

Date: 5 October 2013
 Opposition: Crystal Palace
 Competition: League

BBC	Mirror	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
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5 October 2013

THE TIMES

Suarez and Sturridge help Liverpool to put some gloss on the outcome
 Liverpool

Suarez 13, Sturridge 17, Gerrard 38 (pen)
 Crystal Palace 1
 Gayle 76

Referee A Taylor Attendance 44,721

It hasn't quite reached the levels of Basil Fawley's "Don't mention the war" yet, but it isn't far off. Aside from the obvious positivity that came with the three points earned against Crystal Palace, Liverpool's brief ascent to the top of the Barclays Premier League on Saturday had one by-product that Brendan Rodgers is looking to avoid: increased talk of an assault on the title.

As such, the Liverpool manager has devised a two-pronged strategy in an effort to keep expectations in check. One is the Fawley-like avoidance whenever he is faced with questions about Liverpool sustaining their promising early-season form for the entirety of the campaign. The other is to use that familiar managerial device of reminding his players that they are not yet the finished product even after encouraging victories.

On Saturday, Rodgers had to do both.

The basic message was that now is not the time to Judge a Liverpool side he believes, with good reason, are over-reliant on the brilliance of Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge. As against Sunderland a week previous, the pair had far too much quality for Palace's naive defence and just enough to cover up some of the cracks in the performance of their own team.

Rodgers was cautious when pressed on when a good start becomes something more but he also showed signs of accepting that the longer Liverpool are there or thereabouts, the more unavoidable such talk will become.

"I think you always get a good indication of where you can be after ten games and after that you look towards the halfway point," Rodgers said. "We'll get better in the second half of the season but what was critical for us was that we made a good start.

"I believe that we have still got a lot of improvement to make which is good, especially if we continue with this mentality of winning games, but there is still a lot of improvement to make."

Palace were swept aside by goals from Suarez, Sturridge and Steven Gerrard. Liverpool have scored more times in the Premier League in 2013 than any other side. Their attack is not just functioning, it is flourishing.

Suarez said yesterday that he enjoys playing with Sturridge and insists that neither is interested in outscoring the other. "We compete for the shirt of Liverpool and we try our best for the team, not for me or him," the Uruguay striker told the club's in-house television channel. "When you have one big striker and a very good player in Daniel, I am so happy. He tries his best for the team and tries his best to play with me.

Suarez, who seemed determined to quit Anfield this summer, was openly optimistic about Liverpool's prospects this season. He added: "If we stay with the same football style and try for the win every game, we can try for the top four."

The style may be there but the control of games that Rodgers craves is strangely lacking, as illustrated throughout a second half in which Liverpool again allowed inferior opponents to enjoy far more possession than their manager would like. There is no doubt, though, that he would take victories like Saturday's from now until the end of the season even if Liverpool continued to fail to reach the standards he seeks.

"Absolutely," he said. "Of course, you take the odd game when you have a not so good day, but I prefer us to play better and that's something we'll strive for."

Rodgers's concern about elements of Liverpool's play was particularly evident against Palace as he uncharacteristically took his frustration out on a water bottle after one move broke down, and shook his head in disappointment when Dwight Gayle, the substitute, became the third opposition player in four games to take advantage of poor defending by Liverpool from a set-piece.

While it may be premature to claim Liverpool can challenge for the title, it is not too early to suggest that Palace are already involved in a battle for survival.

"We are being punished for any mistake we make at the moment," Ian Holloway, the manager, said, without addressing the obvious issue of why it is that his players continue to make the kind of basic errors that allowed Suarez and Sturridge to run amok.

As long as defenders continue to wilt in the presence of that duo, Liverpool's presence in the upper reaches of the league table is likely to continue.

Significantly, their tenth match and the time for Judgment is only three games away. Their opponents in game number ten? Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium. Clearly, it isn't just an arbitrary number that Rodgers has picked from thin air. It will be the biggest test of their credentials so far. Just don't mention the title.

Liverpool (3-4-1-2): S Mignolet 6 -- K Toure 6, M Skrtel 6, M Sakho 6 (D Agger, 67 6) -- R Sterling 6, S Gerrard 7, J Henderson 8, J Enrique 6 -- V Moses 6 (L Alberto, 67 6) -- L Suarez 8, D Sturridge 7 (I Aspas, 88). Substitutes not used: B Jones, A Wisdom, T Ilori, J Ibe. Booked: Sterling, Aspas. Crystal Palace (4-3-3): J Speroni 7 -- J Ward 6, A Mariappa 5, D Delaney 5, D Moxey 5 -- S O'Keefe 5, M Jedinak 6, J Puncheon 6 -- J Kebe 5 (J Campana, 46 6), M Chamakh 6 (Y Bolasie, 68 5), C Jerome 5 (D Gayle, 46 6). Substitutes not used: A Guedioura, K Phillips, R Innes, L Price. Booked: O'Keefe.

theguardian

Sturridge's fitness and form give Hodgson a happy Anfield return

Roy Hodgson was affronted by a seat among the scouts and delayed admission to the boardroom on his previous visit to Anfield. Saturday's return was made a far more pleasurable experience, not by a place among the jewellery-rattlers in the directors' box but the sparkling form of Daniel Sturridge as Liverpool comfortably defeated Crystal Palace.

Sturridge was one of the England manager's many problems on that day of perceived snubs against Manchester United, scoring the winner and revelling in the responsibility of being Liverpool's lead striker only to withdraw from international duty with a thigh injury. Against Palace he offered Hodgson a solution before the critical World Cup qualifiers against Montenegro and Poland. "He's fine for England," said Brendan Rodgers, with a tone that recognised the accusations that surrounded the Liverpool striker when he missed two matches for his country last month but none for his club.

"In the form he is in he's going to be a real asset for England after unfortunately missing the last games," the Liverpool manager added. "You only have to look at his game to know he will really hurt defences. It's great for him that he's fit and is going in with great form."

