

Date: 14 February 2018  
Opposition: FC Porto  
Competition: Champions League

	Times	Telegraph	Echo
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THETIMES

Mané hat-trick lands knockout blow for Klopp

Porto 0 Liverpool 5 Mané 25, 53, 85, Salah 29, Firmino 70

After the dust had settled, the statement had been made and notice had been served on the rest of Europe, Jürgen Klopp went through his team from back to front, extolling the collective virtues that had allowed Liverpool to all but reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

The mistake, as understandable as it may be, would be to focus solely on the attack, yet this was an accomplished team display, the kind of which should allow them to dare to dream. There was an avalanche of statistics that illustrated the potency of an attacking triumvirate that inflicted the heaviest home European defeat on a shellshocked Porto side.

Sadio Mané announced a return to form with a hat-trick, Mo Salah became the second-quickest player to reach 30 goals for the club with a sumptuous juggling effort, and Roberto Firmino sought to stay on Cristiano Ronaldo's coat-tails as the competition's leading scorer. Yet the statistic that Klopp will cherish most was the one that revealed this to be only the second time since February 2011 that Liverpool have kept three successive clean sheets away from home. They were flawless at both ends, with Virgil van Dijk bringing a sense of calm and leadership to the heart of the defence. As the travelling supporters in the Estadio do Dragao sang about poetry in motion, Klopp will have viewed this performance as evidence of the vision he had for his side post-Philippe Coutinho.

He will not expect them to score five goals every week, but the solidity the away side displayed from back to front — Salah's willingness to scurry back and help out his team-mates was particularly noticeable — must become the standard.

Given that it had been 3,623 days since Liverpool had tasted success in a knockout game among the elite — a 4-0 victory over Real Madrid in March 2009 giving way to gut-wrenching disappointment at the very next hurdle against Chelsea who instead prevailed in the quarter-finals — they wasted little time readjusting to this rarefied level. One of the qualities that this team boast is the exhilarating ability to put their foot on the accelerator and move through the gears. Having felt their way into the contest — with foot soldiers Jordan Henderson, Georginio Wijnaldum and James Milner whizzing around the pitch — they exploded into life.

Porto were blitzed in a four-minute spell shortly after the midway point of the first half. Worse was to follow. It was ironic that the breakthrough came with Klopp a frustrated figure in his technical area as Mané, having been released by Firmino down the left, failed to find the unmarked Wijnaldum at the back post with an easy pass. Porto's respite was brief. Wijnaldum was cursing his team-mate's failure to pick him out one second, winning back possession the next and surging into the box where a fortunate ricochet allowed him to tee up Mané to his left. The Senegal attacker's low shot was not convincingly struck but it had enough power to squirm away from the grasp of the goalkeeper José Sá and dribbled over the line. The theory that teams are at their most vulnerable when they have just scored simply does not apply to this Liverpool side. Over and over again, they have scored in clusters and a second goal duly arrived. Milner's curling shot from the just inside the area thudded on to the post with Sá beaten, but rebounded straight to Salah, who had taken up the poacher's position. Even by the Egyptian's unerring standards of excellence what happened next was remarkable. There was a touch to control the ball six yards out as Diego Reyes, the centre back, was caught flat-footed, a flick into the air to hoodwink Sá, another with his head this time to keep it under control before he watched the chance fall on to his trusty left foot and stabbed home.

On a filthy night, with the rain sweeping through this open ended arena, Salah's shimmering skills felt like a burst of sunshine. Only George Allan back in 1896 has reached 30 goals in fewer games for the club.

In many respects, it was not even the best goal of the first leg. It was the 53rd minute when Yacine Brahimi's dribble was thwarted by Milner's tackle and Liverpool took off at speed. Mané touched the ball to Firmino whose back-heel was a delight and sent Salah haring clear. The ball was transferred back to Firmino and when his shot was saved there was Mané to pounce. From their own penalty box to Porto's goal in 12 sublime seconds. Porto could only watch and stare. Sérgio Conceição's side were without Vincent Aboubakar, who had scored 26 goals during a campaign in which they are unbeaten domestically, but other than a shot from Otavio that looped off Dejan Lovren and on to the roof of Loris Karius's net with the game still goalless, they mustered nothing.

What will have underscored the positives for the Liverpool manager was the manner in which his team maintained the pressure. They had been in a similar position of strength on their previous European away trip, the group game with Seville in November, when they were 3-0 up after 30 minutes only to cave in and ultimately surrender that yawning advantage late on.

It is valid to suggest that Porto are not as potent as their Iberian cousins but, alternatively, there is the theory that Klopp's side have learnt from that chastening night. The experience of Milner was influential here, tidying up, keeping it simple, while there is little doubt that Van Dijk's imposing presence at the heart of the rearguard promotes confidence and calm. His willingness to communicate is benefiting those around him and Andrew Robertson's cameo from left back was excellent.

The goals kept coming. Firmino grabbed the strike his performance deserved when emphatically side-footing home a pass from Milner, who registered his sixth assist in this season's competition — which is more than all those other vaunted

names whose creativity is usually highlighted. Klopp will also have been delighted by watching the confidence return to Mané's game, and the striker completed the rout by battering home a shot from 20 yards to take his tally for the campaign to 12. Indeed, the hardest Liverpool had to work all night was after the final whistle. Robertson walked 40 yards to retrieve the match ball from the side of the pitch for Mané, who had to brush off an over-zealous security guard to claim his prize.

