

Date: 16 April 2017
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion
 Competition: League

Times	Mirror	Echo
Guardian	Mail	BBC
Independent	B'ham Mail	Telegraph

16 April 2017

THE TIMES

Klopp's set-piece plans pay off

West Bromwich Albion 0 Liverpool 1 Firmino 45+1

Referee J Moss Attendance 25,669

All week Jurgen Klopp had prepared for the reality that this was a game likely to be settled by set pieces. Team talks focused upon it and training sessions at Melwood were tailored in anticipation of an afternoon where an aerial threat could bring one decisive chance. Everything mapped out as the Liverpool manager had imagined -- with one crucial deviation from the script. It was his own attackers who conjured the defining moment rather than West Bromwich Albion's. Tony Pulis had never previously lost a home league game in eight career fixtures against Liverpool. That the Albion head coach was beaten here at his own game, Roberto Firmino finishing off a free-kick routine in first-half injury time, only added to the deep sense of satisfaction Klopp gleaned from a victory that carries his side a step nearer to the Champions League. The irony was indeed delicious for the visitors. The final stages were played out amid an element of farce with Ben Foster, the West Brom goalkeeper, almost permanently positioned in the opposing half as the expected flurry of corners arrived at the death and raised the prospect of parity ensuing. Liverpool stood firm. Foster cut a comedic figure, trying to win tackles and play passes only to look on, at first in horror and then relief, when substitute Alberto Moreno won the ball deep in his own half from Darren Fletcher, ran forward and then dragged a shot from 40 yards wide of an unguarded goal. This was not a contest that required, or deserved, the sort of breakaway strike that would have caught the eye, while a flash of genius would have been out of keeping with the resilient, controlled display which Liverpool are routinely accused of being unable to produce. The past eight days have brought wins at both Stoke and West Brom; the first time that they have won away to both in the same Premier League season. Without those six points, Liverpool's top-four hopes would be a mess. If it was a different kind of performance, then the crucial goal was different to that which they usually plunder. Chris Brunt tugged on the shirt of Divock Origi to prevent the striker from stretching his legs down Liverpool's right and James Milner sized up a set play from tight on the touchline.

The delivery was flicked on by Lucas Leiva and Firmino, played outside by Jonny Evans, stole away from Craig Dawson and dispatched a header from close range at the back post beyond the exposed Foster. It was Liverpool's first goal from a set piece since Origi grabbed meagre consolation in the FA Cup defeat to Wolverhampton Wanderers in that torturous January, and lanced the tedium of a first half in which both sides had managed just 11 touches between them in the opposing areas. Two of Liverpool's seven came with the breakthrough. Until then, Firmino's most telling touch had been on the edge of his own six-yard area when applying the nick that took a lofted Matt Phillips cross away from Nacer Chadli and left the Belgian thrashing at thin air prior to punching the woodwork in frustration. Yet it is Firmino's willingness to do the dirty work that so endears him to Klopp and his all-round display was superb. He now boasts 11 league goals, bettering his tally last term, but the sight of him chasing down opponents in the final stages illustrated how his game cannot be measured only by the usual statistics. What will please Klopp is that the rest of his side followed suit. The bombardment did not materialise because Liverpool did not allow it.

Lucas operated at the base of midfield, but routinely switched deeper alongside centre-backs Joel Matip and Dejan Lovren, to bring reassurance and epitomise how this was a result founded upon the character of those players who have been maligned in the past. Then there is Simon Mignolet, who followed his heroics in preserving three points against Stoke City last weekend by rescuing his team-mates once more. Substitute Salomon Rondon out-muscled Matip in a duel, turned and fed the marauding Phillips who streamed clear of red-shirted rivals and had Pulis edging forward excitedly from his technical area. He should have known better. West Brom's only goals in their past seven league matches came in a cluster in that 3-1 success over Arsenal a month ago and Phillips's shot allowed Mignolet to thrust out his leg and produce another important stop.

When the rebound went behind, there were nine minutes remaining and it was only the hosts' second of what would be four corners. En route to The Hawthorns, there are hoardings advertising season tickets that proclaim there is only one place in the West Midlands to watch Premier League football. It is a not-so-subtle dig at neighbours Aston Villa, but since securing their safety Pulis's side have run aground. It is now one win in seven.

Klopp could point to similar profligacy. Nathaniel Clyne, Matip and Firmino all combined in the 57th minute and the Brazilian stood up a peach of a cross to the back post where Milner arrived unmarked. His side-footed volley from seven yards sailed carelessly over the crossbar and left Klopp jumping into the air in annoyance. This time, there was to be no crash landing.

RATINGS West Bromwich Albion (4-5-1): B Foster 6 -- C Dawson 5, G McAuley 6, J Evans 5, C Brunt 6 -- M Phillips 6, J Livermore 6, C Yacob 6 (sub: J McClean 64min, 6), D Fletcher 6, N Chadli 5 (sub: J Morrison 61, 6) -- H Robson-Kanu 5 (sub: S Rondon 64, 6).

Substitutes not used B Myhill, S Field, M Wilson, A Nyom. Booked Brunt, Robson-Kanu, Evans. Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet 7 -- N Clyne 6, J Matip 7, D Lovren 7, J Milner 6 -- L Leiva 7, G Wijnaldum 7, E Can 7 -- R Firmino 8, D Origi 6 (sub: D Sturridge 82), P Coutinho 6 (sub: A Moreno 90). Substitutes not used L Karius, T Alexander-Arnold, J Gomez, M Grujic, B Woodburn. Booked Leiva.

the guardian

Roberto Firmino seals victory for Liverpool at West Bromwich Albion

This was anything but pretty at times and will not take up much space on an end-of-season highlights reel but all that matters for Liverpool right now is that they have rediscovered the art of grinding out victories away from home and are tightening their grip on a top-four finish in the process.

Hot on the heels of their impressive win at Stoke last weekend, which was their first in the Premier League on the road this year, Liverpool clinched another three points away from Anfield and Roberto Firmino again made the telling contribution.

