

Date: 24 April 2018

Opposition: AS Roma

Competition: Champions League

Times

Telegraph

Gazzetta

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24 April 2018

## THE TIMES

Rampant Liverpool in control despite late lapses

Liverpool 5 Salah 36, 45+1, Mané 56, Firmino 61, 69 Roma 2 Dzeko 81, Perotti 85 (pen)

It was only when Mohamed Salah left the field with 15 minutes remaining, with Liverpool leading 5-0, that Roma started believing. It was only when the magician in the red No 11 shirt was taken off that Roma felt like a spell had been lifted and they came to life, scoring two late goals. The tie seemed safe at 5-0, as Roma looked totally bereft of confidence and ideas. Jürgen Klopp can hardly be blamed for the substitution, as Salah had run himself into the ground, scoring two goals and creating two more, and he could have risked injury in his 47th game of the season for Liverpool. But Roma's response simply highlighted why Salah is so important for Liverpool, who may have been frustrated by Roma's late rally but head to the Coliseum of Calcio knowing that they can score, as they showed in the second leg against Manchester City. With Salah, they will travel hopefully.

This was one of the great nights at Anfield, shaped by the brilliance of Salah, a player who looks set to join the Liverpool greats if he maintains the sort of prolific form that helped him to score twice last night, and create two more.

Liverpool fans had gathered early as usual, congregating outside the Arkles pub, holding flares, singing Salah's name, celebrating the regal work down the wing of their Egyptian king. That chant reverberated most loudly during the final nine minutes of the first half when Salah scored twice and reminded everybody why he was a deserved PFA player of the year. His 42nd and 43rd goals of the season were two of his finest. His first was rooted in the determination of Jordan Henderson to turn the ball over in midfield. Liverpool's captain had accompanied Salah to London when he collected his PFA award, and he again served his No 11 well here. Henderson won the ball from Edin Dzeko, and then Kevin Strootman failed to reach the loose ball. Sadio Mané was quickest to the wreckage, whisking it forward to Roberto Firmino. The Brazilian had enjoyed a superb half, moving all over the front three and creating chances. Mané could — should — have had a hat-trick. Firmino picked out Salah, who cut in from the right, and Kostas Manolas failed to react. He stood his ground, clutching his privates, rather than running to block Salah's strike. Roman statues were everywhere. Daniele De Rossi stood with his hands behind his back, fearing a handball. Federico Fazio remained on static sentry duty. Given a yard of space, Salah took full advantage, and that wonderful left foot swept down and sent the ball curling over the Roma goalkeeper, Alisson. It was the sweetest of strikes. Out of respect to his former club, Salah kept his celebrations to a minimum.

A party raged through everybody else of a Liverpool persuasion. The Kop sang Salah's name with even greater gusto. Klopp turned away with a look of complete joy. In the smart seats, a beaming Kenny Dalglish high-fived his wife, Marina. Dalglish provided one of many links to the 1984 European Cup final triumph over Roma. It was a half of real resilience, withstanding Roma's early pressure when Aleksandar Kolarov unleashed from range and Loris Karius rather unconvincingly diverted it on to the bar. Liverpool also had to deal with the loss to a knee injury of Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. He was borne away on a stretcher, his sad journey followed by sympathetic applause for the exciting midfielder player, who has been in such good form of late. Klopp had a consoling word and the prognosis will be awaited nervously by Gareth Southgate too. Liverpool simply took the setback in their stride, began releasing Mané into space and he wasted three inviting opportunities before Klopp's passionate players stunned Roma with Salah's first — and they hadn't finished for the half. They were so quick to rip through Roma, the move started by Virgil Van Dijk's headed clearance. Salah flicked the ball into the path of Firmino and hared down the inside-right channel, before moving inside as Firmino found him with the ball. He was too fast for the hapless Juan Jesus and too sharp for Fazio, and as Allison raced out, Salah dinked the ball over him. Liverpool were too sharp for Roma, too hungry to score, and make next week's second leg a more comfortable trip. Anfield expected goals but surely not this torrent? Roma, the conquerors of Barcelona, were swept aside.

Anfield was absolutely shaking with glee and the half-time whistle was lost in a crescendo of roars. Having demonstrated his finishing gifts, Salah then showed what a team player he is with two assists. The first arrived 11 minutes into the second period, as Salah flew into the box before stroking the ball across for Mané to apply a simple finish. Six minutes later, Salah's magic was seen again as he ran on to Trent Alexander-Arnold's ball down the right, before he again embarrassed Juan and passed to Firmino: 4-0. Roma were shocked, unable to work out what had hit them. Salah then took the ball around De Rossi and shifted it past Strootman. Liverpool, running on adrenaline, flying towards the Kop, added a fifth after the excellent James Milner lifted the ball in from the right and Firmino was too strong and determined and he powered his header past Alisson.

With 15 minutes remaining, the tormentor of Roma was taken off by Klopp, and the visiting side believed again. Salah walked to the technical area, his every step lauded. Danny Ings sprinted on to join the party. But it was Roma celebrating next. Dejan Lovren misjudged a long ball, which just cleared him and Dzeko responded by chesting it down and placing his shot past Karius. Klopp was furious at the concession of an away goal. They gave away another, when Radja Nainggolan's shot caught Milner's hand. Felix Brych pointed to the spot, and Diego Perotti's penalty was composure personified, sending Karius the wrong way as the Roma hordes in the Anfield Road end celebrated. Salah looked on, knowing that Liverpool still have work to do in Rome.

## the guardian

Mo Salah leads Liverpool onslaught to leave Roma needing new miracle

Of all the mesmerising nights Liverpool have experienced under Anfield's floodlights in the European competitions, where does this one stand? Up there, surely, with Saint-Étienne in 1977, Olympiakos in 2005, the fightback against Borussia Dortmund in 2016 and all the other famous occasions. [Liverpool](#) have added another exhilarating one to an already extensive list and, barring an almost implausible feat of escapology from Roma, can start looking forward to the final in Ukraine on 26 May. The only possible note of caution is that Roma have already overcome a 4-1 first-leg deficit in the Stadio Olimpico against Barcelona in the quarter-finals. On that basis Jürgen Klopp was entitled to be dismayed by his team's carelessness when they had a 5-0 lead. Yet perhaps the manager miscalculated by withdrawing Mohamed Salah, who had scored twice and set up two of the others. [Roma](#) promptly scored two of their own and, somehow, a hitherto rampant Liverpool side had to endure a nervous climax against reinvigorated opponents. Ultimately, though, it was another triumphant night for Liverpool — a scintillating performance, for the most part — and Klopp's team will head to Italy for the return in a position of strength. True, it might not have been the position they anticipated when they led by five goals and were threatening to add even more. Yet it was a smile on Klopp's face at the final whistle. Liverpool might have been disappointed not to inflict a quick kill but they have inflicted grievous damage and, on this evidence, they should be confident about adding more goals when the sides meet again on Wednesday week.