Porto (4-2-3-1): José Sá 5 — Ricardo 6, I Marcano 5, D Reyes 5, A Telles 6 — H Herrera 5, S Oliveira 5 — M Marega 6, Otávio 5 (sub: J Corona 46min), Y Brahimi 6 (sub: M Waris 62) — F Soares 6 (sub: G Paciência 74).

Substitutes not used I Casillas, Maxi Pereira, Osorio. Liverpool (4-3-3): L Karius 7 — T Alexander-Arnold 7 (sub: J Gomez 79), D Lovren 7, V Van Dijk 8, A Robertson 7 — G Wijnaldum 7, J Henderson 7 (sub: J Matip 75), J Milner 7 — M Salah 8, R Firmino 8, S Mané 7 (sub: D Ings 85).

Substitutes not used A Moreno, A Lallana, A Oxlade-Chamberlain, S Mignolet. Referee D Orsato (It)a

the**guardian**

Liverpool's Henderson and Milner provide base for front line's fireworks - Jürgen Klopp's team struck the perfect balance in Porto with Jordan Henderson and James Milner assuming midfield control and Sadio Mané profiting from their dominance

How many will Mohamed Salah get this season? Forty? Fifty? A tired puff of the cheeks by Porto's Moussa Marega after his irresistible 30th said it all. There was half an hour on the clock inside the Estádio do Dragão when Salah opened his tally for the evening. Liverpool supporters idolise the man they call the Egyptian King but Salah seems to have grander plans, like conquering Europe, for starters. Salah provided the delicate touches on a night when Liverpool displayed an iron core and just what their manager, Jürgen Klopp, had requested — “a real serious performance”.

By the time Salah added Liverpool's second, firing home after juggling the ball with a few effortless keepie-uppies as if alone after everybody else had gone home from training, Liverpool were essentially cruising. The composure that Salah showed was representative of Liverpool as a whole on a night when they exuded an affirming arrogance. Playing in luminous citrus orange, this was a wondrous, colourful display.

Liverpool's display was slick but it was Klopp's decision to beef up the midfield which provided the unerring platform on which they could build. Jordan Henderson and James Milner offered both tenacity and a touch of class but it was Liverpool's bite that was felt most.

It was impossible to avoid the flattering numbers surrounding Liverpool's fluid front three before or after this match — only Paris Saint-Germain had scored more goals in the group stages — but, for the away leg, their defensive showing was always going to go some way to defining the outcome of this tie, with the priority being taking something back to Anfield next month.

Hence why Klopp opted to utilise the knowhow of Milner and Henderson alongside Georginio Wijnaldum in midfield; the Liverpool captain was excused from their successful trip to Southampton last Sunday with this match in view, to ensure their gameplan was, as the Liverpool manager said, “spot on from the first second”. For Liverpool, a team so often their own worst enemy, as in Seville in November, managed to strike the perfect balance here, with the pairing of pragmatic central pillars Henderson and Milner assuming control as Liverpool dominated long periods. Milner's simple, weighted square ball for Liverpool's fourth epitomised an unselfish midfield masterclass.

This was another audition for Andrew Robertson to nail down the left-back berth — perhaps the toughest one yet — and he coped admirably, marauding down the flank to provide a constant outlet.

On the opposite flank Trent Alexander-Arnold had his hands full with Yacine Brahimi and was bullied far too easily by Otavio early on. Dejan Lovren, too, was made to look silly but made amends. Amid the ongoing focus around the £75m defender Virgil van Dijk, who made his Champions League debut for the club here, Robertson continues to look like one of Klopp's shrewdest bits of business.

Add in the impending arrival of Naby Keita in the summer and the prospect of Liverpool's midfield axis — with or without Emre Can — is mouthwatering, on this evidence at least. Henderson has struggled with injuries but orchestrated the tune on a lilting evening for Liverpool under the lights.

Roberto Firmino had bullishly stated how Liverpool would make Porto suffer but, at the back, they needed to suffocate the Portuguese league leaders. In fact, they made them squeal.

They were — again — simply devastating on the counterattack, as Porto could testify nine minutes into the second half when Sadio Mané added his second of three. They exuded a confidence reminiscent of their last Champions League last-16 outing in 2009, when they wrung out Real Madrid 4-0 at Anfield.

Now they have another unforgettable display to rival that evening when Andrea Dossena capped the rout for Rafael Benítez's side. An accomplished performance of this nature begs the question as to what exactly is left for his players to focus on over the course of a four-day training camp in Marbella this week. It simply does not get much better than this but, after nine years away from the biggest European stage, they rightly relished every moment.

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Mail

Jurgen Klopp's side run riot in Champions League last-16 first leg as Sadio Mane nets hat-trick and Mohamed Salah bags solo strike

Mohamed Salah juggled the ball in the six-yard box, took it around a clueless Jose Sa and became the fastest Liverpool player to 30 goals since George Allan.

And anyone who knows who Allan is will appreciate the incredible substance of that record. Sadio Mane was the hero of the night, his first hat-trick in a Liverpool shirt taking this tie away from Porto and making the return leg a formality.

