

Date: 27 January 2018
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion
 Competition: FA Cup

Echo	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
BBC	Observer	Guardian	Mirror
	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Mail

27 January 2018

THE TIMES

We cannot keep conceding goals like that, says Klopp

Liverpool 2 Firmino 5, Salah 78

West Bromwich Albion Rodriguez 7, 11, Matip 45+2 (og) 3

Referee C Pawson Attendance 53,342

The fall-out from a number of dubious decisions was clearly gnawing away at Jürgen Klopp as he cut a frustrated, irritated figure.

His demeanour had nothing to do with the controversies spiked by VAR which, by and large, had worked in his side's favour, but rather the confusion of a performance which was ramshackle and worrying in equal measure.

While the fallout focused on offside infringements, penalty reviews and Craig Pawson's insistence on complicating the straightforward, the Liverpool manager's thoughts were elsewhere; primarily in replaying the missed tackles from Georginio Wijnaldum and Trent Alexander-Arnold before Jay Rodriguez's stunning goal.

The ease with which Emre Can was bamboozled before the West Bromwich Albion forward claimed his second, and then the lack of awareness from half of the Liverpool team which led to Joël Matip inadvertently applying the final touch to Craig Dawson's effort.

"It's not allowed to concede goals like we conceded. That's it," Klopp said after conceding three goals in the first-half of an FA Cup tie for the first time since they did so against Manchester United in 1948.

In the same room as he had lauded players for their "pressing from another planet" in harrying Manchester City out of their elegant stride, he tried to make sense of a second defeat in a week.

The errors were so rudimentary that it would be difficult to repeat them. However, seven of the side that stripped Pep Guardiola's side of their aura of invincibility started. Liverpool did not ring the changes, they were going for glory, having last won silverware in 2012.

They must deal with the insecurities after defeat and the tetchiness that accompanies it. Virgil van Dijk admonished Matip at one point, while Klopp ordered Mohamed Salah to hand back free-kick duties to Alexander-Arnold after the Egyptian had pulled rank on the youngster.

"Nothing in training gave me a sign that the boys misjudged the success or result against Man City," said Klopp, who saw Roberto Firmino open the scoring and miss the penalty resulting from Pawson reviewing footage at the side of the pitch of Jake Livermore pulling on Salah's shirt.

"We have the feeling that something is wrong. That could cost confidence but we have to show it's not like this because we need confidence and we need to be serious, we need to be ready, we need to be greedy, full of desire for this game against Huddersfield [tomorrow] because Huddersfield is in a difficult situation in the league. We have our situation. We have to show our right reaction."

The clamour will be to buy, buy, buy but that is unlikely with the transfer window closing on Wednesday. What is the solution? A replacement for Philippe Coutinho? A new goalkeeper? A bona fide holding midfielder? Two of those issues have not arisen over the past month.

What has become clear from back-to-back defeats to Swansea and West Brom is that when Liverpool's attacking triumvirate is not at full tilt, the limitations elsewhere are exposed. A comeback was beyond them despite Salah's 25th goal of the season.

Rodriguez, in particular, excelled in front of Gareth Southgate, the England manager, with a fifth goal in six games. "You've got to aspire to the highest level you can and that is representing your country at a World Cup," he said. "For me that is an amazing dream."

"To be scoring at Anfield is something I've always dreamt of as a kid. When you are in the gym and miles away from coming back [from injury] these are the times you reflect on and you are happy with."

Klopp was unhappy that Ahmed Hegazi's challenge on Firmino — "it's just horrible," he said — was not subject to VAR, but that his disappointment lay with his team and not the technology spoke volumes.

RATINGS
 Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet 5 — T Alexander-Arnold 6, J Matip 5, V V Dijk 5, A Moreno 5 — E Can 5 (sub: J Milner 65min, 6), A Oxlade-Chamberlain 5 (sub: D Ings 65, 6), G Wijnaldum 5 — M Salah 6, R Firmino 6, S Mané 5 (sub: J Henderson 65, 6). Substitutes not used D Ward, J Gomez, D Solanke, D Lovren. Booked Can.

West Bromwich Albion (4-4-2): B Foster 7 — A Nyom 6, C Dawson 7, J Evans 5, K Gibbs 6 (sub: A Hegazi 37, 6) — J Livermore 6, G Krychowiak 8, G Barry 7 (sub: C Yacob 71), C Brunt 6 — H Robson-Kanu 6 (sub: M Phillips 38, 7), J Rodriguez 9. Substitutes not used B Myhill, S Rondón, J McClean, O Burke. Booked Dawson, Barry, Hegazi.

the guardian

Jay Rodriguez's West Brom double dumps Liverpool out of FA Cup

VAR vied for the limelight but West Bromwich Albion would not be denied. "Nice one Cyrille," sang the away section as they savoured an outstanding victory and [tribute to their late hero Regis](#). His old club excelled while Liverpool faltered badly, exiting the FA Cup at the fourth-round stage for the third season running under Jürgen Klopp.

"We had big aims in this competition and we wanted to show that," said the [Liverpool](#) manager, who lamented another poor defensive display that invited Jay Rodriguez to score twice and Craig Dawson to force Joël Matip into conceding an own goal before half-time.

Alan Pardew's complaint centred on the referee, Craig Pawson, and his over-use of VAR. The West Brom manager could have none over a performance that deservedly inflicted a second defeat of the week on Liverpool by [a team in the bottom two of the Premier League](#).

Pawson used VAR to disallow a Dawson header at 2-1, to award Liverpool a penalty that was missed by Roberto Firmino and to allow Albion's third goal to stand. All three were correct calls but VAR introduced both accuracy and farce at Anfield.

The referee appeared to be guided by Mohamed Salah in awarding the spot-kick, taking three minutes and 53 seconds to do so. He also called for several unnecessary reviews that brought an absorbing and flowing Cup tie to a standstill and left players from both teams openly mocking its use. The [introduction of VAR for addressing "clear and obvious" errors](#) was exposed to ridicule here.

"It's hard to know where to start," said Pardew on the video reviews, echoing the thoughts of many at Anfield. "I don't think that is what we want to see going forward. There was no communication from the referee to us. We didn't know why the game was being stopped. They reversed the Dawson goal which would never have been disallowed in a league game. Are we going to start taking goals away from the entertainment for slight margins?"

"The biggest worry for me was the four minutes for the Salah penalty decision. You are going from a high-tempo workrate to nothing and then we had a hamstring injury [to Kieran Gibbs] just after that. As a coach should I have got our players to keep warmed-up in that situation? I don't know. It was bizarre."

The real shame was how VAR intruded on the acclaim Albion merited for attacking Liverpool in the first half, dominating central midfield and defending stoutly in the second as the hosts pressed in vain for a recovery. Klopp sportingly sought out Dawson and Jonny Evans on the final whistle, shaking the hands of two defenders who repelled his team expertly even while carrying injury, with all three substitutes deployed.

Defeat confines Klopp's hopes of silverware this season to the Champions League. It also demonstrated that his side's frailties cannot be wiped away simply by [spending £75m on Virgil van Dijk](#). He was one of several Liverpool players to endure an off-night, one that could not have been foreseen when Firmino exquisitely chipped them into an early lead. A rare mistake by Evans enabled Salah to pounce on a Chris Brunt back pass that the defender wrongly believed to be bound for Ben Foster. The Albion goalkeeper, who enjoyed a fine Saturday night's work, saved from the Egypt international but Firmino sent the rebound back over both Evans and Foster with an instinctive touch of class.

