

Date: 2 November 2013  
 Opposition: Arsenal  
 Competition: League

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**THE**  **TIMES**

**the guardian**

Wenger detects growing belief after Arsenal start 'defining week' in style: Champions elect?

It was not the most articulate line to have left the lips of Arsene Wenger yet it captured perfectly the sense of cautious optimism that has built around his Arsenal team. "It's a kind of . . . people start to say . . . 'Oh, maybe,'" the manager said.

Maybe Arsenal can win the Premier League. The very notion would have met with derision after the opening-day home defeat by Aston Villa and the vehement backlash that rocked the club. But there they were on Saturday, composed, aggressive and incisive, deservedly beating an in-form Liverpool to establish a five-point lead at the top of the table.

"After the Aston Villa game, if I had told you we would have been five points clear in November, I would have had to run away because you would have killed me," Wenger said.

The pundits still say no. Arsenal have yet to face either Manchester club or Chelsea in the league, they say. It remains too early to pass a definitive judgment while Arsenal's frailties of seasons gone by make it a risky business to tip them.

The last time they sat five points clear at the top was in February 2008. Then came the infamous 2-2 draw at Birmingham City, which was scarred by Eduardo's leg break and William Gallas's meltdown, and the club lost their bearings. It was not an isolated wobble. Recent history says that Arsenal will falter.

And yet momentum is growing, along with dressing-room belief. You will not hear any player make a bold statement about how they might win the title; no one wants to jinx it. But, privately, they know they have a wonderful chance. The Manchester clubs and Chelsea are under new management and, as such, in transition. The league is tantalisingly open.

"We have more belief [this season] and we are starting to create a bit of fear in the opposition, and that gives us a better chance to win the games," Mikel Arteta said. "When you are on a good run and the confidence level is high, it makes everything much easier."

"In the last few seasons," Bacary Sagna said, "we were responding technically but when we had to go to tough, physical games, sometimes we were not responding. Now we are more confident with the arrival of [Mesut] Ozil and [Mathieu] Flamini. Ozil has made us even better technically while with Flamini we get the confidence of the physical challenge. The team is more together as a group and we can respond to every aspect of the game."

Flamini did not play against Liverpool because of a groin injury but it did not matter. Arteta was superb in front of the back four while Aaron Ramsey drove forward, prompted and killed the game with his long-range pot-shot. It was his 10th goal of the season for Arsenal; he had previously scored 11 in his five seasons at the club. Ramsey's improvement during this calendar year has been startling and it has helped to soften the blow of Jack Wilshere's continuing battle for fitness.

Brendan Rodgers started with three central defenders and two wing-backs and he saw Arsenal take charge upon Santi Cazorla's goal. The visitors struggled to suppress Arsenal's runners from midfield.

Rodgers switched to 4-2-3-1 in the second half, with the substitute Philippe Coutinho looking sharp on his return from injury. Luis Suarez bristled with menace throughout. But the frustration for Liverpool went deeper than the referee Martin Atkinson's decision to pull back Suarez's quick free-kick on 26 minutes, which eventually led to Jordan Henderson putting the ball in the net. They did not do enough offensively until after Ramsey's goal while Steven Gerrard could not exert his influence. Rodgers said afterwards that the captain "took a knock towards the end with his hip".

Liverpool intend to respond at home to Fulham on Saturday while for Arsenal there are the away games against Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday and then Manchester United on Sunday. Dortmund hammered Stuttgart 6-1 on Friday night. "I wanted something more testing for them," Wenger said. "Unfortunately they had a good friendly." Arsenal's defining period has begun well.

Man of the match Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal)

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# The Mail

Arsenal shape up for a tough week on road

ARSENAL 2 LIVERPOOL 0 THIS time next week we'll have a clearer idea of whether Arsenal can finally end their trophy drought. The signs are promising. Excellent, in fact.

They passed the first test of a high-pressure nine days, not only beating high-flying Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium but brushing them aside in a dominant display. Two superb goals from Santi Cazorla and Aaron Ramsey opened up a five-point lead at the Barclays Premier League summit and even Anfield boss Brendan Rodgers was purring.

'Arsenal have wonderful technicians, good mobility,' said Rodgers. 'Mesut Ozil is world class, Ramsey has taken his game to another level, Mikel Arteta is a good player, Santi Cazorla joining in, Tomas Rosicky -- five players who are top-class technicians.' There were no self-congratulatory pats on the back from the Gunners, though. They know what is coming: a visit to Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Wednesday, followed by a trip to Old Trafford on Sunday. Two positive results and they can start to believe.

'There is still room for improvement,' said manager Arsene Wenger. 'At the end of November we will have a clearer idea but the belief is inside the team. It's down to us as to how consistent we can be. Every win makes you stronger.'

The Liverpool game was a huge test because it came after two home defeats [against Dortmund and Chelsea]. But danger is just round the corner. Defeat by Dortmund will leave Wenger's hopes of navigating Arsenal through the Champions League group stages for a 14th consecutive year under serious threat. For Liverpool, the chance to prove their own title credentials against the leaders only served to underline how much work is still to be done.

'We are playing catch-up,' said Rodgers. 'Can we stay near the top of the league? The plan is to stay there. We're trying to build something here, in terms of our depth of squad and the nature of our game.'

'Without that major investment, it just takes a bit of time. For us to be where we are shows that we have a fighting chance.' SUPER STAT: Aaron Ramsey has six goals and three assists in his last seven Premier League matches.

ARSENAL (4-3-2-1): Szczesny 6; Sagna 7, Mertesacker 7, Koscielny 8, Gibbs 7 (Vermaelen 78min); Ramsey 8, Arteta 8, Rosicky 7 (Monreal 72, 6); Ozil 7, Cazorla 8 (Jenkinson 84); Giroud 6. Subs not used: Fabianski, Bendtner, Akpom, Hayden. Booked: Sagna, Jenkinson. LIVERPOOL (5-3-2): Mignolet 6; Toure 5, Skrtel 6, Sakho 6; Cissokho 4 (Coutinho 46, 7), Flanagan 6 (Moses 68, 6); Gerrard 6, Lucas 6, Henderson 6; Sturridge 6, Suarez 7. Subs not used: Jones, Agger, Allen, Sterling, Kelly. Booked: Cissokho.

