Date: 27 August 2017
Opposition: Arsenal
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	BBC
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
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27 August 2017

THE TIMES

From the Invincibles to Indefensibles

Liverpool 4 Firmino 17, Mane 40, Salah 57, Sturridge 77 Arsenal 0
Referee C Pawson Attendance 53,206

Meetings between these famous clubs have settled cup finals and titles, but the main issue settled here, as if any confirmation were needed, was that Arsenal are going backwards under Arsene Wenger and Liverpool are going forward -- at pace -- under Jurgen Klopp. Wenger's players were a disgrace, showing an absence of belief, fight and organisation. The contrast with Klopp's buoyant, dynamic Liverpool was so clear that surely even Arsenal's blinkered board must realise the mistake they made in continuing to back their fading manager for two more years. Occasional Wembley jollies cannot mask the slide from the elite ranks to the middle classes. As Arsenal dithered, Liverpool pressed and raided. Liverpool were so good, attacking with all the joyous pace and movement swiftly becoming the hallmark of the exciting Klopp era. Arsenal were so poor, defending with all the paucity of commitment and leadership that stains the final years of Wenger's reign. Liverpool were a class above, ripping the visitors apart. Arsenal had no answer to Roberto Firmino's positioning and invention, to Sadio Mane's acceleration and trickery or the strength and ambition of Emre Can, Georginio Wijnaldum and Jordan Henderson in midfield.

Arsenal's players deserve all the opprobrium for their lack of effort, their failure to track back with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain almost showing Mane the way at one point, their dearth of concentration such as when Mesut Ozil paused like a poet waiting for the muse to call and was mugged by Henderson. Ozil seemed surprised that opponents were refusing to accommodate him, not allowing him to settle on the ball, such as when Dejan Lovren nipped in.

Rob Holding was painfully out of his depth, being brutally wrongfooted by Mane for the second. Some have lost all their verve since signing a new contract like Hector Bellerin, whose inability to master a simple art, controlling a ball, allowed Mohamed Salah to race through and score.

Some of the players stand accused of focusing on richer pastures, and Alexis Sanchez's body language did not contain much north London dialect. Some were simply too sluggish, such as Granit Xhaka, closed down by Salah. Klopp's creative players contributed defensively; Wenger's looked on. Arsenal have slumped from the Invincibles to the Indefensibles.

Ozil and Oxlade-Chamberlain, Sanchez, Bellerin and others were rightly condemned in television and radio studios but those with most familiarity to events at the club -- the fans -- know where the real problems lie: a manager left in the slipstream of smarter peers like Klopp and a majority shareholder in Stan Kroenke who has naively allowed drift to turn into decline.

Arsenal are held back by the debilitating culture at the club, the lack of accountability from top to bottom.

Kroenke does not call Wenger to account, and the manager, who loathes confrontation, does not call his players to account, so the poor fans are served up surrenders like this. Arsenal have suffered worst defeats in the league under Wenger, 6-1 to Manchester United in 2001 and 8-2 to the same opposition in 2011, let alone the 6-0 humiliation at Chelsea on Wenger's 1,000th game in charge and the 5-1 here in 2014. This felt worse. Beyond Petr Cech's occasional defiance and Danny Welbeck running hard, there were no mitigating circumstances, no semblance of hope for the future, no sign that the manager could sort it out. The statistics showed that of the eight goals Arsenal have let in this season, six came within ten seconds of losing the ball. Arsenal seemed unprepared for Liverpool's most potent threat, their ability to turn the ball over and raid at speed, a tactic that Klopp drills into his players at Melwood.

Wenger was to blame for Arsenal's casual attitude. He recruited all these players, so any character flaws, any weakness under pressure, is his responsibility.

He picked this team, which had Arsenal fans kicking off on social media before the game was even kicking off. Wenger started two in central midfield, Xhaka and Ramsey, against Liverpool's in-form triumvirate of Can, Wijnaldum and Henderson. Arsenal were over-run. They have not defeated a top-six side away from home for 33 months, another signal of Wenger's failure to set them up properly on the road. At Anfield, Wenger left his record signing, Alexandre Lacazette, on the bench, and started Welbeck, a willing runner but not a consistent finisher, and Arsenal ended up having eight attempts on goal, but none on target for the first time in 110 Premier League games. He fielded a right back, Bellerin, as left wing back. Even Arsenal's social media team put up a graphic of the line-up with Bellerin on the right. To few people's surprise, Liverpool were soon working over Arsenal's defence. Can exchanged passes with Firmino and whipped the ball to the far post where Salah was thwarted by a point-blank save from Cech. The pressure told after 17 minutes.Joe Gomez, a force down the right, crossed for Firmino, who had stolen between Laurent Koscielny and Holding, to head past Cech. Arsenal should have been more assertive, looking to exploit Klopp's surprising decision to "rest" Simon Mignolet, who has been in decent form this season, and bringing in Loris Karius. Welbeck almost made Karius pay for some hesitance in possession. Karius did impress with a punched clearance from Sanchez's free kick after Gomez brought down Ramsey. Liverpool, though, were sharper, hungrier, quicker to press as seen when Henderson harried Bellerin, winning the ball high up the field. Five minutes from the break, Henderson's side claimed a quickfire second. Gomez nicked the ball, a poor pass from Sanchez, and played it out to Wijnaldum, who was caught by Xhaka. Craig Pawson noted the offence, and later booked Xhaka, but played advantage as Liverpool were storming upfield.

Can took the move on, swiftly finding Firmino, who again showed his ability to assume productive positions. The Brazilian then demonstrated his technique, and awareness of his team-mates' movement, picking out Mane. Arsenal were backpedalling with all the grace of Laurel and Hardy moving a piano. Mane sped on and poor Holding was faced with a zephyr that could go either way. Mane cut inside, and sent a powerful shot curving through the air past Cech.

Wenger tried to stem the red tide, removing Ramsey and sending on Francis Coquelin at the break, but the force remained with Klopp's entertainers. After 57 minutes, they had a third, again from a highspeed break. Following an Arsenal corner, Liverpool cleared but Bellerin's attempt to control the ball was poor, Salah pinched it and flew upfield. Firmino gave rapid support, but Salah went alone, calmly sliding the ball past Cech.

A few Arsenal fans sloped towards the exits, and more followed with 13 minutes remaining when Salah crossed from the left, and the unmarked Daniel Sturridge made it 4-0 with a firm header.