Unfortunately for Liverpool, their midfield and defence again failed to match the quality of their front three. Albion's central midfield pairing of Grzegorz Krychowiak and Gareth Barry, still superior to any of the midfielders he left behind at Everton, dominated their counterparts and Rodriguez reaped the benefits.

The visitors were level within a minute when Barry dispossessed Georginio Wijnaldum and Brunt threaded a first-time pass into Rodriguez. The Albion forward ghosted away from Emre Can and Van Dijk before sending an unstoppable shot into Simon Mignolet's top corner. Albion then edged ahead thanks to a superb flowing attack orchestrated by Krychowiak, who beat Can easily and released Gibbs down the left.

The full-back's low centre dissected the Liverpool defence and Rodriguez was there again to score from close range as the recalled Alberto Moreno dawdled. VAR then took centre stage, coming into play to disallow Dawson's header from a Brunt corner and then to hand Liverpool a penalty when Jake Livermore pulled down Salah. The referee viewed the incident himself on the touchline monitor before Firmino swept his spot-kick against the bar.

More poor defending from Liverpool, after Albion had lost Gibbs and Hal Robson-Kanu to injury in quick succession, gave the visitors the cushion of a third. Krychowiak hooked the ball over a suspect offside trap to Dawson and his shot evaded Mignolet before taking a final touch off Matip.

Liverpool only roused after a triple substitution by Klopp in the second half. Salah offered Anfield hope when he scored from close range from Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross, that struck Firmino, but there was no reprieve. "Albion defended with big hearts," said Klopp. "I don't like to say it but they deserved it."

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The Mail

Jay Rodriguez's brace inspires Baggies to FA Cup upset in wacky Anfield clash where VAR is called upon on EIGHT times

Jurgen Klopp's first trophy in England won't be the 2018 FA Cup. Liverpool's exit against West Brom was every bit as chaotic and confusing as the use of the video assistant referee saw the first half alone over-run by seven minutes.

In possibly the wackiest evening Anfield has ever witnessed, Liverpool took the lead, were 3-1 behind at half-time and narrowly failed to gain a replay after Mo Salah netted his 25th goal of the season late on. To add to the Saturday night drama, referee Craig Pawson used VAR Andre Marriner eight times, two of which led to lengthy delays. First, he disallowed a goal by Albion's Craig Dawson after guidance in his earpiece. Then, midway through the first half, it took three minutes 54 seconds between Mo Salah being fouled by Jake Livermore and Roberto Firmino taking the resulting penalty. As Mr Pawson heard from Mr Marriner and then went to the touchline to check the offence himself on a monitor. To add to the farce, Firmino then crashed the resulting spot-kick against the underside of the crossbar. It was that sort of occasion.

Advocates of VAR will say justice was served because two major decisions were judged correctly because of technology.

But the flow of the game was constantly interrupted and the fans inside Anfield had no access to replays meaning they spent a lot of time sitting and waiting rather than watching. 'Are we going to start taking goals away from the entertainment for those slight margins. That is a worry,' said Pardew afterwards, and he was the winning manager. Though it was a terrific game, a proper cup-tie, it hat was despite rather than because of VAR. To add to the confusion, only four minutes of overtime was played at the end of the first half even though the delays had been a lot longer that. Even without the distraction of VAR, Liverpool will know their cup exit was self-inflicted and manager Jurgen Klopp didn't try to pretend otherwise. 'It was poor defending. Just bad goals,' he said.

Both he and Pardew made only three changes each which gave the fourth round tie a sense of importance. Liverpool have won just one trophy since lifting the FA Cup in 2006 so any chance of silverware is not to be taken lightly.

Saturday night football might not be everyone's cup of tea, or pint of lager, but there was a crackling atmosphere under the lights at Anfield, the kind that inspires forwards and makes defenders wither.

Perhaps it explains why there were three goals in the opening 11 minutes.

Liverpool struck first when Jonny Evans, in possibly his last Baggies game before joining Arsenal, reacted badly to Chris Brunt's wayward pass, waiting for goalkeeper Ben Foster to come out and claim.

Instead, it allowed Salah to nip in and though Foster raced out to block the Egyptian's shot, Firmino lifted the rebound into an empty net with a cute finish. who broke the deadlock first after two errors in a row from Albion.

Liverpool's lead lasted barely just a minute. Brunt won a 50-50 with Georginio Wijnaldum, accelerated past Trent Alexander-Arnold and squared a pass to Jay Rodriguez. The forward hit a brilliant finish with the outside of his right boot that served away from Mignolet and, incredibly, he then scored again after 11 minutes to put the visitors ahead. Pawson looks at the incident on a pitch-side monitor before Firmino stepped up and missed from the penalty spot This time, Emre Can was guilty, beaten beaten in midfield by Grzegorz Krychowiak. The Pole motored into the box, slipped a pass outside to Kieran Gibbs and his first-time cross was sidefooted home by an unmarked Rodriguez from eight yards. The striker is currently waiting to hear if he's going to face an FA charge of racial abuse after an incident earlier this month involving Brighton's Gaetan Bong. Pardew described his on-pitch contribution last night as 'terrific' but Klopp could only howl at more defensive frailties. 'Long ball, West Brom win the first challenge, win the second challenge. We should have cleared the ball but then the disaster starts with the run of Rodriguez and fantastic finish.

'For the second goal we lose Rodriguez in the box. It makes no sense.'

The drama then took a modern twist with a double dose of VAR. First, Craig Dawson rose above Firmino to head in a Brunt corner to make it 3-1. Or so Albion thought. The referee asked whether the goal should stand and over in west London Marriner checked the footage and found that Gareth Barry had been standing in front of Mignolet, in an offside position. Instead of being 3-1 down, it was only 2-1 and Firmino was then given his chance to level from the spot which he fluffed. Albion had to reshuffle before half-time when Kieran Gibbs and Hal Robson-Kanu both limped off. But they still scored again before the interval, Krychowiak finding Dawson whose low cross was turned into his own net by Joel Matip. The German attempted a backheeled clearance, missed and watched as the ball hit his standing left leg and rolled over the line. West Brom didn't hold back as they kept their lead in the second half. Ahmed Hegazi left Firmino doubled up in pain after stamping on his foot but got away with it.

Klopp made a triple change and watched as Foster saved from two of his subs, Danny Ings and James Milner. Jordan Henderson also came on for his first action of 2018 following a hamstring injury. After 78 minutes, Liverpool scored their second goal. Alexander-Arnold's cross from the right bounced off Firmino and fell nicely for Salah, who despatched his finish first-time past Foster.

It was the Egyptian's 25th goal of an extraordinary debut season in England. Not quite as extraordinary as this game, however.