Roma played well for the opening 20 minutes and found some new momentum in the final quarter of an hour. In between, however, Serie A's third-placed side looked in need of smelling salts. Liverpool attacked from every angle. The din was extraordinary and Salah had such a hold on the match that it felt almost like a trick of the mind to realise that the fifth goal, when Roberto Firmino headed in James Milner's corner, did not have the Egyptian's fingerprints all over it.

At that stage, with 69 minutes gone, it would not have been a surprise if Liverpool had emulated, or even bettered, the seven goals that [Manchester United scored past Roma](#) in the 2007 quarter-finals. Instead there was a strange and unexpected end to a wild and eccentric evening. There has never been a semi-final in the Champions League with more goals and, if nothing else, at least Roma kept the tie alive with their late show of resistance. Yet the point remains that Liverpool ought to be enthralled with their night's work. In the process Salah scored his 42nd and 43rd goals of the season. Sadio Mané added another to his personal collection and Roberto Firmino scored two of his own. Together, those three have accumulated 87 goals this season. Mané's finishing might have been erratic sometimes but he quickly realised he had the beating of Federico Fazio, the former Tottenham Hotspur reserve. Firmino rarely disappoints on the big occasions and for long spells it was difficult not to pity Eusebio Di Francesco's team. Roma were taking an almighty chasing.

More than anyone, it was another night to savour the little guy with the magic in his feet and enough manners to hold up his palms in front of the away end to apologise for his first-half goals. Salah scored 34 times in 83 appearances for Roma but this performance was another reminder that he operates now at a different level. His first goal was a peach — a curling, diagonal shot that went in off the underside of the crossbar — but the second was not too shabby either. Firmino slipped the pass through the middle and once Salah reached the ball first there was a sense of inevitability about what would happen next — a touch to steady himself, a quick look up and then an impudent chip over Alisson, the Roma goalkeeper, almost in slow motion. When Manchester City came here in the quarter-finals Liverpool inflicted the damage with a [blitz of three goals before half-time](#). This time they restricted themselves to Salah's double but one of the more attractive traits of this side is that, when they are in a winning position, they always go looking for more goals. Another team might have prioritised a clean sheet in the second half. Liverpool, on the other hand, sensed a rout, attacking from every angle, with Salah at the hub of everything.

Perhaps, in the end, that sense of adventure cost them but it was difficult to be too critical when they had scored five and could also reflect on the chances that Mané missed, the header that Dejan Lovren thudded against the crossbar and the times when Salah slalomed round his former team-mates. Salah left Juan Jesus for dead to set up Firmino's first goal. Jesus, Roma's left-sided centre-half, had to be substituted midway through the second half and Aleksandar Kolarov, the former Manchester City defender, did not have the speed or agility to keep up with the newly crowned [Professional Footballers' Association player of the year](#). Even by Salah's standards, this was an exceptional performance of skill, sophistication and big-game expertise. All of which made it perplexing that Klopp removed his chief tormentor in the 75th minute. Liverpool lost their momentum and Lovren's mistake let Edin Dzeko pull one back before the substitute Diego Perotti added another from the penalty spot, capitalising on Milner's handball.

The only other downside for Liverpool was the knee injury suffered by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain in a challenge with Kolarov in the first half. The midfielder was taken off on a stretcher with his season [hanging in the balance](#). Indeed, Oxlade-Chamberlain seemed so badly hurt there have to be serious concerns he would miss the Champions League final if his team-mates finish the job. Klopp, of course, did not want to be so presumptuous but surely Liverpool will not blow it from this position.

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## The Mail

Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino bag braces as Jurgen Klopp's men shine at Anfield before two late away goals from the Italians take gloss off dominant semi-final first leg victory

At 75 minutes his time was up and, with it, arguably the greatest performance by an individual for an English club side in Europe. The less said about what happened after that the better, but Mohamed Salah, two goals, two assists in a Champions League semi-final, is a display that will live long in the memory.

That Roma scored two goals to keep this tie alive, just, after he was withdrawn only goes to underline his influence. While he was active the Italians could not get back in the game. Once he was gone it was as if a weight had been lifted, a monster Salah was, quite simply, astonishing. His finishes were perfection, his crosses precise to the millimetre. When the fourth official raised the board with his number 11 on it, Anfield stood as one, convinced they were through to the Champions League final already. Perhaps that explains the mild air of trepidation as many left when the 90 minutes were up and the margins reduced.

It should not, however, detract from the mastery of what they had witnessed. We have seen performances like this in Europe before, but usually against our clubs and often by one man. You know the one. The little Argentine playing for Barcelona. This was up there, though. This was Lionel Messi-like in its unstoppable brilliance. It is hard to make the case for Kevin De Bruyne as footballer of the year now. Hard even to think of too many others across Europe or the global game who have Salah's measure and influence. There is every chance this spell of form ends on a stage in Zurich, not London. Salah may well be the best there is, anywhere, right now and English football may have its first Ballon d'Or winner since Cristiano Ronaldo in 2008. Salah would be the first recipient who is not Messi or Ronaldo since Kaka in 2007. And, yes, he is that good right now.

Liverpool? Well, this was astonishing even by their standards in Europe. Roma, we know, are last- four opponents from left field. They are not European royalty, not even title contenders in Serie A. Liverpool avoided Bayern Munich and Real Madrid and will be thankful for that. Yet Munich and Madrid will be thankful, too.

Thankful they missed the competition's form team, arguably its best player and certainly its most prolific scorers. True, Liverpool left the door slightly ajar by conceding two goals in the last 10 minutes, but even so this was a brilliant win. To score five — five! — at this stage in the tournament is remarkable, to play with such bravery and abandon doubly so. It is no coincidence that Liverpool's victories follow a familiar pattern. The way they race away from teams at crucial moments in the game is no accident. Liverpool work for this, plan for this. This is what Jurgen Klopp's teams are about, these periods of extremity.