Referee: Martin Atkinson 6. Man of the match: Aaron Ramsey.

# The Daily Telegraph

Ramsey belief lifts Arsenal

Arsenal 2

Cazorla 19, Ramsey 59

Liverpool 0

Att: 60,042

Confidence is everything in football, and its abundance at Arsenal accounts for the rise of Arsene Wenger's side, and Aaron Ramsey in particular, to the top as team and player of the season so far.

Once again Ramsey was the outstanding influence as Arsenal produced their most impressive performance yet to see off the challenge of Liverpool and move five points clear at the top of the Premier League.

After Santi Cazorla had put them ahead in the first half, Ramsey scored with a spectacular volley in the 59th minute to secure the points against a Liverpool side for whom Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge were uncharacteristically less than lethal in front of goal.

Ramsey's goal, his 10th of the season, showed how far he has come in the past year or three. In November 2010 the young Welshman was just returning to fitness from the broken leg he sustained against Stoke seven months earlier, and was subsequently sent on loan to Nottingham Forest and then to his first club Cardiff City.

After returning to Arsenal, Ramsey struggled to convince a significant section of Arsenal's support that he was worthy of the faith shown in him by Wenger, and admitted that his own confidence was low.

But this season Ramsey has been a revelation, scoring freely, assisting others and pretty well running the show from his favoured position in the centre of midfield. That Ramsey's running is one of his most impressive qualities should come as no surprise. He covered 6.8 miles on Saturday, proving that he has come of age as a box-to-box player par excellence.

'I've always had a good engine. I did cross country at school and enjoyed the 800 metres as well,' Ramsey revealed in Arsenal's match day programme. He also spoke about his renewed confidence, especially in front of goal. 'You make more right decisions when you play with confidence. I've always got in good goalscoring positions but I was a bit rash in front of goal. I wasn't as confident in my finishing which is why I didn't take as many of those chances. But I've got more composure and feel more relaxed in front of goal, and I'm making them count.'

Wenger warmed to the theme of confidence, having seen his side bounce back from defeat by Chelsea in the Capital One Cup last Tuesday. It was their second successive home defeat, following the loss against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League, but Wenger was heartened by the way his players came back strongly to see off a Liverpool side who would have gone top if they had won at the Emirates.

'You could see at the start that we were a bit nervous and a bit too cautious, but we knew that we had put Dortmund and Chelsea on the front foot. You could feel that from the start the players didn't want to do that.'

'After that, when we scored the first goal, we controlled the game. These big games are decided by one or two positions that are not completely there, and today in every single position we had players who could turn out top performances.'

Wenger admitted that he did not expect to be doing so well in November after their opening day defeat by Aston Villa when some fans were calling for his head. 'After the Aston Villa game, if I had told you that [Arsenal would be five points clear] I would have to run away because you would have killed me! It shows you that it can change quickly, but that should also alert us that it can go the other way. We need to keep good focus, and continue to develop our team, and there's room for improvement.'

'At the moment, 10 games played, you can say 25 per cent of the season, you see the first tendencies and trends, but it's still not settled. By the end of November you will have a clearer idea. The players believe of course, and every win makes you stronger.'

Brendan Rodgers acknowledged that his side were second best. 'The best team won, that's the honest appraisal,' he said. 'I thought we were always in the game because we create chances, and if we could have taken those chances then the scoreline might have been totally different.'

'They [Arsenal] are winning the race. These 10 games we've all played, people talk about it being early, but you don't get them back. The great thing is there's lots of time left to gain those points back, but at this moment in time they are high in confidence, playing well and they will be pleased with the win.'

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Wenger: This was a huge test and we passed with full belief

Arsene Wenger believes Arsenal averted a "problem" by beating Liverpool 2-0 on Saturday, and was hugely impressed by the manner in which they overcame the "doubt" created in the midweek Capital One Cup defeat to Chelsea.

"It was a huge test because it came after two home defeats and [with] another one then you create another problem against Manchester United [on Sunday].

You could see at the start we were focused but a bit nervous and we put Dortmund and Chelsea on the front foot ourselves. You could feel at the start that the players did not want to do that at all. After we scored you could see that we controlled the game.

"The players believe, of course. Every win makes you stronger. Tuesday raised a little bit of doubt, but not so much because many players did not play. When you lose, the players that do not play don't drop their confidence. They raise their hopes."

It was the swagger that Arsenal displayed in the victory, emphasised by the sheer quality of the goals from Santi Cazorla and Aaron Ramsey, that so marked this performance out. In previous seasons, defeats such as those to Borussia Dortmund and Chelsea would have disrupted confidence for some time, creating the "problem" that Wenger alluded to. On Saturday, Arsenal bounced right back. "It creates a bit more belief. They might give us a bit more credit that will reinforce the belief," he said. "We were more balanced than on Tuesday. These big games are decided by one or two positions. Today in every single position, we had players who could turn in a top performance."

It has left Arsenal top of the league, and five points clear. Wenger was asked what he would have thought had such a position been put to him after the opening-day home defeat.

"After the Aston Villa game, if I had told you that, I would have had to run away because you would have killed me! It shows you it can change quickly. It should alert us that we should not go the other way and keep good focus and continue to develop our team. There is still room for improvement.

"Ten games, 25 per cent of the season. You can see trends but it is still not settled yet. At the end of November you will have a clearer idea."

Brendan Rodgers, meanwhile, now has a clearer idea of where his team stand. The Liverpool manager marvelled at Arsenal's midfield movement, and intimated it would take time to reach that quality without "major investment".

"The better team won, make no mistake. Arsenal have wonderful technicians, good mobility, [Mesut] -zil is world class. Ramsey has taken his game to another level, [Mikel] Arteta is a good player, Cazorla joining in, [Tomas] Rosicky - five players who are top-class technicians and we had three.

"They have real good quality and they are at a high level and have been for a number of years. For us to be where we are shows we have a fighting chance. The plan is to stay there [in the top four]. We're trying to build something here. Without major investment, it just takes a bit of time.