Sturridge scored his eighth goal of the season as Liverpool briefly returned to the Premier League summit courtesy of a penetrating first-half display. His partnership with Luis Suarez was, inevitably, the deciding factor as their movement and finishing was on a different plain to Ian Holloway's team. Palace wasted several opportunities to punish Liverpool and their profligacy was compounded by an uncertain defence.

Hodgson must hope Sturridge develops the same rapport with Wayne Rooney as he has shown with Suarez since the Uruguay international returned from a 10-match ban. The Englishman's confidence has soared on the promise of regular first-team football and a leading role at Liverpool.

The natural next step is to take that on with England.

"If you look at Daniel and Rooney as a combination, that would be brilliant for England," Rodgers added. "You have got Daniel's cleverness, Rooney in behind him with his movement between spaces and his exceptional quality. Then you've got Dan who can move but has also got that pace to really hurt teams in behind them. At that level it's so important. He's 24 and that's a great age. He's scoring goals and playing well and that bodes well for him."

Rodgers was encouragingly critical of Liverpool's performance against Palace, encouraging in the sense that top spot did not prevent the manager demanding more. But their work in the final third was spared the manager's wrath.

Holloway's team created and wasted several gilt-edged chances but lacked conviction at both ends of the pitch. Liverpool had that and more in Suarez and Sturridge. The contest ended after 38 minutes as a result. "They are a joy to watch and they enjoy it too," Rodgers said. "There were a couple of combinations where they understood exactly where the other player was."

Suarez steered the opening goal beyond Julian Speroni despite being on the floor after a flowing move involving Victor Moses, himself and Jose Enrique. Sturridge added a fine second having been sent clear by a mistake from the Palace defender Adrian Mariappa, and Steven Gerrard scored the third from the penalty spot after a slight but foolish tug by Dean Moxey on Raheem Sterling. The consolation for Holloway was that a sixth defeat in seven Premier League games did not become more emphatic.

Palace recovered in the second half, aided and abetted by Liverpool knowing the game was up. The substitute Dwight Gayle headed in a late response from Jose Campana's free-kick but it was the defensive solidity - completely absent in the first half - that offered some hope for the Palace manager.

"We've got to take solace from our second-half performance," said Holloway.

"We won the second half 1-0. Is that good enough? Not really, but a lot of teams would have folded at 3-0 and we didn't. We have enough fighting spirit but we have got to cut out the mistakes. We are getting punished for every slip at the moment but we will improve."

Man of the match Luis Suarez (Liverpool)

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The Mail

Sturridge is just the ticket for Hodgson

LIVERPOOL 3

CPALACE 1

IF ROY HODGSON'S humour was foul when he stomped out of Anfield last month, his mood could not have been more different this time.

A mix-up over the tickets he had been allocated for the clash with Manchester United left the former Liverpool manager affronted. And an injury to Daniel Sturridge (below) exacerbated his anger.

This time his tickets were fine and another exhilarating display by Sturridge sent positivity soaring.

Having recovered from the thigh problem that prevented him joining up with England last month, Sturridge heads into the clashes with Montenegro and Poland in the form of his life.

A thumping left-foot drive against Palace -- Luis Suarez and Steven Gerrard also netted -- means he has scored or assisted 16 goals in his last 12 Liverpool games. 'He has always been a confident lad,' said former Under 21 team-mate Jordan Henderson. 'But now he's been given the opportunity to play every week and has benefited.'

Super Stat: Liverpool are the leading scorers in the Premier League in 2013 with 51 goals, five more than Arsenal and Manchester Utd.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): Mignolet 7; Toure 7, Skrtel 7, Sakho 7 (Agger 66mins, 6); Sterling 6, Gerrard 7, Henderson 7, Enrique 7; Moses 6 (Alberto 66, 5); Suarez 8, Sturridge 8 (Aspas 88).

Subs not used: Jones, Illori, Ibe, Wisdom.

Booked: Sterling, Aspas.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): Speroni 7; Ward 6, Mariappa 5, Delaney 5, Moxey 5; Puncheon 6, O'Keefe 5, Jedinak 6, Kebe 5; Chamakh 5 (Bolasie 68, 5), Jerome 5 (Gayle 46, 7). Subs not used: Price, Phillips, Guedioura, Innis.

Booked: O'Keefe.

Referee: Anthony Taylor 7. Man of the match: Luis Suarez.

The Daily Telegraph

Suarez's staged return boosts title hopes if not image

Liverpool 3

Suarez 14, Sturridge 17, Gerrard 38 pen

Crystal Palace 1

Gayle 77 Att: 44,721

Luis Suarez's last appearance at Anfield before Saturday provoked such outrage that even the Prime Minister's office intervened. When he re-emerged for league duty against Crystal Palace holding his nine-day old son, Benjamin, one imagined the tunnel camera showing an image consultant rather than Suarez's wife handing over the newborn.

Here we had the latest metamorphosis from slippery, Uruguayan trickster to proud family man. Suarez has more faces than the National Portrait Gallery. It was a peculiar sight, Suarez unable to shake hands with Palace players because the game clashed with his pre-match babysitting.

He did not even bother warming up in the seconds before kick-off, instead posing for photographs, child in hand, the Kop as his backdrop.

But his first-half display in the 3-1 win confirmed what we know. Suarez is a genius, capable of more on the football field than anyone who has worn the Liverpool shirt. If that can be debated, what cannot is that he is too good not to be playing in the Champions League. Whether helping Liverpool to get there will keep him here is also debatable, but the day he accepted he was staying for one more season enhanced the chances.

Suarez was laying on the turf when he scored Liverpool's first goal of what should have been the butchering of Palace, directing Jose Enrique's cross past Julian Speroni on 14 min-utes. Daniel Sturridge, whose partnership with Suarez may turn reluctant whispers of a title bid into something rather more audible as the season progresses, scored his latest goal of similar individual brilliance three minutes later. A penalty from Gerrard allowed Liverpool to effectively take the rest of the day off.

Ian Holloway suggested the controversial 37th-minute spot-kick was the "talking point". What actually got tongues wagging was Palace giving every Liverpool player three yards' space when in possession and the early possibility of the home side repeating the 9-0 win of 1989. To their credit, Palace regained some organisation and pride in the second half thanks to Dwight Gayle's header. Their fans, too, chanted incessantly and admirably throughout.