But there was no mass show of dissent towards Wenger, and there was even some gallows humour with a chant of "we're going to win the league". Not under Wenger.

theguardian

Arsène Wenger hits out at 'disastrous' showing in defeat against Liverpool

Arsène Wenger labelled Arsenal's performance against Liverpool "absolutely disastrous" and "unacceptable" after his side endured another abject defeat at Anfield.

Liverpool humiliated Wenger's team 4-0 with goals from Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mané, Mohamed Salah and the substitute Daniel Sturridge – and could have scored more in a one-sided contest. Arsenal have now conceded 17 goals in their past five visits to Anfield and have lost two of their opening three league games for only the third time in 26 seasons.

The uncertainty over Wenger's future is no longer an excuse for Arsenal's repeated failures against the Premier League's leading teams, with the manager having signed a new two-year contract, and he did not spare his players in a damning assessment of their efforts.

Asked what went wrong at Anfield, the Arsenal manager replied: "Everything. From the first minute to the last minute we were not at the level requested for such a game. Not physically, not technically, not mentally and we were punished. That's basically it. Of course, you can analyse the chances we gave away, but I just think overall the performance was not at the requested level."

Wenger's post-match press conference lasted only two minutes and 10 seconds before he left the media room at Anfield but he also said: "The result is a consequence of our performance. We were not good enough. We were beaten everywhere physically, in the end I believe we made it easier for them, and the mistakes gave them a cushion.

"It was shocking [conceding a second before half-time] but our performance was absolutely disastrous. Not to become too emotional, we have to take some distance, and there are some reasons behind it, and the players now go on their international break, but we do have to take the consequences of our performance today. If you find a manager who is happy with that performance today, I wish you good luck. The emotions are negative, but it's not the right moment to talk about that."

Wenger was booed by sections of the away support when he stepped into his technical area for the first time in the second half. On the hostile reception he said: "I don't want to answer that. That's part of the crowd's feelings. If I am the problem, I am sorry, but I believe all together we lose. The only thing we can do is come back and give them a better level of performance."

For Jürgen Klopp, however, victory provided another demonstration of Liverpool's improvement on a game-by-game basis this season, and of their formidable attacking threat.

"So far this season we learn from each performance, each game we played different things," the manager said. "Watford was not as bad as people say. We were close to winning there, but we defended the last few minutes too deep. We did this well against Hoffenheim away and then built on it against Crystal Palace. We played an outstanding game against Hoffenheim and today we did the next step because we did it again.

"We need to learn we can do things like this every three or four days. We wanted to show it today and prove to ourselves and be spot on from the first second. We wanted to show our ambitions against a very strong side. The performance was perfect and the result was the result of the performance."

Klopp confirmed he expects Liverpool to be busy in the final days of the transfer window, with the Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk still a target despite Southampton's refusal to sell him. As for outgoings, Divock Origi could be a late departure while Palace and West Bromwich Albion want to sign Mamadou Sakho. The manager said: "We will see what happens. If players come in, it makes sense we think about what happens on the other side. If Divock is involved, we will see."

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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The Mail

KOP 4 KEYSTONE KOPS 0; Magnificent Liverpool run riot as abject Arsenal surrender

LIVERPOOL 4 Firmino 17, Mane 40, Salah 54, Sturridge 78 ARSENAL 0

LIVERPOOL were magnificent. That needs to be said before the Arsenal inquest starts, because it is going to be long and painful and on a day like this it is all too easy to forget the winners. So, Liverpool: outstanding. Joe Gomez: superb. Emre Can: immense. Roberto Firmino: brilliant. Mohamed Salah: electric. Sadio Mane: a joy to watch. One could go through the whole team individually and rave over what they brought to this display. But Arsenal? Good heavens, where do you start? They try to be fair, ex-players. A lot of them are not so far from the dressing room that they relish delivering criticism. They know what it was like to have a bad day. They know a good footballer doesn't need to be told when it has all gone wrong. But here, the harshest judgment was simply unavoidable. They all piled in. Thierry Henry, Gary Neville, Graeme Souness, Michael Owen, Alan Shearer, Jamie Carragher. Hell, even AP McCoy took a swing at it, and he rides horses.

They used words reserved for the most damning of verdicts Embarrassing. Disgrace. Shocking. Schoolboys. Arsene Wenger, it was suggested, could put the entire team up for sale. And while this was going on, Liverpool's lead kept steadily increasing. Goals in the 17th minute, the 40th, the 54th, the 78th.

Their dominance was total, Arsenal's surrender abject. It could have been worse because Petr Cech needed to be on top form just to keep it to four.

How could Wenger defend this? It was everything the dissenters complained about last season, squared, and telling that there was little criticism from the away end. If the club did not listen in May, what would be the point of rebellion three matches into the new campaign? The worry is that Arsenal are in 16th place, and it isn't a fluke. When Alexis Sanchez was withdrawn midway through the second half, his forlorn presence on the bench seemed to sum up Arsenal's sorry status. Sanchez looked almost tearful before pulling his shirt up to hide his face. What must he make of his club, his ambling, shambling teammates?

Criticism followed Arsenal's defeat at Stoke, but if Mesut Ozil or any of his teammates wished to prove Steven Gerrard wrong in his brutal assessment that day, this was no way to do it.

Ozil was every bit as ineffectual as Gerrard suggested, except his attitude appeared to have spread through the rest of the team. Arsenal were mediocre and halfhearted in a mismatch every bit as great as Mayweather-McGregor.

From the sixth minute, when Can headed just wide, to the 90th, when Cech tipped over a Salah shot, there was only one team in it. By the time Liverpool took the lead, Cech had already made arguably the save of the match, from Salah at the far post. The goals left him powerless, however, the mistakes higher up the field too plentiful to counter.

HOW Man Man West Chelsea Watford Granit Xhaka, attempting a flicked pass out to Hector Bellerin, allowed the excellent Gomez to intercept and set up Liverpool's first goal. He intercepted forcefully, broke, laid it inside to Can, got it back and whipped in a cross. Firmino, occupying the space between Arsenal's centre halves -- or maybe he was merely holding it for the double-decker bus that could have parked there -- headed the ball into the corner, leaving Cech no chance. The second summed up the ambition and drive of the two teams. Arsenal had the ball around theLiverpool area, but lost it feebly once more. Retribution was instant. Gomez won the ball, fed Georginio Wijnaldum, on to Can, moving it swiftly to Firmino who played the final pass to Mane. He cut inside from the left and curled a beautiful shot out of the reach of Cech.