MATCH FACTS, PLAYER RATINGS AND MATCH ZONE

Liverpool (4-3-3): Mignolet; Alexander-Arnold. Matip. van Diik. Moreno; Oxlade-C

Chamberlain (Milner 64), Can (Henderson 64), Wijnaldum; Mane (Ings 64), Firmino, Salah Subs not used: Lovren, Gomez, Solanke, Ward

Goals: Firmino 5; Salah 78 Booked: Can 60

West Brom (4-4-2): Foster; Nyom, Dawson, Evans, Gibbs (Hegazi 36);

Livermore, Barry (Jacob 70), Krychowiak, Brunt; Robson-Kanu (Phillips 38), Rodriguez Subs not used: Rondon, Myhill, McClean, Burke

Goals: Rodriguez 7, 11; Matip OG 45+2 Booked: Barry 25; Dawson 82; Hegazi 84

Referee: Craig Pawson

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp left baffled by Liverpool's sudden implosion

Liverpool 2 Firmino 5, Salah 78 West Bromwich Albion 3 Rodriguez 7, 11, Matip 45 og Att: 53,342

If there was a bubble-bursting world championship, Anfield would hold the exclusive rights for the winners' ball. It is two weeks since Liverpool extended an unbeaten run by ending Manchester City's. Now what? Not quite a season in tatters, but the most calamitous, demoralising sequence of Jurgen Klopp's reign. Just beaten the best team in the country? Don't worry, they will lose to the bottom two next. Just scored an exquisitely constructed goal? Chill, they are going to concede a shabby one from a corner shortly. Liverpool paid £75million for a centre-half to help stop that sort of thing. Turns out VAR came to their aid more than VVD against West Bromwich Albion, even if waiting for officials to reach a decision seemed like a saga longer than the Virgil van Dijk signing.

The easy accusation is that it is the players, the club or Klopp himself, embracing the hype after a win such as that over City - or the 18-game unbeaten streak that victory was perched on - and feeling that the groundwork for a successful era is done. Klopp insists such smugness did not exist. "Nothing in training gave me a sign that the boys misjudged the success or result against Man City, or the performance," he said. "We are really serious people and we took it, I think, in the right way, but then we had two games and we have to show that we can do better." In fairness, most noise around good form comes from outside, but some of Klopp's decisions do foster perceptions of complacency. What is the point of recalling goalkeeper Simon Mignolet when his Anfield career is ending? If Loris Karius is to prove he is capable of being No1, no opportunity to allow him to make a save or two should be spurned. In defence, four players who have never played as a unit unsurprisingly resembled four players who have never played as a unit.

"It's not allowed to concede goals like we conceded. That's it. But that has influence on the whole performance," said Klopp. Yet targeting the back four lets others off the hook. Klopp substituted two-thirds of his midfield. The sight of Emre Can being outclassed by Grzegorz Krychowiak would be surprising if the same thing had not happened in the recent Premier League game or in the Europa League final of 2016 against Sevilla. West Brom defended in the second half, but they penetrated in the first, Jay Rodriguez's two goals showing the form that once earned him England recognition. "You'd be lying if you were a player and never thought there is a World Cup at the end of the season," said Rodriguez. "For me, that is an amazing dream." Alan Pardew must watch his West Brom side and wonder why they are in trouble. He wants to build on this momentum by adding a striker in the next 48 hours. Klopp, by contrast, has declared himself satisfied with his resources. He is astute enough to know this result raises inevitable questions about his - and it is his - patient transfer policy. Ambitious clubs usually buy from a position of strength. Whatever the circumstances, Liverpool have developed an unhealthy habit of doing the reverse - selling their best players when they appear to be doing well. Judgment must be reserved until the end of the season, but to go out of the FA Cup like this hardly garners support for the idea there is no one attainable who can make this squad stronger for the next six months. If Daniel Sturridge goes in the next two days, Liverpool will end this window significantly weaker than when they entered it. To use a Klopp phrase, that makes no sense. Watching the fluctuations in this Liverpool side, not much does.

Ido not understand why Craig Pawson had to watch Saturday night's penalty incident involving Mohamed Salah himself in order to confirm it had been a foul.

I do not believe the referee even saw the coming together, so if the Video Assistant Referee is telling him that it is a penalty, then just give the penalty. Pawson's pitchside review caused an unnecessary delay and one hopes that, in that situation, a trust will develop through experience that will result in the referee accepting the VAR's verdict.

I have always had my concerns about the referee going to the side of the pitch to examine something. Let us say one or more players have been involved in an altercation that results in fists being thrown and the referee leaves that scene in the middle of the pitch to go to view that video - it is going to spark off again. I do not think those in charge have thought deeply enough about the various outcomes that can happen on the field and how this video screen on the side of the pitch should be used.

When an assistant says to a referee, "That is a penalty", he goes along with his colleague. And that is no different to what I am suggesting.

The big screen at a stadium, if there is one, also has to be used. The public have the right to be kept informed. Pointing to the ear to say, "I'm having a debate", and then, after the decision is made, drawing a rectangle is not good enough. I do not see why we should be reinventing the wheel when we have seen rugby put it to the test. Just follow what rugby does, where it is part of the entertainment and there is not this pregnant pause and long delay.

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VAR stoppages caused injuries to two of my players

Alan Pardew believes the Football Association must investigate the possible effect of VAR on player injuries after referee Craig Pawson turned to the new video technology for three key decisions during West Bromwich Albion's pulsating FA Cup victory at Anfield.

Pawson first used the system to rule out a West Brom goal for offside. Minutes later, he referred to it again to award Liverpool a penalty, which was then missed by Roberto Firmino. Just before half-time, Pardew's side scored their third goal, but they could only celebrate with confidence after VAR had taken two minutes to confirm it should be allowed.

Though all three decisions were ultimately correct, the new system caused significant delays - almost eight minutes in total. Albion's Kieran Gibbs and Hal Robson-Kanu were forced off during the first half with hamstring problems and Pardew believes both injuries were due to VAR-enforced stoppages.

"You are going from a high tempo work rate to nothing," he said. "We had a hamstring injury just after that, so now as coaches we have to change. We have to get our players to do a warm-up in that situation or keep themselves ticking over.

"It is a massive thing, one of the most important things they are going to have to take from this trial tonight. I think they must look at that. We did get a couple of injuries straight after the stoppages, and they need to look at that."

Jay Rodriguez, scorer of West Brom's first and second before Joel Matip's decisive own goal, suggested the repeated use of VAR had caused confusion among the players. "It was a surreal moment," he said. "It was a strange one because it stopped the game but it is something we have to get used to."

Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp was less concerned than Pardew with VAR's teething problems but did believe Albion's Ahmed Hegazi should have been punished for a late challenge on Firmino. "Harsh challenges should be picked up," Klopp said. "If the video assistant referee is not responsible for something like that we should think over the rules again."

Liverpool could hardly blame VAR's problems for their defeat. Klopp told his players they must do better after familiar defensive errors led to their elimination from the Cup despite Firmino's early opener and Mohamed Salah's second-half strike. "It's not allowed to concede goals like we conceded tonight," Klopp said, having seen his midfield bypassed for both Rodriguez strikes. "In a lot of other moments, you saw that we are still able to do this or that, but of course under the pressure of being 3-1 down in a cup game, you will never be able to play your best football."

The defeat was Liverpool's second in a week after last Monday's 1-0 reverse at Swansea but also came less than a fortnight after the impressive victory over league leaders Manchester City which Klopp had hoped would provide a platform for the rest of the season.