Brendan Rodgers had the luxury of having a mild pop at his team when they had just gone top, as they missed the chance to swell a goal difference advantage. "I believe that we have still got a lot of improvement to make which is good," he said. "You always get a good indication of where you can be after 10 games and after that you look towards the halfway point."

Seven games in, we still do not know how good this Liverpool team are. They have some world-class players but a weak substitutes bench. The wingbacks, Sterling and Enrique, were largely dreadful and yet claimed the assists. You would be reluctant to bet they will retain their current position, but the results since January suggest that might be too downbeat a forecast. They are a strange team, entertaining and infuriating from one minute to the next; a mirror image of the club's captivating No7.

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REDS' GOALDEN YEAR; January 2, 2013: Sturridge signs for Liverpool . . and they have not stopped scoring since!
 LIVERPOOL 3 Goals: Suarez 13, Sturridge 17, Gerrard 38 pen
 CRYSTAL PALACE 1 Goal: Gayle 76

BY their own manager's admission, Liverpool have not yet consistently played the football to justify their lofty Premier League position. What they have done though, is score goals. Lots. More than any other top-flight team in 2013 in fact.

And you need look no further for an explanation of their continuing rise during the current calendar year.

Since January, the Reds have the third best form of all the top teams, better than Manchester City and Chelsea. It is no coincidence January was the month they signed Daniel Sturridge.

In his 22 starts since, he has scored 19 times. Luis Suarez in his last 22 games for Liverpool from the turn of the year, has also scored 19.

Apart from the perfect symmetry of that stat, it is also 38 goals in 44 combined appearances. And the most encouraging stat of all for Liverpool? They have only been on the pitch together 14 times. Which means their partnership is still developing.

No wonder then, that Brendan Rodgers' men are beginning to play with the swagger of a team which knows they can win without playing well. That was a point made by the impressive Jordan Henderson after their stroll against Palace. "I think as a partnership Luis and Daniel can get even better," he said.

"In training you can see the link-up play - they know instinctively where the other is going.

"I think that partnership and their goals can be a massive factor for us. We need to improve on keeping possession and dominating, but going forward we're as good as anyone.

"It's such a tight league with so little difference between the top teams that having the goals they provide can really make a difference."

Inevitably, both strikers scored - Suarez with an audacious finish from the floor after slipping, Sturridge with a brilliant near-post turn and strike - as Palace fell apart in a painfully one-sided first half capped by Steven Gerrard's penalty just before the break.

After the interval, Liverpool took things too easy, this exposing the work that still must be done and offering their opponents brief hope when Dwight Gayle pulled back a goal.

Yet the final whistle brought not only confirmation Palace did not have the defensive quality to cope with such a deadly strike force, and top spot for Liverpool, but also hope for England boss Roy Hodgson.

Sturridge will undoubtedly play in the two qualifiers over the course of the next nine days that will decide if England go to the World Cup finals, and they could not have a striker in better form. According to Reds boss Rodgers, they also could not have a better partnership - save perhaps Liverpool's own SAS - than the one Sturridge will form with Wayne Rooney this week.

"If Daniel maintains the form he is in, he's going to be a real asset, and if you look at him and Rooney as a combination, that would be brilliant for England," Rodgers explained.

"You have him and his cleverness, Rooney in behind him with his movement between spaces and his exceptional quality.

"Dan can move but has also got that pace to really hurt teams in behind them. At that level it's so important.

"He's 24, scoring goals and playing well and that bodes well for him."

It did not bode so well for Palace and their chances of survival this season, illustrating just how far they still have to go to even make a fight of staying up. As manager Ian Holloway pointed out afterwards though, at least they do not have to face Sturridge and Suarez every week.

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Reds back on top after Palace triumph

Liverpool FC returned to the top of the Premier League as a strong first-half display saw them beat Crystal Palace 3-1 at Anfield.

Luis Suarez, Daniel Sturridge and Steven Gerrard struck for the Reds before half time, though they paid for some second-half sloppiness as Dwight Gayle grabbed a deserved consolation for the Eagles.

Brendan Rodgers made just one change from the side which had started the win at Sunderland last weekend, and that was enforced, with Lucas Leiva's suspension meaning a first league start of the season for Raheem Sterling.

The teenager operated at right wing back, with Jordan Henderson pressed into a central midfield role alongside skipper Gerrard, whose appearance saw him move past Tommy Smith into seventh in the all-time Anfield list with 639.

A routine afternoon had been anticipated, and Liverpool were in front after 13 minutes courtesy of Suarez.

* Rate each Liverpool FC player out of 10 for the Crystal Palace match

The goal owed much to some fine approach play from Victor Moses, who found Suarez on the left of the penalty area. Suarez played in Jose Enrique on the overlap then, when the cut back found te Uruguayan, managed to stab the ball past Julian Speroni despite falling to the ground.

Daniel Sturridge drew a good save from Speroni moments later, and he was on the scoresheet soon after as he latched onto a loose ball down the left, drove at Damien Delaney and drilled a superb strike across Speroni into the far corner from an acute angle, his eighth goal of the season.

Liverpool were cutting through Palace at will, and extended their lead on 38 minutes as Sterling was pulled back in the box by Dean Moxey. Gerrard stepped up to send Speroni the wrong way from the spot for his 99 Premier League goal. Moses, playing against his former club, then diverted a Suarez cross on to the crossbar from close range, and Sturridge was denied by Speroni after Sterling had robbed Mile Jedinak late in the first half.

After the break, Liverpool lost a bit of their rhythm, with their passing slowing and their movement causing less of a threat. Rodgers replaced Moses with Luis Alberto, and Mamadou Sakho with Daniel Agger in a bid to regain control.

But Palace, who to their credit continued to play, got a goal back on 76 minutes as Jose Campana's free kick was glanced in by fellow substitute Dwight Gayle at the near post.