Burnley Stoke Everton Swansea Leicester ARSENAL Brighton Crystal West

LIVERPOOL's third goal even had a practice run three minutes earlier. In the 51st minute, Salah was allowed to break one on one from close on the halfway line, his finish thwarted by Cech before Jordan Henderson shot over. Then, somehow, Arsenal let it happen again. A Liverpool corner was cleared but fell to Bellerin 15 yards inside the Liverpool half. He miscontrolled and was caught in possession by Salah who then had a run of roughly 65 yards to Arsenal's goal with no other blue shirt to cover. Arsenal were like the Keystone Kops in pursuit, except not quite as well organised. Having been given a rehearsal, Salah knew exactly what to do this time.

The scoring was complete with 12 minutes to go. Gomez started it, picking out Firmino who fed Salah on the left. His cross was excellent and substitute Daniel Sturridge was unmarked at the far post to head into an unguarded net. Not that this was any swaS surprise. As good as Liverpool were, Arsenal's entire performance was one big unguarded net.

SUPERSTAT: Arsenal did not manage a shot on target for the first time in the PL since October 5, 2014 against Chelsea.

oOLM LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Karius 6; GOMEZ 8.5, Matip 7, Lovren 6.5, Moreno 7; Wijnaldum 7.5, Henderson 7, Can 8 (Grujic 83min); Mane 8 (Sturridge 74, 7), Firmino 8 (Milner 80), Salah 8. Subs not used: Ward, Klavan, Solanke, Alexander-Arnold.

Scorers: Firmino 17, Mane 40, Salah 54, Sturridge 78. Booked: Lovren, Gomez. Manager: Jurgen Klopp 8. ARSENAL (3-4-3): Cech 7; Holding 5, Koscielny 5, Monreal 4; Oxlade-Chamberlain 4 (Lacazette 62, 4), Xhaka 4, Ramsey 5 (Coquelin 46, 5), Bellerin 4; Sanchez 4 (Giroud 62, 5), Welbeck 6, Ozil 4. Subs not used: Ospina, Walcott, Mustafi, Kolasinac. Booked: Welbeck, Holding, Ozil, Xhaka. Manager: Arsene Wenger 4. Referee: Craig Pawson 7. Attendance: 53,206.

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool inflict one of Wenger's worst days as front three run riot

Liverpool were fantastic; Arsenal fantastical; an embarrassing shambles; a pale, grotesque shadow of the side they should be. A parody. They were humiliated by Liverpool's attacking power and pace, but added to their miserable downfall with their lack of organisation and determination. Once behind, it was over. All over. They had no belief and no leadership. It was summed up by the utter ridiculousness of Liverpool's third goal; a concession that would have led to angry recriminations in Sunday league football, never mind elite professional sport. Arsenal took a corner. But they left Hector Bellerin as their sole defender and, when the ball was cleared to him, he wafted a leg at it unconvincingly, trying to control it, with Mohamed Salah charging down and then running from deep in his own half to calmly steer a low shot beyond Petr Cech.

The second goal was not much less of a travesty for Arsenal as, again, they lost the ball while attacking, this time inside the Liverpool penalty area.

Then it was pass, pass, pass and a final throughball from Roberto Firmino out to Sadio Mane, who cut back across Rob Holding - what possessed the Arsenal defender to show him inside? - with the outstanding forward then curling a superb right-footed shot around Cech and into the corner of the net.

It was that bad. A Liverpool win, given the recent history of this fixture, was predictable enough and the manner of it was also wholly familiar. They were too quick and aggressive and incisive for Arsenal to cope, and therefore laid down their own marker as to what this season could hold.

On this evidence there is only one side who could possibly be considered as potential title - or even top-four - contenders. "We're going to win the league," sarcastically sang the travelling Arsenal fans followed by "we are staying up". It was that painful for them. Firmino also scored - the first goal - and it meant that Liverpool's ridiculously rapid front-three all struck while the fourth goal was claimed by the striker they are keeping out of the team right now, Daniel Sturridge, who came on as a substitute. How bad was this for Arsenal? It was up their among the worst performances ever in Arsene Wenger's 21 years at the club and he acknowledged that as he muttered: "Everything went wrong. From first to last minute we were an easy opponent." It was a predictably brief, and also somewhat incoherent, press conference.

It was as bad, if not worse, than performances such as the 5-1 slaughter here three years ago, when Liverpool scored four times in the opening 20 minutes, and the brutal 8-2 defeat away to Manchester United in 2011, although at least then Wenger had the mitigation of a makeshift line-up.

That was not the case here. In fact, he even decided to start without his two big summer recruits - record signing Alexandre Lacazette, who appeared bemused, and Sead Kolasinac. And while Alexis Sanchez took to the pitch, for the first time this season, as he still hopes to leave (as does Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, wanted by Liverpool and applauded as he was substituted, and Shkodran Mustafi) he was withdrawn before the end and had that familiar look to him that says 'get me out of here'. So this side finished fifth last season and the two players brought in to improve it were left out? Inexplicably Bellerin was playing at leftback - again - with Kolasinac on the bench, while Nacho Monreal drowned in defence where he was cruelly exposed. This was supposed to be the season when Arsenal ended the uncertainty, when Wenger had signed his new contract and the distractions were over, when he would re-arm his team and re-build confidence.

Back-to-back league defeats away to Stoke City and Liverpool have followed a fortunate win at home to Leicester City, and the same demons are there. The same questions; the same failings. It is an enduring, maddening, interminable Groundhog Day. Maybe he will confound critics. The season is new. But what is so difficult is that the result and the flow of the game were so predictable. Same old, same old. This is not to detract from Liverpool, who have a free-flowing brilliance about them when they attack and are managing to cope without Philippe Coutinho, who still wants to leave for Barcelona before the window closes.

They scored four and could have had seven or eight. Arsenal's best player was Cech, who produced a world-class save, spreading himself to deny Salah before the scoring had even begun. But begin it did and what is so awful about the way Arsenal defend - does anyone feel that three at the back is working? - is the lack of pressure they put on the ball. They just do not press; do not harry; do not work. Summed up by the ambling Granit Xhaka in midfield and, ahead of him, Mesut Ozil, of course. So when Emre Can, who utterly eclipsed Xhaka, pushed the ball out wide to Joe Gomez, the full-back had the time and the space to deliver a cross between Holding and Laurent Koscielny for Firmino to run through and head the ball past Cech, who got fingers to it but had little chance.