"You compare that to Arsenal playing Napoli. I was here. That was at the very top end of the Champions League. They went very close against Borussia Dortmund." For the return Champions League fixture against the Germans on Wednesday, Arsenal will assess Jack Wilshere's fitness today. The midfielder was left out of the Liverpool game with a recurrent ankle injury.

"I don't know. I will follow the medical advice," Wenger said. "We will see on Monday morning how he is. It's very important that we respond well against Dortmund. It's a big game, let's recover first and I'm sure the team will go there with a great desire."

Wenger did joke about the difference in challenges both teams faced. While Arsenal had to raise themselves against Liverpool, Dortmund coasted to a 6-1 win over Stuttgart on Friday.

"I watched the first half but after 20 minutes I knew it would be too easy a game for them. I wanted something more testing. Unfortunately they had a good friendly!"



## CONVI NCIBLES

THE air of scepticism remains, even though we are more than a quarter of the way through the season.

In fact, even Arsene Wenger admitted that it has been so long since Arsenal won the title he can understand why people are still dubious as to whether they are genuine challengers.

It is almost as if we are waiting for them to slip up. It is too early to judge after just 10 games. Pretty football but no staying power. They have not played anyone decent yet. Those are the doubts.

But Brendan Rodgers is convinced that Arsenal are the real deal.

The Liverpool boss said: "Arsenal are winning the race. These 10 games that we've all played. People say that it's early. You don't get them back. You don't get to play them again!

"You have to make the points.

We're on 20 points and they're on 25. The great thing is that there's still a lot of time to make those points up.

"But Arsenal are high on confidence. They will be pleased with the win. The better team won, make no mistake about that.

"Arsenal have wonderful technicians, good mobility. Ozil is world class, Ramsey has taken his game to another level, Arteta is a good player, Cazorla joining in, Rosicky - five players who are top-class technicians and we had three in there.

"They have real good quality and they are at a high level and have been for a number of years."

It was glowing praise from Rodgers after Liverpool's early season promise was given a reality check. Arsenal had far too quality in midfield, Liverpool's defence looked vulnerable and even their outstanding player, Luis Suarez, could not find a way through.

But Rodgers believes that one defeat should not be overanalysed and that Liverpool can last the pace and remain in the top four.

Rodgers added: "The plan is to stay there. We're trying to build something here, in terms of our depth of squad and the nature of our game.

"Without that major investment, it just takes a bit of time. "We are playing catch-up. We've made a terrific start. But when you lose a game there will always be an analysis which may be negative but I can only be positive because they've given me everything.

"There's other teams, you can look at Chelsea's squad, Arsenal's squad - even with the players who are out - and Manchester City's.

"For us to be where we are shows we have a fighting chance. After 10 games, you can make a good assessment of where you can go."

While Liverpool can take heart, Arsenal can take belief. They are still missing key players like Theo Walcott, Alex Oxladum, Chamberlain, Mathieu Flamini and Jack Wilshere but put on an impressive display.

Bacary Sagna's cross led to Santi Cazorla's opener as the Spaniard fired home the rebound after heading against a post.

But Aaron Ramsey's brilliant right-foot shot on the half-volley eclipsed that.

Liverpool came back well and Suarez almost single-handedly fought on but with no luck.

It was a huge result for Arsenal and while the Gunners boss understands why some are still sceptical he says the belief is growing in his squad.

Wenger, who faces a trip to Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday and then to Manchester United on Sunday, said: "We haven't won the title since 2004 and last year we were not in contention, so I can understand that lack of belief completely.

"It's down to us to create that belief for our performances we can only do that. The players believe of course - every win makes you stronger.

"It's a big week, it's very important that we continue our run and respond well against Dortmund because everyone will look at that game at how we go there and how we respond."



## Reds fluff their lines on big stage

There was no disgrace in defeat but this was a setback laced with frustration.

**Liverpool FC** sat their toughest test of the season so far at the Emirates on Saturday and came off a distant second best. Brendan Rodgers had described this capital clash as a true gauge of his side's credentials.

This wasn't the reading he was after. Rather than grab the opportunity to showcase how far they have come, the Reds simply delivered a reminder of the distance they still have to travel. The attacking brilliance of Santi Cazorla and

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Aaron Ramsey ensured Arsenal extended their lead at the Premier League summit and left Liverpool to lick their wounds. The harsh reality is that the Gunners were superior in all departments. Yet there is no escaping the fact that they were given a helping hand by the Reds' failure to do themselves justice.

Instead of rising to the big occasion, far too many of Rodgers' men fluffed their lines. Much of the damage was self-inflicted as the hosts exposed glaring weaknesses. The manager's decision to stick with the formation which has served Liverpool well against lesser sides in recent weeks was unquestionably bold. "We'll let them worry about us," was the message from the visiting dressing room. But playing three at the back against opposition of this calibre simply didn't work. Centre-backs Kolo Toure, Martin Skrtel and Mamadou Sakho always looked vulnerable as they were regularly dragged out of position by the Gunners' slick link-up play. The trio of Tomas Rosicky, Mesut Ozil and Cazorla flourished in the space behind lone frontman Olivier Giroud.

Liverpool invited pressure by being so sloppy in possession during the opening 45 minutes but part of the problem was Arsenal's numerical superiority in midfield.

The Reds were over-run and as a result the front two of Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge were starved of service. It was no coincidence that when Rodgers brought on Philippe Coutinho for the hapless Aly Cissokho and switched to a flat back four, Liverpool belatedly grabbed a foothold in the contest.

Cissokho did well to make it to half-time given the paucity of his contribution.

The on-loan Valencia defender looked embarrassingly out of his depth in this kind of company. His lack of pace and naive positional play proved costly as fears about Arsenal's ability to exploit the space in behind Liverpool's wing-backs were realised. The return from injury of Jose Enrique can't come soon enough. His deputy is making the Spaniard look like Roberto Carlos.

Cissokho was caught napping by Mikel Arteta's pass which sent Bacary Sagna racing down the right to create the opening goal in the 19th minute.