"Nothing in training gave me a sign that the boys misjudged the success or result against City, or the performance. We took it I think in the right way," said Klopp, who must now lift his side for tomorrow night's Premier League trip to Huddersfield Town, themselves smarting after being held to a 1-1 home FA Cup draw by Championship strugglers Birmingham City.



FURIOUS KLOPP: OUR DEFENDING WAS FARCICAL VAR

AS Jurgen Klopp conceded, VAR may have many faults - but at least it masked Liverpool's shocking defence.

This enthralling FA Cup tie was completely overshadowed by the dinosaur-like, emotion-destroying reaction time of the video system.

Another chance of silverware slipped away for the Reds and, predictably, the mood was not pretty.

Klopp (left) said: "It's not allowed to concede goals like we conceded tonight, that's it. That has an influence on the whole performance.

"We have to avoid these things, 100 per cent. These mistakes are so obvious we can sort them, that's not a problem.

"But now we have the feeling that something is wrong.

"We've played two games in a row in which we didn't perform like we can.

"Look at both games and you have to say that was not good enough, simple as that."

In a tie which had almost everything, the most obvious factor was the absence of something from Liverpool.

Any semblance of assurance in defensive situations or calm, anywhere on the pitch.

The midfield was as culpable as the defence, parting obligingly seemingly every time a West Brom runner raced down the middle.

Yet the lack of marking in the penalty area was beyond parody.

The returning Alberto Moreno was truly shocking, but so was everyone - even £75million Virgil van Dijk, who looked bewildered.

Only VAR rescued him and his defensive partners from complete humiliation.

When Craig Dawson headed home from a corner there was not a defender in sight. But VAR was there to save Liverpool on that occasion. "Tonight we were not good at defending unfortunately," Klopp admitted. "So now we have our own situation. We have to show the right reaction.

"We need confidence and we need to be serious, we need to be ready, we need to be greedy, full of desire against Huddersfield on Tuesday.

"In a few weeks we talk about other things, but now we need results."

There was no hint of disaster for Liverpool when Roberto Firmino chipped in delightfully.

But 72 seconds later Jay Rodriguez had levelled as the Reds' midfield caved in.

It was a similar story for the Baggies' second goal three minutes later. Again the midfield wilted, raising questions about spirit and mentality in too many of Klopp's players, while emphasising the desire Alan Pardew has instilled in his improving team.

Now it was a question of just how bad the defending could be.

And the answer was evident with West Brom's third goal.

It finally arrived after two VAR decisions which should have given Liverpool parity, the disallowed goal followed by a penalty which Firmino missed. When centre-half Dawson found himself criminally unmarked from a free-kick, he had time to put the kettle on before shooting.

Even then Joel Matip contrived to backheel into his own net. So bad it was comedy gold.

The ridiculous VAR deserves the final word. It will destroy football because it takes away the one thing that makes the sport - instant passion on the terraces.

How can you celebrate any more? Match-winner Dawson showed how ridiculous the system is by sarcastically making the VAR TV motion himself after his shot went in off Matip.

He said: "The ref had reviewed the others, so I was sure he was going to do it again. I was waiting for him to do it.

"It's quite a big delay and strange to have that in the game. It's such a long delay.

"Obviously it's that delay which is the issue."

STAT IS AMAZING LIVERPOOL Mignolet 5, Alexander-Arnold 6, Matip 5, Van Dijk 5, Moreno 4, Can 4 (Milner 65, 6), Wijnaldum 5, Oxlade-Chamberlain 5 (Ings 65, 6), Salah 7, Mane 6 (Henderson 65, 5) Firmino 8 WEST BROM Foster 8, Nyom 6, Dawson 8, Evans 7, Gibbs 6 (Hegazi 37, 7), Barry 7 (Yacob 71, 6), Livermore 6, Krychowiak 7, Brunt 6, Robson-Kanu 6 (Phillips 39, 6), Rodriguez 8 THE REACTION.. TrueEvertonian Dick van Dyke looks a bargain at £75million, certainly tightened up that defence MAN OF THE MATCH JAY RODRIGUEZ (WEST BROM)

Shots on target et Key passes Goals 2 2 1 MATCH STATS 69% POSSESSION 31% 8 SHOTS ON TARGET 3 6 SHOTS OFF TARGET 3 593 TOTAL PASSES 278 83.5 PASSING SUCCESS 63.3 6 CORNERS 2 3 OFFSIDE 25 FOULS 9 10 CARDS 0 3 REF: Craig Pawson ATT: 53,342 THE FACTS... Liverpool's 19-game unbeaten run came to end, with their first defeat Anfield since a 2-1 loss to Crystal Palace in April 2017 West Brom were the first away team to score three goals in the first half at Anfield since Real Madrid in the Champion League in October 2014. Jay Rodriguez has scored seven goals in his last 10 FA Cup appearances. Liverpool have missed six out of their last 10 penalties in all competitions.

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Shambolic Reds still paying the price for Jurgen Klopp's transfer inactivity
 A smattering of boos rippled around Anfield at the final whistle.

The fortress has fallen. Liverpool's nine-month unbeaten run on home turf lies in tatters. Rather than atone for their woeful display at Swansea earlier in the week, Jurgen Klopp's side plumbed new depths. Make no mistake, this was an absolute shambles of a performance. The FA Cup represented Liverpool's best hope of ending a painful six-year wait for silverware but that opportunity was tossed away in galling fashion. Relegation-threatened West Brom, who have only won one Premier League game since August, were good value for their place in the last 16. For the third successive season under Klopp, Liverpool crashed out in the fourth round. But this one cuts deeper than those previous early exits to West Ham and Wolves because of the personnel on duty. This wasn't a second string line up packed full of kids, this was the strongest side Klopp could have picked but to a man they were hopelessly off the pace. There was a lack of dynamism, composure and even basic organisation. Defensively, it was a horror show. So much for the £75million signing of Virgil van Dijk sorting out that backline.

The Dutchman, who was the hero in the last round against Everton, endured a night to forget. Joel Matip, alongside him, was no better. Communication appeared to be non-existent. The Reds got off to a flyer courtesy of Roberto Firmino but the wheels quickly came off as Jay Rodriguez twice took advantage of some glaring defensive deficiencies. Not even a helping hand from VAR (video assistant referee) technology could save Liverpool. First, Andre Marriner spared Simon Mignolet's blushes by ruling out Craig Dawson's header and then the hosts were given a penalty which Firmino hammered against the woodwork. There was no reprieve when the hapless Matip bundled the ball into his own net and despite a late revival Mohamed Salah's 25 goal of the campaign proved in vain.

Everyone wants to see the right decisions made but VAR needs tinkering with. It took far too long and killed the flow of the game. Supporters inside Anfield had no idea what was going on. The sense of confusion within the fanbase will be considerably greater if Klopp doesn't bring in any further reinforcements before Wednesday night's transfer deadline. His declaration that he already boasts sufficient squad depth sounds increasingly hollow after two such chastening defeats. The bottom line is that Liverpool have sold their best player this month and have failed to replace him. That doesn't sit right.