The second and third goals came and there were more chances as the rhythm did not change. Arsenal's one opportunity was spurned, also when it was goalless, with Danny Welbeck falling as he shot, which seems to be a habit of his, and spooning the ball over the bar.

There was another example of how poor Arsenal were with Cech denying Salah, but Jordan Henderson simply wanting the rebound more than Xhaka as they both ran to the ball. The Liverpoolcaptain got there first and shot over, but there was always going to be more goals and the fourth was similar to the first.

Again Can fed the ball wide and this time it was Salah with all the time and all the space to pick out Sturridge, who cushioned his header past the forlorn and forsaken Cech.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Liverpool run four past pitiful Arsenal

Ahead of the opening weekend, these two sides were tipped by most pundits to be the two lesser members of the Premier League's established 'top six'. That may well still prove to be the case come the end of this long season, but with this 4-0 rout, Liverpool showed why Arsenal must be considered the runt of the litter.

On this display, Arsene Wenger's side should not even feel assured of their place among that leading pack. Their supporters have put up with many displays as insipid as this in recent years, but here, against a side which shares similar hopes for the season ahead, the gap in quality felt wide and significant.

This was once a fixture that Liverpool supporters would look at and fear, but for the first time in years, it was treated was a sense of expectation on Merseyside. There was a confidence from the off and once Roberto Firmino opened the scoring early, that expectation of a comfortable victory never wavered. Strikes from Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah and Daniel Strurridge gave the hosts a result befitting of their dominant display.

Wenger had welcomed Alexis Sanchez back into the fold but his best player was anonymous and ended up in tears on the substitutes' bench. The few moments of danger Arsenal did fashion came from applying the slightest amount of pressure on a nervy Loris Karius, making his first competitive appearance since January.

Simon Mignolet was left out of the match day squad, "rested" according to official accounts, but quite why four games in a fortnight precluded him from even sitting on the bench was unclear.

After the devastating midweek display that sealed their return to the Champions League proper, Liverpool picked up from where they left off. Emre Can's third goal that night has since been touted as among the best in the club's history and the midfielder created the hosts' first clear-cut chance as part of another flowing move.

Finding space down the left, Can delivered a teasing, low cross to the far post that bamboozled Arsenal's backline. Mohamed Salah was on the same wavelength and free to receive at the far post, but the Egyptian's close-range effort was blocked by Cech. Liverpool should have been ahead.

When the opener eventually came it was more prosaic, but also a reminder of the versatility in this Liverpool attack. After Can sent Gomez in behind, the youngster's cross was intelligently left by Salah and met by Firmino, who placed a header into the ground, the bounce carrying past a stretching Cech. It was a simple goal and suggested that more opportunities would soon follow.

Jordan Henderson, indeed, should have doubled their lead minutes later when he robbed a napping Mesut Ozil in the final third, but a one-two with Firmino sent him wide and his meek effort dribbled across the face of goal.

Arsenal slowly started to enjoy more of the ball in Liverpool's half and there was a sense that, for all the hosts' dominance, one individual error could give the visitors' an underserved foothold in the game. A second goal was needed and Mane found it five minutes from the interval, cutting inside from the left to send the ball careering round Cech's outstretched palm.

The goal stemmed from a smart interception by Gomez in his own penalty area and then quick movement of the ball, but it was more notable for the shoddiness of Arsenal's defending than Liverpool's incisiveness. Like in the defeat at Stoke City last week, Wenger's backline was awkward when asked to defend one-on-one and applied no pressure to their onrushing opponents, instead standing off and waiting for the inevitable to pass.

Only a monumental turnaround, both on the scoreboard and in team spirit, would change the course of the game but Arsenal never looked likely to produce one.

Salah spurned another opportunity shortly after the re-start but made no mistake a few minutes later, adding a third that only embarrassed Arsenal further.

After Lovren's clearance of an Arsenal corner, Bellerin failed to take the loose ball cleanly and had Salah on top of him in a flash. One knick on the ball and the winger was away, outpacing the blue shirts behind him. This time, one-on-one with Cech, he held his nerve. Sanchez sat on his haunches, his head in hands, a pose mirrored by some in the away end.

The final blow followed in the closing stages, when again the excellent Can carried the ball through midfield unopposed. He found Salah on the left and the Egyptian, not known for his crossing ability, sent a sublime, arching ball to the back post where Sturridge was on hand to head home.

DAILY Mirror

A lazy, arrogant, broken team with no ideas and no hope and Wenger, YOU'RE TO BLAME; YES, LIVERPOOL WERE BRILLIANT, BUT THEY WERE HELPED BY A SPINELESS, CLUELESS, HUMILIATING DISPLAY BY THE GUNNERS

IF ever a single snapshot told the whole story, it was here at Anfield when Liverpool's third goal went in. Jurgen Klopp punched the air while emitting a primeval roar, his delight a testimony not just to his own passion, but the intensity of his magnificent side who had simply blown away Arsenal.

Sitting slumped barely a couple of metres away, Arsene Wenger could shaking head, a desolate figure d hardly raise his d, on the visitors' bench trembling with suppressed fury at the horrendoscenes unfolding.

Bad enough that his arrogantly casual side had gifted Liverpool and their deadly forwards Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah goals, but worse was the body language of his team. Worse in fact, than Wenger's own. Alexis Sanchez looked as though he would rather have been anywhere else and most certainly in Paris, or Manchester. He looked a beaten man, as did just about every one of his team-mates. Consider that for a second. Three games into a new season where everything is supposed to have changed for the Gunners, and they look a beaten team, with no hope and no ideas. And Wenger, for all his g historical brilliance as a manager, must take the blame for that. Here's another matter to think about for a second. Mane is quite possibly the most dangerous wide player in Europe right now, and yet the player Wenger chose to mark him is intent on leaving because he does not want to play wing-back. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain was the unfortunate victim, and barely seconds into what became a no-contest, was another who looked as though the last thing he wanted to be doing was playing for Arsenal at Anfield. It begs the question as to a what the hell did Wenger imagine was going to happen? What did happen, of course, was Mane taking the Ox apart - and the rest of the visitors' defence too.

