Daniel Sturridge's Liverpool career, it was this one. Scored. Played well. Then went off injured. Even though much has been made of Sturridge's appearances or lack of this season, it was still a surprise to discover this was his first Premier League start since the goalless draw at home to Manchester United back in October, and only his fifth of the campaign. While injury has contributed to some of his absence, much of Sturridge's spell out the first XI has been due to Liverpool's impressive top-flight form. He hasn't quite fitted the Klopp attacking philosophy, with Roberto Firmino preferred for the bigger games, such as against City. And when the opening has arisen, Divock Origi has often been ahead in the pecking order. Not at the Stadium of Light. From the first whistle, Sturridge was in the mood, clearly having been chomping at the bit. Twice he forced good saves from Sunderland goalkeeper Vito Mannone before his ability to sniff out an opening led to him directing home Dejan Lovren's shot with his head. That's the kind of instinct you can't train that makes top-rate forwards such valuable commodities. Sturridge continued to impress until, typically, he was forced off having been caught on the ankle by Papy Djilobodji. Klopp later stressed it wasn't serious, but with the England man there is rarely such thing as a trivial injury. Sturridge, though, deserves a break. And not the type that will put him on the sidelines again. With the season approaching a pivotal period, Liverpool need him.

The ex factor

There were plenty of reunions at the Stadium of Light. For Sunderland, former Liverpool striker Fabio Borini was in the starting line-up while ex-loanee Javi Manquillo was among the substitutes. The visitors, meanwhile, had old Black Cats favourite Simon Mignolet between the sticks. But it was the absence of another player formerly of these parts that was most telling for Liverpool. There was plentiful debate at the start of the campaign when it became clear Klopp's intention to transform Jordan Henderson into a holding midfielder. The doubters were soon silenced. And, as ever, it is only when Henderson isn't there that the Reds truly appreciate his contribution. Emre Can has his qualities but pace and speed of thought can't be counted among them. And when he's having an off-day as here – rattled by Jack Rodwell, of all people – his contribution will always be questioned. He wasn't alone, though, with Saturday's matchwinner Gini Wijnaldum having negligible impact alongside the German. It was Mignolet who fared best among the friends reunited, making two solid saves early on and then producing an even better stop, standing tall to stop Defoe when the Sunderland man was clean through. Mignolet's now Liverpool's undisputed number one. Just as Henderson is their undisputed most influential midfielder.

Reds now a Mane down

Sadio Mane would have been desperate to leave a calling card ahead of his departure for the African Cup of Nations. Not quite like this, however. Had he left about 10 minutes earlier, it would have been most probably as the matchwinner, in the right place at the right time to tap Liverpool back into a hard-earned second-half lead. Then, though, came the inexplicable moment of madness that literally handed Defoe the opportunity of a second equaliser from the spot. Klopp claimed later it was a reflex action. Further viewing may lead him to revise his opinion to that of just about everybody else – namely, just what on earth was Mane doing? The winger will now be away for up to eight Liverpool games as he competes with Senegal in Gabon. While Mane has understandably found it difficult to maintain the levels of the thrilling first few weeks to his Anfield career, he will be sorely missed. His pace and direct approach offers Klopp something different in attack, meaning even on his most middling days he remains a constant threat to opposing defenders. Mane spent the last few minutes here furiously attempting to atone for his error. Liverpool will hope on his return there remains something to fight for, in terms of the title race at any rate.