Sturridge hit the inside of the post late on from Suarez's cut back, but Liverpool's second-half display was one of lethargy.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): Mignolet, Toure, Skrtel, Sakho (Agger 67), Sterling, Henderson, Gerrard, Jose Enrique, Moses (Alberto 67), Suarez, Sturridge (Aspas 88)

Substitutes: Jones, Ilori, Ibe, Wisdom

Cards: Sterling, Aspas

Goals: Suarez (13), Sturridge (17), Gerrard (pen, 38)

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): Speroni, Ward, Mariappa, Delaney, Moxey, Kebe (Campana 46), Jedinak, O'Keefe, Puncheon, Chamakh (Bolasie 68), Jerome (Gayle 46)

Substitutes: Price, Inniss, Guedioura, Phillips

Cards: O'Keefe

Goals: Gayle (76)

Referee: Anthony Taylor

Attendance: 44,721



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SAS prove themselves an elite strike force

The back page of the Liverpool Echo proclaimed "The Return of the King" - at the sight of Kenny Dalglish roaming the corridors of Anfield once more, this time as a director of the club.

It was, however, the return of the prince that captured the imagination of the old stadium yesterday. The last time Luis Suarez appeared at Anfield, it was against a London club, both he and Daniel Sturridge scored and Branislav Ivanovic had his arm bitten. This was much the same but without the teeth marks.

Suarez was announced like a boxer entering the ring for a title fight. They read his name out last, as they always do here, but this time it was: "Welcome back, Luuuuiss Suarez." He appeared on the pitch with his daughter, Delfina, and his 10-day-old boy, Benjamin, in his arms; something Carlos Tevez, another troubled, brilliant striker who played his football on the banks of the River Plate, used to do. You might think this a rather fawning welcome for a man who had employed every available tactic to leave Liverpool in the summer and who in the deathless words of the chief executive, Ian Ayre, had "damaged the brand".

However, this is to ignore the magic in his boots and the fact that he fills Liverpool's No 7 slot almost as completely as Dalglish once did. The England manager Roy Hodgson, who had dashed over from watching Manchester City's earlier game, sat alongside him in the directors' box to watch Sturridge score and strike the post.

Liverpool stand top of the Premier League this morning and Dalglish's second spell as manager has left little appetite for a third. In his first, in 1989, the Scot oversaw a 9-0 crushing of Crystal Palace, and just before the half-time whistle blew yesterday, it seemed that was a scoreline that might be emulated.

During the interval, Ian Holloway did not address his team on the pitch as Phil Brown once did with Hull City, but the Crystal Palace manager did send them out for a spot of extra training.

That determination not to be humiliated and some deeply lethargic and careless Liverpool play ensured that the goals did not pile up and Palace even scored when Dwight Gayle headed Jose Campana's free-kick beyond Simon Mignolet. Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers was unusually downcast at the end and even kicked over some water bottles.

Nevertheless, the first half was a sometimes ridiculously one-sided affair. It began with the crash of smoke bombs and clouds of purple and black haze drifting over the away end, which resulted in at least one Palace fan being ejected. It might seem strange to travel the not inconsiderable distance between south London and Merseyside and then get yourself thrown out after a couple of minutes but perhaps he knew what was coming.

The opening goal showcased everything that is brilliant about Suarez. He was played in by Luis Enrique and then slipped. As he fell to the turf, with Damien Delaney attempting to block and Jason Puncheon almost on top of him, the Uruguayan somehow managed to propel the ball into the net. It was absolute box office.

Suarez and Sturridge have already been touted as the most lethal Premier League partnership and certainly the former's absence while banned had allowed Sturridge to blossom in a way he was seldom allowed at Chelsea. Liverpool's second goal was in its way even better than the first as Sturridge, on the left side of the Palace area, turned Delaney one way, then the other before arrowing a shot into the corner of Julian Speroni's net. He was taken off a few minutes from the end but Sturridge will be fit for the games that will decide England's World Cup qualification campaign.

Any prospect that Palace might salvage this match disappeared when Dean Moxey pulled back Raheem Sterling as he ran on to Suarez's little looping chip. The linesman awarded the penalty, although Holloway questioned both whether it was a foul and whether it was inside the area. Steven Gerrard scored his 99th Premier League goal with the Kop singing his name.

There might have been a fourth before the interval as Suarez slithered through to find Victor Moses three yards out. Moses, the one striker Chelsea have let go who cannot find the net, proved it by striking the crossbar.

Liverpool (3-4-3): Mignolet; Tour[c], Skrtel, Sakho (Agger, 66); Sterling, Henderson, Gerrard, Luis Enrique; Moses (Alberto, 66), Suarez, Sturridge (Aspas, 88).

Crystal Palace (4-3-3): Speroni; Ward, Mariappa, Delaney, Moxey; O'Keefe, Jedinak, Puncheon; K[c]b[c] (Gayle, h-t), Jerome (Campana, h-t), Chamakh (Bolasie, 68).

Referee: Anthony Taylor.

Man of the match: Suarez (Liverpool)

Match rating: 7/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Suarez leads Liverpool to rare heights

Liverpool 3 Suarez 14 Sturridge 17 Gerrard 38 pen

Crystal Palace 1 Gayle 77 Att: 47,721

At the height of the chase for Luis Suarez's signature, there may have been a fleeting moment of weakness in a corner of Anfield.

The thought occurred that if a bid of [pounds sterling]50million did materialise from Arsenal or Real Madrid, perhaps it would not be so catastrophic if he was sold, the money reinvested in a more mentally stable and less individualistic player; one less prone to volatility.

Fortunately for Brendan Rodgers, such idle thoughts were never entertained in the Anfield boardroom and Suarez's latest exploits, outclassing and toying with the Crystal Palace defence in a 3-1 win, revealed a startling truth about last summer.

The South American is ridiculously underrated.

Forget [pounds sterling]40million, if Liverpool had received [pounds sterling]60million they would have been short-changed. Suarez is that good. Not, as many will churlishly say, in the same class as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but on a level just below which is still beyond virtually everyone else. Suarez emerged from the tunnel before kick-off cuddling his nine-day-old baby, Benjamin. The observation would have been made a year ago that it makes a change from him carrying his team-mates. Not now.