He scored a brilliant second goal and created so much chaos the Gunners looked punchdrunk. Let us be clear, Liverpool were brilliant, devastating, magnificent.

Yet the dispassionate among the crowd at Anfield were entitled to wonder what Wenger had been doing in training all week, while Liverpool were occupied with a tough European game. Not working on how to counter the strengths of Klopp's team, that is for sure. The opening goal - which virtually decided this contest - was a case in point, and a damning indictment of what is going on with the Gunners right now. What is certain about Liverpool is that they will press like demons. So the one thing you do not do against them is try lazy, fancy little lofted passes into vague space towards the touchline near your own box.

Yet on 17 minutes, Granit Xhaka did just that, and looked incredulous when Joe Gomez intercepted and found time and space to send over the perfect cross for the outstanding Firmino to score.

Everyone makes errors, yet this was no isolated mistake but endemic in Arsenal's woeful, disgraceful performance. Even Wenger conceded that.

The second goal was a breathtaking four-pass break of clinical precision allowing Mane to score superbly after Firmino's simple final ball. Yet again, the possession was gifted not just cheaply, but criminally.

Incredibly, the third goal was even more embarrassing.

This time Hector Bellerin was the culprit, and it was hard to describe what he was doing, never mind thinking. Somehow, as last man, he gifted the ball to Salah, who raced from halfway to score. The painful truth for Wenger is that not only has he a side who look beaten and completely unmotivated, but they also look like they do not have spirit or bottle either.

In the end it was only four goals, substitute Daniel Sturridge adding the last when he headed home Salah's brilliant cross. The scoreline flattered Arsenal.

Had it been the eight Liverpool deserved, there could have been no complaints.

BIG MATCH FACTS

This was Arsenal's heaviest Premier League defeat since a 0-4 loss to Southampton at St. Mary's on Boxing Day 2015.

Four of Arsenal's eight Premier League defeats by a margin of four or more goals have come against Liverpool at Anfield.

Arsenal have lost their first two Premier League away games in a season for only the second time under Arsene Wenger (the other was 2005-06).

Only West Ham United (10) have conceded more Premier League goals this season than Arsenal (8).

Arsenal didn't attempt a single shot on target in this match - the first time they haven't had one in a Premier League game since October 5, 2014 (v Chelsea).

Liverpool have kept four clean sheets in a row at Anfield in the Premier League for the first time since September 2013.

Arsenal have lost nine of their last 14 Premier League away matches (W4 D1 L9) - their previous nine away defeats in the competition came over a period of 47 games (W25 D13 L9).

Liverpool's third goal (Mohamed Salah) came only 12 seconds after Arsenal took a corner.

Sadio Mane is only the third player to score in the first three PL games of a season for Liverpool(after Robbie Fowler in 1994-95 & Daniel Sturridge in 2013-14). Mane has scored in all three of his Premier League appearances for Liverpool against Arsenal.

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LIVERPOOL ECHO

Poetry in motion, and whatever Can wants, give it to him!

All the talk about the identity of the man between the posts proved academic. Jurgen Klopp could have handed the gloves to Mighty Red and it wouldn't have made a blind bit of difference.

Loris Karius was a spectator as Liverpool went into the international break on a glorious high after demolishing Arsenal at a sun-kissed Anfield.

The scoreline flattered the woeful Gunners who were outfought and outclassed in every department. But for Petr Cech the embarrassment for Arsene Wenger would have been considerably greater. Beating one of your main rivals really shouldn't be this easy. The contrast between the two sides was vast.

Liverpool purred from start to finish. This was the slick, cohesive unit Jurgen Klopp has assembled. The work ethic, the unity, the spirit and the abundance of quality shone through during a swashbuckling display. Arsenal were left to resemble a spineless mess. The Reds' front three of Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salash tormented the Gunners throughout. 'Poetry In Motion' echoed around Anfield - a fitting soundtrack when that gifted trio are leading the charge.

Smiling assassin Mane maintained his remarkable start to the campaign with another goal to cherish after the tireless Firmino had nodded the Reds ahead.

Salah killed Arsenal off in the second half before substitute Daniel Sturridge completed the rout. Defensively, the Reds were rock solid as they made it six clean sheets in their last seven league matches.

Joe Gomez excelled after being handed the chance to shine at right-back, while Dejan Lovren was much improved alongside Joel Matip.

There was also the sight of Alberto Moreno being applauded by all four sides of Anfield. It was that kind of day.

The midfield was a mismatch as Arsenal had no answer to the endeavour and creative spark provided by Emre Can, Jordan Henderson and Gini Wijnaldum.

Can was outstanding - delivering arguably the most complete performance of his Liverpool career. The Reds need to sort out his contract situation as a matter of urgency. Whatever he's asking for, he's worth it. He deserves to be among the club's highest earners. Can has blossomed under the guidance of Klopp and he's still only 23. Losing him for nothing next summer would be disastrous.

With seven points out of a possible nine and the Reds safely through to the group stage of the Champions League, Klopp will reflect on the opening stages of the season with real satisfaction.

They have handled everything that's been thrown at them this summer – from the Philippe Coutinho saga to the loss of Adam Lallana and Nathaniel Clyne to injury.

Coutinho should conclude that being forced to stick around for another year isn't too much of a bind. This team should compete for silverware and the prospect of him returning to raise the bar still further is mouthwatering.

Having blown Hoffenheim away with a devastating early burst in midweek, Liverpool repeated the trick against the Gunners.

Once again Klopp's men flew out of the traps. They played at a tempo and an intensity that Arsenal simply couldn't live with.

Can, his confidence sky high after that Champions League brace, oozed class as he stamped his authority on proceedings. Granit Xhaka and Aaron Ramsey couldn't get near him. One minute Can was dropping deep to launch a move with an incisive pass, the next he was bursting into the Arsenal penalty box.

Can's slick one-two with Firmino put one on a plate for Salah early on but Petr Cech spread himself and made the save. The breakthrough Liverpool deserved arrived on 17 minutes. It was testament to Gomez's desire and technique.

Having won the ball back close to halfway, Gomez charged down the right flank. Can found him and the youngster's left-footed delivery into the box was a beauty. Firmino took full advantage as he nodded home from six yards out.

Liverpool were first to everything as battles were won all over the field. They should have swiftly added to their account.

Henderson picked Mesut Ozil's pocket and was sent clear by Firmino's pass. The skipper dinked it beyond Cech but wide of the post.