Sunderland Echo

Two Jermain Defoe penalties earn Cats deserved draw

Liverpool took the lead through Daniel Sturridge's flick before Defoe levelled from the spot after Dider Ndong was brought down in the area. Sadio Mane then handed the visitors the initiative after he tapped home from close range, but Defoe converted his second spot-kick of the afternoon after a handball in the area to secure a point. David Moyes made three changes from the side that suffered defeat at Burnely as Donald Love, Jack Rodwell and Ndong started in place of Billy Jones, Lamine Kone and Victor Anichebe. And the hosts began brightly, with Defoe forcing former Sunderland stopper Simon Mingolet into an early save with a drilled effort from the edge of the area. The Black Cats' current goalkeeper was soon to be tested as well, with Vito Mannone doing well to parry powerful strikes from both Sturridge and Gini Wijnaldum in quick succession as Liverpool poured forward in search of the opening goal. They found it with 20 minutes played as Sturridge reacted quickest to flick home Dejan Lovren's wayward volley after a corner had picked out the centre back on the edge of the box. Liverpool's lead was to last only five minutes though, with Defoe confidently dispatching a penalty into the bottom right corner after Dider Ndong was barged over in the area. And the same player could have handed Sunderland the lead moments later were it not for his decision-making - the striker springing the offside trap before opting to attempt to round Mingolet, with the keeper able to claw the ball away. It was the visitors who ended the first half strongly but they couldn't find a way past the impressive Mannone with the stopper twice denying Sturridge as he looked to double his tally. Chances were at a premium in the early stages of the second half, although Sunderland did see appeals for a second penalty turned down after Adnan Januzaj's cross appeared to strike the arm of Emre Can. Mannone was still the busiest of the two goalkeepers, although saves from Can and Roberto Firmino were routine as Liverpool saw more of the ball. And they eventually made their pressure pay as they retook the lead with just under 20 minutes remaining as Mane found himself in the right place at the right time to tap home after Sunderland defender Papy Djilobodji had inadvertently flicked the ball into the striker's path from a corner. But just as it looked as if the Reds had sealed all three points, Sunderland responded courtesy of another penalty. After Sebastian Larsson's free-kick struck a hand in the Liverpool wall, Defoe stepped up to do the necessary and sent Mingolet the wrong way. The Black Cats soaked up some late pressure from the visitors to claim a valuable point which sees them narrow the gap to 17th place. Sunderland: Mannone; Love, Djilobodji, O'Shea (C), Van Aanholt; Ndong, Rodwell (Manquillo 65), Larsson; Borini, Januzaj (Khazri 79), Defoe Subs Not Used: Mika, Honeyman, Maja, Embleton, Ledger Goals: Defoe 25pen, 84pen Yellow Cards: Rodwell (13), Larsson (51) Liverpool: Mingolet; Clyne, Lovren, Klavan, Milner (Moreno (45); Can, Wijnaldum (Origi 73), Lallana; Firmino, Mane, Sturridge (Lucas (79) Subs Not Used: Karius, Stewart, Ejaria, Alexander-Arnold Goals: Sturridge (20), Mane (72) Yellow Cards: Milner (30) Attendance: 46,494 Referee: Mr Anthony Taylor

Date: 2 January 2017
Opposition: Sunderland
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Sunderland Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Echo

2 January 2017



Jermain Defoe scored two penalties as Sunderland twice came from behind to earn a point against second-placed Liverpool. The Reds took a deserved lead when Daniel Sturridge flicked in a header after Dejan Lovren's mishit shot. Sunderland equalised six minutes later as Defoe scored from the spot following Ragnar Klavan's trip on Didier Ndong, before Sadio Mane put the visitors back ahead with a close-range finish. However, Mane then handled in his own 18-yard box and Defoe converted the penalty to snatch an unlikely point.

Liverpool's missed opportunity

The result leaves Liverpool five points behind Premier League leaders Chelsea, who play their game in hand on Wednesday at Tottenham (20:00 GMT kick-off). However, Reds boss Jurgen Klopp will surely see it as two points dropped after his side led twice, had 71% of the possession and had 15 shots on target. Only an inspired performance from Black Cats keeper Vito Mannone denied Liverpool further goals, before Mane, playing his last game before representing Senegal at the Africa Cup of Nations, needlessly stuck out an arm to block Seb Larsson's free-kick, costing his side dearly. To make things worse for Liverpool, Sturridge, who scored only his second Premier League goal of the season, limped off late on with an ankle injury after he clashed with Papy Djilobodji.