The parallels with Liverpool's triumph at Stoke did not end there, however, as Simon Mignolet, who produced a couple of outstanding saves against Mark Hughes's team, made another vital intervention against Albion by denying Matt Phillips as the winger broke through on goal with only 10 minutes remaining. Tony Pulis had his head in his hands as Mignolet saved and the Albion manager must have felt like doing the same when Liverpool took the lead in first-half injury-time. Scoring from set-pieces is supposed to be Albion's forte, and defending them Liverpool's achilles heel, yet the tables were turned here as Firmino, via a flick on from Lucas, headed in James Milner's wide free-kick.

It was the Brazilian's 11th Premier League goal of the season and provided the defining moment in a match that did not really come to life until the closing stages as Albion desperately pushed for an equaliser at one end and Alberto Moreno squandered a wonderful chance for Liverpool to put the game to bed at the other.

With Ben Foster caught upfield trying to score -- Pulis made it clear to his goalkeeper afterwards that he never wants to see that again -- Liverpool broke away and Moreno had options to his left and right. The substitute chose to go it alone, however, and stroked a 40-yard shot the wrong side of the post. It was tempting to wonder what Jürgen Klopp's reaction would have been had Albion scored when they pumped the ball into the Liverpool area moments later. Mignolet, though, was able to deal with the danger, punching clear at a time when his team needed him most, and shortly afterwards Klopp was jumping around on the touchline to celebrate a hugely important three points. "I hope you're not surprised," Liverpool's manager said, when asked about his reaction at the final whistle.

"This is one of the most difficult places to go because you can't feel comfortable in one moment of the game. You need to be on the highest concentration level. But we have been actually. For us it was very important because showing this concentration level until the end didn't work each week in the last few months, but today it was really good."

Klopp was reminded of the fact that Pulis, during spells in charge at Stoke, Crystal Palace and Albion, had never lost a home match against Liverpool before, yet maybe everything was in place here for that eight-match unbeaten sequence to end. Albion have enjoyed an excellent season and are still eighth but there are signs that things are tailing off now that they have passed the 40-point barrier. They have failed to score in four consecutive Premier League matches for the first time since 2003.

"Missed chances," Pulis said, when asked to explain that disappointing record. "We've had three really good opportunities where I would have expected to score but you can't criticise the players. My one disappointment about our performance was the first 20 minutes of the second half. And they scored bang on half-time, a goal that we're disappointed with because we think [Craig] Dawson was fouled. But we've still got to defend better."

Firmino was certainly grappling with Dawson prior to breaking free and stooping to head past Foster, although the chances are that Pulis would have expected the goal to stand if the same thing had happened at the other end. What is clear is that it was an awful time for Albion to concede.

Up until that point they had frustrated Liverpool and restricted them to one decent opportunity, when Firmino dragged a low shot inches wide after Philippe Coutinho intercepted Claudio Yacob's careless pass. Albion, who were playing mainly on the counterattack, had looked certain to score earlier on through Nacer Chadli until Firmino got the faintest of touches to prevent the Belgian from side-footing home. Hal Robson-Kanu later shot tamely into Mignolet's arms.

Despite those first-half scares Liverpool dominated possession and ought to have doubled their lead when Milner profligately volleyed Firmino's cross over the bar just before the hour mark. Then came that late Phillips opportunity for Albion, when Mignolet spread himself and stuck out a boot to block a shot that Pulis felt should have ended in the back of the Liverpool net.

Date: 16 April 2017
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion
 Competition: League

Times	Mirror	Echo
Guardian	Mail	BBC
Independent	B'ham Mail	Telegraph

16 April 2017

The Mail

Roberto Firmino heads decisive goal as Jurgen Klopp's side earn crucial victory in race for Premier League top four

Jurgen Klopp bear-hugged his assistant Zeljko Brunic. James Milner and Emre Can collapsed to the floor. Liverpool supporters roared like silverware was won. It was not the Borussia Dortmund-style salute that Klopp used to celebrate his side's 2-2 draw against West Bromwich Albion in December 2015 but this result against the same opposition was even more worthy of significant recognition. A first Liverpool league win at the Hawthorns since 2011 was hard-fought and slender and brings a place in next season's Champions League closer into view. Klopp's team moved to 66 points and although teams below have games in hand, you would rather have points in the bag at this stage. With a remaining fixture list that includes Crystal Palace, Watford, Southampton, West Ham and Middlesbrough, the top-four finish this club craves is tantalisingly close. The character of this 1-0 win fuels that belief. Liverpool traditionally find Tony Pulis a stubborn opponent on their travels. Not once in eight meetings had they beaten the Welshman on his turf in the Premier League and they famously crumbled to a draw when 3-0 up at Crystal Palace during their pursuit of the title in 2014. The prize Liverpool are fighting for this time is not as shiny but still hugely meaningful. Gaining a place in Europe's elite competition for the first time since finishing second under Brendan Rodgers would make Klopp's full-season debut a success and results at places like the Hawthorns are often the benchmark. The decisive goal came on the stroke of half-time in ironic manner. Pulis's set-piece specialists were undone by a dead ball. Awarded a free-kick when Chris Brunt pulled back Divock Origi, Milner's delivery initially appeared too shallow. But Lucas produced a moment of alchemy by flicking the ball on astutely and finding Roberto Firmino six yards out. Having escaped the attentions of Craig Dawson, Firmino applied the simplest of headed finishes for his 11th Premier League goal of the campaign, one more than he managed last season. Joel Matip uses his long frame to hurdle over West Brom forward Hal Robson-Kanu as the ball rolls away. After his match-winning contribution off the bench at Stoke last weekend, here was another moment to laud Firmino's value in Sadio Mane's absence. For long periods it appeared that the loss of Mane's speed combined with West Brom's application to defence, which meant a back six when out of possession, would frustrate Liverpool. Even when 1-0 up in added time Klopp admitted he could not rest because of West Brom's desire to equalise. More than once goalkeeper Ben Foster strode forward and stayed up to cause chaos. That should have led to a second Liverpool goal to take the tension out of the closing minutes. Alberto Moreno dispossessed James McClean to run into West Brom territory with Foster stranded upfield. Moreno had three Liverpool players in support but struck for home 40 yards out. It was the stupid option as well as selfish, the ball trickling wide. Klopp absolved his player but had West Brom found a late leveller it is hard to believe the German would have been so generous. Dejan Lovren nods the ball on and chases after it with Robson-Kanu in hot pursuit in the first half Klopp's tribute to Simon Mignolet seemed more genuine, the Belgian having pulled off a fine save with 10 minutes to go. Salomon Rondon turned Joel Matip then weighted his pass to Matt Phillips perfectly. Closing in, Phillips tried to slot his finish between Mignolet's legs but he reacted well to divert for a corner. 'We are very happy, 66 is a wonderful number for the next six or seven days. And then we want to move on to 69,' said Klopp. 'I thought that the boys, in a really difficult game, did really well. It is one of the most difficult places to go because you can't feel comfortable in one moment of the game. 'Somebody asked which scoreline would have kept me a little calmer in the last few minutes, and I said: "Only 4-0 after 86 minutes".' West Brom were never going to allow that to happen and restricted Liverpool to only two other clear chances. Early on, Firmino dragged a finish wide, and in the second half Milner lashed a volley over when teed up at the end of Liverpool's finest move of the match. Lucas slides in during a full-blooded challenge on Livermore and receives a talking to from the referee West Brom had two other good openings. The first from a well-worked free-kick saw Phillips cross for Nacer Chadli but Firmino got the slightest of glances to make the Belgian take an air shot. Hal Robson-Kanu should have done better when sent through but he shot straight at Mignolet. 'We had three good opportunities where I would expect us to have scored,' said Pulis, whose side have failed to score in six of their last seven games since reaching 40 points. 'We're still eighth in the Premier League so we're not doing too badly,' he added. West Brom's quest for a club-record 50 points is looking less likely. Liverpool's bid for a return to Champions League competition is only strengthening.