Liverpool lost a three-goal lead against Sevilla, but three is not five, and Porto are not Sevilla. This was a mismatch, the complete destruction of a team who look very good against other Portuguese teams but were utterly outclassed on home soil here. They could not match Liverpool's speed, wit or finishing. They had no answer to the front three of Sane, Salah and Roberto Firmino. Their goalkeeper was a little boy lost. But before we hear about that, a moment for the story of George Allan. Hear it, and Salah's achievements this season are placed into perspective. Put it like this. We're not talking modern, Premier League era football here. Allan's is not a career that takes place on Sky, or even in colour. Queen Victoria was on the throne when Allan played his first, and sadly his last, game for Liverpool. His record was set in 1896 and his life was over three years later. Allan died of tuberculosis in 1899 at the age of 24, having already been forced into retirement by the disease. He scored his first goal against Loughborough Town. This is the frame of reference we have for Salah's cavalcade of goals.

Another age, another time. His prolific start has streaked past each one of Liverpool's greatest strikers, the legends recalled in songs and on banners, on into history. What a player this is. And what a player his team-mate Mane was, too, on Wednesday night, ripping Porto apart, sensing the frailty of Sa in goal and exploiting it to the full. His third, Liverpool's fifth, was a screamer from 25 yards, putting the cherry on a quite brilliant display.

What a team performance, too, Porto put away in 90 minutes, Liverpool rampant, scorers of 12 goals in their last two Champions League outings, and 28 in the competition so far, the top scorers. This was a fearless display, certainly once they knew they had nothing to fear. Liverpool recognised they had the beating of Porto early and took full advantage. By the time James Milner's cross set up Firmino for the fourth after 69 minutes the contest was long over.

There wasn't much fire from the hosts at the stadium of the dragon. Incessant rain, in all day and night, dampened the enthusiasm of the locals long before Liverpool's two first-half goals poured icy water over their ambitions.

Like a lot of the opposition Premier League clubs have come up against in this competition of late, Porto are a very strong domestically.

They are unbeaten in the league this season, with just four draws. Where they would be in the Premier League, however, who knows? It is hard to imagine any of the top six being greatly troubled by the team they put out here.

Porto started brightly but Liverpool soon took command, the driving rain in their faces the strongest opposition. Otavio, one of those highly skilled Brazilians not yet considered worthy of a cap, showed occasional promise but was withdrawn at half-time. By then, Liverpool had as good as disposed of Porto in the space of five minutes. The first goal owed as much to persistence as excellence, but it was none the worse for that. Georginio Wijnaldum powered into the box and struck a shot which hit a defender but rebounded back to his feet.

He tried again, like a blunderbuss clearing an explosive path, the ball eventually finding its way to Mane on the left. His low shot should have been covered by Jose Sa but Porto's goalkeeper let it squirm under him and agonisingly over the line. In his defence, perhaps the conditions did not help — it was hard to say, as Loris Karius was never tested. There were 25 minutes gone, but already the game was heading in one direction. From their next meaningful attack, Liverpool achieved significant distance. Salah's composed trickery will be the lasting memory but Milner deserves credit too for a curling shot that thundered against the far post, Sa defeated and Salah first to pounce. Some would have panicked in his position, but Salah was cooler than a cucumber in a polar bear's icebox. He didn't blast it, with Sa desperately trying to recover, he didn't try to take the shot off balance, either. First, he flicked it up, then he headed it, all the time taking the ball farther from Sa's reach. Eventually, satisfied that his chance of scoring was nearing 100 per cent, he finished. It was a brilliant goal, his seventh in the competition this season, including the qualifying round. He needs one more to equal Steven Gerrard's tally from 2008-09 and Harry Kane's in this campaign.

Porto mounted brief resistance shortly before half-time when Francisco Soares shot wide but Liverpool's only danger was easing up. The third of the night put paid to that fantasy. It was a classic Liverpool counter-attack, fast out from the back, Firmino putting Salah away with a quite ingenious back-heel.

He made fantastic ground and returned the ball with a precision pass, Firmino's low shot forcing Sa to parry left. It was tame resistance and got him nowhere.

Mane was also up with the move and simply returned the ball to the net, simplicity itself. Of course, we know Porto are not among the elite of Europe and far tougher challenges lay ahead. But no matter the quality of the opposition, it's still the Champions League knockout stage and five away goals is quite some marker. Nobody will fancy facing Liverpool. Not even the winners of Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain. MATCH FACTS, PLAYER RATINGS AND MATCH ZONE

Porto (4-2-3-1): Sa 5; Ricardo 5, Marcano 5, Reyes 5, Telles 5; Herrera 5, Oliveira 6; Marega 6, Otavio 6 (Corona 46min, 5.5), Brahimi 5 (Waris 62, 6); Soares (Paciencia 74. 6)

Subs not used: Casillas, Pereira, Parades, Torres Manager: Sergio Conceicao 6 Liverpool (4-3-3): Karius 6; Alexander-Arnold 7 (Gomez 79), Van Dijk 7, Lovren 7, Robertson 7; Wijnaldum 7, Henderson 7 (Matip 75, 6), Milner 7; Salah 8, Firmino 8 (Ings 80), Mane 9 Subs not used: Mignolet, Moreno, Lallana, Oxlade-Chamberlain

Goalscorers: Mane 25, 53, 85, Salah 29, Firmino 69

Manager: Jurgen Klopp, 8

Referee: Daniele Orsato (Italy) 7 Attendance: 47,718

## The Daily Telegraph

Mane hat-trick delivers warning from rampant Liverpool

Porto 0 Liverpool 5 Mane 25, 53, 85, Salah 30, Firmino 70 Att: 47,718

Jurgen Klopp had declared that Liverpool could compete with the best and there was that swagger as they brushed aside Porto to deliver the biggest home defeat in the Portuguese club's proud history. It was a devastating Champions League display that spoke of a team believing it can go deep into this competition.