The decision to rest Simon Mignolet was a strange one. Keepers don't need a breather in August and the Belgian's form has been decent.

All eyes were on Karius, who was making his first Premier League outing for eight months, but he had precious little to do as Arsenal failed to register a single shot on target. Karius' big strength is supposed to be his ability with the ball at his feet but he flirted with disaster at times.

He felt the wrath of the Kop after delaying his kick and allowing Danny Welbeck to close him down. He got lucky as the ball squirmed away to safety.

Those howls turned to applause when Karius came off his line and convincingly punched away Sanchez's free-kick.

Wijnaldum may have started the season slowly but the Dutchma truly into his stride.

Anfield roared its approval after he shrugged off Xhaka like he was dealing with an irritating wasp and then produced a pirouette which left Ramsey on his backside.

Salah, who had the beating of Nacho Monreal every time, cut in off the right to force a low save from Cech as Arsenal remained under the cosh.

n is now well and

The Reds finally doubled their account five minutes before the break. It was a blistering counter-attack as Can and Firmino combined to release Mane.

The Senegal international skipped away from Rob Holding and whipped an unstoppable right footer into the far corner. Anfield erupted.

Gomez ensured there was no lifeline for the Gunners with a crucial block to prevent Holding from reducing the deficit. The second half brought more of the same with Liverpool preying on the visitors' glaring defensive woes.

Salah was thwarted by Cech after robbing Monreal but the club's record signing finally netted just before the hour mark. It came from an Arsenal corner as Salah got to Matip's headed clearance ahead of Hector Bellerin and raced half the length of Anfield before holding his nerve to slot home.

Wenger threw on Olivier Giroud and Alexandre Lacazette but it remained one-way traffic. Mane went close before Sturridge, who had only been on the pitch for three minutes, made it 4-0. Salah's cross from the left was inviting and the England striker accepted the gift. What a week. Liverpool are flying. If Klopp can do the business he wants prior to Thursday's transfer deadline then this season promises to be some ride.

MATCH FACTS

Liverpool: Karius, Gomez, Lovren, Matip, Moreno, Henderson, Can, Wijnaldum, Salah, Firmino (Milner 80), Mane (Sturridge 74).

Not used: Ward, Grujic, Klavan, Solanke, Alexander-Arnold

Arsenal: Cech, Holding, Koscielny, Monreal, Bellerin, Ramsey (Coquelin 45), Xhaka, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Lacazette 62), Ozil, Welbeck, Sanchez (Giroud 62)

Not used: Ospina, Walcott, Mustafi, Kolasinac.

Referee: Craig Pawson **Attendance:** 53,206

Goals: Firmino 17, Mane 40, Salah 57, Sturridge 77.

Bookings: Lovren, Gomez, Welbeck, Xhaka, Ozil, Holding.

Man of the match Emre Can. Outstanding from start to finish.

EVENING STANDARD

Arsene Wenger out of ideas in Anfield embarrassment

Liverpool's explosive frontline left Arsene Wenger humiliated as they tore through Arsenal in a 4-0 Premier League win at Anfield.

The quartet of Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah and substitute Daniel Sturridge found the net in a breath-taking display as they breached Arsenal's woeful defence time and again on Sunday.

The Gunners find themselves in the bottom half of the table after three games that have brought one win, two defeats and eight goals against. Yet again, pressure is building on the Arsenal boss.

Wenger's lineup offered plenty of reason for befuddlement before kick-off. Alexis Sanchez returned but record signing Alexandre Lacazette made way, with Danny Welbeck leading the line. The powerful Sead Kolasinac was dropped as part of the ongoing charm offensive to convince Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain to stay. Arsenal supporters might have wondered why on earth so much energy is being expended on keeping the 24-year-old.

Deployed at right wing-back, with Hector Bellerin an uncomfortable fit on the other flank, he all too often left Rob Holding on his own to deal with the marauding Sadio Mane.

Firmino's opener, the culmination of 17 minutes of remorseless pressure, came from the opposite flank, an unmarked header inside the box, but the left flank was a constant source of joy for Liverpool.

The pressure eventually told when both Aaron Ramsey and Granit Xhaka, nominally Arsenal's midfield shield, were caught upfield. Liverpool burst in numbers when the visitors gave up possession, with no-one to slow Emre Can's charge through the centre of the field.

Three-on-three the Premier League's most formidable counter-attacking force had no difficulty doubling their advantage, the isolate Rob Holding showing Mane inside as he curled a low shot into the far post.

Liverpool should have been more than 2-0 up. Petr Cech's instinctive save had denied Mohamed Salah before the rout began and had the Egyptian not been caught offside so regularly the damage would have been more severe by the interval. After making such a mess of his starting lineup Wenger responded, withdrawing the woeful Ramsey at the half to bring in Francis Coquelin.

But it was the switch to 4-2-3-1 that briefly seemed to offer Arsenal hope. Playing players in their positions – a radical concept for Wenger this season – gave the visitors purpose in attack, with Mesut Ozil lashing a low drive past Loris Karius' far post.

It was a chimera. Even an improved system could not mitigate for woeful errors. Bellerin's heavy touch as he took down a clearance did nothing more than tee up Salah to burst away. From his own half he was one-on-one with Cech, who he placed a low shot beyond and into the bottom corner.

The bleeding was not to stop. Wenger threw on two strikers, Olivier Giroud and Lacazette. It was no wonder Arsenal were caught on the counter for the fourth as Sturridge headed home at the back post.

Alexis Sanchez pouted his way to the bench after an hour in which he contributed little.

He will likely still be an Arsenal player when the transfer window closes on Thursday night, but he will need his manager to find a major injection of quality if what is likely to be his final season at the Emirates isn't to represent a further slide away from the Premier League elite.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 27 August 2017
Opposition: Arsenal
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	BBC
Guardian	Mirror	Standard
Independent	Mail	Echo

27 August 2017

BBC

Liverpool produced a dazzling attacking display to destroy Arsenal as Arsene Wenger's side were humiliated at Anfield.

Wenger surprisingly chose to leave out summer signing Alexandre Lacazette, and the £52.6m striker could only look on as every one of the Gunners' old, familiar failings were brutally exposed by Liverpool's pace, movement and sheer desire.

Roberto Firmino headed in Joe Gomez's cross to give Liverpool a 17th-minute lead to start an attacking blitz that ended in a final scoreline that actually flattered Arsenal.