MATCH FACTS, RATINGS, TABLE AND MATCH ZONE

WBA (4-1-4-1): Foster 6; Dawson 6.5, McAuley 6.5, Evans 6.5, Brunt 6.5; Jacob 6 (McClean 6.4 6); Phillips 7, Livermore 7, Fletcher 7, Chadli 6 (Morrison 6.1 6); Robson-Kanu 6 (Rondon 6.4 6.5) Booked: Brunt, Robson-Kanu
 Subs not used: Myhill, Nyom, Wilson, Field Tony Pulis: 6.5
 Liverpool (4-3-3): Mignolet 7; Clyne 7, Matip 7, Lovren 6.5, Milner 6.5; Wijnaldum 7, Lucas 7, Can 7; Firmino 7.5, Origi 6 (Sturridge 8.2), Coutinho 7 (Moreno 9.0)
 Booked: Lucas Subs not used: Karius, Gomez, Grujic, Woodburn, Alexander-Arnold
 Jurgen Klopp: 7 MoM: Firmino
 Referee: Jon Moss Attendance: 25,669

The Daily Telegraph

The prospects of Liverpool operating in the Champions League next season will only be reinforced after overcoming the curse of the baseball cap. Tony Pulis and his trademark headwear have proved a serial irritant over the years when Liverpool have visited the lair of the set-piece specialist, but Jürgen Klopp is the manager to finally break the hoodoo. Roberto Firmino's 11th league goal of the season lifted Liverpool back into third place and while Klopp acknowledged the importance of last weekend's victory at Stoke City, this felt like an even bigger statement. Rafael Benítez, Kenny Dalglish, Roy Hodgson and Brendan Rodgers have all failed to win a Premier League game at the various venues of teams managed by Pulis, and recent history has been particularly unkind. Supporters still recall the remarkable capitulation at Crystal Palace in May 2014, when Liverpool's title hopes disappeared after a 3-3 draw, with similar levels of dread reserved for a trip to an unpopular relative. Yet there feels something different about this team under Klopp and they will have departed the Black Country increasingly confident of securing a top-four finish. Liverpool even survived a madcap finish, which resembled Sunday morning park football, when Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster ventured upfield in added time to try to force an equaliser at a corner. "It is one of the most difficult places to go because you can't feel comfortable in one moment of the game," said Klopp. "I can understand why Liverpool have struggled [against Pulis teams] in the last nine years. Somebody asked which scoreline would have kept me a little calmer in the last few minutes, and I said: 'Only 4-0 after 86 minutes'." "We could only get to 66 points, so this feels perfect. Next week we try at Anfield to get 69, and let's carry on. It is the Premier League, they [Arsenal] have three, four, five games in hand so we should not think about this. If we do what we have to do, we will be where we want to be." Albion have now failed to score in 375 minutes and this underlined where Pulis needs to spend in the summer. His team have defied expectations this season and are still poised to finish above a cluster of teams with far bigger budgets but they were unable to recreate the same hostile environment that left Arsenal bloodied and bruised last month. This was still far from an easy assignment for Liverpool, however, and they could have gone behind after 23 minutes. Matt Phillips's cushioned cross only required a finishing touch from Nacer Chadli at the far post but just as he was about to connect with the ball, Firmino got the faintest of touches to unsettle the Belgian. Liverpool dominated possession in a scrappy game and the goal finally arrived in injury time. The only surprise was it came from a set play, against a team adept at the art. James Milner's free kick from the right was not cleanly struck but Lucas produced a crucial flick to find Firmino running in at the far post, who was presented with a simple task of heading in from five yards. The free kick, awarded for a foul on Divock Origi by Chris Brunt, sparked a fractious relationship between referee Jon Moss and Albion's supporters, which continued into the second half. Liverpool should have added a second in the 57th minute, after a fine move involving Nathaniel Clyne and Firmino, but Milner volleyed his shot over the bar. Liverpool also required Simon Mignolet 10 minutes from time to prevent Phillips from an equaliser, after the Albion attacker was sent clear on goal. Mignolet will never completely escape his detractors yet his save here, and one at Stoke the previous weekend, could prove vital when Klopp assesses the final months of the campaign. It could have been even more comfortable for Liverpool, after a crazy finale out of sync with what had happened in the previous 90 minutes. With Albion chasing an equaliser, Foster came up for the corner yet made a poor pass to substitute James McClean outside the Liverpool area. Alberto Moreno, a substitute, advanced 50 yards and had to only strike the ball into the empty net but somehow contrived to shoot wide. Yet Liverpool had done enough and the final whistle drew wild celebrations from Klopp, who cannot possibly downplay the significance of this victory. A 1-0 win away at a Pulis team, from a set play?