Twenty-four hours after statement performances from Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City in European away days Liverpool emphatically made theirs.

Sadio Mane was at the heart of it with a hat-trick but Mohamed Salah also scored as did Roberto Firmino. That triumvirate will give any team a chance

and Liverpool are now top scorers in the Champions League this season with 28 goals - two ahead of Paris St-Germain, who have quite a good little attacking trio of their own. This was Liverpool's first appearance in the last-16 for nine years and they will at least go one round further. A quarter-final place is theirs with the return leg of this tie, at Anfield on March 6, a formality. Handily for Liverpool it comes four days before they play Manchester United in the Premier League.

After a day of torrential rain, a downpour that continued into this match, Porto attempted to wash away Liverpool. Instead they were the ones given the early dousing. It came midway through the first half, just as Klopp's side began to turn the ball over, winning it back with increasing frequency after facing a storm from kick-off. On one such occasion Georginio Wijnaldum worked his way into the penalty area and after he broke through a challenge the ball fell to Mane, who had somehow been left unmarked out to the left. Even more inexplicable was the mess goalkeeper Jose Sa made of Mane's shot, allowing it to squeeze under his body and roll over the line. Liverpool did not rest on that. It spread panic in the Porto team and they were soon further behind when James Milner's powerful drive beat Jose Sa and cannoned back off the post. It fell to Salah who is in such an incredible vein of form at the moment that he had time and then more time to score. He flicked the ball, flicked it again and finally brought it fully under control with a header before calmly stroking it into the net.

Jose Sa and the Porto defenders did not know what to do - it was almost mesmeric. It was also Salah's 30th goal for Liverpool this season and by scoring it he became only the 13th player from the club to achieve that total in a campaign. The Egyptian has also achieved it in the second fewest number of games, 36, and the fewest since George Allan (27) in 1896. We are also still in February. Maybe now even Ian Rush's all-time record of 47 goals in one season is under threat. And all this in Salah's first campaign with the club. Porto were in a bind. They had come into this tie with a buoyancy born of their exuberant form, and a belief that something is stirring under coach Sergio Conceicao. The former Portugal international has steered the club to the top of the league, unbeaten in 21 games, and having won nine of their last 10 home matches, after an unusual run of not landing a trophy since 2013. They had also created the first chance with the power of forward Moussa Marega quickly evident as the Malian held the ball up before setting it for Otavio whose shot appeared to be about to beat goalkeeper Loris Karius only for Dejan Lovren to intervene, deflecting it on to the roof of the net. But suddenly they were twogoals down. The noise from the Porto ultras did not abate but their team needed a goal and, before the break, Francisco Soares should have provided it as he found the space, from Yacine Brahimi's astute pass, only to shoot narrowly wide under pressure from Virgil van Dijk.

Porto knew they had to claim the next goal. However, as they pushed forward, it was Liverpool who struck with a devastating counterattack involving Mane, Salah and Firmino who started it with a superb flick. That released Salah and suddenly there was a collective expectancy as he returned the ball to Firmino whose shot was blocked by Jose Sa only for the rebound to run to Mane, who simply tapped it into the unguarded goal.

Tie over? Liverpool had led a three-goal advantage slip in the group stages, away to Sevilla earlier in this campaign, but they already feel a different proposition. They also had a number of away goals to bolster their chances even if Porto rallied. The scoreline also meant they had scored an incredible 14 goals in just four away Champions League matches this season. Which soon became 15 and 16.

Liverpool broke again and down the left Milner smartly pulled the ball back to Firmino who coolly side-footed beyond Jose Sa and inside the near post. It was his seventh Champions League goal of the campaign, equalling Steven Gerrard's club record. Still the visitors were determined not to concede, with Van Dijk brilliantly blocking from Soares as he seemed destined to score from six yards.

And it was the Premier League side who struck again with the ball rolled into Mane who, 20 yards out, simply smashed it past the hapless Jose Sa to complete his hat-trick.