His cross picked out Cazorla, who hammered home the rebound after his initial header had come back off the post. The finish was emphatic but neither Toure nor Skrtel had reacted quickly enough to the danger while Sakho had gone AWOL.

In stark contrast to Cissokho, young Jon Flanagan could hold his head high after his efforts on the other flank. The loss of Glen Johnson just hours before kick-off when he was hospitalised by a jaw infection was a major blow for the Reds.

But Flanagan wasn't fazed by his late call-up and repaid Rodgers' faith to select him ahead of Martin Kelly. It was the 20-year-old's first Premier League outing for 19 months. His development since then has been hampered by injuries and a lack of opportunities, but the hope is that this outing will kick-start his career.

A loan spell away from Anfield and regular first-team football is surely the key to him realising his obvious potential. Liverpool had good reason to feel aggrieved when Martin Atkinson denied them the chance to restore parity soon after Cazorla's strike. Suarez's quick free-kick found Sturridge who crossed for Jordan Henderson to convert from close range.

However, Atkinson insisted on pulling play back so he could book Sagna for hauling down the Uruguayan. By the letter of the law the referee may have been correct, but common sense must surely dictate that quick-thinking by an attacking team shouldn't be penalised. To Rodgers' credit, he didn't try to claim this was a tale of Liverpool being robbed by an injustice.

Prior to that Henderson had scuffed wastefully at Wojciech Szczesny but for most of the first half the Reds were pinned back. Keeper Simon Mignolet was uncharacteristically nervy and his kicking was poor. However, he was alert to keep out efforts from Cazorla and Ramsey to ensure Arsenal didn't increase their advantage. The introduction of Coutinho for the second half triggered an instant improvement. The little Brazilian provides Liverpool with another attacking dimension and Kopites were buoyed by the sight of him back pulling the strings after seven weeks out with a shoulder injury.

Coutinho and Suarez combined to tee up Henderson at the back post but he lashed high over the bar. It was a costly miss. Giroud could only find the side-netting after pouncing on Toure's error, but just before the hour mark Arsenal were out of sight. Ozil found Ramsey, who had somehow been allowed to venture forward without anyone tracking him. Toure and Sakho hesitated and Ramsey dispatched a dipping 20-yarder beyond Mignolet and into the roof of the net.

It was the talented Welshman's 10th goal of the season. Liverpool's midfield trio only have three between them. Flanagan made way for Victor Moses and there was a spirited late rally. Suarez was relentless but this was one of the rare occasions when Sturridge and him weren't on the same wavelength.

Having been denied by the woodwork, Suarez should have halved the deficit late on but with just Szczesny to beat he fired wide. Sturridge, who had been demanding a pass, vented his spleen. It was that kind of day. An evening when Liverpool showed off their limitations rather than their strengths. A bitter disappointment but one which needs to be kept in perspective. The Reds have lost just two of their last 18 league games and sit third in the table. Having been shown up by the best, they need to learn from it and get back to beating the rest.



### Reds' weaknesses ruthlessly exposed by Arsenal

The match between the top two teams in the Premier League was painfully one-sided for Liverpool. Pre-match talk of title challenges was found to be grossly premature as Brendan Rodgers' men were handed a dose of reality at the Emirates Stadium. Arsenal, playing with supreme confidence, were the better team and deservedly finished the weekend with another win and a five point lead at the top of the table. Rodgers had few complaints.

His only bone of contention was referee Martin Atkinson's decision to rule out Jordan Henderson's first-half goal in order to bring play back and book Bacary Sagna for a foul on Luis Suarez. It was the incorrect decision but even Rodgers' protestations were hardly that of a wronged man. The manager's bigger gripe will have been the ease with which Arsenal were allowed to score. Rodgers' main concern will be with his continued troubles at left-back and his biggest decision will be with what formation to play against Fulham next weekend. The on-loan Aly Cissokho was brutally exposed in the first-half and replaced with Philippe Coutinho as Rodgers re-jigged Liverpool. They improved but the damage was done. Liverpool dropped back down to the third in the standings but it was the reality check they received in north London which was what really mattered at full-time. Rodgers, to his credit, has never wavered from his aim for the season.

The Liverpool manager insists they must have eyes only for the top four and Champions League this season because any thoughts of claiming the ultimate prize have arrived too soon. And it wasn't that this 2-0 defeat confirmed to everyone that Liverpool are not ready to produce a sustained title push.

The deflating aspect was that Liverpool failed to trouble a side that in all probability will end up fighting it out with them for one of those prized places in the Champions League. Churlish as it sounds, Arsenal do not have the look of a side who will still be in pole position come May.

But they were still made to look several notches above Liverpool yet the pair have very similar ambitions this season. The build-up was dominated by references to acid tests, litmus tests and every test in between.

But in the biggest game of the season, Liverpool's players didn't show temperament for the big occasion. Coutinho's 45 minute cameo aside, very few of the away side produced anything of note. Luis Suarez probed and worked tirelessly and sprung to life with Coutinho's introduction but chances were few and far between. The Uruguayan came closest when his deflected effort skimmed the outside of the post and wasted a late chance when clean through. By full-time Liverpool had become ragged and the full-time whistle was like music to their ears. It was the team's first away league defeat since March and they must now regroup for Saturday's game with Fulham at Anfield.

How Liverpool react will be the true test of their ambitions this season.

Liverpool suffered a set-back before kick-off as well when Glen Johnson was ruled out due to illness. Rodgers put his faith in Jon Flanagan to fill the right wing-back slot and handed the youngster his first Premier League appearance since April 2012 against Blackburn Rovers.

Arsenal started brightly but Henderson had a glorious chance to open the scoring when charged into the area but failed to strike his shot correctly.

Liverpool were beginning to settle when they fell behind against the to Santi Cazorla's goal. Cissokho was exposed by Sagna who raced into the space down the right flank and his cross picked out the Spaniard.

Cazorla's header came back off the post and he reacted quicker than any Liverpool player and smashed home the rebound. Liverpool would have Henderson's goal disallowed but as the first half wore on Arsenal began to take greater control. Sharper than Liverpool and crisper in their passing, Arsene Wenger's men were threatening to double their lead.