Liverpool score in torrents in Europe. It has been a quite incredible trait this season. There comes a moment in a game when they surge, when energy courses through. They win matches, sometimes entire ties, in these brief passages. Three goals in 11 minutes against Hoffenheim, four in 35 against Maribor, three in 14 against Spartak Moscow, three in 28 against Porto and — most memorably — three in 19 against Manchester City. It was no different on Tuesday night. From the 28th minute, when a quite wonderful bit of business from Roberto Firmino sent Sadio Mane through one on one, to the 68th minute, by which time Liverpool were five goals to the good, they found a booster button. Roma had until then looked resilient, potentially problematic in a way City's defence were not. In that 17-minute spell before half-time and the 23 that followed it, they appeared terrified. They could not handle the sheer ferocity of Liverpool's attacking impetus, the speed, the will, the anger. That's right. Liverpool get angry in these moments, like Popeye after a tin of spinach, or the Incredible Hulk tearing through his clothing. Don't get them angry. You won't like them when they are angry.

Quite where this fury comes from is a mystery. It is as if Klopp has a secret sign, or a code word, ordering his team to unleash hell. Maybe he does.

Certainly when Liverpool have a good chance they seem to draw inspiration from it, whether successful or not. In Mane's case, he missed an absolute sitter when put through by Firmino, shooting over when most in Anfield were poised to celebrate. Yet, somehow, from what should have been a setback, Liverpool were enthused. Confidence and desire coursed through them so even when Mane shot over again, from another excellent Firmino pass, it became the cue for more sustained pressure, not despondency. Klopp turned to the crowd and punched the air, as if encouraging them to keep the faith, and they did. Rightly so, too. With each attack, Liverpool got closer to the breakthrough and in the 35th minute Roma's resistance crumbled. Salah, of course, the scorer, Firmino, naturally, the provider. He fed the ball to the newly crowned Players' Player of the Year and his curled finish from the right was exquisite evidence of why he garnered so many professional votes. Just two minutes later, Liverpool could have added a second — Salah the provider this time, whipping in a corner from the right, met by Dejan Lovren, whose header struck the bar. It was merely temporary respite for Roma, though. Reeling like a boxer unable to spring off the ropes, they staggered towards the sanctuary of half-time, but not before Liverpool delivered another devastating blow. What a perfect goal this was. Firmino timing his pass to perfection, Salah's finish a masterful Messi homage, neatly lifted over goalkeeper Alisson and into the net. It was so deft it looked as if it might be caught on the line, but Salah does not make mistakes like that. Not this season. He became the first Liverpool player to score 10 in one European campaign.

By now, Liverpool — and that three-pronged forward line in particular — were

close to irresistible. Roma had no answer to Salah, either as finisher or architect. In the 56th minute, he sped down the right and slipped in a low cross that picked out Mane in a position from which he had to score. This time he did and Roma's contingent looked ashen. And then there were four. After 61 minutes, Salah again, latching on to a neat flick from Trent Alexander-Arnold on the right and haring away. His cross was perfection as expected, picking out Firmino for the simplest tap-in, a crowning glory his tireless energy more than deserved. The fifth was a set-piece. James Milner delivered it, Firmino headed it, Roma looked feeble in response. Yet it is not over. Not quite. With 10 minutes remaining Lovren misjudged a long ball, allowing Edin Dzeko to nip in for what seemed a consolation. After a very harsh handball decision went against Milner, consolation turned to the smallest ray of hope. Diego Perotti kept the tie alive from the spot. Yet Roma must find a way of containing Salah, as they did Messi in the last round.

The finest compliment that can be paid is their hardest task of the season lies ahead. Salah, of course, the scorer, Firmino, naturally, the provider. He fed the ball to the newly crowned Players' Player of the Year and his curled finish from the right was exquisite evidence of why he garnered so many professional votes. Just two minutes later, Liverpool could have added a second — Salah the provider this time, whipping in a corner from the right, met by Dejan Lovren, whose header struck the bar. It was merely temporary respite for Roma, though. Reeling like a boxer unable to spring off the ropes, they staggered towards the sanctuary of half-time, but not before Liverpool delivered another devastating blow.

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### MATCH FACTS, PLAYER RATINGS AND MATCH ZONE

LIVERPOOL: Karius 6, Alexander-Arnold 6.5, Lovren 7, Van Dijk 7, Robertson 7, Oxlade-Chamberlain 6 (Wijnaldum 17 6.5), Henderson 6.5, Milner 7, Salah 9 (Ings 74 6), Firmino 8.5 (Klavan 90), Mane 7 Goals: Salah 36, 45, Mane 56, Firmino 62, 69 Bookings: Alexander-Arnold, Lovren SUBS NOT USED: Mignolet, Clyne, Moreno, Solanke Manager: Jurgen Klopp 8  
ROMA: Alisson 6, Fazio 4.5, Manolas 6, Juan Jesus 5.5 (Perotti 67), Florenzi 6, De Rossi 6 (Gonalons 74), Strootman 4.5, Kolarov 5, Under 4.5 (Schick 45), Nainggolan 5, Dzeko 6 Goals: Dzeko 81, Perotti pen 84 Bookings: Juan Jesus  
SUBS NOT USED: Skorupski, Lorenzo Pellegrini, Bruno Peres, El Shaarawy

## The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool were so fabulous ... then came the fightback

Liverpool 5 Salah 36, 45 Mane 56, Firmino 61, 69 Roma 2 Dzeko 81, Perotti 85 pen Att: 51,236

There will still be life in this Champions League semi-final come the second leg at the Stadio Olimpico next Wednesday which, given the way that Roma approached a great deal of this first leg at Anfield, might be the most remarkable aspect of a remarkable night's football. For long periods, Eusebio Di Francesco's players looked a team with the wrong tactics, against the wrong opponents on the wrong night, and at five goals down it seemed that they had finally opted for self-destruct on a momentous European campaign. Their former player Mohamed Salah had bewitched them with two goals and two assists, and for the bits that even he might consider impossible, there was a Roma defence willing to wave him through the gaps. Anfield smelled blood and their team were clinical - two goals for Roberto Firmino and one for Sadio Mane, and a place in the final in Kiev on May 26 looked inevitable, and it might yet be that way. But a lapse in the last ten minutes allowed Roma that one commodity that carried them through in the quarter-finals, a faint glimmer of hope, and now the second leg is set up to be one of the classics. It is astonishing that Roma are still in this tie, when for periods it looked like their entire defence had been prematurely retired by a Liverpool attack that ran through them at will. But a goal from Edin Dzeko and then a penalty from substitute Diego Perotti means that they trail Liverpool by three, the same margin from which they reeled in Barcelona in the previous round. They sold him, having first sent him on the way to becoming the player he is now, and by half-time Roma were reeling at the Salah effect, although they are hardly the first ones in that respect. This was a masterclass in finishing from the