Fans want to see ambition and the Reds' season, which now hinges on staying in the top-four and having a prolonged run in the Champions League, could depend on it. Philippe Coutinho was a match-winner and Liverpool simply don't have enough of them currently. Klopp sprung a surprise with his line up as he made just three changes following the defeat to Swansea. Mignolet, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Alberto Moreno were drafted in but most were given the chance to make amends for events in South Wales. Liverpool got off to a dream start as they led inside six minutes. Chris Brunt's backpass was loose and Jonny Evans hesitated, allowing Salah to steal in. Ben Foster was out quickly to make the block but Firmino latched on to the rebound and clipped a majestic chip over the stranded keeper. However, the Reds' delight lasted barely 60 seconds. They were so busy congratulating themselves that they clocked off and allowed the Baggies to instantly restore parity. Gini Wijnaldum and Alexander-Arnold were beaten far too easily and Rodriguez hammered a sweet strike past Mignolet.

If that was poor, what followed simply beggared belief. Grzegorz Krychowiak skipped away from Emre Can and found Kieran Gibbs on the left. The marking was shoddy and his low cross was coolly converted by Rodriguez.

"How **** must you be, we're winning away," crowed the away end. Liverpool were all over the shop defensively and bewilderment in the stands swiftly turned to anger. Moreno was poor on his comeback from injury, while on the other flank Alexander-Arnold endured an equally tough night.

Van Dijk turned his back and needlessly conceded a corner as the ball bobbed behind off him. Brunt swung it in and Dawson got above Firmino to nod home with Mignolet appealing that he had been blocked off. There was no flag from the assistant but Pawson went to VAR and Liverpool got lucky as the footage showed that Gareth Barry was marginally offside. A wake-up call? It should have been but alarmingly Liverpool's lethargy continued. When Salah went down in the box after being tugged back by Jake Livermore, Pawson wasn't interested initially but once again the technology came to Liverpool's aid. The game was held up for far too long with Pawson waiting for advice through his ear piece before going over to the touchline to have a look for himself on the monitor. Eventually, he pointed to the spot. Rather than accept the gift, it was spurned as Firmino's penalty hit the underside of the bar and stayed out. Liverpool had their moments with Salah thwarted by Evans' fine block before the winger fired into the side netting.

However, there was no control as they repeatedly conceded possession cheaply and made a succession of glaring errors. They were so weak in the engine room with Can, Wijnaldum and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain contributing little. Behind them it was even worse and in first-half stoppage time Liverpool leaked a third goal in embarrassing fashion. Nobody bothered to track the run of Dawson who latched on to Krychowiak's lofted pass. The defender's cross-shot was turned into his own net by the hapless Matip. Whatever was said at the break had zero impact. Crosses failed to beat the first man and moves continued to break down as passes went

astray. The Baggies, who were fortunate that Ahmed Hegazi got away with a dangerous lunge on Firmino, could have finished the tie off.

Twice, Matt Phillips raced away on the counter but he failed to beat Mignolet and then he lashed wide. Can's miserable night was summed up by the sight of him picking up a senseless yellow card for bringing down Gareth Barry.

The anxiety levels in the stands continued to grow with Mignolet getting it in the ear after taking too long over a goal kick. Finally, midway through the second half the changes arrived as Can, Oxlade-Chamberlain and Sadio Mane got the hook. Captain Jordan Henderson, Danny Ings and James Milner were sent on together as Klopp played his hand. Belatedly, Liverpool started to exert some real pressure and the Kop finally had some hope to cling to. Milner's strike was clawed away by Foster, who then pushed away Ings' effort. With 12 minutes to go the Reds halved the deficit. Alexander-Arnold's cross bounced off Firmino and into the path of Salah. The Egyptian clinically dispatched it past Foster. In doing so he became the quickest Liverpool player to reach 25 goals in more than a century. Van Dijk could have salvaged a replay deep into stoppage time but nodded too close to Foster. Anfield left Klopp in no doubt about their verdict on a desperate night. So Swansea wasn't a one off. A season which promised so much is stuttering badly and the manager has plenty of food for thought ahead of deadline day.

MATCH FACTS

Liverpool: Mignolet, Alexander-Arnold, Matip, Van Dijk, Milner, Can (Milner 65), Wijnaldum, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Ings 65), Mane (Henderson 65), Salah, Firmino. Not used: Ward, Lovren, Gomez, Solanke.

West Brom: Foster, Nyom, Evans, Dawson, Gibbs (Hegazi 37), Barry (Yacob 71), Krychowiak, Livermore, Brunt, Rodriguez, Robson-Kanu (Phillips 39).

Not used: Myhill, Rondon, McClean, Burke.
 Referee: Craig Pawson Attendance: 53,342

Goals: Firmino 6, Rodriguez 7, Rodriguez 11, Matip OG 45, Salah 78.

Bookings: Barry, Can, Dawson, Hegazi.

Man of the match: Mohamed Salah. Was surrounded by mediocrity.

Date: 27 January 2018
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion
 Competition: FA Cup

Echo	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
BBC	Observer	Guardian	Mirror
	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Mail

27 January 2018



The Sunday Telegraph

Rodriguez sinks Liverpool despite VAR controversy
 Liverpool 2 Firmino 5, Salah 78 West Bromwich Albion 3 Rodriguez 7, 11, Matip 45
 og Att: 53,342