Date: 16 April 2017
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion
 Competition: League

Times	Mirror	Echo
Guardian	Mail	BBC
Independent	B'ham Mail	Telegraph

16 April 2017

THE INDEPENDENT

Liverpool's set-piece training work pays off as victory at West Brom proves they can win ugly

West Brom 0 Liverpool 1: The Merseysiders had never won a Premier League game in eight previous visits to face a Pulis side yet Firmino's goal made the difference

When [Liverpool](#) spent the best part of a day this last week rehearsing set-pieces at a windy Melwood, [Jurgen Klopp](#) would have been hoping to lessen his team's vulnerability to the aerial threat they were expecting to face at the Hawthorns this afternoon.

The Liverpool manager was surely not devising a strategy to unlock [West Bromwich Albion's](#) defence. And yet, ironically, it was with a set-piece goal, assisted and scored by two Brazilians under six foot tall – Lucas Leiva and Robert Firmino respectively – that Liverpool found a way to end their Tony Pulis hoodoo and take another step closer to a return to the Champions League.

The Merseysiders had never won a Premier League game in eight previous visits to face a Pulis side yet Firmino's first-half goal made the difference as Liverpool climbed back above Manchester City in third place in the table. Cut

After surviving one potential banana skin at Stoke City last weekend, this fixture had appeared another potential stumbling block against just the kind of opposition they tend to struggle against – a team a) below them in the table and b) strong on set-pieces. Yet they came away with their fifth win in seven matches and the excited celebrations at the final whistle underlined that Klopp and his players knew fully well its significance as they ended the weekend with a six-point advantage over fifth-placed Manchester United, albeit from two extra games.

The decisive moment came in first-half stoppage time when James Milner swung a free-kick over from the right flank, and Lucas flicked on to the far post where Firmino got in front of Craig Dawson to nod in. It was Liverpool's first set-piece goal since January and certainly not the kind Albion would expect to give away. And yet they were guilty of switching off with Jonny Evans, out of step with his team-mates, playing Firmino outside.

For Liverpool it was the perfect tonic after a difficult first half when despite plenty of possession they failed to find their passing groove. They had begun with Philippe Coutinho and Firmino – last weekend's goalscoring substitutes at Stoke – restored to the starting XI yet Albion's approach – sit deep and hit Liverpool on the counter – meant the onus was on the visitors to make things happen yet they struggled to find any real flow.

They had a couple of half-chances, the first when a stray Claudio Yacob pass was pounced on by Coutinho who fed Firmino who angled a low shot past the far post from the left side of the box. Coutinho himself then dragged another effort wide at full stretch but it was Albion who had the clearer openings of a disappointing first period.

Albion had scored in only one of their preceding six matches but a home goal appeared imminent in the 23rd minute when Matt Phillips lofted a ball to the far post where Nacer Chadli was arriving unmarked. TV replays suggested there might have been a faint touch off Firmino before the ball landed but still Chadli should have done better than miss the ball entirely with his swipe at thin air. Liverpool, after last week's experiment with a back three in the Potteries, had begun with two centre-backs, Joel Matip and Dejan Lovren, shielded by Lucas yet Jake Livermore found a path through the middle of them with a fine pass into Robson-Kanu which the Wales striker chested into his stride only to drive his shot straight at Mignolet.

With their goal advantage Liverpool found a higher gear in a much livelier second period. Milner should have concluded a four-man move with a goal but volleyed over from Firmino's back-post cross. Firmino was then adjudged marginally offside when teeing up Origi to head past Foster.

Albion have won only one league game since passing the 40-point mark but they put Liverpool under some pressure as the clock ticked down, notably when substitute Salomon Rondón turned Matip and released Phillips in the box but Simon Mignolet stuck out a leg and made a fine save.

However, Simon Mignolet stuck out a leg and made a fine save, just as he had at Stoke last week. Liverpool should have doubled their advantage in a frantic finish when, with goalkeeper Ben Foster stranded in the opposition half after going upfield a corner, substitute Alberto Moreno broke across the halfway line and let fly from 40 yards towards an unguarded goal, only to see his shot drift wide. Thankfully, for the Spaniard, Liverpool had already done enough.

Teams:

West Brom 4-5-1: Foster; Dawson, McAuley, Evans, Brunt; Phillips, Livermore, Yacob (McClelland 64), Fletcher, Chadli (Morrison 61); Robson-Kanu (Rondón 64).

Subs: Myhill, M Wilson, Nyom, Field.

Liverpool: Mignolet; Clyne, Lovren, Matip, Milner; Wijnaldum, Lucas, Can; Firmino, Origi (Sturridge 82), Coutinho (Moreno 90).

Subs: Karius, Grujic, Alexander-Arnold, Woodburn, Gomez.

DAILY MIRROR

PRAISE BE! WE'VE ENDED OUR HAWTHORNS HOODOO; Klopp delight as Firmino strike cements first win in SIX YEARS at West Brom to take Liverpool up to third

SUCCESSIVE victories at Stoke and West Brom will hardly rekindle memories of Liverpool's glory years.

Yet they could prove a significant signpost on the route back to the Champions League as Jurgen Klopp's Reds climbed to third.

Liverpool showed flair and no little grit to triumph at the Hawthorns for the club's first league win there since 2011.

They were forced to dig deep in the closing stages as the hosts, safe from the drop, dispensed with any remaining caution.

Albion even threw keeper Ben Foster up front at corners for an all-out assault. But the Merseysiders held out thanks to some impressive goalkeeping from Simon Mignolet.

Roberto Firmino's first-half header for his 11th top-flight goal of the season proved decisive. It was the second time in a week the Brazil star had produced the winner after a crucial late strike at Stoke.