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Egyptian with that left foot that seems like the surest bet in European football at the moment. It was not like Liverpool had all the first half, indeed Roma were the better team for the opening half an hour with a positive and open approach that tested the home team to their maximum. Radja Nainggolan was the driving force in a side that had clearly come to Anfield in a mind to score a goal and they came very close to doing so. That was a shot from the former Manchester City man Aleksandar Kolarov who struck a left-footed drive on 18 minutes that Loris Karius seemed to lose mid-flight and only managed to push on to his own bar. When the ball rebounded to former Tottenham man Federico Fazio he appeared to be paralysed by indecision and, waiting for the offside or otherwise, just let the opportunity pass him by. Liverpool lost Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain to injury, his right knee twisted as he challenged for the ball and the Englishman clearly in a lot of pain. Even with Edin Dzeko in attack, Roma did not manage to translate that possession into chances on goal, and that was the difference in the first half. Liverpool created lots of chances, and they missed a lot, until Salah took over. Before then Mane had three sights of goal, the first two of which he passed up and the third he scored only to have strayed offside in the build-up. The first two were within a minute of one another and when the second was similarly dispatched over the bar there was an edge of chastisement from the groan from the home fans which Klopp immediately picked up on. He turned to them and demanded they encourage the team. At the centre of those two chances was the excellent Firmino with that magnetic touch of his and he would be key in setting up Salah's second. Before then the goalmachine had his first decent hit from the right side with his left foot saved by Alisson and then, in the 36th minute, Salah took control. He was inside the box on the right again with enough space to pick his spot but even then it was such a good shot that Alisson, one of the best goalkeepers in Europe this year, was nowhere near it. Salah kept his celebrations to a minimum in deference to his former club but around him his teammates more than compensated. They knew that this was a significant moment. Even then, Roma fought back in the closing stages of the first half with Nainggolan spinning past Jordan Henderson until Liverpool spied their chance again. It started with a clearance from their own area which Salah guided into the path of Firmino and then set off towards goal. The Brazilian delayed until the moment was right, holding off Kostas Manolas and freeing his team-mate Salah to run clear and lift a shot over Alisson that bounced delicately into the Roma goal. If the first half had been a more even battle decided by the brilliance of Salah then the start of the second was something much worse for Roma, the proverbial bloodbath. They were exposed at the back over and again, and not through any tactical sleight of hand or clever adjustment on Liverpool's part. Instead, Roma were wide open with defender Juan Jesus particularly exposed. The third and fourth goals of the night were created by Salah, both times released down the right wing and carefully picking his pass for chances that Mane and then on-form Firmino could not miss. The first time Trent Alexander-Arnold released Salah to centre for Mane, the second time it was Salah against Jesus with the same inevitable outcome and Firmino scored. Just to show that they were not just vulnerable to the counterattack, Roma conceded the fifth direct from James Milner's corner which the Brazilian nodded down past Alisson. Salah was off with 15 minutes later for some rest, replaced with Danny Ings, although Jesus had by then been given the mercy substitution. Dzeko struck in the 81st minute taking Nainggolan's fine pass and beating Karius from close quarters. A handball by Milner, unfortunate after a good performance, meant that Perotti could score the second from the spot and it was a much more subdued Anfield that greeted the final whistle.

## THE INDEPENDENT

Magical Mo Salah, Roma's misplaced bravery, and Liverpool's Champions League destiny

What a magical night at Anfield. [Liverpool](#) thumped [Roma](#) 5-2 thanks to a rampant frontline which claimed all of the goals.

[Mohamed Salah](#) dazzled with two goals and two assists, [Roberto Firmino](#) found the net twice himself, and [Sadio Mane](#), who missed a hat-trick in the first half, got on the scoresheet as well. However, two late goals from Roma have left the tie still in question.

**Here's five things we learned from another memorable European night on Merseyside...**

### All English midfield

If, 12 months ago, you were told that a team had reached the [Champions League](#) semi-final with the midfield of [James Milner](#), [Jordan Henderson](#) and [Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain](#), you probably would have to be fairly inebriated to believe it. But that's the midfield that beat [Manchester City](#) so convincingly and the one that was tasked with beating Roma on Tuesday night.

It only lasted for 15 minutes, however, as Oxlade-Chamberlain was stretched off and Liverpool were robbed his energy and dynamism from deep. The Reds will of course hope it was just a heavy knock considering how they wobbled in the immediate aftermath against a bigger and strong Roman midfield. [Gareth Southgate](#) may just have his fingers crossed too.

### Brave Roma... for the first 25 minutes

Considering how Liverpool blew away Manchester City here early this month, Roma would have been forgiven for keeping in tight in the opening stages of the first leg at Anfield but they did anything but. They dominated the early exchanges, looking bigger, stronger and more dominant in the centre of the pitch.

Well, that was the case for the first third of the game, after that, the bravery looked misplaced. Liverpool suddenly switched it on and pinned Roma back into their own half as wave after wave crashed against the visitors' defensive wall. Five goals later and that positive start seemed a long, long time ago. Two late goals for Roma though... a three goal difference was the state of play after the quarter-final first leg with Barcelona.

### Salah... who else?

When Salah joined Liverpool in the summer – from Roma ironically – he had a reputation as a wasteful and inefficient forward, albeit still dangerous. Well, he doesn't have that reputation anymore. No one can quite answer why there is such a transformation but the one thing that is obvious is his confidence.

He has a few shots, all dealt with by Alisson with ease, but it was the way that he kept coming back and testing the Roma goalkeeper showed that regardless of where his last shot went, top corner of the net or top corner of the stand, he still believes he will score with his next go. And he did. Twice. Each goal completely different to the other one. Oh, and then there were the two fantastic assists, too.

### What Italian defence?

When *The Independent* met Kevin Strootman this week, he was asked if Roma were making any special plans to stop Salah. He said they were and joked it would be an "Italian defence" that would see him come unstuck. If that's the case then Italian defending isn't what it used to be.

Liverpool were allowed far too many chances and far too much time to shoot on goal, and this was never more evident than for Salah's opener. [Kostas Manolas](#) stood about three yards off Salah when he had the ball on the edge of the area, giving him all the time in the world, on his left foot as well, to bend a strike into the top corner. They were lucky not to concede a second almost immediately after as [Dejan Lovren](#)'s free header hit the crossbar.