A fourth round tie that was memorable and dramatic enough for its on-field action will be remembered far longer for the manner in which the video assistant referee system made its obtrusive presence felt on English football. If earlier examples of the replay system had served as a mere hors d'oeuvres, this was a fully-fledged banquet of controversy. This was the best result of Alan Pardew's Albion reign, and possibly one of the club's best in years, but most viewers, impartial or otherwise, will remember it more for the seven-plus minutes of delays that were caused by the three key times in the first half - and eight in total - that the VAR was called into play. "It's hard to know where to start," said Albion manager Alan Pardew. "I don't think that is what we want to see going forward, whether you are a Liverpool or West Brom fan. "Firstly there is no communication from the referee to us. Like in the NFL, when there is a call and they say they are going to look at that. "But the bigger decision was the four minutes for the Salah decision. You are going from high tempo workrate to nothing. We had a hamstring (injury) just after that. As a coach, we have to change, we are going to have to get our players to mentally warm-up in that situation and keep themselves ticking over. You could say that is a lack of professionalism against us. I don't know. It is just bizarre. As a football person on the sidelines, I wasn't comfortable with the first half. It was a mysterious situation at times." After 19 minutes, Albion believed they had scored a third goal after Craig Dawson towered above Roberto Firmino to head in Chris Brunt's corner although it quickly became evident that referee Pawson, or at least a voice in his headset, had other ideas. After at least two minutes, and consultation with VAR official Andre Marriner, Pawson disallowed the goal for an offside decision against Gareth Barry, who had been standing in front of Simon Mignolet, although the referee was about to become even less popular with the visitors just a few moments later on Liverpool's next attack. Mo Salah went down heavily in the West Brom area after what appeared to be a tug on the arm by Jake Livermore. It was an infringement that again brought no immediate reaction from the referee but one from his studio-bound assistant before Pawson moved over to the dug-out area to take a look for himself at the replay. Review suggested the duo were again correct, much to Albion's fury, as Pawson pointed to the penalty which, after a delay now mounting well over three minutes, Firmino took and struck against the underside of the crossbar with the ball bouncing down and out. It was an unprecedented passage of play and the tie still had more of the bizarre to offer as Albion lost two players - Gibbs and Hal Robson-Kanu - to muscular injuries within the space of a minute, using two substitutes by the 38th minute. Nor had the half finished with its VAR drama as West Brom finally claimed the third goal they thought they had been denied earlier after Dawson drove a low shot on goal from a wide angle which flew in via Liverpool's Joel Matip, with Jay Rodriguez in an offside position at the far post although Marriner and Pawson collectively decided the goal should stand. The tie had started in dramatic enough fashion with Rodriguez, who was interviewed by the FA on Monday after allegations he racially abused Brighton's Gaetan Bong in a recent game, scoring twice in the opening 10 minutes. After six minutes, Georgina Wijnaldum lost the ball to Brunt, who squared for Rodriguez who finished ruthlessly with a magnificent finish from a step inside the area. That came barely 65 seconds after Liverpool had taken the lead through Firmino and some poor defending this time from the visitors as Brunt's mis-hit back-pass played Jonny Evans into trouble with the centre half compounding the issue by failing to stop Salah as he bore down on goal. Ben Foster managed to stop the initial attempt but, when the ball broke kindly to Firmino on the edge of the area, the Brazilian deftly chipped the ball over the prone keeper into the exposed goal. But quickly level, it took Albion just a further four minutes to take the lead as they once more exposed indecision and weakness in the home defence. Grzegorz Krychowiak's superb run, which Emre Can could not stop even illegally, ended with a ball wide to Kieran Gibbs and an unerring cross which Rodriguez drove in. Klopp threw James Milner, Jordan Henderson and Danny Ings on and Trent Alexander-Arnold's driven cross was mis-controlled by Firmino and Salah pounced on the ricochet, driving the ball home from 12 yards. Surprisingly, and to his credit considering this was Liverpool's first home defeat in 19 games this season, manager Jurgen Klopp would not criticise the system he has long championed. "I think it's normal that it will change things," he said. "Is it nice that West Brom celebrate a goal then somebody tells them it's not a goal? No, but I think it's important if a goal needs to be disallowed, it is disallowed. "Normally after a game I have to explain to you a defeat which was not deserved because we didn't get a penalty or they scored another goal. Is it cool in January to have delays when it's cold, especially for the players? Maybe not. "But it will become smoother and more fluent in the future. You ask me about it and I have said this in plenty of interviews already." The three big decisions How the technology came into play at Anfield West Brom thought they had taken a 3-1 lead when Craig Dawson headed home but VAR showed Gareth Barry (No18) was offside. Verdict: Correct decision Mohamed Salah appealed for a penalty after being tugged back by Jake Livermore after 23 minutes. Referee Craig Pawson reviewed the incident by the side of the pitch - the first time a referee has done that in England - and awarded the spot kick after a three minute delay. Roberto Firmino missed the penalty. Verdict: Correct decision West Brom scored

Date: 27 January 2018
 Opposition: West Bromwich Albion
 Competition: FA Cup

Echo	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
BBC	Observer	Guardian	Mirror
	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Mail

a third when Joel Matip turned home Craig Dawson's cross for an own-goal - but Pawson had to check there was no offside. Verdict: Correct decision



THE SUNDAY TIMES

High drama on big screen
 LIVERPOOL 2 Firmino 5, Salah 78
 WEST BROMWICH ALBION 3 Rodriguez 7, 11, Matip og 45+2
 Jurgen Klopp's unhappy relationship with the FA Cup continued as Liverpool exited the competition in the fourth round for the third successive season, although the manner of this defeat will live far longer in the memory for other reasons. Three times in a frenetic first half, referee Craig Pawson used the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) and three times he made what appeared to be correct decisions: allowing one goal, disallowing another and awarding a penalty. But at the end of an action-packed first half, which also included four goals and two lengthy delays for injuries and substitutions, the fourth official held up four minutes of added time. When the VAR delays were factored in, that total should have been closer to double digits.

It did little to placate those who claim that the video replays will upset the flow and integrity of the game. That was a pity, because what football there was in between the bouts of Andre Marriner interceding from a darkened room in west London was absorbing.

Two of the referrals were deeply contentious. Albion were already leading 2-1 in the 19th minute when Craig Dawson rose superbly over Roberto Firmino to head home a Craig Brunt corner, only for Pawson to point to his earpiece and await a second judgment. When it finally came, two minutes later, it revealed that Gareth Barry had been positioned in front of goalkeeper Simon Mignolet and interfered with play. If Albion were unhappy with that — and they were — they would be apoplectic four minutes or so later when Mo Salah went down under slight contact from the arm of Jake Livermore and Pawson once more indicated he was using VAR.

In fact he went further, jogging to the dug-out area to take a look at a replay himself before deciding — again correctly — that the incident was sufficient to award a penalty. After a delay of more than three minutes, Firmino took the spot-kick, which thudded against the underside of the bar before the ball bounced to safety.

There would be a quicker, and less contentious, VAR call over a potential Jonny Evans handball before the system would be called into play once more, when Albion finally scored their third goal in first-half stoppage-time.

Dawson, lurking on the edge of the Liverpool area from a set piece, was played in by Grzegorz Krychowiak and drove a low shot from a wide angle towards the far post, where it took a slight deflection off Joel Matip on its way into the net, with Jay Rodriguez poised at the far post.

There was a suggestion of offside but again VAR made the correct decision — and this one in a slightly more timely fashion. But what a shame, for Albion in particular, that the officials were taking the spotlight away from what had been an astonishing first half.

After just six minutes, Liverpool were in front after Evans failed to deal with Brunt's back-pass. Salah pounced and saw his shot saved by Ben Foster, but Firmino lobbed a magnificent finish over the prone keeper and into the gaping net.

That lead lasted just 65 seconds before a mistake by Georginio Wijnaldum let in Brunt, whose pass found Rodriguez in full stride and he hit a magnificent shot past Mignolet from just inside the area.

Four minutes on and Rodriguez, who spent Monday being interviewed by the FA over allegations he made racist com-ments against Brighton's Gaetan Bong in a recent game, doubled the lead. Krychowiak slipped the ball wide for Kieran Gibbs, whose cross was turned in from close range by Rodriguez.

Nor was the bizarre nature of the tie limited to officiating. Twice, in the space of a minute, Albion lost players to muscular injuries with Gibbs and Hal Robson-Kanu hobbling away from the chaos.

The second half started in far more sedate fashion but when Matt Phillips broke clear on goal just after the hour, Klopp had certainly seen enough. He made a triple substitution on 64 minutes, throwing on James Milner, Jordan Henderson and Danny Ings, although VAR — or this time the lack of it — was about to rear its head again when Ings went down under a fair challenge by keeper Foster.

Finally, by the 73rd minute, Liverpool raised their game with Foster making superb saves in quick succession from Milner and Ings. In the 77th minute, Liverpool were within a goal of an unlikely draw when Trent Alexander-Arnold's driven cross was miscontrolled by Firmino and Salah pounced on the ricochet, driving the ball home from 12 yards.