Liverpool's first-half dominance was inspired by, rather than wholly down to, Suarez's magic boots. Let us not forget, Liverpool possess two high-class strikers these days.

Daniel Sturridge scored his eighth goal of the season and is as responsible as his strike partner for Liverpool's lofty position.

Roy Hodgson was watching, no doubt relieved that a couple of knocks to Sturridge were not serious. Hodgson was Liverpool manager the last time Ian Holloway was here. Blackpool won that day.

The difference now is stark, although Liverpool are still a strange team.

They moved top of the Premier League thanks to a victory which, on the basis of the first half, could have been more emphatic and on the basis of the second half was about right. They still offer plenty for the rose-tinted and perpetually overcast brigade.

Rodgers was disturbed at the drop in standards after the break. It must feel more satisfying noting the room for improvement when you are at the summit looking down at the rest.

Suarez struck the first on 14 minutes, exchanging passes with the overlapping Jose Enrique and somehow maintaining balance to poke beyond Julian Speroni. Three minutes later, Enrique's 30-yard ball fell to Sturridge, who engaged Simon Delaney in a game of twister prior to shooting across Speroni inside the far post. It seemed too easy, even when Palace rallied, showing more enterprise with the ball than without it. Jimmy Kebe delayed when sent clear with just Simon Mignolet to beat, his sliced effort cleared on the line by Kolo Toure.

Mamadou Sakho was also relieved when a sliced clearance fell the right side of his own post, just an inch wide.

Liverpool still looked like they would increase their advantage with a gentle push on the pedal, although there was a dispute about the third from the penalty spot on 37 minutes.

Raheem Sterling, played as a right wing back, was adjudged to have been tripped by Dean Moxey inside the box, replays suggesting that any significant contact was outside.

"I'm not happy with the decision," Holloway said, believing it neither a foul nor inside the penalty area.

Steven Gerrard struck his 99th league goal for the club from the resulting penalty. Call it lack of tempo, fitness or concentration, but the anticipated rout did not follow in the second half. Holloway made a double substitution at half-time, the introduction of Dwight Gayle and Jose Campana brought its reward.

Gayle flicked in Campana's free kick on 76 minutes, punishing Liverpool's lethargy, but Palace already look like they're heading back to the championship.

"We are being punished for every mistake at the moment," Holloway said. "We had a couple of chance and unfortunately if you do not take them it is unforgiving. "The character in the second half was terrific. Liverpool took their foot off the gas but we won the second half."

The Palace response was too late on what turned into a day of many happy returns at Anfield: Suarez back on home soil for the first time since his early lunch against Chelsea last April; Kenny Dalglish back in a new role in the directors' box; and Liverpool are back on top of the table, temporarily at least.

The Liverpool ladies team paraded their league title, which they won last week, at half-time. The male equivalents still look some way off from matching that feat, but if they fail to finish in the top four, it will not be due to lack of firepower.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Summit meeting
 LIVERPOOL 3
 Suarez 13 Sturridge 17 Gerrard 38pen
 C PALACE
 Gayle 76

AS ASCENSIONS to the summit go, this was hardly Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, but Liverpool returned to the top of the Premier League with a reasonably straightforward defeat of Crystal Palace, who returned south with a figleaf of dignity after "winning" the second half. The damage was done in the first 45 minutes, when, for all their strangely brittle defending, Liverpool cruised to a three-goal cushion.

Stepping out at Anfield for the first time since he bit off more than he could chew against Chelsea in April, Luis Suarez was accompanied by his nine-day-old son, Benjamin, and the boy's sister (and Anfield anagram) Delfina.

Suarez not only proved himself the doting dad, his effervescent showing saw him torture Palace on the left, on the right and through the middle. Moreover, he linked with Daniel Sturridge like a brother.

Brendan Rodgers, Liverpool's manager, said: "I haven't asked them to modify their game to complement the other. They can occupy a back four by themselves and they work for the team. Their telepathic nature bodes well."

The Suarez children were probably as surprised as their father when Jason Puncheon's early cross led to nothing more than a feeble header by the unmarked Cameron Jerome.

No matter, Liverpool steamed forward as the new non-executive director Kenny Dalglish looked on and were two up after 17 minutes. First Suarez reminded the Kop that byones really are byones when he played a neat penalty area one-two with Jose Enrique after fine work from Victor Moses. With the shark-eyed instinct of a natural-born predator, Suarez hooked in the Spaniard's low return as he fell, although Puncheon's attentions were less than close.

Four minutes of jackhammer pressure later, Liverpool scored again. Enrique launched a long ball and with Adrian Mariappa out of position after clattering Suarez, Sturridge hurtled down the left, cut in, romped around Damien Delaney twice and gleefully shot into the far corner.

"I don't know why Adrian did that," lamented Palace's manager, Ian Holloway. "But you're punished for every mistake at this level and we didn't take our chances. That's not good enough." Moribund but still alive, Palace almost pulled a goal back, Kolo Toure hacking Maraune Chamakh's effort off the line.

When the ball was returned, Simon Mignolet's wonderful reactions foiled Chamakh's inadvertent deflection and Puncheon blasted the loose ball into the Kop. Then Dean Moxey yanked back Raheem Sterling in the penalty area and Palace's flurry looked futile. Steven Gerrard sent Speroni the wrong way. Before the break there was still time for Moses to miss an open goal when he somehow bobbed a Suarez cross against the bar from less than a yard.

Rodgers was unimpressed by his side in the second half. "The front two were outstanding, but behind them we have a lot of work to do. Our loss of control was especially disappointing."

Palace never lost heart and pulled one back when Liverpool's twitchy defence were too casual in facing Jose Campana's free kick, Dwight Gayle neatly heading home at the near post.

"We need confidence," admitted Holloway. "But you saw the character of the players: other teams would have folded in the second half. Instead, we won it. Does that matter? No. But it does to me."