### Written in the stars... or a Roman repeat?

Could this actually be Liverpool's year? They've scored the most goals in the competition this season, they've finally sorted their defence out (for the most part), they've got the second-best player in the competition this season ([Cristiano Ronaldo](#) may still be ahead of Salah) and they've got the belief.

Despite two late Roma goals, the Reds should still be able to look forward to a trip to Kiev unless Roma repeat their unlikely turnaround against Barcelona from the last round. Real Madrid or Bayern Munich await in the final, neither of whom have a reputation for an especially strong defence. Liverpool could well go to the final as favourites.



### GREATEST MO ON EARTH

AMID the mayhem and the noise, there was only one person not celebrating another magical European night at Anfield. Mo Salah was the hero, the genius carrying Liverpool towards more European glory and yet the winger just stood with his hands above his head while teammates mobbed him. The roof was being lifted off the stadium by deafening cheers and Salah refused to celebrate against the club who sold him to Liverpool for £35million last summer. That has to be the best bit of business the Merseysiders have ever done as Salah looks unstoppable – and Roma must rue the day they let him go. Two late goals for the Italians means the tie is not done and dusted, but this night belonged to Salah with a double strike and two assists as Liverpool took a big step towards history. His goals take him to 43 in 47 games in all competitions. Not even Cristiano Ronaldo or Robert Lewandowski can match that. With Salah in this form, Liverpool will not fear Real Madrid or Bayern Munich if – as looks likely – they reach next month's final. And the beauty of Salah is he is a big-game player. Just when Roma looked to be comfortable and Liverpool were nervy, up stepped Salah to make the difference. Anfield turned up the volume and Liverpool produced Jurgen Klopp's rock 'n' roll football. They were too loud, too heavy and too good for Roma. It was another occasion to savour. Liverpool felt a sense of destiny around this tie having beaten Roma in their own stadium to win the 1984 European Cup. That history made Liverpool believe, no matter what happened, they would come through and stay on course to lift the trophy for a sixth time. Roma had no answer to Salah and visibly shrank amid the deafening noise and red-hot atmosphere in Anfield. This will be right up there with the very best European nights. The magical part was that when Liverpool most needed their fans, the Reds faithful delivered.

Roma had Liverpool worried early on, Aleksandar Kolarov crashing a 30-yard shot against the bar before Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain was taken off on a stretcher with a knee injury. That was when Klopp turned to the crowd, fists pumping. The volume was turned up to maximum and his team found their rhythm. Salah was at the heart of it all. He destroyed left sided centrehalf Juan Jesus, turning the Brazilian into a nervous wreck and ripping Roma apart. It started in the 35th minute, when Liverpool's energy and pressing won the ball in midfield and Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino combined to get the ball to Salah, who curled an in-perfect shot into the top corner. There was no turning back. Dejan Lovren crashed a header against the bar for a rampant Liverpool and just before halftime Salah struck again. He started the move, latched onto Firmino's return pass and went through before lifting the ball over keeper Alisson and into the empty net. As with his first goal, Salah did not celebrate and instead just looked to the heavens. Salah turned provider in the 55th minute when he raced down the right, put over a low cross and Mane had the easy task of a tap-in at the back post. Salah again destroyed Jesus just after the hour. This time his cross set up Firmino, who scored

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from close range. Liverpool made it five soon after when Firmino headed in a James Milner corner. Salah was substituted after 75 minutes and departed to a standing ovation. Edin Dzeko got one back for Roma after 81 minutes when Lovren misjudged Radja Nainggolan's high ball. The visitors' second came when Milner handled and Diego Perotti converted the penalty. It was enough to give Roma hope and Liverpool doubt. But surely, with Salah in their ranks, they cannot blow it from here.



Spellbinding European night one of best in Anfield history as Mohamed Salah fairytale enjoys finest hour

The euphoria which had engulfed Anfield was dampened somewhat. The celebrations at the end were muted. Liverpool have left the door ajar when they should have slammed it firmly shut. Roma, who had been staring humiliation in the face, somehow escaped with a glimmer of hope ahead of next Wednesday night's second leg at the Stadio Olimpico. Jurgen Klopp's side only have one foot rather than two in next month's Champions League final in Kiev after late goals from Edin Dzeko and Diego Perotti burst Kopites' bubble of delirium.

But this wasn't a night for regrets after Liverpool produced one of the most sensational performances in the club's illustrious European history. How can you criticise a team who delivered such a spellbinding attacking masterclass when the stakes were so high? Klopp's 150th match in charge was marked in style. Here was the fruits of his labour. The juggernaut he has assembled steamrollered the shell-shocked Serie A outfit. There were heroes all over the field. Klopp had warned Mohamed Salah to expect a kicking against his old former club but they couldn't lay a glove on him. His fairytale season enjoyed its finest hour as he struck a majestic first-half double to take his tally to 43 goals – just four short of Ian Rush's club record. On current form there is no better player on the planet.

The dazzling Egyptian winger showed no mercy to old friends as he tormented Roma's backline. The hapless Juan Jesus will be seeing him in his nightmares. Salah laid on goals for Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane in the second half before the outstanding Firmino headed home his second of the night. The most potent attacking trio in Europe now boast 88 goals between this term.

Liverpool were 5-0 up with 20 minutes remaining. Kopites were wide-eyed, the scarves were swirling, the rendition of 'Allez, Allez, Allez' was deafening and thoughts had turned to a May night in Kiev.

But after Salah was substituted, the Reds eased off. Concentration levels dipped. They lost their grip on proceedings and got sloppy. The party stopped and anxiety descended as the hosts' hefty advantage was chipped away.

Roma will believe they can progress. After all they achieved the unthinkable when they beat Barcelona 3-0 to overturn a 4-1 deficit in the quarter-finals.

Despite the late twist, this is still a magnificent result for Liverpool, who will fancy their chances of doing some more damage in the Eternal City.

The Serie A outfit may not have conceded at home in the Champions League this season but they haven't faced a team as dangerous as Klopp's. 'Bring On Yer Roma By The Score' declared the banner in the Kop and there was no escaping the past as the clock counted down to kick-off.

Memories of Istanbul were rekindled with 'Ring of Fire' swiftly followed by 'I Don't Know What It Is But I Love It' - the Chris Rea tune Joe Fagan's team had sung in front of their bemused Roma opponents in the tunnel prior to the 1984 final.