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INDEPENDENT

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<div><div><div>LIVERPOOL</div><div>ECHO</div></div><p>Klopp's relentless scoring machine is going to take some stopping Love was in the air at the Estadio do Dragao. A smitten travelling Kop serenaded their drenched heroes who had marked Valentine's Day with a dazzling performance which left Porto feeling weak at the knees. Forget the flowers and the chocolates, gifts don't come any better than this. Dragons haven't been slayed in this manner since Saint George was wielding his sword. Liverpool didn't just announce their presence back on the big stage after a nine-year absence from the Champions League knockout rounds. Jurgen Klopp's side issued a booming statement which will reverberate across the continent. The road which leads to Kiev in May promises to be some journey. Of course tougher tests lie ahead but Klopp's relentless attacking machine, which has plundered 99 goals already this season, will take some stopping. Porto, top of the Portuguese Premier League and unbeaten domestically, were the victims of a ruthless demolition job as they endured the heaviest home defeat in their European history. The Reds' front three ran riot. It was men against boys. Sadio Mane led the way with the first hat-trick of his Liverpool career, while Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino also got in on the act. They just keep on rewriting the record books. Salah became the second fastest Liverpool player in history to reach the 30-goal mark – only George Allan in 1896 got there quicker. Mane ensured that Michael Owen is no longer the only man to have bagged an away treble for the Reds in Europe. For all the talk of the Senegal international not being at the same level as last term he now boasts 12 goals for the season – just one less than in 2016/17. He has played his way back into form. Liverpool hadn't won in Portugal in seven previous attempts dating back to 1984 but they put that right in emphatic fashion. You won't catch Klopp saying it but the second leg at Anfield on March 6 is effectively a dead rubber. The Reds have qualified for the quarter-finals with 90 minutes to spare. The manager will have the luxury of being able to rest key names four days before the Premier League trip to Old Trafford. The headlines belong to the gems up top but there was plenty else to admire about a true team performance. Young full-backs Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson were outstanding, while Virgil van Dijk was commanding on his European bow for the Reds. Liverpool may have lost a world-class attacker last month but they gained the kind of defensive rock they have lacked since Jamie Carragher's retirement. Van Dijk belongs at the highest level. Ironically, Klopp had gone for solidity and experience rather than being particularly bold with his team selection as skipper Jordan Henderson and vice-captain James Milner returned in midfield alongside Gini Wijnaldum. It worked a treat as that trio worked tirelessly to provide the ammunition for the frontline to fire. Milner, whose two assists made it seven in the Champions League, was the pick of the three as he delivered his best display of the campaign. Liverpool had to dig deep during a tricky opening 20-minute spell when spurred on by a passionate home support the Dragons tried to seize the initiative. To their credit, Klopp's side kept their heads and defended solidly with Van Dijk organising those around him. He also helped turn defence into attack by pinging pin-point 50-yard passes out to the flanks. There was a scare when Otavio worked his way into space inside the box but Dejan Lovren made a crucial block as the deflection lifted the shot over the bar. Alexander-Arnold dealt well with the threat of Yacine Brahimi, while on the other flank Robertson excelled at both ends of the field on his first Champions League start. Alberto Moreno could be waiting some time for a recall. Injury deprived Porto of their 26-goal top scorer Vincent Aboubakar and after a lively start they faded fast. Increasingly, Liverpool bossed possession and the hosts struggled to handle the lightning pace and intelligent movement up front. Diego Reyes prevented Firmino from getting on the end of Salah's cross and then Ivan Marcano's challenge stopped the Brazilian from converting Robertson's quality delivery as the pressure mounted. The breakthrough Kopites craved arrived on 25 minutes. It was a gift from Jose Sa, the rookie who was preferred in goal to veteran Iker Casillas. The locals were stunned into silence and five minutes later Liverpool were in dreamland. Milner won the ball off Moussa Marega and as Porto appealed forlornly for a free-kick, he drove to the edge of the box and unleashed a curler which cannoned back off the post. Salah was first to react and was coolness personified - dispatching it like he was having a kickaround in his back garden. There was the control, the flick past the keeper, the header down and then the prod over the line. Only 13 Liverpool players have ever scored 30 in a season. His name now sits alongside the likes of Roger Hunt, Kenny Dalglish, Ian Rush, John Aldridge and Robbie Fowler. After the magic came the hard graft with Salah darting back inside his own half to dispossess Otavio. The attitude and application of the Reds was as impressive as the quality. Francisco Soares could have halved the deficit on the stroke of half-time but prodded wide when well placed. Porto found themselves in a perilous position at the interval. Stick or twist? Boss Sergio Conceicao opted to chase it and was left to endure the sight of his side being mercilessly picked off. Eight minutes into the second half it was 3-0 as Liverpool added another blistering breakaway goal to their bulging collection. Firmino's flick found Salah, who returned the favour with an inviting through ball. The Brazilian's low strike was parried by Sa and Mane followed up to convert the rebound before dropping to his knees to plant a kiss on the sodden turf. Marega scuffed tamely at the under-worked Loris Karius before the Reds bagged a fourth. Mane picked out Milner down the left and he waited before putting it on a plate for Firmino to find the bottom corner. With the job done, Klopp brought on Joel Matip, Joe Gomez and Danny Ings, who made his Champions League bow. Still there was more agony to come for Porto. Four minutes from time Mane secured the matchball by slamming an unstoppable 20-yarder past Sa. Porto looked shell-shocked. Kopites can prepare for a Champions League quarter-final.