For all the encouragement Gayle's goal gave them, securing parity was always beyond Palace. This may not be the last time that's the case. Star man: Luis Suarez (Liverpool) Yellow cards: Liverpool: Sterling, Lago Aspas Crystal Palace: O'Keefe Referee: A Taylor Attendance: 44,721

Liverpool: Mignolet 7, Skrtel 5, Toure 6, Sakho 5 (Agger, 67min), Sterling 6, Henderson 6, Moses 7 (Alberto, 66min), Gerrard 6, Enrique 7, Sturridge 7 (Aspas, 88min), Suarez 8 Crystal Palace: Speroni 7, Ward 5, Mariappa 4, Delaney 5, Moxey 5, Jedinak 5, O'Keefe 5, Puncheon 5. Kebe 4 (Gayle, h-t, 6), Chamakh 5 (Bolasie, 68min), Jerome 4 (Campana, h-t, 6)

TheObserver

Child's play for Suarez as SAS take Liverpool to the summit
 Luis Suarez brought his 10-day old son, Benjamin, and daughter, Delfina, on to the pitch before kick-off and requested a family snap from Liverpool's official photographer. He chose the Kop as the backdrop, showing the club still holds meaning despite the summer's attempt to leave, handed the children back to their mother, switched from family man to tireless menace and guided Liverpool to the top of the Premier League. He could have done so with Benjamin in his arms such was the resistance from Crystal Palace.

Suarez scored one improvised goal and shone on his first competitive outing at Anfield since biting Branislav Ivanovic in April. Daniel Sturridge added his eighth of the season and Steven Gerrard converted a penalty as Brendan Rodgers' team reclaimed top spot with a ruthless 45-minute display against Ian Holloway's struggling team. The overall 90, however, left the Liverpool manager deeply unimpressed, with the exception of the two strikers, as Palace created several clear chances and mounted a second-half recovery.

"In the final third it was very good," Rodgers said. "Those two boys up front [Suarez and Sturridge] are as good as anything in the league. We took our goals well but the second half was nowhere near where we wanted to be. In my first season we were guilty of playing well and not getting the result. Here we got the win without playing great." Rodgers sent a collection of water bottles flying at 2-0 after yet another careless pass from defence. But his problems pale in comparison to Holloway's, whose return to the Premier League has brought six defeats in seven outings. "Missing the odd opportunity on the break in the first half was crucial," said the Palace manager. "We need more confidence in front of goal. There was enough fidgeting going on next to me from Brendan, believe you me, but unfortunately we are being punished for every mistake at the moment."

The movement and finishing of Suarez and Sturridge was too much in the first half for Palace. Their decision-making was also culpable for Liverpool's advantage yet, despite the comfortable margin of the victory, the visitors had sufficient chances to turn the afternoon into a contest. Victor Moses served notice of Palace's inability to track runs into their area when picked out by Jose Enrique, only to squander the chance to convert against his former club. The onslaught soon commenced. Moses was instrumental, weaving his way across field and feeding Suarez on the left. The striker released Jose Enrique on the outside, the full-back returned a clever pass to Suarez and, despite losing his footing amid three Palace defenders, he managed to hook the ball beyond Julian Speroni while flat on the floor. An unorthodox finish from a rare talent, who pointed to his young family in celebration. Speroni thwarted Sturridge when he was released by Raheem Sterling, part of a reorganised Liverpool midfield in the absence of the suspended Lucas Leiva, but was beaten emphatically when they next met. It was a goal from the Suarez textbook. Jose Enrique was again involved with a long ball down the left that Adrian Mariappa glanced into Sturridge's path. "He didn't need to go for that header," Holloway said. "The second goal was self-inflicted." The England international twisted Damien Delaney inside out and scored with a powerful finish into the far corner. Roy Hodgson, watching from a seat in the director's box having been affronted at his place among the scouts on his last Anfield visit, will have been pleased he came back.

At 2-0 with so little time gone, humiliation beckoned for Palace. Yet they responded well and had enough chances to have unnerved Liverpool. Mamadou Sakho blocked a drive from Stuart O'Keefe and Jimmy Kebe made a mess of a glorious opportunity when sent clear by a combination of Cameron Jerome and careless defending. Kebe almost deflected Jerome's shot past Simon Mignolet from the rebound, but the keeper saved well and Puncheon skied the loose ball over. Liverpool were relieved again when Mignolet missed Jerome's deflected cross and Sakho almost sliced the ball into his own net. But the home side were gifted a third when Dean Moxey needlessly tugged Sterling on the corner of the area. The assistant referee immediately signalled for a spot-kick and Gerrard did the rest, sending Speroni the wrong way from 12 yards. "It wasn't a foul or inside the area," Holloway said. Before the first half was over Moses struck the bar from a Suarez cross. With the game won, Liverpool eased off after the interval and Palace discovered their finishing touch when substitute Dwight Gayle glanced Jose Campana's free-kick into the far corner. Palace's raucous away support taunted their Liverpool counterparts with: "Is this your first trip to Anfield?" The Kop responded with: "This is your last trip to Anfield." With some justification on this evidence.

PERFECT MATCH?:

Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge have now started nine Premier League games together, scoring 12 goals between them - Suarez seven, Sturridge five. Suarez has scored or assisted 19 goals in his past 19 league games - while Sturridge has either scored or assisted 16 in his past 12. Brendan Rodgers: "The two boys up front are as good as any in the league. There are not many better at combining." LIVERPOOL Mignolet; Toure, Skrtel, Sakho (Agger 66); Sterling■; Gerrard, Henderson, Jose Enrique; Moses (Alberto 66); Sturridge (Aspas■ 88), Suarez Subs not used Jones, Ilori, Ibe, Wisdom CRYSTAL PALACE Speroni; Ward, Mariappa, Delaney, Moxey; O'Keefe■; Jedinak, Puncheon; Kebe (Gayle 46), Chamakh (Bolasie 68); Jerome (Campana 46) Subs not used Phillips, Guedioura, Price, Innis Anfield 44,721 Game rating Referee Anthony Taylor

Date: 5 October 2013
 Opposition: Crystal Palace
 Competition: League

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

5 October 2013

London Evening Standard

Sturridge and Suarez among the goals as Reds go top

Liverpool's return to the top of the Premier League was confirmed by an impressive first-half performance which saw Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge steal the show again.

