

Date: 16 February 2014

Opposition: Arsenal

Competition: FA Cup

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theguardian

Podolski gives resilient Arsenal sweet revenge for Anfield mauling
 Arsenal are not supposed to win like this. In fact, Arsenal are not supposed to win at all when the prospect of silverware flashes before their eyes. With plenty of big guns cast from the FA Cup, the winner here knew that the chances of glory would soar, particularly as a home tie awaited in the quarter-finals, albeit a tough one against Everton. Liverpool will wonder how they lost. They were offensively dynamic, creating a host of chances, and though they were awarded one penalty for a foul on Luis Suarez, they could not believe that they were denied another one shortly afterwards. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, one of the Arsenal heroes, crashed into Suarez inside the area and it was a major surprise that the referee, Howard Webb, who had an extremely busy afternoon, ignored the Liverpool appeals. In the eyes of the club's supporters, it was further evidence that Webb has it in for them. Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, described it as a "blatant" penalty. Arsenal got the job done. It was a performance that was characterised by grit and defiance, and it was epitomised by the stand-in goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski, who made a string of vital saves. At full-time, Fabianski ran from his goal to slide on his knees in front of one of the main stands. Arsene Wenger had rotated his line-up before Wednesday's Champions League last-16 first-leg tie at home to Bayern Munich and it felt, especially after the 5-1 mauling at Liverpool in the Premier League the previous weekend, that Arsenal were somehow the underdogs.

But they punched their weight and they advanced on the back of two pieces of ruthless finishing, from the excellent Oxlade-Chamberlain and Lukas Podolski. Liverpool laid siege to the Arsenal goal for much of the second half and Rodgers was not exaggerating when he said that Liverpool might have scored five or six. But, despite the menace of Suarez they suffered a jolt to the momentum that has built behind them in recent weeks. This one really hurt because Liverpool looked good, and Daniel Sturridge took it particularly hard having missed three decent chances. He was disconsolate at full-time. Arsenal could simply savour revenge for the Anfield humbling and a timely boost to morale. Liverpool had threatened to reprise the blitz that they staged last weekend - when they led 4-0 after 20 minutes - and here Sturridge had two golden chances before the tie was five minutes old. They stemmed from lovely passes from Steven Gerrard and Philippe Coutinho respectively but, on the first occasion, Sturridge's shot was blocked by Fabianski, and on the second he went around the goalkeeper only to shoot into the side netting.

It was Arsenal who forged ahead and the goal owed much to the physical presence of Yaya Sanogo, the full debutant, plus a misjudgment from Martin Skrtel, who leapt for and missed Mesut Ozil's cross from the right. Sanogo got the ball down and shot; it struck Gerrard before breaking kindly to Oxlade-Chamberlain, who swept the ball past Brad Jones. The pace and intensity of the tie was unrelenting and there was much to admire in the technique on show from the creative players. There was also old-fashioned niggles, with Arsenal, unusually, looking to leave a mark on their opponents. Perhaps it was the return of Mathieu Flamini, the club's all snarling midfielder, or maybe it was Sanogo's presence. The crowd loved it when he closed down Daniel Agger on 28 minutes to make a blocking challenge. A serious back problem has undermined his first season at Arsenal but he bristled with a determination to make up for lost time. When he was substituted late on, he departed to a great ovation.

Webb showed five yellow cards in the first half and he let a couple of other challenges go, including Podolski's lunge at Jon Flanagan. Podolski had been caught moments earlier by Gerrard, who was spared. The Liverpool captain, though, went into the book for a cynical foul on Oxlade-Chamberlain and he was fortunate to escape a second yellow for a late tackle on the same player in the 75th minute. Flamini, obviously, was booked, for fouling Gerrard.

Suarez showed yet again that it is impossible to keep him quiet. He simmered in the first half and he came to the boil in the second. He had just worked Fabianski when Arsenal sprang forward to extend their lead. After Carl Jenkinson had won the ball, Oxlade-Chamberlain swapped passes with Ozil before cutting it back for Podolski and the German's shot beat Jones. Suarez and Liverpool merely intensified their efforts and they came to dominate, although Ozil did force Jones into one low save. Suarez and Sturridge had sightings before the tie swung again on the penalty. Podolski's hack at Suarez was needless and a clear penalty; Gerrard scored without fuss. Arsenal were fortunate that Webb did not whistle for the second one. After Suarez's free-kick had been blocked, the Uruguayan sought to work another opening inside the area only for Oxlade-Chamberlain to barge into him. Moments earlier, Sturridge had gone through only for Fabianski to thrust out a hand to thwart him, and although Suarez kept going, Liverpool knew it would not be their day when Agger headed wide from a Gerrard free-kick.