The atmosphere was electric – Kopites had waited a decade for a night like this and they lapped up every second of it. The opening stages were predictably frenetic and for 25 minutes Roma held their own. Eusebio Di Francesco had insisted his side wouldn't simply park the bus and he was true to his word as they got men up in support of lone frontman Dzeko. Kevin Strootman forced the first save of the night from Loris Karius, while at the other end Salah's curler was easy for Alisson before Firmino drilled wide from a tight angle. The sour note for the Reds was the sight of Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain being stretchered off with a knee injury. His season is surely over and he will be sorely missed. There was a major let-off when Karius unconvincingly turned Aleksandar Kolarov's swerving piledriver on to the underside of the bar. Slowly, the Reds settled. They started to keep the ball better and managed to get Salah running at Juan Jesus, who looked petrified every time the winger came near him. The pressure was cranked up as Roma struggled to handle the blistering pace and the intelligent movement of Klopp's front three.

Behind them, Jordan Henderson and James Milner excelled as they thundered into tackles and kept Liverpool on the front foot.

Firmino was sensational. He was at the heart of everything best about Liverpool as he linked play expertly. Mane should have broken the deadlock when Firmino released him but lifted his shot over. Seconds later the Senegal international sliced high and wide after being teed up by Firmino again.

When a collective groan spread around Anfield, Klopp took on the role of conductor – swinging his fist above his head. The noise was instantly transformed into thunderous encouragement. There was no let-up for Roma. Alisson thwarted Salah before the Italians were saved by the offside flag when Mane tucked away Robertson's centre. Nine minutes before the break Liverpool were finally in front. Henderson's tenacity won the ball back with Mane and Firmino combining to find Salah lurking on the edge of the box. He shifted it on to his magical left foot and curled an exquisite finish into the top corner. Anfield had lift-off. Lovren powered a

header against the bar before Salah bagged his second on the stroke of half-time. After laying it off to Firmino on halfway, he burst through a gaping hole and the Brazilian once again provided the ammunition. As Alisson came out, Salah casually dinked it beyond the keeper. The interval brought no respite for Roma. They couldn't handle Liverpool's intensity as they hunted in packs to force mistakes. Eleven minutes into the second half it was 3-0. Trent Alexander-Arnold, who excelled once again, produced a wonderful pass down the right for Salah. He could have gone for glory but unselfishly squared for Mane to convert. Just past the hour mark Liverpool netted a fourth. Once again Alexander-Arnold was involved as he cleverly flicked the ball to Salah, who skipped past Juan Jesus and put one on a plate for Firmino. The punishment kept on coming. Substitute Maxime Gonalons panicked and needlessly gave away a corner. It proved costly as Milner's delivery was nodded home by Firmino – ensuring the vice-captain set a new record for nine assists in a Champions League campaign. When Salah departed to a standing ovation, the tie looked over. But with a helping hand, Roma lifted themselves from the depths of despair. Karius kept out Patrik Schick's header but was beaten by Dzeko after Dejan Lovren had mistimed his jump. Suddenly, the away end, who had sat in stunned silence for most of the night, came alive. When Perotti scored from the spot after Milner was harshly adjudged to have handled, it was Roma showing all the urgency. Liverpool were glad to hear the final whistle. It should have been an unassailable advantage, instead it's just a commanding one.

#### MATCH FACTS

**Liverpool:** Karius, Alexander-Arnold, Lovren, Van Dijk, Robertson, Henderson, Milner, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Wijnaldum 18), Salah (Ings 75), Firmino (Klavan 90), Mane. **Not used:** Mignolet, Clyne, Moreno, Solanke.

**Roma:** Alisson, Fazio, Manolas, Juan Jesus (Perotti 67), Florenzi, De Rossi (Gonalons 67), Strootman, Kolarov, Under (Schick 45), Nainggolan, Dzeko.

**Not used:** Skorupski, Pellegrini, Peres, El Shaarawy.

**Referee:** Felix Brych

**Goals:** Salah 36, Salah 45, Mane 56, Firmino 62, Firmino 69, Dzeko 81, Perotti 85

**Bookings:** Alexander-Arnold, Lovren, Henderson, Juan Jesus, Fazio.

**Man of the match:** Mohamed Salah. Tormented his old club throughout.

## La Gazzetta dello Sport

Salah e Firmino doppietta, in gol anche Mané

"Mo Salah, Mo Salah, running down the wing", canta a squarciagola la marea rossa di Anfield. Ma se questo prodigio della natura si limitasse a "correre giù per la fascia", come da coro, la Roma avrebbe qualche chance di fermarlo. Invece niente, Salah è un mostro, è dappertutto. E su questo pesante 5-2 per il Liverpool c'è per due volte la firma dell'ex già prima dell'intervallo, sia pure senza esultanza. Poi aggiungerà due assist, di fronte a una Roma che si squalgia e rimedia una ripassata memorabile, prima di rialzare un po' la testa sui titoli di coda. Finale di Champions League lontana, ma la parola "impossibile", dopo l'impresa col Barcellona, non va usata. In fondo, basterebbe un altro 3-0: film improbabile, ma già visto.

**ALTRA MARCIA** — E dire che è il popolo romanista a sognare il gol per primo, quando Kolarov scuote la traversa di Karius con un sinistraccio dei suoi. E dire che per una mezz'oretta Di Francesco pare aver indovinato le mosse giuste per frenare il ritmo dei Reds, che quando corrono sono quanto di più simile a un toro scatenato possiate trovare su un campo da calcio. Ma la capacità del Liverpool di passare in un amen dal ritmo dolce dei Beatles all'heavy metal che tanto piace a Klopp è impressionante. Da quando Mané divora la prima palla-gol fino all'intervallo, il Liverpool ha dieci occasioni. Dieci. Che si concretizzano in due reti, una terza annullata per fuorigioco di Mané, una traversa di Lovren e almeno tre paratone di Alisson. Salta tutto: salta il 3-4-1-2 giallorosso, salta la copertura centrale di Strootman e De Rossi, saltano i tempi di uscita di Manolas, di Fazio e di un Juan Jesus in affanno fin da subito. Salta soprattutto Anfield, quel luogo magico dove non si cammina mai da soli.