The England international was only making his fifth league start of the campaign, has also suffered calf and hip injuries this season and was limping badly at the final whistle. Reds club captain Jordan Henderson missed the game at the Stadium of Light with a heel injury and Klopp could be without three influential players for the trip to Manchester United in 13 days' time.

In his post-match news conference Klopp said he did not believe Sturridge's injury was a serious one. "He got a knock on his right ankle, I don't think it's too bad," said the German.

Sunderland respond well after 'dire' display

Sunderland boss David Moyes described his side's performance in their [4-1 loss at Burnley](#) on Saturday as "dire" and had demanded better. He will surely have been delighted with the response. His team battled hard, gave everything, defended deep in numbers and showed their fighting spirit when Liverpool looked like they might run away with the match. Sunderland remain in the bottom three, but Moyes will be encouraged by the point as the Black Cats look to extend their 10-year Premier League stay. However, like Klopp, Moyes faces a battle to juggle his squad. Sunderland's lengthy injury list includes first-choice goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, defender Lamine Kone, midfielders Lee Cattermole and Steven Pienaar and strikers Duncan Watmore and Victor Anichebe. Midfielders Didier Ndong (Gabon) and Wahbi Khazri (Tunisia) are also set to play at the Africa Cup of Nations in January to provide further problems for Moyes.

Man of the match - Vito Mannone (Sunderland)

Stats - Rodwell's unwanted record continues

Liverpool have now lost just one of their past 18 Premier League games (won 12). Moyes has only one victory from his past 17 Premier League games as a manager against Liverpool (10 defeats).

Jack Rodwell made his 34th start for Sunderland but is yet to be on the winning side (16 draws and 18 losses); extending the Premier League record.

Defoe is the fourth player to score 10 or more goals in 10 different Premier League seasons, along with Alan Shearer, Wayne Rooney and Frank Lampard. Sunderland are the first team to score two penalties in a Premier League game against Liverpool since West Brom in April 2011.

Sturridge has scored in consecutive Premier League games after a run of 12 appearances without a goal.

Mane has had a hand in five goals in his past seven Premier League appearances (three goals, two assists).

What they said

Moyes delighted with 'deserved' draw

Sunderland manager Moyes said: "I expect them to get results, but I'm really pleased after the few days we've had. We didn't play well (against Burnley) and what they have done is show how well they can do. "I thought we did quite well, matched Liverpool's energy for long periods of the game and deserved a draw. We had big chances as well. "I never thought we were out of it. The important thing was to not concede a third goal. In the end we got a deserved penalty.

"Towards the end of the season we are going to have to pick up a lot of results. Today was a tough draw and we have to make sure we win at home - that's key."

Klopp 'can't explain' Liverpool result Liverpool boss Klopp said: "I am not able to explain it because I don't know exactly what I saw. My team were fighting but I wasn't sure if they could do it. "We can play better but I'm not sure if you can play better with that (two-day) break."

On Sunderland's second penalty, the German added: "There was no foul before the free-kick for the second penalty. You need a little bit of luck, but Sunderland worked hard too and maybe they deserved it."

Date: 2 January 2017
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Times	Telegraph	Sunderland Echo
Guardian	Mirror	BBC
Independent	Mail	Echo

2 January 2017



Match ends, Sunderland 2, Liverpool 2.

90'+6' Second Half ends, Sunderland 2, Liverpool 2.

90'+4' Offside, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.

90'+4' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.

90'+3' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Donald Love.

90'+3' Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner.

90'+2' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

90'+2' Foul by Fabio Borini (Sunderland.

90'+1' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

89' Delay in match Papy Djilobodji (Sunderland because of an injury.

89' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

89' Foul by Papy Djilobodji (Sunderland.

87' Attempt saved. Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.

86' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

86' Foul by Didier Ndong (Sunderland.

86' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

84' Goal! Sunderland 2, Liverpool 2. Jermain Defoe (Sunderland converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom left corner.

83' Adam Lallana (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

83' Sadio Mané (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for hand ball.