The break was most welcome for the visitors and allowed Rodgers to shuffle his pack. Liverpool had greater intent with Coutinho on the pitch and in a new formation and Henderson went close from Suarez's cross.

But it proved a false dawn as Arsenal made it 2-0. Mesut Ozil picked out Aaron Ramsey on the edge of the area and the Welsh international struck beautifully over Simon Mignolet. Liverpool had opportunities to half the deficit but Daniel Sturridge nodded wide from Henderson's cross and then Suarez struck the outside of the post. Suarez should have scored when Coutinho's pass set him racing clear but he shot wide. The sobering experience on Saturday evening also prompted perspective. Liverpool have made a very good start to the season having taken 20 points from their 10 games.

But defeat to Arsenal reminded them just how far they still have to go.

Arsenal (4-4-1-1): Szczesny, Sagna, Mertersacker, Koscielny, Gibbs (Vermaalen 78), Rosicky (Monreal 72), Arteta, Ramsey, Cazorla (Jenkinson 84), Ozil, Giroud. Subs: Fabianski, Bendtner, Akpom, Hayden.

Goals: Cazorla (19) Ramsey (59) Cautions: Sagna, Jenkinson Red Cards: None Liverpool (3-5-2): Mignolet, Toure, Skrtel, Sakho, Flanagan (Moses 68), Lucas, Gerrard, Henderson, Cissokho (Coutinho 45), Suarez, Sturridge. Subs: Jones, Agger, Allen, Sterling, Kelly. Goals: None

Cautions: Cissokho Red Cards: None

Next match v Fulham (H) Saturday, November 9 3pm

Man-of-the-Match: Philippe Coutinho. Gave Liverpool direction and guile when he replaced Cissokho at half-time.

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# THE INDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY

## Brace of thunderbolts give Arsenal daylight

First the early-season surge. Yesterday came the landmark victory over one of their fellow title contenders. Arsne Wenger has been told in recent weeks that his Arsenal side must prove themselves against the Premier League's form teams.

What better response than a victory over the washbucklers of Liverpool?

Ten games in, Arsenal find themselves five points clear of second-placed Chelsea.

There was an excellent goal in either half from Santi Cazorla and Aaron Ramsey and a performance that made Liverpool look, well, pretty ordinary. As for Luis Suarez, he was managed by Arsenal's defence as well as any opposing team could hope with a player of his menace.

Brendan Rodgers may reflect that his team could have done more in only their second defeat of the season. The Liverpool manager changed formations at half-time and he pursued the game hard with attacking substitutions. But he came up against an Arsenal defence that was composed and underpinned by a very solid performance from goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny. No major fuss from the Premier League leaders, simply a very professional job.

Of course it helps when the man of the moment Ramsey comes up with the kind of inspired goal he scored in the second half, his 10th of the season. But that is the confidence this team is playing with and it shows all over the pitch.

In seasons past, Arsenal would have buckled against the Suarez-Daniel Sturridge attack, which was a danger to the very end of the game. Concentration was required at all times and, in response, the centre-backs Per Mertesacker and Laurent Koscielny were excellent.

"It was vital to win, I said that before the game," said Wenger. "I haven't changed my mind. Had we not won, people would have said Arsenal cannot win big games at home. It's done in a convincing way. We had a good solidarity, a good focus." As for Liverpool, this was a reminder of the limitations of their squad. The 20-year-old right-back Jon Flanagan took the place of Glen Johnson, who spent the day in hospital with an infection.

"Look at the squads around us, teams who have been in the Champions' League for a number of years," Rodgers said. "I can't ask any more from the players."

The first Arsenal goal came after 19 minutes when Mikel Arteta set Bacary Sagna on a run down the right and his shrewd ball back, having bounced once, was met by Cazorla. His header came off the post and in the moment that followed he adjusted beautifully to volley the rebound, which fell quite nicely for him.

Liverpool had their chances too, and felt aggrieved when the referee Martin Atkinson refused to let play go on after 25 minutes following a foul by Sagna. A header from Sturridge set Suarez running in the Arsenal half and he was hauled down by the Arsenal right-back.

As Suarez went down he took the free-kick quickly. Sturridge continued and crossed for Jordan Henderson to score, but Atkinson had blown the whistle in order to book Sagna, as he later explained to Rodgers, which he was obliged to do in that break in play. "A poor decision," Rodgers said later, although correct by the letter of the law. To his credit, the Liverpool manager said that he believed the better side had won.

In the latter stages of the first half, Arsenal pushed back again and Ramsey had a decent shot saved. As for Suarez, the man for whom Arsenal were first prepared to break their transfer record this summer, he was the subject of only the most inoffensive, "You should have signed for a big club" chant from the home fans. They sounded as if they hoped Wenger may try to buy him again.

Rodgers' half-time play was to throw on his Brazilian playmaker Coutinho for his side's least effective first-half performer, the left wing-back Aly Cissokho, and switch his formation to 4-4-2 with Mamadou Sakho pushed out to left-back and Henderson dispatched to the right wing. Coutinho, starting on the left but moving around, was the more likely to pick out Suarez's runs.

It was Arsenal who took control. Olivier Giroud might have scored when Kolo Tour[c] sold Martin Skrtel short with a ball in front of his own area and Arsenal's French striker nipped in to take it away. With an ever-diminishing sight of goal, Giroud just reached the limits of his technique when he tried to chip the advancing Simon Mignolet. His effort went wide.

Arsenal worked another good opening for Giroud after 57 minutes and then Ramsey struck a brilliant second. He took the ball from Mesut -zil out on the right and, using the little bounce in the pass, he teed it up with his left and struck a swooping shot with his right foot that beat Mignolet easily.

Suarez drew a shot across goal after 73 minutes and his best chance came in the 87th minute when a Mertesacker mistake allowed him to run at goal and he shot wide with Sturridge free in the centre. Arsenal got lucky on that occasion but to be fair to them, there was nothing fortunate about this victory.