Star man: Jay Rodriguez (West Brom) Yellow cards: Liverpool: Can West Brom: Barry, Dawson, Hegazi Referee: C Pawson Attendance: 53,342 Liverpool: Mignolet 5, Alexander-Arnold 5, Matip 5, Van Dijk 6, Moreno 6, Oxlade-Chamberlain 5 (Ings 64min, 5), Can 5 (Milner 64min, 6), Wijnaldum 5, Salah 6, Firmino 7, Mane 5 (Henderson 64min, 6) Substitutes: Ward, Lovren, Gomez, Solanke West Brom: Foster 8, Nyom 7, Dawson 8, Evans 6, Gibbs 6 (Hegazi 36min, 6), Livermore 8, Barry 6 (Yacob 70min, 6), Krychowiak 8, Brunt 7, Robson-Kanu 7 (Phillips 38min, 7), Rodriguez 9 Substitutes: Myhill, Rondon, McClean, Burke

The Observer

Jürgen Klopp expects positive response from Liverpool as pressure builds - • Liverpool manager demands: "We have to show we can do better" • Klopp endures a third successive fourth-round defeat in FA Cup

Jürgen Klopp said the pressure is on Liverpool following their FA Cup exit and the reaction to defeat by West Bromwich Albion will determine their fortunes in the Champions League.

Klopp's hopes of winning the first trophy of his Liverpool reign rest on the Champions League this season after his team were deservedly beaten by Alan Pardew's side on Saturday. The 3-2 home defeat condemned Liverpool to a third consecutive fourth-round exit under their manager and was a second successive loss against a team in the bottom two of the Premier League following the reverse at Swansea City last Monday.

VAR intruded Albion's fine performance at Anfield where the referee, Craig Pawson, used the system for three correct first-half decisions but also strayed into farce with several unnecessary reviews. It could not camouflage another poor defensive display from Liverpool. Their manager admits the success of this campaign, whether through winning the Champions League or finishing in the top four of the Premier League, depends on an immediate response.

Klopp, who takes his team to Huddersfield Town, said: "It's not difficult to think about it [recovering for the Champions League]; it's more difficult to find the right answer. We have to show in the next game what we really want. It's not the first game we've lost and it's all about reactions. We have to do better. We've played two games in a row in which we didn't perform like we can. Look at both games and you have to say that was not good enough, simple as that. What we achieve, we will see in the next few games

"There are a lot of games to play, a lot of big challenges waiting for us and we have to be ready. After each defeat, if you learn from it, then it makes a little bit of sense. If you don't learn from it, then it makes absolutely no sense. Of course the pressure increases in a situation like this, the pressure we make on ourselves, but that's how it is."

The defeat was Liverpool's first at Anfield since 23 April 2017 and arrived less than two weeks after they inflicted a first Premier League loss of the season on Manchester City. Klopp, whose team face Porto in the Champions League last 16 next month, denied complacency had crept into his players having beaten the league leaders.

"It was only a few days ago we were here talking about Man City, one of the best football games we were a part of. That's how it is. Nothing in training gave me a sign that the boys misjudged the success or result against Man City, or the performance. We are really serious people and I think we took it in the right way. But then we had two games and we have to show that we can do better. It's not allowed to concede goals like we conceded."

Liverpool benefited from two VAR decisions against Albion — with Craig Dawson having a goal disallowed for a marginal offside and Mohamed Salah winning a penalty after being pulled by Jake Livermore. Klopp, unsurprisingly, was not as bewildered as the Albion manager, Alan Pardew, about the system. "It's the start of it," he said. "It's normal that it's a little bit rusty but I think it will be OK." But he was annoyed that VAR was not used to penalise the Albion substitute Ahmed Hegazi for a bad challenge on Roberto Firmino that was missed by the match officials.

Klopp, who will be without Adam Lallana for another week because of a muscle tear, said: "Harsh challenges should be picked up. I'm not 100% sure but I think if the video assistant referee is not responsible for something like that we should think over the rules again because the ref needs help in a situation like this. I'm sure he would have whistled if he saw it but he didn't. If you see it on television it's just horrible."

Date: 27 January 2018

Opposition: West Bromwich Albion

Competition: FA Cup

Echo	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
BBC	Observer	Guardian	Mirror
	Sun Telegraph	Independent	Mail

27 January 2018



Jay Rodriguez scored twice as West Brom won at Liverpool in an extraordinary FA Cup fourth-round tie dominated by video assistant referee (VAR) decisions. Referee Craig Pawson ruled out an Albion goal, gave Liverpool a penalty and delayed awarding the visitors' third goal because of VAR referrals. Rodriguez thumped an equaliser seconds after Roberto Firmino chipped an opener, then slotted Albion 2-1 up. Joel Matip's own goal made it 3-1, before Mohamed Salah pulled one back. Liverpool's first-half penalty, which Firmino missed, was a moment of VAR history - as it was the first time a referee in an English game had referred to a monitor on the touchline to make a final decision. Pawson ruled, after a significant delay, that Jake Livermore had tugged Salah's shirt, and pointed to the spot. Liverpool pushed hard for a late equaliser, but were poor for much of the game as they fell to their first home defeat since 23 April last year.

VAR takes centre stage - and causes controversy

This was only the sixth time in an English club fixture that the VAR system had been used; it proved central in a first half that was full of controversy. The system can only be used to overturn clear cut mistakes with goals, penalties, red cards and mistaken identities - yet referee Pawson called on it three times in an opening half that ended up lasting 50 minutes. In each case, it appeared that the right decision was reached, but the main concern for many watching was the delay in making those calls. The biggest hold-up surrounded the penalty awarded to Liverpool midway through the first half for the foul by Livermore on Salah, with Pawson referring to a monitor at the mouth of the players' tunnel after consulting with video assistant referee Andre Marriner.

Almost three minutes passed between the initial incident and Firmino stepping up to take the penalty - with which he hit the underside of the bar.

It was the second time in a few minutes that West Brom had been on the wrong end of a VAR decision, with Craig Dawson having seen a goal ruled out that would have put them 3-1 up. Marriner alerted Pawson to the fact that Gareth Barry, standing in front of Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet and interfering with play, was offside as Dawson headed in a Chris Brunt corner.

Just before half-time came the third use of VAR, as Dawson's cross-shot flicked in off Matip for a third Albion goal. Rodriguez had been offside earlier in the move, but did not touch the ball at any stage, and was deemed not to be interfering with play. After a hold-up while the television footage was reviewed, the goal stood. Pawson also seemed to check with Marriner after Salah slotted in Firmino's lay-off with 12 minutes left, although there was no delay in play and no clear reason as to why the goal might have been in doubt.

Albion show spirit as Liverpool stumble

West Brom have shown significant signs of revival since ending a 21-match winless run in all competitions by winning at Exeter in the third round of the FA Cup. Alan Pardew's side are still next to bottom of the Premier League, but are unbeaten in four matches now, winning three of them.

This was by far the most impressive of those three wins, coming despite conceding a comical opening goal after six minutes, losing left-back Kieran Gibbs and striker Hal Robson-Kanu to injury in the first half, and ending the match with only nine fully-fit players on the pitch. Firmino chipped Liverpool in front as the ball ran loose after keeper Ben Foster had dived at the feet of Salah. The Egypt forward had snuck in as Albion captain Evans allowed a Livermore back pass to run through, unaware of the danger building. Albion's response was outstanding; Rodriguez thumped an equaliser into the top corner 71 seconds later, then swept West Brom into a 10th-minute lead from a low Gibbs cross.