</p><p>MATCH FACTS Porto : Sa, Ricardo, Reyes, Marcano, Telles, Oliveira, Herrera, Marega, Otavio (Corona 45), Brahimi (Waris 62), Soares (Paciencia 74). Not used : Casillas, Pereira, Paredes, Torres. Liverpool : Karius, Alexander-Arnold (Gomez 79), Lovren, Van Dijk, Robertson, Henderson (Matip 75), Milner, Wijnaldum, Salah, Firmino (Ings 80), Mane. Not used : Mignolet, Moreno, Lallana, Oxlade-Chamberlain. Referee : Daniele Orsato Attendance : 47,718 Goals : Mane 25, Salah 30, Mane 53, Firmino 69, Mane 86. Bookings : none. Man of the match : Sadio Mane. Back to his best with a bang.</p><h2>PUBLICO</h2><p>Erro de casting do FC Porto, goleada histórica do Liverpool</p><p>Numa noite de pesadelo para os “dragões”, os “reds” aproveitaram os erros do rival para colocarem uma pedra nas esperanças portuguesas de chegar aos “quartos” da Champions. Quando se tem pela frente equipas da qualidade do Liverpool, com jogadores talentosos como Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mané e Mohamed Salah, os erros pagam-se muito caro. Nesta quarta-feira, no Estádio do Dragão, um FC Porto com equívocos para todos os gostos comprovou-o. Com um erro de casting na escolha da equipa e na estratégia inicial, e deslizos pouco habituais nos “azuis e brancos” de Sérgio Conceição, os “dragões” reduziram a zero qualquer esperança de apuramento para os quartos-de-final da Liga dos Campeões. Com uma exibição de excelência, o Liverpool venceu no Porto, por 0-5 (Mané, aos 25’, 53’ e 85’; Salah, aos 29’; Firmino, 69’), e transformou a segunda mão em Anfield Road numa mera formalidade.</p><p>Cinco meses e cinco dias depois de se estrear na Liga dos Campeões com uma exibição para esquecer — derrota por 1-3 frente ao Besiktas —, o FC Porto voltou a mostrar a sua pior face no principal palco europeu. Frente a uma equipa do Liverpool que tem poucos segredos e que se apresentou no Dragão fiel a si própria, Sérgio Conceição correu o risco de abdicar da identidade habitual dos portistas e a má distribuição inicial de papéis pelo técnico resultou no descalabro. Apesar de não ter Felipe, Danilo, André André e Aboubakar, Conceição optou por recorrer ao seu “plano B”. Embora a parceria entre Herrera e Sérgio Oliveira tivesse passado com distinção nos exames anteriores, o treinador do FC Porto apostou no 4x3x3, colocando Otávio à frente do “16” e “27”, que jogavam lado a lado. Para além de retirar a habitual liberdade de acção ao mexicano e ao português, o técnico entregou a bola ao Liverpool. Habitualmente muito pressionantes, procurando quase sempre sufocar o rival no seu meio-campo, os portistas, desta vez, ficaram à espera do rival. Nos primeiros minutos, a estratégia pareceu apanhar desprevenida a equipa de Klopp. Perante o recuo portista, o Liverpool mostrou-se cauteloso, tentando perceber o que iriam fazer os “dragões”. Resultado? Nos primeiros 10 minutos, a monotonia apenas foi quebrada por um remate de Otávio, que, após desviar em Lovren, passou a poucos centímetros da baliza de Karius. O susto despertou o (melhor) Liverpool. Um par de minutos depois, após uma perda de bola de Brahimi, Robertson fez o primeiro remate à baliza de José Sá. A partir daí, os erros individuais portistas surgiram em catadupa. Aos 20’, após uma má reposição de bola de Sá, apenas um bom corte de Reyes impediu que Mané inaugurasse o marcador; dois minutos depois, após um mau passe de Soares, foi Marcano a evitar que Firmino fizesse o golo. Ao terceiro erro, foi de vez: nova má reposição de Sá, Mané, com espaço, rematou e a bola passou por debaixo do guarda-redes portista, que ficou muito mal na fotografia. Como um bom predador, o Liverpool não deu hipótese ao FC Porto de respirar. Quatro minutos depois, Milner recuperou a bola à saída da área portista, rematou com estrondo ao poste e a classe de Salah fez o resto. O egípcio marcou no Dragão o 30.º golo da época e, pela primeira vez na sua história, o FC Porto perdia à meia hora por 0-2 em casa nas competições europeias. Só a partir daí, com 30 minutos de atraso e dois golos de desvantagem, os portistas deixaram de esperar no seu meio-campo pelo Liverpool.</p><p>Perante o óbvio equívoco da primeira parte, Conceição tentou corrigir o erro inicial ao intervalo – Corona entrou para o lugar de Otávio, reposicionando a equipa em 4x4x2. No entanto, o Liverpool já tinha o jogo na mão e, com o FC Porto a tentar mais com o coração do que com a cabeça minimizar os estragos da primeira meia-hora, os “reds” mostraram o seu lado cínico. Com triangulações simples no meio-campo e um tridente (Mané-Firmino-Salah) letal na frente, a equipa de Anfield construiu a maior derrota da história do FC Porto em casa. Aos 54’, Firmino, de calcanhar, colocou a bola em Salah, o egípcio com um passe perfeito voltou a passar a bola ao brasileiro, que rematou para defesa de Sá. Na recarga, Mané só teve que encostar para o fundo da baliza. O jogo estava decidido, mas ainda faltavam 36 minutos que foram demasiado penosos para os</p></div>						