Sadio Mane curled in Liverpool's second before Mohamed Salah ran half the length of the field on the break to stroke home the third after 57 minutes. The fact that the goal came from an Arsenal corner merely emphasised the shambolic nature of their display, which lacked organisation, commitment and passion.

Arsenal - who have now lost two of their first three league games - were overrun and showed no stomach for the fight. Liverpool substitute Daniel Sturridge gave the scoreline a more realistic appearance when he headed home the fourth at the far post from Salah's cross 13 minutes from the end.

Have Liverpool found Suarez's replacement?

Liverpool struggled to find the fire and verve that almost took them to the Premier League title in 2014 after their inspiration and talisman Luis Suarez left for Barcelona.

The fear factor Suarez possessed disappeared and in many respects it signalled the beginning of the end for Brendan Rodgers as Liverpool manager.

Could it be that Mane has provided that crucial missing link in a Liverpool attack that now carries enough pace and movement to trouble any defence in the game?

The 25-year-old Senegal striker had a fine first season at Anfield following his £34m move from Southampton in summer 2016, although his impact was reduced by injury and absence at the Africa Cup Of Nations, which hurt Liverpool's season.

This season, in combination with Firmino and new boy Salah, he is moving into the highest class and performing in a manner that is drawing comparison with Suarez.

Mane's goal was a typical piece of work, cutting inside from the left before placing a perfect right-foot shot low past Petr Cech.

He possesses the 'X Factor' of unpredictability without Suarez's unpalatable excesses, as well as lightning pace and tactical discipline. Mane will be crucial to Liverpool's season.

Mane may not yet be in the exalted class of Suarez when he was at Liverpool - but he is certainly looking like the closest they have had since the departure of the brilliant but temperamental Uruguayan.

Why would Sanchez stay at Arsenal?

Wenger insists Alexis Sanchez, who made his first appearance of the season, will not be sold before Thursday's transfer deadline - but that is unlikely to stop Manchester City making one final attempt to prise the Chilean away from Emirates Stadium.

Sanchez has shown no inclination to sign a new contract at Arsenal so Wenger's decision means the Gunners now risk losing an asset worth at least £50m for nothing at the end of this season.

The brutal question after Arsenal's ambitions were laid bare once more is: what is there on offer in terms of serious success that would keep him at Arsenal?

Liverpool looked light years ahead of Arsenal as potential title contenders, and with no Champions League football, there was very little that was appetising enough to tempt Sanchez to stay.

Sanchez was even denied the assistance of Lacazette, who was reduced to the role of substitute while Arsenal were subjected to the sort of hammering they have received at Anfield on a couple of occasions in recent seasons.

It is now a question of whether Arsenal stick or twist in the next few days - and whether a huge offer from City might just be tempting.

In a further irony, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who looks certain to leave Arsenal before the transfer deadline, was warmly applauded by Liverpool's fans when he was substituted, clearly in the hope he could be tempted to Anfield rather than Chelsea.

Klopp and Wenger make big calls

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp and Arsenal counterpart Wenger both made big selection decisions before kick-off for one of the big early-season games.

Klopp decided to "rest" goalkeeper Simon Mignolet - although no-one was quite sure what he was being rested for - and replaced him with young German Loris Karius, while Wenger produced an equally big surprise by leaving out Lacazette.

Liverpool's only anxious moments came via Karius' uncertainty with the ball at his feet, the keeper twice almost caught in possession by Danny Welbeck but getting lucky as the ball bounced to safety.

Arsenal were so abject in attack that he was not tested in any other way - although the buzz of anxiety that whipped around Anfield when he had the ball at his feet sounded a note of concern for Klopp.

The Reds were again without Barcelona target Philippe Coutinho, who has a back injury - although they did not miss him.

Lacazette - who came on for the final 28 minutes - was probably best being kept out of this one, as Arsenal were swept aside by a red tidal wave of attacks. But it is a mystery why Wenger would spend big money on a player then leave him out for such a vital game.

Arsenal's other summer signing, defender Sead Kolasinac, the man who was supposedly going to beef up a soft side, was also excluded on a chastening day that left Wenger facing familiar and painful questions.

Man of the match - Sadio Mane (Liverpool)

Analysis - 'Arsenal need freshening up'

BBC Radio 5 live pundit Robbie Savage at Anfield:

Liverpool haven't beaten Arsenal, they have destroyed them. Thumped them. Torn them apart. It doesn't matter what formation you play or your tactics, it's also about desire and winning second balls. I don't think enough Arsenal players want to play that kind of football. Where are the leaders on the park for Arsenal, getting the likes of Xhaka and Monreal by the scruff of the neck and demanding to know what they are doing? If I was an Arsenal fan I'd want to see my manager. Arsene Wenger and Steve Bould are simply sitting there doing nothing. Get out there and give your team a rollocking. Talk about body language. Think of the Arsenal teams of the past - leaders like Adams, Keown and Bould.

That was one of Liverpool's very best performances in a number of years. The midfield controlled the game with the pace and power of Wijnaldum, Can and Henderson combined with the pace of the attacking threat of Salah, Firmino and Mane. It was almost perfect as a performance and it could easily have been more.

Former Arsenal striker John Hartson on Radio 5 live's 606

Liverpool won every battle today for the entire game. If you get the better of your opposing man, then usually the team will win. I cannot think of any area where Liverpool lost out. When you travel to a notorious place, Anfield, mentally you've got to be prepared for a tough game, you've got to be prepared to run back, to tackle and to earn the right. Arsenal did not earn the right - they were lacking all over the pitch. Blame Arsene Wenger all you want but if the Arsenal players cannot muster up some fight then there must be something seriously wrong at the football club. I would have liked to have seen Wenger leave at the end of last season after winning three FA Cups in four years. He'd have left with the respect of the crowd and with his head held high. The club needs freshening up.

Reaction - 'Simon is the number one'

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told BBC Sport: "After midweek games you have to reach the mountain immediately. You really feel it is intense, we wanted to force ourselves to be strong physically and that is what we were. We were really well organised.

"If you give Arsenal space and time you lose before the game starts so I don't think they could do a lot of what they wanted, Arsenal, and that is all credit to the boys because they worked really hard."

On the decision to rest Simon Mignolet: "It is a completely normal decision. We want to have three strong goalkeepers. Simon is always spot on, always really good, a smart guy, he is a machine, he is the number one.