The pair had dispelled suggestions they were not entirely compatible as a front two with all the goals in the 3-1 win at Sunderland last week.

This was more of the same as they scored the Reds' first two, which were followed by a Steven Gerrard penalty for his 99th Premier League goal, in another 3-1 success.

It took the strike duo's tally when both on the pitch at the same time to 16 goals, averaging a goal less than every 70 minutes.

Individually their statistics are formidable, together they are devastating.

Suarez has 19 goals in his last 22 games, while Sturridge has 19 in 24 games since joining in January, including eight in nine matches this season.

Sturridge's form would seem to make him a certain starter for England's important World Cup qualifying double-header next week - injury permitting. He missed the last two internationals a month ago, coincidentally when Liverpool last went to the top of the table, with a thigh injury and minor concerns were raised about his fitness when he fell awkwardly in the first half, even though he managed to play 87 minutes.

Sturridge was watched by England coach Roy Hodgson, who had dashed down the M62 after watching Manchester City's earlier victory over Everton.

Sat nearby was Kenny Dalglish, whose return to the club in as non-executive director 17 months after he was sacked to be replaced by Brendan Rodgers. Part of his remit is an advisory role but on this evidence there will not be much he can tell his successor after five wins in his opening seven league matches.

Substitute Dwight Gayle's 77th-minute consolation had no impact on this one. Liverpool were up and running after 14 minutes when Victor Moses' cross-field run delivered the ball to Suarez who instinctively rolled it into the path of the overlapping Jose Enrique.

The Spaniard knew exactly what to do, getting to the byline and cutting back to Suarez, who improvised brilliantly as he fell to the ground under pressure from Jason Puncheon, hooking the ball home while on his way down on one knee.

Within three minutes Liverpool had doubled their lead, with Suarez and Enrique playing a minor part this time.

The Reds left-back tried to pick out the Uruguayan with a long pass out of defence and, with Adrian Mariappa coming out to challenge, the ball went over their heads and put Sturridge in one-on-one with Damien Delaney in the inside-left channel.

Sturridge changed directions three times on his way into the penalty area, leaving his marker all at sea, with the final switch giving the England striker just enough room to fire an angled shot across Julian Speroni and inside the far post.

Liverpool have never lost a Premier League home game having led by two goals, winning a remarkable 311 of 313 and, despite the odd chance falling Palace's way, that record was never likely to be threatened.

The Enrique, Suarez, Sturridge triumvirate was in overdrive as another incisive move cut open the Palace defence and only the outstretched foot of Delaney prevented Sturridge sliding home.

Even when Mamadou Sakho and Martin Skrtel took each other out going for the same ball to put Jimmy Kebe through, Kolo Toure swept up in the six-yard area to prevent the first shot going in and goalkeeper Simon Mignolet saved Puncheon's follow-up.

Sakho's good fortune continued when he sliced just wide of his own post after Mignolet failed to deal with low left-wing cross.

The match was over as a contest in the 38th minute when left-back Dean Moxey's pull on Raheem Sterling, starting his first league match since January in place of the suspended Lucas Leiva, was spotted by assistant referee Richard West.

Referee Anthony Taylor pointed to the spot and Gerrard, making his 638th appearance to replace Tommy Smith in seventh place in the club's all-time list, stroked home.

The sight of Rodgers taking his seat in the dug-out before his side had even emerged for the second half told its own story.

Palace had a better second half and were eventually rewarded with a goal after taking advantage of Liverpool's frailties at set-pieces.

Half-time substitutes Jose Campana and Gayle combined with the former curling in a free-kick from out wide on the left and the latter touching it in.

Sturridge could have had his second when he hit a post late on and England will hope he can carry that form on to the international stage.

BBC

Luis Suarez scored on his first Anfield appearance since April as he and strike partner Daniel Sturridge helped Liverpool beat Crystal Palace.

The Uruguayan, who served a 10-match ban for biting, scored a superb opener, steering in while lying on the floor.

Sturridge then found the bottom corner after a twisting run before Steven Gerrard scored from the penalty spot.

Dwight Gayle netted a late header for Palace but Liverpool's victory lifted them to the Premier League summit.

With previous leaders Arsenal playing West Brom on Sunday, the Reds are a point clear at the top having played a game more.

A blistering first-half showing saw Suarez and Sturridge continue fine goalscoring runs, while also showing they are growing into a formidable partnership.

Suarez has scored 19 goals in his last 22 Liverpool games, while Sturridge has 19 in 25 games since joining the club in January.

The South American's performance, in particular, would have pleased former player and manager Kenny Dalglish, who signed Suarez in 2011 and joined the club's board as a non-executive director this week.

Defeat for Ian Holloway's Palace side was their fourth in succession, and leaves them two points ahead of bottom side Sunderland.

And given the potency of Liverpool's forwards, it was perhaps surprising Holloway picked an adventurous 4-3-3 formation in trying to repeat a famous Anfield win while in charge of Blackpool three years ago.

There was no doubting that Suarez was the leading man in his first appearance at Anfield since biting Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic, and his opener after 14 minutes was a case in point.

After good work from Victor Moses, he passed to the overlapping Jose Enrique and then collected his return ball to fire in from 12 yards despite falling over.

It showed poise, balance and strength, and within three minutes Palace were further behind when Enrique's long pass was headed onto Sturridge, who turned Damien Delaney before netting.

Palace looked stunned but began to recover and Jimmy Kebe twice went close after a surging run.

His tame goalbound shot was cleared by Kolo Toure before Simon Mignolet saved superbly after the Malian touched Cameron Jerome's shot. Jason Puncheon then blazed over.

Home defender Mamadou Sakho then almost sliced into his own net following Jerome's cross as the visitors regained their composure.

But Holloway's side went further behind when Dean Moxey tugged at Raheem Sterling's arm and, although contact was on the edge of the penalty area, referee Anthony Taylor pointed to the spot after advice from his assistant.

Gerrard sent Julian Speroni the wrong way to score for the 15th consecutive league season, a club record.

Moses hit the bar from two yards out before the break but Liverpool's performance dipped after the interval.