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portistas. Com a equipa “azul e branca” estarrecida, Firmino, aos 69’, fez o quarto e, aos 85’, Mané tornou-se no primeiro jogador a marcar um hat-trick em casa do FC Porto nas competições europeias.

Positivo/Negativo

Positivo

Sadio Mané

O internacional senegalês forma com Firmino e Salah um ataque temível e, no Estádio do Dragão, foi implacável. Com um hat-trick, proeza que nenhum jogador forasteiro tinha alcançado nas competições europeias na casa dos portistas, Mané já leva seis golos em cinco jogos na Liga dos Campeões.

Negativo

FC Porto

Na longa história dos portistas será difícil encontrar derrotas tão indigestas como a de ontem, frente ao Liverpool. Com erros para todos os gostos, o maior desaire de sempre do FC Porto em casa até podia ter atingido números mais expressivos.

BBC

Sadio Mane scored a hat-trick as Liverpool marked their first Champions League knockout game for nine years with an emphatic victory at Porto in their Champions League last-16 first-leg tie.

Mane opened the scoring when home goalkeeper Jose Sa failed to hold his placed strike.

Mohamed Salah then showed wonderful composure to steer the ball home for Liverpool's second and his 30th of an incredible debut season at the club.

With two away goals scored, the visitors could have been forgiven for taking a more conservative approach but instead they went for more.

A swift Liverpool counter-attack ended with Sa spilling Roberto Firmino's shot into Mane's path and the striker made no mistake, before Firmino scored his 21st of the season, sweeping home James Milner's cross.

Mane got his third with a driven strike late on to become the first Liverpool player to score a hat-trick away from home in Europe since Michael Owen in 2002, and the second ever.

Porto had lost only two matches in all competitions this season prior to Wednesday's game but simply could not cope with Liverpool's unstoppable forward line.

Otavio had the Portuguese side's best chance towards the end of the first half, placing his shot just wide of the far post after he was put through on goal.

Liverpool will expect to complete the job when they host Porto in the return leg at Anfield on Tuesday, 6 March.

Liverpool boast a proud record in continental football having won the European Cup or Champions League five times - more than any other English side.

But this was their first involvement in the knockout stages of the competition since 2009, when they lost 7-5 on aggregate to Chelsea in the quarter-finals.

And it was like they had never been away as they made light work of a side that reached this stage of the competition last season and were quarter-finalists just three years ago.

Only PSG (25) scored more goals than Liverpool (23) in the Champions League group stages and the Reds picked up where they had left off in December as their front three proved too much for a nervous Porto defence.

The hosts ultimately became the latest side unable to cope with Liverpool's pace on the counter-attack. This was the 17th time Liverpool had scored three goals or more in a game this season and the 10th time they have done it away from home.

They have also now scored more Champions League goals this season (28) than any other club and, on this evidence, are going to take some stopping in the competition.

Superb Salah on course for 40 in a season?

Games without Salah on the scoresheet this season have been rare. Indeed, the former Chelsea forward's longest 'drought' was a run of three without scoring towards the end of last year.

The forward is on a quite incredible run of goalscoring form that shows no sign of slowing down. His goal against Porto was his sixth in five games and took his total for the campaign in all competitions to 30 - only 12 players have managed that in Liverpool's history.

Salah has produced some quite sensational strikes this season and while his goal against Porto was, in the end, a tap-in, such a description hardly does justice to the amazing coolness he showed in the build-up to the finish.

After Milner's shot from distance bounced back off the post, Salah took one touch to lift the rebound beyond the reach of the goalkeeper, cushioned the ball on to his left foot with a calm header and slotted the ball home between a defender and the keeper.

It was more stunning artistry from the Egypt international and, given that it is only mid-February, it is not unreasonable to expect that he could surpass the 40-goal mark by the end of the season.

Man of the match - Sadio Mane (Liverpool)

Manager reaction - 'exactly as good as necessary'

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp: "It was a very good performance. Exactly as good as necessary.

"I think everyone saw in the game all the moments when we were not as compact as we wanted to be and Porto were immediately strong. They had their moments and we scored fantastic goals in the right moment."

Does he think the tie is over? "No, of course not, why should I? We came here to create the basis for the second leg at Anfield - and that's what we did, not more, not less. I am too long in the business to think anything is sorted before the final whistle.

"We owe our supporters at Anfield a 100% performance and that's what we want to deliver. That's all."

Porto manager Sergio Conceicao: "We started the game on an even keel. We even had a great chance through Otavio in the first 20 minutes. After that, on one occasion we sought to break out quickly from the back in a move that started with our goalkeeper. We lost possession and conceded the first.

"We made a few more mistakes [in that move] which cost us dearly, especially against a team with that kind of firepower. We reacted well to going behind, but then went two down because we were too passive. From there, it becomes even more difficult."

Up there with the best - the stats

Liverpool registered the joint-biggest away Champions League knockout win, equalling Bayern Munich's 5-0 win at Sporting Lisbon in February 2009 and Real Madrid's at Schalke in February 2014.

This is Porto's heaviest home European defeat and the first time they have conceded more than three goals in a home European match.

Liverpool are the first English side to score five goals in an away Champions League knockout match.

Mohamed Salah became the first Liverpool player to score 30 goals in all competitions in a single season since Luis Suarez (31) in 2013-14.

Salah has now scored in five consecutive matches in all competitions, the first Reds player to achieve that feat since Divock Origi in December 2016.