Ironically, it came from a free-kick after much of the talk had been about the Baggies scoring 18 times from set-pieces this season.

Boss Klopp (below) was thrilled as his celebrations on the pitch with Liverpool's players at the final whistle clearly showed.

His men are unbeaten in their last seven Premier League games, with just five remaining, as they bid to compete against Europe's elite after a two-year absence.

Klopp said: "This is one of the most difficult places to go because in no game can you be comfortable. I thought we won here last year but it was only a draw.

"If it had been 4-0 after 86 minutes maybe then I would have thought it was done.

"They have good footballers on the pitch and, if you are a little bit less aggressive, they use their threat from set-pieces to play football.

"It was very important to show this concentration level until the end which was really good.

"After the whistle, I don't think we did crazy things but we were very happy.

"I thought the boys did very well and we have 66 points now which is a really good week."

The Baggies started brightly as a long throw caused chaos and ended with Hal Robson-Kanu just failing to convert Matt Phillips' subsequent cross.

But despite their positive start, the hosts nearly fell behind in the 15th minute.

Firmino should have hit the target but dragged a low leftfoot shot wide from Philippe Coutinho's pass, after an error by Claudio Yacob.

Robson-Kanu had another sight of goal in the 35th minute from Jake Livermore's defencesplitting pass, but the Welsh international's finish was straight at Mignolet.

Albion were made to pay seconds before the break when Lucas Leiva flicked on James Milner's free-kick for Firmino to head in.

After the restart, Liverpool pushed for a second goal. Skipper Milner volleyed over Firmino's cross from the right when well placed.

Ten minutes from time the visitors were indebted to a fine stop from Mignolet, who came running off his line to close down Phillips.

Albion threw everything at Klopp's men in a frantic finale as even keeper Foster went up.

He was then stranded upfield as Liverpool broke, but sub Alberto Moreno tried his luck from distance, putting his shot wide in a breathless conclusion.

Of Moreno's effort, Klopp added: "I would have been happy for him if he had scored this goal, but it meant excitement until the end, which is pretty much always the case when we are involved."

THINGS WE LEARNED

it all points to Kop success

Liverpool have won 66 points 33 games this season.. that's six points more than they picked up in the entire 2015-16 campaign

You can't keep Firmino out of it

Since the start of last season Roberto Firmino has been directly involved in 34 Premier League goals (21 goals, 13 assists), more than any other Kop player Four games, no West Brom goals

The goal-shy Baggies have failed to score in four consecutive league games for the first time since April 2003. Are the players thinking of the beach?

Rare clean sheet for leaky Liverpool

The normally leaky Liverpool defence kept only their second Premier League clean sheet of 2017 in what was their 14th match of this calendar year

Home where the hurt is for Baggies

West Brom have now lost three of their last four Premier League games at the Hawthorns, as many as they lost in their previous 14 combined

Date: 16 April 2017
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion
 Competition: League

Times	Mirror	Echo
Guardian	Mail	BBC
Independent	B'ham Mail	Telegraph

16 April 2017



Liverpool show stomach for the fight and take giant step towards making ambition a reality

This was a hard-fought triumph laced with irony. Liverpool's bogeyman with the baseball cap was left feeling deflated by a gritty 1-0 secured courtesy of a perfectly executed set-piece. Tony Pulis has done some serious damage to the Reds over the years but not this time. His unbeaten home league record against Liverpool lies in tatters after Jurgen Klopp's men ground out a cherished victory at the Hawthorns courtesy of Roberto Firmino's first-half header. The scenes after the final whistle illustrated the significance of the spoils as the Reds leapfrogged Manchester City back into third place. A beaming Klopp lifted trusted lieutenant Zeljko Brunic off his feet on the touchline before striding on to the turf to embrace his heroes.

Champions League football isn't yet secure but this was another giant step towards making that ambition a reality. For the second successive weekend Klopp's jubilant players took a bow and accepted the adoration of the travelling Kop. The thunderous applause was richly deserved. This is a squad which has stood accused of lacking the stomach for a fight when they come up against the Premier League's lesser lights. But they have silenced that talk emphatically with gutsy back-to-back away victories at Stoke and West Brom. They have rediscovered the art of winning ugly.

Reds have momentum and belief to last the pace

The fact that they have done it without three mainstays of the side in captain Jordan Henderson, Adam Lallana and Sadio Mane makes it all the more impressive. Two sizeable hurdles have been cleared on the road back to Europe's elite. The chasing pack – gleefully expecting Liverpool to stumble – have been left crestfallen. The finish line is in sight and with three of their remaining five matches in the comforts of Anfield the Reds have both the momentum and the belief to last the pace. It wasn't pretty against the Baggies but it was never likely to be. Liverpool's first league win at the Hawthorns for six years was based on desire, organisation, resilience and bottle. In truth they should have been out of sight prior to a chaotic and nerve-jangling finale. The Reds wasted some glorious chances to add to Firmino's header on the cusp of half-time. But rather than wilt under pressure they put their bodies on the line to repel a late onslaught from Pulis' side.

Once again Simon Mignolet made a match-winning contribution with a fine save to deny Matt Phillips an equaliser. Once again the Belgium international silenced his critics and proved that Klopp doesn't need to buy a new No 1 this summer.

Mignolet, who dealt expertly with West Brom's aerial bombardment to secure the Reds' first away league clean sheet of 2017, is enjoying the best run of his Anfield career. In front of him was a well drilled cohesive unit which gave precious little away. Joel Matip was a commanding presence at centre-back, while the tireless midfield trio of Lucas Leiva, Emre Can and Gini Wijnaldum ran themselves into the ground. Whether Lucas' decade of service to the Reds will extend beyond this summer is unclear but if he does embark on a new challenge he's going out with a bang rather than a whimper. How Liverpool benefited from the Brazilian's wealth of experience as he protected the back four and repeatedly broke up play.