Arsenal (4-2-3-1): Szczesny; Sagna, Mertesacker, Koscielny, Gibbs (Vermaelen, 78); Ramsey, Arteta; Rosicky (Monreal, 72), -zil, Cazorla (Jenkinson, 84); Giroud. Liverpool (3-3-2-2): Mignolet; Tour[c], Skrtel, Sakho; Flanagan (Moses, 68), Lucas, Cissokho (Coutinho, h-t); Henderson, Gerrard; Suarez, Sturridge.

Referee: Martin Atkinson.

Man of the match: Ramsey (Arsenal)

Match rating: 6/10

## The Sunday Telegraph

### Arsenal ignite title charge

Arsenal 2 Cazorla 19, Ramsey 59

Liverpool 0 Att: 60,042

The fireworks were going off in the streets of Islington as this match drew to a close. If it is a bit of a stretch to describe this as the moment Arsenal's title challenge ignited, then this was the night when, for the first time, they truly believed.

This was a breathtaking performance, full of verve and vigour and composure and, most of all, confidence, that ethereal vapour that has been so lacking in NS of late.

If being top in autumn can be explained away, then going five points clear as winter takes its grip, having just dismantled your closest challengers, is a statement of an entirely different order. Arsenal are serious challengers for the Premier League title. And they know it.

There was so much to admire here, from the poise and discipline in defence to the soaring ambition in midfield, where Santi Cazorla and Mesut Ozil were polished cogs greased by the outstanding Aaron Ramsey.

They won without an entire legion of injured players, including Theo Walcott, Lukas Podolski, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and the latest casualty, Jack Wilshere, who succumbed to an ankle injury. By the end, following a second half played out in a near-carnival atmosphere, even Luis Suarez was merely a bit-part player, a fringe performer in a summer sideshow that had long since faded into sepia-tinted memory.

Suarez's name was met with boos when it was read out before the match and, as he wandered over to take a corner in front of the Arsenal fans during the early stages of the game, he was greeted with a lyrical, "you should have signed for a big club".

Perhaps this was just the mind playing tricks, but Arsenal appeared to be under instruction to give their would-be team-mate a special Emirates welcome. Laurent Koscielny piled in with a thunderous tackle early on, and Mikel Arteta was lucky not to give away a penalty when he went scything in on the half-hour. In for a penny, in for [pounds sterling]40,000,001.

The opening skirmishes merely confirmed the pre-match consensus that this was never going to end goalless. On 10 minutes, Jordan Henderson won the ball from Cazorla and was allowed to run unchallenged all the way from the halfway line to within sight of goal.

As Henderson shuffled nervously into the penalty area, as Arteta stood off him and Bacary Sagna snapped ineffectually at his heels, time appeared to be standing still.

So much time. Time enough for Henderson to panic. His leftfooted shot barely crossed the goal line.

Liverpool started well, but before long their weakness against well-delivered crosses, a failing that cost them against Southampton and Newcastle, had resurfaced again here.

Their long-established strategy of dominating the centre occasionally leaves them vulnerable to a flank attack, and here Arteta's quick ball to release Sagna down the right caught Liverpool out of position. Sagna crossed.

Olivier Giroud left the bouncing ball for Cazorla, whose header pinged against the outside of the post. With Martin Skrtel caught on his heels, Cazorla pounced quickest on the rebound. First time, and off-balance, he hammered the ball into the roof of the net.

Goalkeeper Simon Mignolet, still prostrate after his dive, was left flapping helplessly at the ball, like a man sitting on his sofa trying to swat a fly.

The clock showed 19 minutes. Such was the hurtling pace of the opening that it had felt like 90.

Arsenal could have been further ahead by the break. Another mesmerising kaleidoscope of passing triangles in the Liverpool area created a shooting opportunity for Ramsey, whose low left-footed shot was saved by Mignolet. Cazorla dragged a shot wide from 22 yards on the stroke of half-time.

The second half brought instant changes. The wretched Aly Cissokho was withdrawn at half-time, Philippe Coutinho replacing him on the left in a largely orthodox 4-4-2 formation.

Yes, Brendan Rodgers going 4-4-2: the equivalent of Radiohead putting away their fancy computers and releasing an album of sing-along pub bangers.

If it was an unfamiliar sight, there was also a certain logic in opening up the game. Unfortunately, it opened in Arsenal's favour.

With spaces now opening up all over the pitch, Arsenal could now play at will and break at pace. The warning signs were there for Liverpool even before Ramsey doubled Arsenal's lead on the hour. A few minutes earlier, Kolo Toure's pass to Skrtel had been intercepted by Giroud, who tried to chip Mignolet and put it just wide.

Toure was partly culpable for the goal, too, giving Ramsey far too much space as he received Ozil's pass just outside the Liverpool area.

Ramsey let the ball drop. For him, too, time appeared to stop, just as it had for Henderson earlier. As it bounced, he swung a right foot through it, giving the ball just enough dip and swerve to loop the ball out of the reach of Mignolet's dramatic dive.

Liverpool's flourishes were all too brief, the result never seriously in doubt despite the odd threatening burst. Daniel Sturridge -- and it is indicative in itself that this

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is the first time his name has demanded mention -- headed Henderson's cross over from 12 yards.

Suarez's first time shot from a tight angle kissed the outside of the post as it went. But these were mere sparkles, in a game in which it was Arsenal who provided all the fireworks.

Report card: Who looks the likelier league contenders?

**DEFENCE**

Both sides were far too open defensively to keep their managers happy, but Arsenal got away with it, as both Sturridge and Suarez were not at their most lethal. Arsene Wenger's big advantage here is that he has a settled back four in front of Wojciech Szczesny, with Mikel Arteta sitting deep. Brendan Rodgers has changed shape and personnel, and Liverpool's defence looked the more nervous.

**CREATIVITY**

No lack of creativity in either side, though it was the lesser lights outshining the stars at times. For Arsenal, Mesut Ozil was quiet again, Santi Cazorla's goal was the highlight of his contribution, but Arteta, Tomas Rosicky and, once again, Aaron Ramsey more than compensated. Liverpool's most creative player, Philippe Coutinho returned at halftime after his long injury lay-off and took a while to find his touch.