83' Penalty conceded by Sadio Mané (Liverpool with a hand ball in the penalty area.

83' Attempt blocked. Sebastian Larsson (Sunderland right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

82' Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.

82' Jermain Defoe (Sunderland wins a free kick in the attacking half.

80' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

80' Substitution, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva replaces Daniel Sturridge because of an injury.

79' Delay in match Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool because of an injury.

79' Substitution, Sunderland. Wahbi Khazri replaces Adnan Januzaj.

78' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool.

78' Fabio Borini (Sunderland wins a free kick on the left wing.

73' Substitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Georginio Wijnaldum.

72' Goal! Sunderland 1, Liverpool 2. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range to the centre of the goal following a corner.

71' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Vito Mannone.

71' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

69' Hand ball by Emre Can (Liverpool.

68' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool.

68' Patrick van Aanholt (Sunderland wins a free kick in the defensive half.

67' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

67' Foul by Jermain Defoe (Sunderland.

66' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.

65' Substitution, Sunderland. Javier Manquillo replaces Jack Rodwell.

65' Attempt blocked. Jermain Defoe (Sunderland right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jack Rodwell.

64' Attempt saved. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

63' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

63' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

63' Foul by Didier Ndong (Sunderland.

60' Offside, Liverpool. Sadio Mané tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

57' Attempt blocked. Jermain Defoe (Sunderland right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked.

57' Attempt blocked. Fabio Borini (Sunderland left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Adnan Januzaj.

56' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool header from very close range misses to the left. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.

53' Offside, Sunderland. Papy Djilobodji tries a through ball, but Jermain Defoe is caught offside.

51' Sebastian Larsson (Sunderland is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

51' Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

51' Foul by Didier Ndong (Sunderland.

48' Offside, Liverpool. Emre Can tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

Second Half begins Sunderland 1, Liverpool 1.

45' Substitution, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno replaces James Milner.

45'+3' First Half ends, Sunderland 1, Liverpool 1.

45'+2' Corner, Sunderland. Conceded by James Milner.

45'+2' Hand ball by Adam Lallana (Liverpool.

45' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Donald Love.

42' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

37' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

33' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

33' Foul by Sebastian Larsson (Sunderland.

32' Attempt saved. Jack Rodwell (Sunderland left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

31' Offside, Sunderland. Sebastian Larsson tries a through ball, but Papy Djilobodji is caught offside.

30' James Milner (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

30' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

30' Fabio Borini (Sunderland wins a free kick on the right wing.

29' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

29' Fabio Borini (Sunderland wins a free kick in the defensive half.

27' Corner, Sunderland. Conceded by Ragnar Klavan.

27' Attempt blocked. Fabio Borini (Sunderland right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jermain Defoe.

25' Goal! Sunderland 1, Liverpool 1. Jermain Defoe (Sunderland converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom left corner.

24' Penalty conceded by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool after a foul in the penalty area.

24' Penalty Sunderland. Didier Ndong draws a foul in the penalty area.

22' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

22' Foul by Patrick van Aanholt (Sunderland.

19' Goal! Sunderland 0, Liverpool 1. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from the right side of the six yard box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Dejan Lovren following a corner.

19' Attempt blocked. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.

19' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Sebastian Larsson.

19' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

18' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

18' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

14' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

13' Jack Rodwell (Sunderland is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

13' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

13' Foul by Jack Rodwell (Sunderland.

13' Attempt saved. Jack Rodwell (Sunderland right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Patrick van Aanholt.

9' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

9' Foul by Jack Rodwell (Sunderland.

9' Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.

8' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Vito Mannone.

8' Attempt saved. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

8' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

7' Offside, Sunderland. Sebastian Larsson tries a through ball, but Jack Rodwell is caught offside.

6' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

6' Adnan Januzaj (Sunderland wins a free kick in the attacking half.

6' Attempt saved. Jermain Defoe (Sunderland right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Patrick van Aanholt.

First Half begins.