Considering the injury situation, it's been a blessing for the Reds that Lucas spurned Inter Milan's advances in January. One player who undoubtedly belongs at Anfield for the long-term is Can, who maintained his recent resurgence with another combative display. The Germany international refused to be bullied as he gave Liverpool a physical edge in the centre of the park and strode forward with real purpose. The sooner discussions are concluded over a new contract the better. A compromise must be found. Liverpool and Can need each other.

He has kicked on impressively after being troubled by a calf problem during the first half of the campaign. At the age of 23, he would be foolish to look elsewhere. He's in the best place and working for the best manager to continue his development. It was another afternoon when Firmino, who was restored to the starting line up along with Philippe Coutinho, showcased his importance to the Reds.

Since Luis Suarez left in 2014, Firmino is the closest Liverpool have come to finding someone who offers that same heady mix of hard graft and breathtaking talent. Aside from his goal, the former Hoffenheim man was at the heart of everything best about the Reds as he forced the Baggies to cough up possession and was a creative force throughout. There was also a much improved display from Divock Origi, who more than justified Klopp's faith in picking him ahead of Daniel Sturridge.

Powerful and direct, Origi proved a real menace for the Baggies' backline. He held the ball up well and linked play intelligently. The opening 45 minutes were largely forgettable as the hosts sat deep, defended in numbers and challenged Liverpool to break them down. The Reds dominated possession but struggled to make it count with Firmino dragging narrowly wide after being teed up by Coutinho. West Brom had their moments with Nacer Chadli guilty of a woeful miss before the ineffective Hal Robson-Kanu fired tamely at Mignolet.

The Baggies are the Premier League's set-piece masters but in first-half stoppage time they were undone by one off the Melwood training ground. James Milner whipped in a free-kick from the left, Lucas flicked it on and Firmino arrived at the far post to nod home his 12th goal of the season.

In the second half the Reds raised the bar, their passing was crisper and they should have wrapped up the points with something to spare. Milner ballooned over the bar after the outstanding Firmino put it on a plate for

him six yards out. Origi then converted Firmino's header back across goal but the celebrations were curtailed by the offside flag. Pulis introduced big frontman Salomon Rondon as the Baggies went route one with increasing regularity. Their threat increased but Liverpool simply refused to buckle with Mignolet off his line quickly to thwart Phillips. How the Reds failed to grab a second goal deep into stoppage time will remain a mystery. With keeper Ben Foster stranded up field, substitute Alberto Moreno had an open goal to roll the ball into 35 yards out but failed to hit the target. **It mattered little. Liverpool had got the job done. Pulis had been beaten at his own game.**

MATCH FACTS

West Brom : Foster, Dawson, McAuley, Evans, Brunt, Fletcher (c), Yacob (McClean 64), Livermore; Phillips, Chadli (Morrison 61), Robson-Kanu (Rondon 64).

Not used: Myhill, M Wilson, Nyom, Field.

Liverpool : Mignolet, Clyne, Lucas, Matip, Lovren, Milner, Can, Wijnaldum, Coutinho (Moreno 90), Firmino, Origi (Sturridge 81)

Not used: Karius, Grujic, Alexander-Arnold, Woodburn, Gomez.

Referee : Jon Moss **Attendance** : 25,669 **Goals** : Firmino 45

Bookings : Brunt, Robson-Kanu, Evans, Lucas.

Man of the match: Roberto Firmino. Scored the winner for a second successive weekend and was a creative force throughout.

BIRMINGHAM MAIL

Roberto Firmino's first half header sealed the points as **West Brom** fired a fourth straight blank for the first time in 14 years. The Brazilian nodded in at the far post as Albion switched off at a free kick on the stroke of half time. Albion have not scored since the 3-1 win over Arsenal nearly a month ago. It's a worrying stat for Tony Pulis and one that could yet undermine West Brom's top ten ambitions. Hal Robson-Kanu, making only his fourth start, couldn't move his feet in time to divert a Matt Phillips cross goalwards as Albion made a bright start.

Phillips was involved again, but suffered a rush of blood after cutting inside James Milner, sending his effort high and wide. Albion's positive start was nearly undone in a flash following a dreadful error from Claudio Yacob. Making his first start since January 31, Yacob gifted the ball to Philippe Coutinho in a dangerous spot in front of the back four. The Brazilian fed his countryman Firmino who fired just past the far post. Nacer Chadli missed a volleyed chance against Southampton last time out, the kind you would expect him to bury. And the Belgian was guilty of a similar blunder, mistiming his effort after Phillips flighted a teasing ball to the far post.

Coutinho came agonisingly close to punishing the profligacy in the very next attack, shooting wide after a set by Firmino. Divock Origi, on the periphery first half, scuffed a shot Ben Foster collected with ease. Foster would have experienced more difficulties had Coutinho's fiery curler found the target. Jake Livermore appeared to rise to the occasion, delivering his best display since the England call. The former Hull midfielder flicked a pass into Robson-Kanu the Welshman brought down beautifully on his chest. Shame his next touch was to shoot right at Mignolet.

Referee Jonathan Moss upset the home fans, blowing for a foul by Robson-Kanu on Lucas. In real-time it appeared the Reds defender was the offender, but replays showed a clear shirt tug from the Albion man. There was little to separate the sides during an even first half, but it was the visitors that went in a goal to the good. Albion were caught napping as Lucas flicked on Milner's free-kick to the far post where Firmino nodded past Foster. Pulis sent his players out early after half time, presumably following a ticking off. And it had the desired affect with the Baggies pushing Liverpool back from the outset. If anything, Albion were too keen with Robson-Kanu flagged for offside as he raced on to Darren Fletcher's through ball.

Foster was content to watch Origi's speculative curler fly well wide of his left-hand post. And the Albion stopper could only stand and watch once more as Milner wasted a glorious chance to double the lead 12 minutes after the interval. With the goal gaping, the England international blasted Firmino's pinpoint cross over. Origi had the ball in the net, but not before the linesman's offside flag had been raised on Firmino. With Liverpool's raids becoming more frequent, Pulis made a succession of changes to disrupt the Reds. Jonny Evans certainly disrupted Coutinho, but illegally, becoming the third Albion man to earn a caution. Joel Matip won the header from Milner's free-kick, but only by barging into Gareth McAuley.