**FIREPOWER**

This may prove to be Arsenal's Achilles' heel unless Wenger signs a back-up for Olivier Giroud in January. They are heavily reliant on goals from midfield when the Frenchman is not firing, and Nicklas Bendtner is clearly no substitute. Liverpool's famed SAS - Suarez and Sturridge - left their shooting boots behind last night.

**STRENGTH IN DEPTH**

Arsenal's bench looked worryingly short on Premier League quality by comparison with Liverpool's.

**OVERALL**

Arsenal are in the box seat, five points clear at the top of the table. They have an abundance of creativity in midfield including the player of the season so far in Ramsey. But they don't have the depth of Liverpool.

**CONCLUSION**

Arsenal clearly ahead of Liverpool as contenders.

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### Gunners keep Luis Suarez quiet and increase lead at the top

Aaron Ramsey scored another superb goal as Arsenal beat Liverpool 2-0 at the Emirates Stadium to move five points clear at the top of the Barclays Premier League.

All of the pre-match hype had been about what impact Reds forward Luis Suarez would have against the club which tried to sign the Uruguay forward for £40,000,001 in the summer.

However, Arsenal answered the critics who had questioned their character for a sustained title bid following successive home defeats by Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League and after crashing out of the Capital One Cup against Chelsea on Tuesday night.

Santi Cazorla fired the Gunners ahead somewhat against the run of play on 19 minutes, lashing the ball home after his bullet header had come back off the post. Ramsey then made sure of all three points when on the hour he cracked in a sublime 25-yard half-volley for his 10th goal of an impressive campaign as Arsene Wenger's side renewed belief ahead of next week's European trip to Dortmund and Premier League game at Manchester United.

Arsenal, without midfielder Jack Wilshere who had been troubled by an ankle problem, created the first opening on six minutes when Tomas Rosicky was played into the right side of the penalty area and his low shot across goal was pushed behind by Simon Mignolet.

Liverpool, though, were soon on the offensive as Jordan Henderson waltzed all the way into the Arsenal penalty area, before scuffing his shot.

The visitors then settled into a good spell of possession, as Arsenal chased shadows.

Arsenal, though, swept into the lead on 19 minutes.

A quick break down the right found Bacary Sagna on the overlap.

His cross was behind Olivier Giroud, but fell perfectly for Cazorla on the penalty spot.

The Spaniard's bullet header beat Mignolet, but cannoned back off the post.

Cazorla, though, was first to the rebound ahead of a static Martin Skrtel and lashed a fine half-volley back past the goalkeeper.

Liverpool were understandably rattled after being so dominant - and were left further aggrieved when Suarez took a quick free-kick after being pushed over by Sagna, which released Daniel Sturridge who crossed for Henderson to tap into the net - only for referee Martin Atkinson to pull play back and book the Arsenal defender.

Arsenal pressed again as Ramsey got into the left side of the penalty area and his low shot was palmed away by Mignolet at the near post.

Reds boss Brendan Rodgers made a positive change for the second half as Aly Cissokho was replaced by midfielder Philippe Coutinho.

Suarez was released into the right side of the Arsenal box, but could only chip the ball across goal.

Liverpool broke quickly down the left through Suarez, only for his deep cross to be blasted over at the far post by Henderson.

There was a huge let-off for the visitors when a loose backpass from former Arsenal defender Kolo Toure was seized on by Giroud, who charged into the penalty area but chipped his shot wide.

Giroud then just could not get on the end of a quick counter attack from Rosicky and Cazorla down the left.

It was, though, 2-0 on 59 minutes as Ramsey cracked home another goal of the highest order.

There seemed little danger when Mesut Ozil fed the Wales midfielder in a central position, some 20 yards out.

However, as Toure backed off, Ramsey waited for the bouncing ball to sit up before dispatching a dipping volley over Mignolet and into the roof of the net.

Rodgers decided to make another attacking change as he sent on Victor Moses for Jon Flanagan.

Suarez shaved the far post from a curling effort with the outside of his right boot as the Reds looked for a way back into the match.

Mignolet saved low at his near post to deny Ozil after the German weaved into the left side of the Liverpool box.

Kieran Gibbs hobbled off after a burst down the left flank, and had to be replaced by club captain Thomas Vermaelen.

Arsenal were pressed back during the final 10 minutes, with Suarez dragging a shot wide when clean in on goal - but the hosts had already done enough to record the most impressive of their eight Premier League wins so far.



Arsenal extended their lead at the top of the Premier League to five points with victory over Liverpool at Emirates Stadium.

This game began as a meeting between the top two sides in the table and Arsenal showed resilience and quality to maintain their fine start to the season and stretch their advantage after Chelsea's surprise loss at Newcastle United.

Santi Cazorla gave Arsenal the lead with a fine first-half strike after his header struck the post and Aaron Ramsey scored his 10th goal of this campaign with a spectacular long-range effort on the hour.

Arsene Wenger's side have taken the lead in nine of their last 10 fixtures, the best record in the division

Luis Suarez hit the post for Liverpool late on but this was an impressive victory for manager Arsene Wenger's side as they recovered from the midweek Capital One Cup home defeat by Chelsea.

The result will be a bitter disappointment for Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers after they travelled to north London with optimism high after an excellent start to the season - but perhaps saw their own current status put into perspective by this defeat.

Cazorla and Ramsey will claim much of the credit with the goals that gave Arsenal the three points, but captain Mikel Arteta gave a midfield masterclass in which he overshadowed his Liverpool counterparts to set the platform for a vital win.

Liverpool suffered a setback prior to kick-off when England defender Glen Johnson was ruled out through illness. It gave an opportunity to local youngster Jon Flanagan, who had not made a Premier League start since April 2012.

Arsenal were without the injured Jack Wilshere but there was still more than enough ability on display in both sides to make the first 45 minutes a thrilling spectacle.

Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet was in early action to save from Tomas Rosicky, while Jordan Henderson appeared to surprise himself with the way he was able to weave through Arsenal's defence unchallenged and shot tamely at Wojciech Szczesny.

Arsenal, arguably against the run of play, took the lead after 19 minutes with a goal that was a tribute to Cazorla's balance and technique. He recovered his position brilliantly to volley past Mignolet after hitting the woodwork with a header.