**ALL'INFERNO E RITORNO** — L'unica brutta notizia per Klopp nel primo tempo è il grave infortunio a Oxlade-Chamberlain (lo rileva Wijnaldum). Di Francesco ne ha più di una da fronteggiare e prova a porre rimedio inserendo Schick a inizio ripresa, al posto di un timoroso Under. Non arriva la scossa emotiva, nonostante l'impegno del ceco: la Roma è ancora sotto shock e il 3-0 di Mané (56'), iniziato da un fuorigioco di partenza di Salah, è la goccia che fa esondare il Mersey. I Reds sfondano gli argini sui lati, Firmino si sente in dovere di far compagnia ai partner d'attacco nel tabellino dei marcatori e insacca il quarto (61', da mezzo metro) e il quinto gol (69', testa su corner di Milner). Gli ultimi venti minuti potrebbero diventare un incubo da abbinare alla finale di Roma '84, ma per fortuna dei giallorossi il Liverpool spegne completamente i motori, decidendo di raggiungere Kiev planando senza reattori. Errore. Klopp toglie Salah a un quarto d'ora dal termine, ma il match non è finito. Dzeko ha ancora voglia di segnare in un grande palcoscenico di Champions, 5-1. E Perotti, entrato per Juan Jesus, calcia un rigore perfetto, concesso per "mani" di Milner sul tentativo di Nainggolan. È 5-2. Che rischia di diventare 6-2 (liscio di Wijnaldum), ma anche 5-3, perché basta poco per cambiare il finale di storie già scritte, in questa Champions. Chissà se ci pensa Di Francesco, mentre esce coi suoi ragazzi sulle note di "Hey Jude".

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Competition: Champions League

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Another Mohamed Salah masterclass helped Liverpool take control of their Champions League semi-final - but two late Roma away goals gave the Italian side a glimmer of hope for the second leg.

Liverpool, who last reached the final in 2007, repeatedly breached the visitors' naively high defensive line and scored five times in the opening 68 minutes at a raucous Anfield.

Salah, who has now scored 43 goals since his summer move from Roma, scored twice and assisted two other goals.

He curled his first into the top corner from the edge of the box - then clipped the ball over Alisson for a second.

Salah then ran down the right and squared for Sadio Mane to make it 3-0 - before doing the same to set up Roberto Firmino.

Liverpool then became only the second team to score five goals in a Champions League semi-final match when Firmino headed in James Milner's corner.

With his side leading 5-0, Reds boss Jurgen Klopp took off Salah - and Roma gave themselves a chance for next week's return leg at the Stadio Olimpico.

First Edin Dzeko lashed home from Radja Nainggolan's pass, then Diego Perotti put a penalty into the top right corner after Milner handled Nainggolan's shot.

And Roma need only look to the last round for inspiration - they lost the first leg in Barcelona 4-1 before winning 3-0 in Italy to progress on away goals.

A repeat of the latter scoreline this time would take them into the final against Bayern Munich or Real Madrid.

Prior to Roma's late goals, the one sour note for Liverpool was the sight of Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain leaving the field on a stretcher. Klopp said later the England midfielder "probably had a really bad injury".

Salah's greatest moment yet?

When Salah moved to Anfield last summer for £34m after two good seasons for Roma, nobody could have predicted what would follow.

The Egypt winger has scored 43 goals in 48 games for Liverpool - an average of one every 87 minutes - and is the Premier League's top scorer.

He has netted in his past seven games - including four goals against Watford, and one in both legs of the Champions League quarter-final win over Manchester City.

On Sunday, he was named **Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year**. But it has all been leading up to this night at Anfield.

Roma had no answer to their former player, who opened the scoring off the underside of the bar after Jordan Henderson won the ball from Dzeko, and Mane and Firmino combined to find Salah.

His second came when he found Firmino from the halfway line, then ran forward to latch onto his team-mate's pass before lifting the ball over Roma keeper Alisson, considered one of the best in the world. He did not celebrate either goal.

Salah then took advantage of Roma's high defending to get in down the right, perhaps from an offside position, before finding the previously wasteful Mane as Liverpool started to cruise.

He then rolled a ball across the six-yard box for Firmino to score.

With the tie seemingly won, Salah came off to a standing ovation when he was replaced by Danny Ings with 15 minutes left.

But he might need to score again in Rome after the visitors' late rally.

Rampant Reds enjoy another famous Anfield night

The Reds, who have won the European Cup or Champions League five times, were beaten by AC Milan in their last final appearance.

With no side having gone through from 5-0 down at the end of the first leg in any European competition, Klopp will be annoyed they have given Roma that little bit of hope.

For an hour they were sublime, and could have scored eight or nine goals.

After a good opening 20 minutes for Roma, Liverpool started to pick them apart and had already missed several good chances before Salah's opener.

Mane blazed two great chances over the bar from Firmino passes - first when he ran from near the halfway line before shooting over, then from a cut-back.

The Senegal striker then had a goal rightly ruled out for offside from Andrew Robertson's cross. Between Salah's goals, Dejan Lovren missed a glorious chance when he headed against the crossbar from close range.

But once Liverpool refined their finishing, Roma looked terrified every time the hosts got the ball.

And even after the visitors' late double, Liverpool will fancy their chances of being in Kiev for the final on Saturday, 26 May.

Roma rally gives them hope

Roma looked down and out after 80 minutes - with the only real question appearing to be whether they would concede again.

They had the game's first chance when Aleksandar Kolarov's 20-yard drive was weakly touched onto the bar by Loris Karius, who was lucky not to turn it into his own net.

They looked totally out of ideas and hope towards the end, when suddenly Nainggolan's ball over the top found Dzeko, who smashed the ball home. It looked like it would just be a consolation, but suddenly it was a new match.

Nainggolan, who had been fairly quiet, had a shot from outside the box which Milner handled before Perotti, a substitute, stroked the ball into the opposite corner of the same goal Salah had found to start the mayhem.

Liverpool were hanging on at this stage and Roma almost had a third when Dzeko shot over from distance and Nainggolan's shot was deflected wide.

Man of the match - Mohamed Salah (Liverpool)

Match stats - joint highest-scoring semi-final

Liverpool are only the second side in Champions League history to score five goals in a semi-final match (also Ajax in 1995, 5-2 v Bayern Munich).

This game produced the joint most goals of any Champions League semi-final match.

Roma have won just one of their past 15 away Champions League games (D5 L9).

Liverpool are the first side in Champions League history to have three players score eight or more goals in a single season in the competition (Salah 10, Firmino 10, Mane 8).

The 10 goals scored by Salah and Firmino are the most by Liverpool players in a single season in European competition.

Salah has netted 43 goals in all competitions this season - only Ian Rush in 1983-84 (47) has scored more in a single campaign for Liverpool.

Salah's haul is the most by any player in all competitions in Europe's top five leagues this season.

He has scored in each of his past five Champions League starts for Liverpool, something only Steven Gerrard had previously done.

Only Cristiano Ronaldo (18) has been directly involved in more Champions League goals this season than Firmino (16, 10 goals, 6 assists).