The visitors led 3-1 at half-time, following the three major VAR calls, and Salah's goal could not save Liverpool. Jurgen Klopp's side did create a flurry of chances in the final 20 minutes, with Foster saving well from James Milner and Danny Ings, and holding onto a late glancing header from Virgil van Dijk.

But they have failed to build on the achievement of ending Manchester City's unbeaten Premier League run, with this defeat following five days after a disappointing 1-0 loss at Swansea. Both Evans and Livermore were limping by the end, but they helped their nine fit team-mates to hold on for a win that will do much to bolster them for the task of top-flight survival.

Man of the match - Jay Rodriguez (West Brom)

In a West Brom side filled with superb performances, Rodriguez's two goals stood out - with his first, pictured here, one of this season's great FA Cup strikes West Brom match Real Madrid - the key stats

West Brom were the first away team to score three goals in the first half at Anfield since Real Madrid did so in a Champions League match in October 2014.

Liverpool's 19-game unbeaten home run came to an end, with this their first defeat at Anfield since a 2-1 defeat by Crystal Palace in April 2017.

Liverpool conceded three goals in back to back home matches for the first time since January 2007. Jay Rodriguez has scored seven goals in his last 10 FA Cup appearances. Liverpool have failed to score with six of their last 10 penalties in all competitions, with four different players failing with those spot kicks (Origi, Firmino, Salah and Milner). There were just 71 seconds between Liverpool's first goal and West Brom's equaliser. West Brom have only scored more than once in three away matches this season - all have been in the cup (also 3-1 v Accrington in the League Cup and 2-0 v Exeter in the FA Cup).

Mo Salah has had a hand in 19 goals in 17 appearances at Anfield this season for Liverpool (14 goals, five assists). Roberto Firmino has been involved in 16 goals in his last 15 appearances for Liverpool (11 goals, five assists).

What's next?

Liverpool return to Premier League action at Huddersfield on Tuesday (20:00 GMT), 24 hours before West Brom travel to leaders Manchester City (20:00).

Date: 27 January 2018

Opposition: West Bromwich Albion

Competition: FA Cup

Echo	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
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27 January 2018



Match ends, Liverpool 2, West Bromwich Albion 3.

90'+5' Second Half ends, Liverpool 2, West Bromwich Albion 3.

90'+4' Attempt saved. Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.

90'+3' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Danny Ings with a headed pass.

88' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Virgil van Dijk.

86' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ahmed Hegazi.

85' Attempt blocked. Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range is blocked. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.

85' Ahmed Hegazi (West Bromwich Albion is shown the yellow card.

85' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ahmed Hegazi.

85' Attempt blocked. Danny Ings (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

83' Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

83' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

83' Foul by Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion.

80' Offside, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.

79' Mohamed Salah (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

79' Foul by Claudio Yacob (West Bromwich Albion.

78' Goal! Liverpool 2, West Bromwich Albion 3. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

77' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.

75' Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Danny Ings is caught offside.

75' Attempt saved. Danny Ings (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

74' Attempt saved. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

72' Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.

71' Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. Claudio Yacob replaces Gareth Barry.

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

69' Foul by Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion.

65' Substitution, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson replaces Sadio Mané.

65' Substitution, Liverpool. Danny Ings replaces Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

65' Substitution, Liverpool. James Milner replaces Emre Can.

64' Attempt missed. Matt Phillips (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses the top left corner. Assisted by Grzegorz Krychowiak.

63' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.

63' Ahmed Hegazi (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.

61' Emre Can (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

61' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

61' Gareth Barry (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick on the left wing.

60' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jonny Evans.

60' Attempt blocked. Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

59' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

59' Foul by Jonny Evans (West Bromwich Albion.

58' Offside, Liverpool. Simon Mignolet tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.

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

54' Foul by Grzegorz Krychowiak (West Bromwich Albion.

53' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool.

53' Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick on the right wing.

49' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

49' Delay in match (Liverpool. Video Review.

49' Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Chris Brunt tries a through ball, but Craig Dawson is caught offside.

49' Attempt blocked. Chris Brunt (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Grzegorz Krychowiak with a cross.

48' Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.

47' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Gareth Barry.

46' Attempt saved. Matt Phillips (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Jay Rodriguez.

Second Half begins Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 3.

45'+6' First Half ends, Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 3.

45'+4' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

45'+3' Video Review: Goal. Referee decision on field stands.

45'+2' Delay in match (Liverpool. Video Review.

45'+2' Own Goal by Joel Matip, Liverpool. Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 3.

45'+2' Attempt missed. Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Grzegorz Krychowiak following a set piece situation.

45'+1' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool.

45'+1' Gareth Barry (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the attacking half.

45' Attempt missed. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

44' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Sadio Mané with a cross.

40' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

40' Grzegorz Krychowiak (West Bromwich Albion wins a free kick in the defensive half.

39' Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. Matt Phillips replaces Hal Robson-Kanu because of an injury.

38' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

37' Delay in match Hal Robson-Kanu (West Bromwich Albion because of an injury.

37' Substitution, West Bromwich Albion. Ahmed Hegazi replaces Kieran Gibbs because of an injury.

36' Attempt saved. Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Joel Matip.

35' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

34' Delay in match Kieran Gibbs (West Bromwich Albion because of an injury.

33' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

33' Foul by Gareth Barry (West Bromwich Albion.

31' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jonny Evans.

31' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.

27' Penalty missed! Still Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 2. Roberto Firmino

(Liverpool hits the bar with a right footed shot.

26' Gareth Barry (West Bromwich Albion is shown the yellow card.

25' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

23' Video Review: Penalty Kick. Referee decision on field cancelled.

23' Delay in match (Liverpool. Video Review.

23' Penalty Liverpool. Mohamed Salah draws a foul in the penalty area.

23' Penalty conceded by Jake Livermore (West Bromwich Albion after a foul in the penalty area.

22' Attempt missed. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

21' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

20' Video Review: Goal. Referee decision on field cancelled.

20' Delay in match (Liverpool. Video Review.

19' Offside, West Bromwich Albion. Craig Dawson tries a through ball, but Gareth Barry is caught offside.

19' Attempt blocked. Craig Dawson (West Bromwich Albion header from very close range is blocked. Assisted by Chris Brunt with a cross.

19' Corner, West Bromwich Albion. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.

16' Attempt missed. Kieran Gibbs (West Bromwich Albion left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left.

14' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Allan Nyom.

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

13' Foul by Allan Nyom (West Bromwich Albion.

12' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Joel Matip.

11' Goal! Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 2. Jay Rodriguez (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Kieran Gibbs.

9' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Mohamed Salah with a cross.

7' Goal! Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 1. Jay Rodriguez (West Bromwich Albion right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top right corner. Assisted by Chris Brunt.

5' Goal! Liverpool 1, West Bromwich Albion 0. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box to the bottom left corner.

5' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

3' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

3' Foul by Allan Nyom (West Bromwich Albion.

2' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

2' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up.