Liverpool then felt they were denied an equaliser by referee Martin Atkinson when Jordan Henderson tapped in Daniel Sturridge's pass after Suarez, who had been hauled down by Bacary Sagna, had taken a quick free-kick, apparently too quickly for Atkinson's liking.

Cazorla and Ramsey both tested Mignolet before the interval and Liverpool's uncertainty at the back persuaded Rodgers to take off Aly Cissokho, who had toiled desperately, and replace him with fit-again Philippe Coutinho at half-time. It was Arsenal who created the moments of danger as Olivier Giroud failed to profit from ex-Gunners defender Kolo Toure's misplaced pass, then poked a shot straight at the keeper.

There was no mistake with Arsenal's second after 59 minutes. Ramsey made Liverpool pay for offering up time and space 25 yards out by finishing spectacularly high past Mignolet with the outside of his right foot.

Suarez had not been at his brilliant best but his threat was ever present, and he flashed a warning to Arsenal that this game was not done yet as he swerved an angled effort against the post with Szczesny beaten.

Arsenal were in control as the game drew to a close but were almost punished for a lack of concentration by Szczesny, who was so fortunate when his poor clearance struck Sturridge but bounced straight back into his arms.

Suarez then broke through seconds later but sent his finish wide of the target, a poor effort for a player of such high calibre.

Mesut Ozil almost added a third as Arsenal ended in comfort. And this was a performance that will have increased Wenger and Arsenal's confidence that they can maintain a serious challenge this season.

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Full time Match ends, Arsenal 2, Liverpool 0.

90:00+3:07 Full time Second Half ends, Arsenal 2, Liverpool 0.

90:00+2:45 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

90:00+1:56 Olivier Giroud (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90:00+1:56 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).

89:53 Booking Carl Jenkinson (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

89:48 Foul by Carl Jenkinson (Arsenal).

89:48 Victor Moses (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

89:36 Attempt saved. Mesut Özil (Arsenal left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Olivier Giroud.

88:33 Foul by Mesut Özil (Arsenal).

88:33 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

87:19 Attempt missed. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.

84:45 Offside, Arsenal. Per Mertesacker tries a through ball, but Olivier Giroud is caught offside.

83:51 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Arsenal. Carl Jenkinson replaces Santiago Cazorla.

82:22 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Aaron Ramsey.

82:21 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a through ball.

81:52 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

80:44 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Luis Suárez.

78:30 Offside, Liverpool. Kolo Touré tries a through ball, but Luis Suárez is caught offside.

77:49 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Arsenal. Thomas Vermaelen replaces Kieran Gibbs because of an injury.

77:46 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

76:56 Delay in match Kieran Gibbs (Arsenal because of an injury).

76:41 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Victor Moses.

75:05 Attempt saved. Mesut Özil (Arsenal left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Nacho Monreal.

72:58 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Kieran Gibbs.

72:56 Attempt blocked. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is blocked. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.

72:26 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Bacary Sagna.

71:57 Foul by Kieran Gibbs (Arsenal).

71:57 Victor Moses (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

71:36 Foul by Olivier Giroud (Arsenal).

71:36 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

71:15 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Arsenal. Nacho Monreal replaces Tomas Rosicky.

70:25 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.

67:26 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Victor Moses replaces Jon Flanagan.

67:02 Tomas Rosicky (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.

67:02 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).

65:30 Foul by Tomas Rosicky (Arsenal).

65:30 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

63:25 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

63:24 Attempt blocked. Kieran Gibbs (Arsenal right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Santiago Cazorla.

62:22 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Bacary Sagna.

58:36 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Arsenal 2, Liverpool 0. Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal right footed shot from outside the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Mesut Özil.

58:25 Bacary Sagna (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.

58:25 Foul by Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool).

56:49 Attempt saved. Olivier Giroud (Arsenal left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Santiago Cazorla.

54:44 Attempt missed. Olivier Giroud (Arsenal left footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses to the left.

49:27 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is too high. Assisted by Luis Suárez with a cross.

48:26 Attempt missed. Luis Suárez (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right misses to the left. Assisted by Kolo Touré.

45:00 Second Half begins Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0.

45:00 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho replaces Aly Cissokho.

45:00+1:04 Half time First Half ends, Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0.

44:39 Attempt missed. Santiago Cazorla (Arsenal left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Olivier Giroud.

41:48 Offside, Liverpool. Steven Gerrard tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

33:58 Foul by Mesut Özil (Arsenal).

33:58 Aly Cissokho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

33:05 Offside, Liverpool. Luis Suárez tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

30:30 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.

29:20 Foul by Olivier Giroud (Arsenal).

29:20 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

27:58 Booking Aly Cissokho (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

27:51 Bacary Sagna (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.

27:51 Foul by Aly Cissokho (Liverpool).

27:40 Attempt saved. Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Tomas Rosicky.

25:45 Offside, Liverpool. Steven Gerrard tries a through ball, but Kolo Touré is caught offside.

25:17 Booking Bacary Sagna (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

24:35 Foul by Bacary Sagna (Arsenal).

24:35 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

23:51 Olivier Giroud (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.

23:51 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).

20:46 Attempt missed. Santiago Cazorla (Arsenal left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left.

18:32 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. Santiago Cazorla (Arsenal right footed shot from the right side of the box to the high centre of the goal.

18:30 Santiago Cazorla (Arsenal hits the right post with a header from the centre of the box. Assisted by Bacary Sagna with a cross.

15:55 Tomas Rosicky (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.

15:55 Foul by Kolo Touré (Liverpool).

15:40 Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

13:44 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Wojciech Szczesny.

13:05 Foul by Laurent Koscielny (Arsenal).

13:05 Luis Suárez (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

8:47 Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right.

5:54 Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal wins a free kick in the attacking half.

5:54 Dangerous play by Luis Suárez (Liverpool).

5:16 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.

5:14 Attempt saved. Tomas Rosicky (Arsenal right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Santiago Cazorla.

2:05 Hand ball by Aaron Ramsey (Arsenal).

0:33 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

0:33 Foul by Bacary Sagna (Arsenal).

0:00 First Half begins.

0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.