Trent Alexander-Arnold became the youngest Liverpool player to feature in a Champions League knockout match, aged 19 years and 130 days.

Alexander-Arnold is the fifth youngest Englishman to feature in a Champions League knockout game, behind only Theo Walcott, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Jack Wilshere and Wayne Rooney.

Liverpool have won four matches by five or more goals in all competitions this season, the first time they have achieved that since the 1985-86 season (five victories by that margin).

What next?

With no game this weekend following their FA Cup exit, Liverpool are heading to Marbella for a four-day training camp. They return to action in the Premier League when they host West Ham on 24 February (15:00 GMT).



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BBC

Match ends, FC Porto 0, Liverpool 5.  
90'+2' Second Half ends, FC Porto 0, Liverpool 5.  
90'+2' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.  
90'+2' Foul by Gonalo Paciência (FC Porto).  
89' Offside, FC Porto. Majeed Waris tries a through ball, but Gonalo Paciência is caught offside.  
88' Foul by Andrew Robertson (Liverpool).  
88' Ricardo Pereira (FC Porto wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
87' Attempt missed. Srgio Oliveira (FC Porto right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Hctor Herrera.  
85' Goal! FC Porto 0, Liverpool 5. Sadio Man (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Danny Ings.  
84' Foul by Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool).  
84' Hctor Herrera (FC Porto wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
83' Attempt missed. Sadio Man (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Andrew Robertson with a cross.  
81' Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
81' Foul by Gonalo Paciência (FC Porto).  
80' Substitution, Liverpool. Danny Ings replaces Roberto Firmino.  
79' Substitution, Liverpool. Joseph Gomez replaces Trent Alexander-Arnold.  
77' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).  
77' Majeed Waris (FC Porto wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
77' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Andrew Robertson with a headed pass.  
75' Substitution, Liverpool. Joel Matip replaces Jordan Henderson.  
74' Substitution, FC Porto. Gonalo Paciência replaces Tiquinho Soares.  
74' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).  
74' Majeed Waris (FC Porto wins a free kick on the left wing.  
72' Offside, FC Porto. Jess Manuel Corona tries a through ball, but Alex Telles is caught offside.  
71' Corner, FC Porto. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.  
71' Attempt blocked. Tiquinho Soares (FC Porto left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Hctor Herrera with a through ball.  
69' Goal! FC Porto 0, Liverpool 4. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner following a fast break.  
68' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
68' Foul by Majeed Waris (FC Porto).  
68' Attempt saved. Majeed Waris (FC Porto right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Hctor Herrera.  
66' Corner, FC Porto. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.  
64' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the six yard box misses to the left. Assisted by Trent Alexander-Arnold with a cross.  
62' Substitution, FC Porto. Majeed Waris replaces Yacine Brahimi.  
61' Attempt missed. Srgio Oliveira (FC Porto right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right.  
57' Attempt saved. Moussa Marega (FC Porto left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Tiquinho Soares.  
54' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
54' Foul by Srgio Oliveira (FC Porto).  
53' Goal! FC Porto 0, Liverpool 3. Sadio Man (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box to the bottom right corner following a fast break.  
53' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Mohamed Salah with a through ball.  
52' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).  
52' Ricardo Pereira (FC Porto wins a free kick on the right wing.  
48' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).  
48' Ricardo Pereira (FC Porto wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
Second Half begins FC Porto 0, Liverpool 2.  
45' Substitution, FC Porto. Jess Manuel Corona replaces Otvio.  
45'+2' First Half ends, FC Porto 0, Liverpool 2.  
45'+1' Mohamed Salah (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
45'+1' Foul by Hctor Herrera (FC Porto).  
45' Foul by Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool).  
45' Hctor Herrera (FC Porto wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
44' Attempt missed. Tiquinho Soares (FC Porto left footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Yacine Brahimi.  
43' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Andrew Robertson.  
40' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Sadio Man.  
34' Corner, FC Porto. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.  
31' Foul by Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool).  
31' Tiquinho Soares (FC Porto wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
29' Goal! FC Porto 0, Liverpool 2. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from very close range to the centre of the goal.  
29' James Milner (Liverpool hits the right post with a right footed shot from the left side of the box.  
28' Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.  
28' Foul by Diego Reyes (FC Porto).  
25' Goal! FC Porto 0, Liverpool 1. Sadio Man (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.  
25' Attempt blocked. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Dejan Lovren.  
22' Corner, FC Porto. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.

22' Foul by Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool).  
22' Otvio (FC Porto wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
21' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).  
21' Tiquinho Soares (FC Porto wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
20' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Diego Reyes.  
18' Sadio Man (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.  
18' Foul by Hctor Herrera (FC Porto).  
12' Attempt missed. Andrew Robertson (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.  
10' Attempt saved. Ivn Marcano (FC Porto header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner.  
10' Corner, FC Porto. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.  
10' Attempt blocked. Otvio (FC Porto right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.  
6' Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
6' Foul by Moussa Marega (FC Porto).  
4' Offside, FC Porto. Tiquinho Soares tries a through ball, but Alex Telles is caught offside.  
4' Corner, FC Porto. Conceded by Trent Alexander-Arnold.  
2' Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
2' Foul by Otvio (FC Porto).  
First Half begins.  
Lineups are announced and players are warming up.