Milner has provided nine assists in the Champions League this season (including qualifiers), a new record. Wayne Rooney (2013-14) and Neymar (2016-17) assisted eight each in a campaign.

What's next?

The second leg of this tie is next Wednesday, 2 May (19:45 BST) - but both sides are in league action on Saturday.

Liverpool host Stoke City at 12:30 BST. Roma, who are battling to qualify for next season's Champions League, are at home to Chievo later that day (17:00 BST).

Date: 24 April 2018  
 Opposition: AS Roma  
 Competition: Champions League

	Times	Telegraph	Gazzetta
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Match ends, Liverpool 5, Roma 2.  
 90'+5' Second Half ends, Liverpool 5, Roma 2.  
 90'+4' Federico Fazio (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 90'+4' Foul by Danny Ings (Liverpool).  
 90'+3' Substitution, Liverpool. Ragnar Klavan replaces Roberto Firmino.  
 90'+1' Attempt missed. Federico Fazio (Roma header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Alessandro Florenzi with a cross following a corner.  
 90' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.  
 90' Attempt blocked. Radja Nainggolan (Roma right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Patrik Schick.  
 90' Hand ball by Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool).  
 88' Federico Fazio (Roma is shown the yellow card.  
 88' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 88' Foul by Maxime Gonalons (Roma).  
 87' Attempt missed. Diego Perotti (Roma right footed shot from the left side of the six yard box misses to the left. Assisted by Edin Dzeko with a cross.  
 86' Attempt missed. Edin Dzeko (Roma left footed shot from outside the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan.  
 85' Goal! Liverpool 5, Roma 2. Diego Perotti (Roma converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the top right corner.  
 85' James Milner (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for hand ball.  
 85' Penalty conceded by James Milner (Liverpool with a hand ball in the penalty area.  
 84' Attempt blocked. Radja Nainggolan (Roma left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.  
 83' Attempt saved. Edin Dzeko (Roma left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan.  
 82' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Aleksandar Kolarov.  
 82' Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Andrew Robertson with a cross.  
 81' Goal! Liverpool 5, Roma 1. Edin Dzeko (Roma right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan with a through ball.  
 79' Hand ball by Kevin Strootman (Roma).  
 78' Offside, Roma. Edin Dzeko tries a through ball, but Diego Perotti is caught offside.  
 75' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
 75' Substitution, Liverpool. Danny Ings replaces Mohamed Salah.  
 74' Delay in match Kevin Strootman (Roma because of an injury.  
 74' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
 74' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).  
 74' Edin Dzeko (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 73' Attempt saved. Patrik Schick (Roma header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Diego Perotti with a cross.  
 71' Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.  
 70' Attempt blocked. Diego Perotti (Roma right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Radja Nainggolan with a cross.  
 70' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Andrew Robertson.  
 68' Goal! Liverpool 5, Roma 0. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.  
 68' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Maxime Gonalons.  
 67' Substitution, Roma. Diego Perotti replaces Juan Jesus.  
 67' Substitution, Roma. Maxime Gonalons replaces Daniele De Rossi.  
 65' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).  
 65' Kevin Strootman (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 64' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked.  
 63' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Kostas Manolas.  
 63' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Roberto Firmino.  
 61' Goal! Liverpool 4, Roma 0. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.  
 60' Attempt saved. Andrew Robertson (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.  
 59' Attempt missed. Patrik Schick (Roma left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Aleksandar Kolarov.  
 58' Attempt missed. Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Dejan Lovren.  
 56' Goal! Liverpool 3, Roma 0. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.  
 54' Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.  
 53' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).  
 53' Aleksandar Kolarov (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 50' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).  
 50' Edin Dzeko (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 50' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Kostas Manolas.  
 49' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 49' Foul by Patrik Schick (Roma).  
 48' Attempt blocked. Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.  
 47' Hand ball by Kevin Strootman (Roma).  
 Second Half begins Liverpool 2, Roma 0.  
 45' Substitution, Roma. Patrik Schick replaces Cengiz Ünder.  
 45'+3' First Half ends, Liverpool 2, Roma 0.  
 45' Goal! Liverpool 2, Roma 0. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino following a fast break.  
 44' Offside, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino tries a through ball, but Trent Alexander-Arnold

is caught offside.  
 44' Hand ball by Aleksandar Kolarov (Roma).  
 43' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Kostas Manolas.  
 43' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.  
 42' Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Mohamed Salah is caught offside.  
 40' Attempt saved. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Andrew Robertson.  
 39' Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
 39' Foul by Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool).  
 39' Kevin Strootman (Roma wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 39' Foul by Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool).  
 39' Radja Nainggolan (Roma wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 38' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool hits the bar with a header from the centre of the box. Assisted by Mohamed Salah with a cross following a corner.  
 38' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Juan Jesus.  
 35' Goal! Liverpool 1, Roma 0. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.  
 35' Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.  
 35' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by James Milner.  
 34' Offside, Liverpool. Andrew Robertson tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.  
 31' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Daniele De Rossi.  
 30' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner.  
 30' Offside, Roma. Kevin Strootman tries a through ball, but Edin Dzeko is caught offside.  
 29' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.  
 28' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Roberto Firmino following a fast break.  
 26' Juan Jesus (Roma is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
 26' Foul by Juan Jesus (Roma).  
 26' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
 20' Juan Jesus (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 20' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).  
 19' Foul by Aleksandar Kolarov (Roma).  
 19' Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 18' Attempt saved. Aleksandar Kolarov (Roma left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner.  
 18' Substitution, Liverpool. Georginio Wijnaldum replaces Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain because of an injury.  
 18' Corner, Roma. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.  
 17' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
 15' Delay in match Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool because of an injury).  
 12' Hand ball by Mohamed Salah (Liverpool).  
 10' Radja Nainggolan (Roma wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
 10' Foul by Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool).  
 8' Attempt missed. Radja Nainggolan (Roma right footed shot from long range on the right misses to the left. Assisted by Alessandro Florenzi.  
 8' Attempt saved. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.  
 7' Offside, Roma. Radja Nainggolan tries a through ball, but Cengiz Ünder is caught offside.  
 6' Hand ball by Sadio Mané (Liverpool).  
 5' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box misses to the left. Assisted by Mohamed Salah with a through ball.  
 5' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
 4' Delay in match (Roma).  
 3' Attempt saved. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.  
 2' Attempt saved. Kevin Strootman (Roma left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Edin Dzeko.  
 First Half begins.  
 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.