Origi was grounded by Livermore after the Liverpool striker powered forward. Excellent defending from Craig Dawson ensured the resulting free-kick came to nothing. Fletcher refused a shot when Matip's clearance dropped at his feet. Livermore needed no second invitation though, but dragged his shot wide. Phillips then passed up Albion's clearest opening of the match with ten minutes left.

Substitute Salomon Rondon held the ball up and played in Phillips as he burst forward to support. The winger's first touch took him one on one, but his second was lofted enough to clear Mignolet's outstretched legs. Albion applied pressure in the final stages, but were unable to find a way through. Liverpool substitute Alberto Moreno should have wrapped it up in injury time but shot wide as Foster ran back towards an empty net.

ANALYSIS
 To stifle Liverpool's creativity, Pulis opted for a three-man defence. Matt Phillips and Chris Brunt were employed as wing-backs charged with supporting Robson-Kanu when the ball was turned over. The system worked well during a first half in which the Baggies were more than competitive, just lacking a cutting edge. Ultimately, Albion were done by a single set play. Sound familiar?

Date: 16 April 2017

Opposition: West Bromwich Albion

Competition: League

Times	Mirror	Echo
Guardian	Mail	BBC
Independent	B'ham Mail	Telegraph

16 April 2017

CROWD WATCH

A minute's applause, well supported in all four corners of the ground, was held before kick-off in memory of Tracey and Pierce Wilkinson, victims of the recent tragedy in Stourbridge. Albion's diehards in the Smethwick had a job on their hands to be heard over the noisy Liverpool supporters. But they rose to the challenge. Mainly because they had a fair amount to cheer during a positive first half, even if it did end badly. A new Black Country chant even got an airing midway through the first period. "We are the Albion, we'll play against 12," the home fans bellowed after a series of close calls went the way of the visitors.

BIGGER PICTURE

The goals have got to return if the Baggies are going to ensure an encouraging season doesn't peter out. The Baggies must, however, wait until April 29 to put that result right with no game next weekend.

Attendance : 25,669 (2,649 away fans) **Bookings** : Brunt (foul, 45), Robson-Kanu (foul, 47), Evans (foul, 66) – Albion Lucas (foul, 72) - Liverpool

Goals : Firmino (45+1) – Liverpool **Star man**: Livermore

Albion : Foster, Dawson, McAuley, Evans, Brunt, Fletcher (c), Yacob (McClean, 64), Livermore, Phillips, Chadli (Morrison, 61), Robson-Kanu (Rondon, 64).

Subs not used: Myhill, M Wilson, Nyom, Field.

Liverpool : Mignolet, Clyne, Lovren, Matip, Lucas, Milner, Can, Wijnaldum, Coutinho (Moreno 90+1), Firmino, Origi (Sturridge, 81).

Subs not used: Karius, Grujic, Alexander-Arnold, Woodburn, Gomez.



Roberto Firmino scored a winner for the second weekend running as Liverpool beat West Brom to go third in the Premier League. The Brazil striker headed in at the end of the first half after Lucas Leiva had glanced on James Milner's free-kick. Milner volleyed over after half-time, and Simon Mignolet saved with his legs from Matt Phillips at the other end. Late on, Alberto Moreno missed an empty goal from 40 yards after Albion keeper Ben Foster had gone up for a corner.

Despite that miss, Jurgen Klopp's side secured a fifth win in seven games, sending West Brom to a third straight defeat. Klopp has spoken recently of the need for Liverpool to "win ugly" - having developed a habit of beating the Premier League's top teams and then slipping up against sides lower down.

Liverpool's manager was particularly wary of the threat that West Brom might pose from set-pieces, an area in which his team have been vulnerable defensively this season. To counter that danger, Klopp used the fierce winds that hit Merseyside last Wednesday to his advantage - getting his players to face a barrage of high crosses and long throws in training that day.

The manager's reasoning was that if his players could deal with the ball in the air as it swirled about in the wind, they would be able to handle anything West Brom threw at them. By and large, the preparation worked - with Liverpool also making sure not to give away too many set-pieces - although there was one hairy moment in the first half when Nacer Chadli miskicked with the goal at his mercy after Liverpool had failed to defend a free-kick. What was particularly impressive about Liverpool, though, was their midfield domination, which restricted the home side to just a handful of efforts at goal. Lucas, Georginio Wijnaldum and Emre Can were key to keeping West Brom at bay, and ensured a win that keeps Klopp's side well on course for next season's Champions League.

No Mane? No problem

Before last weekend's trip to Stoke, Liverpool had not won a league game all season without Sadio Mane in the team. Klopp needed that statistic to change after a knee injury sustained against Everton on 1 April ended the Senegalese striker's season early. He found inspiration in the Potteries as goals from Philippe Coutinho and Firmino sealed a 2-1 victory, and the two Brazil internationals were involved in Liverpool's best attacking moments at The Hawthorns. Firmino proved his value in terms of creating chances as well as getting the winner, providing a fine diagonal pass that Coutinho volleyed wide in the first half, and crossing for Milner to volley over when well placed in the second. Liverpool could have won by a greater margin with better finishing - with Moreno guilty of the most glaring miss. The full-back, on as a substitute, burst away in the closing seconds after keeper Foster was caught upfield for a corner. Instead of running the ball into the net, Moreno elected to shoot from long range, and missed the target.

Albion fall flat

West Brom remain on course to finish eighth, and equal their highest final league placing since 1981, but their season is in danger of petering out.

Of their past seven matches, Tony Pulis' side have lost five and failed to score in six, with a 3-1 win over Arsenal on 18 March providing their only win and goals during that run. Albion under Pulis have made a habit of being well organised, and of digging out victories with a significantly smaller share of possession.

Pulis praises 'fantastic' West Brom season But they failed to cause Liverpool enough problems, managing just two shots on target all afternoon.

Hal Robson-Kanu hit the first tamely at Mignolet in the opening half, and the goalkeeper reacted well to save with his legs as Phillips ran clear with 10 minutes to go. Even when they won a series of set-pieces in the closing moments, they could not make Liverpool pay.