"But when you have three you have to give Simon a rest. He was not overly happy. He did not ask for the rest, but it is a mental rest more than a physical rest."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, speaking to BBC Sport: "We put [the players] in ideal conditions, I think overall the performance from back to forward was not at the level requested and it raises many questions.

"I still believe you have to think these players are good enough but it is sure that today we were not at the level."

What's next?

Both clubs have almost a two-week break because of the upcoming international fixtures, with their next games coming after the transfer deadline.

Liverpool visit Manchester City on Saturday, 9 September (12:30 BST), with Arsenal hosting Bournemouth at 15:00 BST.

The stats you need to know - more Gunners woe at Anfield

This was Arsenal's heaviest Premier League defeat since a 4-0 loss at Southampton on Boxing Day 2015.

Four of Arsenal's eight Premier League defeats by a margin of 4+ goals have come against Liverpool at Anfield.

Only West Ham (10) have conceded more Premier League goals this season than Arsenal (eight).

Arsenal did not attempt a single shot on target in this match - the first time they have not had one in a Premier League game since 5 October 2014 (v Chelsea).

Liverpool have kept four clean sheets in a row at Anfield in the Premier League for the first time since September 2013.

Arsenal have lost nine of their past 14 Premier League away matches (W4 D1 L9) - their previous nine away defeats in the competition came over a period of 47 games (W25 D13 L9).

Liverpool's third goal (Mohamed Salah) came only 12 seconds after Arsenal took a corner.

Roberto Firmino has scored and assisted in a game on eight occasions since his Premier League debut in August 2015; no player has done so more often than him in this period (Costa & Lukaku also on eight).

Sadio Mane is only the third player to score in the first three Premier League games of a season for Liverpool (after Robbie Fowler in 1994-95 & Daniel Sturridge in 2013-14).

Mane has scored in all three of his Premier League appearances for Liverpool against Arsenal.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 27 August 2017
Opposition: Arsenal
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	BBC
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27 August 2017

BBC

Match ends, Liverpool 4, Arsenal 0.
90'+4' Second Half ends, Liverpool 4, Arsenal 0.
90'+3' Offside, Arsenal. Laurent Koscielny tries a through ball, but Alexandre Lacazette is caught offside.
90'+1' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Petr Cech.
90'+1' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by James Milner.
89' Attempt missed. Olivier Giroud (Arsenal header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Mesut Özil with a cross following a set piece situation.
88' Alexandre Lacazette (Arsenal wins a free kick in the attacking half.
88' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
87' Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Marko Grujic.
86' Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Alberto Moreno.
84' Substitution, Liverpool. Marko Grujic replaces Emre Can.
81' Attempt missed. Granit Xhaka (Arsenal left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Danny Welbeck.
80' Substitution, Liverpool. James Milner replaces Roberto Firmino.
77' Goal! Liverpool 4, Arsenal 0. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from very close range to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Mohamed Salah with a cross.
76' Granit Xhaka (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.
76' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.
74' Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Sadio Mané.
73' Rob Holding (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
72' Foul by Rob Holding (Arsenal.
72' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
72' Delay over. They are ready to continue.
71' Delay in match Alberto Moreno (Liverpool because of an injury.
70' Foul by Francis Coquelin (Arsenal.
70' Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
70' Attempt saved. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.
69' Attempt missed. Alexandre Lacazette (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Olivier Giroud with a headed pass.
66' Offside, Arsenal. Granit Xhaka tries a through ball, but Héctor Bellerín is caught offside.
62' Attempt missed. Mesut Özil (Arsenal left footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left.
62' Substitution, Arsenal. Alexandre Lacazette replaces Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.
62' Substitution, Arsenal. Olivier Giroud replaces Alexis Sánchez.
61' Attempt blocked. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Joseph Gomez.
58' Foul by Mohamed Salah (Liverpool.
58' Nacho Monreal (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.
57' Goal! Liverpool 3, Arsenal 0. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner following a fast break.
56' Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
54' Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left.
54' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.
53' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Petr Cech.
52' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
52' Foul by Rob Holding (Arsenal.
49' Mesut Özil (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
49' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
49' Foul by Mesut Özil (Arsenal.
49' Attempt blocked. Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Mesut Özil.
46' Attempt missed. Mesut Özil (Arsenal left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Granit Xhaka with a headed pass.
Second Half begins Liverpool 2, Arsenal 0.
45' Substitution, Arsenal. Francis Coquelin replaces Aaron Ramsey.
45'+3' First Half ends, Liverpool 2, Arsenal 0.
45'+1' .
45'+1' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
45'+1' Foul by Granit Xhaka (Arsenal.
44' Offside, Arsenal. Laurent Koscielny tries a through ball, but Alexis Sánchez is caught offside.
42' Attempt blocked. Rob Holding (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.
41' Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Jordan Henderson.
40' Granit Xhaka (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
40' Goal! Liverpool 2, Arsenal 0. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino following a fast break.
38' Joel Matip (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
38' Foul by Danny Welbeck (Arsenal.
37' Offside, Arsenal. Mesut Özil tries a through ball, but Laurent Koscielny is caught offside.
37' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.
37' Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal wins a free kick in the attacking half.
36' Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.
35' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can.
35' Offside, Arsenal. Granit Xhaka tries a through ball, but Alexis Sánchez is caught offside.
34' Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a corner.
34' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Granit Xhaka.
32' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum with a headed pass.
30' Hand ball by Danny Welbeck (Arsenal.
27' Offside, Liverpool. Emre Can tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.
26' Foul by Alexis Sánchez (Arsenal.
26' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
25' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.
23' Joseph Gomez (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
23' Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool.
23' Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal wins a free kick on the left wing.
22' Danny Welbeck (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
22' Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
22' Foul by Danny Welbeck (Arsenal.
20' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
19' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool.
19' Danny Welbeck (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.
19' Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a through ball.
17' Goal! Liverpool 1, Arsenal 0. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Joseph Gomez with a cross.
16' Offside, Liverpool. Georginio Wijnaldum tries a through ball, but Dejan Lovren is caught offside.
16' Attempt blocked. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
16' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Laurent Koscielny.
10' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Emre Can with a cross.
7' Attempt missed. Danny Welbeck (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Alexis Sánchez.
6' Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno with a cross.
First Half begins.
Lineups are announced and players are warming up.

Compiled by Graeme Riley