Holloway tightened things up by bringing on another midfielder, Jose Campana, while Gayle replaced Jerome up front.

Palace improved as a result and when Gayle headed in Campana's free-kick with 14 minutes remaining, it looked like Liverpool might wobble.

It proved fleeting, however, and Sturridge almost grabbed a second when he hit the post late on.

Crystal Palace boss Ian Holloway on Liverpool's disputed penalty: "I've just seen it and I'm bemused. Was it outside the box and was it really a foul? If you want to compare it to anything, Jimmy Kebe is pulled much worse by Mamadou Sakho at the other end. If one is a penalty and one isn't, I don't understand.

"We just got one or two things wrong and this level is so unforgiving. Luis Suarez could fall over and still score and that's a terrible scenario for us."

Date: 5 October 2013

Opposition: Crystal Palace

Competition: League

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

5 October 2013



Full time Match ends, Liverpool 3, Crystal Palace 1.
90:00+4:14 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 3, Crystal Palace 1.
90:00+3:55 Booking Iago Aspas (Liverpool is shown the yellow card).
90:00+0:52 Foul by José Enrique (Liverpool).
90:00+0:52 Joel Ward (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half).
89:34 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half).
89:34 Foul by José Campaña (Crystal Palace).
87:38 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Iago Aspas replaces Daniel Sturridge.
84:55 Offside, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge tries a through ball, but Luis Suárez is caught offside.
84:54 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool hits the right post with a right footed shot from the centre of the box. Assisted by Luis Suárez).
83:15 Offside, Liverpool. Kolo Touré tries a through ball, but Luis Suárez is caught offside.
83:04 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
83:04 Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half).
82:28 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Adrian Mariappa.
81:56 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Dean Moxey.
80:36 Foul by Luis Suárez (Liverpool).
80:36 Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half).
76:00 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 3, Crystal Palace 1. Dwight Gayle (Crystal Palace header from the left side of the six yard box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by José Campaña with a cross following a set piece situation).
75:25 Booking Raheem Sterling (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul).
75:07 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
75:07 Yannick Bolasie (Crystal Palace wins a free kick on the left wing).
75:00 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
73:25 Delay in match Dean Moxey (Crystal Palace because of an injury).
72:44 Foul by Luis Suárez (Liverpool).
72:44 Dean Moxey (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the attacking half).
68:40 Offside, Liverpool. José Enrique tries a through ball, but Luis Suárez is caught offside.
67:35 Substitution Substitution, Crystal Palace. Yannick Bolasie replaces Marouane Chamakh.
66:56 Attempt missed. Dwight Gayle (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is just a bit too high).
66:34 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Agger replaces Mamadou Sakho.
65:54 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Luis Alberto replaces Victor Moses.
64:29 Attempt blocked. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by José Campaña).
59:20 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mile Jedinak.
53:48 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Mamadou Sakho.
52:46 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).
52:46 Damien Delaney (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half).
52:16 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Joel Ward.
51:16 Offside, Liverpool. Victor Moses tries a through ball, but Luis Suárez is caught offside.
50:00 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool).
50:00 Joel Ward (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half).
48:09 Hand ball by Luis Suárez (Liverpool).
45:48 Attempt missed. Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner).
45:25 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.
45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 3, Crystal Palace 0.
45:00 Substitution Substitution, Crystal Palace. Dwight Gayle replaces Jimmy Kébé.
45:00 Substitution Substitution, Crystal Palace. José Campaña replaces Cameron Jerome.
45:00+1:14 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 3, Crystal Palace 0.
45:00+0:49 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Julian Speroni.
45:00+0:43 Attempt saved. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner).
45:00+0:40 Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Raheem Sterling).
45:00+0:04 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half).
45:00+0:04 Foul by Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace).
44:52 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling).
42:51 Attempt missed. Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left).
42:48 Attempt blocked. Stuart O'Keefe (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jason Puncheon).
40:44 Hand ball by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
38:35 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling).
38:14 Victor Moses (Liverpool hits the bar with a left footed shot from very close range. Assisted by Luis Suárez).
37:06 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 3, Crystal Palace 0. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom left corner).
36:06 Penalty Liverpool. Raheem Sterling draws a foul in the penalty area.
36:06 Penalty conceded by Dean Moxey (Crystal Palace after a foul in the penalty area).
33:41 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Adrian Mariappa.

31:10 Offside, Liverpool. José Enrique tries a through ball, but Luis Suárez is caught offside.
30:06 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.
29:20 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Mamadou Sakho.
25:11 Attempt missed. Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the centre of the box is too high).
25:09 Attempt saved. Jimmy Kébé (Crystal Palace left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Cameron Jerome).
25:08 Attempt blocked. Cameron Jerome (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jason Puncheon).
24:57 Attempt blocked. Jimmy Kébé (Crystal Palace right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Cameron Jerome with a through ball).
19:14 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).
19:14 Joel Ward (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the defensive half).
18:29 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.
17:50 Offside, Crystal Palace. Dean Moxey tries a through ball, but Jimmy Kébé is caught offside.
16:13 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 2, Crystal Palace 0. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left to the bottom right corner).
14:29 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Julian Speroni.
14:27 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling).
13:00 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 1, Crystal Palace 0. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by José Enrique).
11:36 Corner, Crystal Palace. Conceded by Jordan Henderson.
9:30 Booking Stuart O'Keefe (Crystal Palace is shown the yellow card for a bad foul).
9:22 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half).
9:22 Foul by Stuart O'Keefe (Crystal Palace).
9:12 Attempt blocked. Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace right footed shot from outside the box is blocked).
8:19 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).
8:19 Jimmy Kébé (Crystal Palace wins a free kick in the attacking half).
7:17 Attempt missed. Cameron Jerome (Crystal Palace header from the left side of the six yard box misses to the right. Assisted by Jason Puncheon with a cross).
6:35 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right).
5:50 Attempt blocked. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Luis Suárez).
5:13 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Damien Delaney.
4:34 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half).
4:34 Foul by Jason Puncheon (Crystal Palace).
3:06 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half).
3:06 Foul by Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace).
0:00 First Half begins.
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.