Man of the match - Emre Can (Liverpool)

Firmino hits fine form

Roberto Firmino has now surpassed his Premier League goal tally from last season (10 in 2015-16, 11 in 2016-17). Since the start of last season, Firmino has been directly involved in 34 Premier League goals (21 goals, 13 assists), more than any other Liverpool player. Liverpool have won 66 points from 33 games this season; six points more than they picked up in the whole of 2015-16.

West Brom have failed to score in four consecutive Premier League games for the first time since April 2003. Liverpool have scored in more league away games this season (14) than they did in 2015-16 (13). Lucas has provided two assists in a Premier League season for the first time since 2009-10.

West Brom have lost three of their past four Premier League games at The Hawthorns, as many as they lost in their previous 14 combined.

Liverpool kept only their second league clean sheet in 2017, in what was their 14th game of this calendar year.

'No set-pieces, no set-pieces, no set-pieces'

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "It was a big win against a good, tall team. We played really well from the first second.

"We needed to adapt to what West Brom wanted to do. In all our plans, it was 'no set-pieces, no set-pieces, no set-pieces'."

On Liverpool's Champions League qualification chances: "It is the Premier League, Arsenal have three, four, five games in hand so we should not think about this.

Today we could only get to 66 points, so it feels perfect. "Next week we try at Anfield to get 69 points, and let's carry on. If we do what we have to do, we will be where we want to be." West Brom manager Tony Pulis: "We are disappointed. I thought we did enough to get a point. "The goal really knocked us. It took us 20 minutes, in which time they had some good opportunities.

"Chadli had a great chance at the back post, Matty Phillips should have scored one-on-one, Hal should have scored one-on-one - it wasn't all set-pieces.

"The difference between the top teams is the quality they have up front. The players have been fantastic this year, we have an opportunity to play some of the young players now too."

What next?

West Brom are at home to Leicester next Saturday (15:00 BST); Liverpool host Crystal Palace a day later at 16:30.

Date: 16 April 2017
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion
 Competition: League

Times	Mirror	Echo
Guardian	Mail	BBC
Independent	B'ham Mail	Telegraph

16 April 2017



Match ends, West Bromwich Albion 0, Liverpool 1.
 90'+5' Second Half ends, West Bromwich Albion 0, Liverpool 1.
 90'+2' Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from more than 35 yards is close, but misses to the right following a fast break.
 90'+2' Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Georjino Wijnaldum.
 90'+2' Substitution, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno replaces Philippe Coutinho.
 90'+1' Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by James Milner.
 87' Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Matt Phillips tries a through ball, but Salomón Rondón is caught offside.
 83' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 83' James Morrison (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 83' Attempt missed. Darren Fletcher (West Bromwich Albion header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Chris Brunt with a cross.
 82' Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Divock Origi.
 80' Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
 80' Attempt saved. Matt Phillips (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Salomón Rondón.
 79' Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right.
 78' Attempt missed. Jake Livermore (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Darren Fletcher.
 77' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Salomón Rondón.
 76' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Craig Dawson.
 76' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle and long range on the left is blocked.
 75' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 75' Foul by Jake Livermore (West Bromwich Albion).
 72' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 72' Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).
 72' James McClean (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick on the left wing.
 69' Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Gareth McAuley tries a through ball, but James Morrison is caught offside.
 67' Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool).
 67' Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 67' Attempt missed. Joel Matip (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses the top left corner. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a set piece situation.
 66' Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion is shown the yellow card.
 66' Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 66' Foul by Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion).
 65' Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Jake Livermore tries a through ball, but Salomón Rondón is caught offside.
 64' Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. James McClean replaces Claudio Yacob.
 64' Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. Salomón Rondón replaces Hal Robson-Kanu.
 63' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by James Milner.
 61' Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. James Morrison replaces Nacer Chadli.
 60' Offside, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.
 60' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Divock Origi.
 60' Attempt blocked. Georjino Wijnaldum (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 58' Foul by Divock Origi (Liverpool).
 58' Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 58' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Chris Brunt.
 57' Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a cross.
 55' Attempt missed. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 53' Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Darren Fletcher tries a through ball, but Hal Robson-Kanu is caught offside.
 52' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 52' Foul by Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion).
 49' Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 49' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 49' Foul by Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion).
 48' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 48' Foul by Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion).
 48' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 48' Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 47' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 47' Foul by Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion).
 46' Foul by Joel Matip (Liverpool).
 46' Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick on the left wing.
 Second Half begins West Bromwich Albion 0, Liverpool 1.
 45'+2' First Half ends, West Bromwich Albion 0, Liverpool 1.
 45'+1' Goal! West Bromwich Albion 0, Liverpool 1. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Lucas Leiva with a headed pass following a set piece situation.
 45'+1' Chris Brunt (West Bromwich Albion is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 45'+1' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 45'+1' Foul by Chris Brunt (West Bromwich Albion).
 44' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 44' Foul by Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion).

40' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 40' Foul by Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion).
 40' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 40' Foul by Matt Phillips (West Bromwich Albion).
 36' Dangerous play by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 36' Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 35' Attempt saved. Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Jake Livermore.
 34' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is too high. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 33' Attempt saved. Divock Origi (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Georjino Wijnaldum.
 32' Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Jake Livermore tries a through ball, but Hal Robson-Kanu is caught offside.
 28' Attempt blocked. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Divock Origi.
 26' Simon Mignolet (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 26' Foul by Darren Fletcher (West Bromwich Albion).
 26' Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by James Milner.
 24' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.
 22' Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).
 22' Jake Livermore (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 19' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 19' Foul by Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion).
 19' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 19' Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 18' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Chris Brunt.
 15' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 12' Offside, Liverpool. Joel Matip tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught offside.
 12' Attempt missed. Matt Phillips (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Jake Livermore.
 9' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 9' Foul by Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion).
 7' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 7' Foul by Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion).
 6' Hand ball by Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion).
 2' Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Chris Brunt tries a through ball, but Hal Robson-Kanu is caught offside.
 2' Attempt missed. Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left.
 2' Attempt missed. Matt Phillips (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.
 First Half begins.
 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.