Man of the match Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal)

Tangled Webb:

Howard Webb was at the centre of three refereeing controversies

32nd minute

Doesn't book Podolski

Lukas Podolski takes out Jon Flanagan with a tackle that almost cuts the full-back in half. It arguably deserves a red card but the referee doesn't even show a yellow one

65th minute

Doesn't give penalty

Luis Suarez reacts to his free-kick being blocked by charging into the area, where he appears to be barged to the ground by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. Nothing is given

75th minute

Doesn't send off Gerrard

Steven Gerrard is not shown a yellow card after cleaning out Oxlade-Chamberlain. The Liverpool captain is very lucky to still be on the pitch having already been booked

Arsenal 4-2-3-1

Fabianski; Jenkinson, Mertesacker, Koscielny, Monreal*; Arteta, Flamini*; Oxlade-Chamberlain

(Gibbs, 75), Ozil, Podolski (Cazorla, 69); Sanogo

(Giroud, 88).

Subs not used Viviano, Sagna, Wilshere, Gnabry

Liverpool 4-3-3

Jones; Flanagan*, Skrtel, Agger, Cissokho (Henderson, 62); Allen, Gerrard*,

Coutinho*; Suarez,

Sturridge, Sterling.

Subs not used Toure, Aspas, Moses, Mignolet, Kelly, Teixeira

Referee H Webb



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The Mail

NOT BAD FOR A FAILURE! Wenger answers Jose jibe by keeping Arsenal on track for the Treble

ARSENAL 2 Oxlade-Chamberlain 16, Podolski 47 1
LIVERPOOL 1 Gerrard 59 (pen)

WITH one notable exception, most people in football feel a little protective of Arsene Wenger these days. The wonderful individuals he has nurtured, the fine football his teams have played, even Sir Alex Ferguson had warmed to him by the end. So this was a victory with a feelgood factor, despite its controversial nature. Wenger does not have to wake up this morning jeered as the master of failure. Jose Mourinho's mud will not stick, for now at least. Arsenal are in the FA Cup quarter-finals having run through a rather substantial minefield. They were not too horribly scarred by the 5-1 defeat inflicted at Anfield eight days earlier; they were not so distracted by Wednesday's match with European champions Bayern Munich; they were not exhausted by maintaining a trophy challenge on three fronts. Howard Webb, the referee, played his part in their win, no doubting that, but this was a gutsy, wholehearted display that had -- whisper it -- echoes of Mourinho's Chelsea in its secondhalf resistance. Arsenal toughed it out against arguably the most dangerous front three in English football right now. And the bottom line? Wenger is in the last eight and the provocateur Mourinho is not. Na-na-na-na-na, as they probably don't say in France. Did Arsenal get away with one yesterday? Yes. Webb had a day to forget, culminating in a decision to wave away what looked to be a very straightforward foul in the penalty area by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain on Luis Suarez. Having awarded a penalty for a foolish Lukas Podolski trip from behind on Suarez five minutes before, he may have balked at levelling the game from the spot. A pity. It would have been the right call. Podolski undoubtedly fouled Suarez for the penalty that was given -- and converted by Steven Gerrard, his sixth from six this season -- while The Ox got none of the ball but plenty of Suarez for the second appeal, criminally ignored. The best that can be said of Webb's performance was that he was an equal opportunity offender. Having denied Liverpool their potential equaliser, he then decided not to give a second yellow card to Gerrard for a late, sliding challenge on Oxlade-Chamberlain that looked a sure booking. It would be wrong to say the mistakes evened out, though. To go down to 10 men late in the game, while drawing 2-2, would not have affected Liverpool greatly. The consequence of that second penalty decision is there to see in the scoreline and the sixth-round draw. So did Arsenal deserve victory? Also yes, but only just. They rode a shaky start to lead after 16 minutes, then went two clear from their first attack of the second half. Liverpool's period of attacking domination came at that point which, considering the match situation, was only to be expected.

This is not a team that will win too many based on stout defence -- they have kept only four clean sheets against Premier League opposition since September 1 -- and their best gameplan revolves around the threat posed by Suarez, Daniel Sturridge and Raheem Sterling. Arsenal stood up to this triumvirate better than Liverpool's defence dealt with Oxlade-Chamberlain. It was perhaps the workout Arsenal's back line needed, with Bayern next in town. Oxlade-Chamberlain, too, was impressive and one hopes that his removal after 76 minutes was a sign Wenger wanted to keep him fresh for Wednesday. Real pace and an instinct for goal are vital qualities against a team as well drilled as Pep Guardiola's Bavarians, and Oxlade-Chamberlain has both by the bucketful. He used a poacher's qualities to sniff out Arsenal's first goal, then the refreshing directness of a natural wide player to outstrip his man to create the second. Roy Hodgson is in Manaus glad-handing the mayor, so may have missed the game, but Oxlade-Chamberlain's form since his return from injury is decent compensation for the absence of Theo Walcott. He was the difference here, even if his man-of-the-match plaudits might have undergone a slight revision had the foul on Suarez cost the win. It didn't, however, so all's well that ends well. And it may yet end very well for Arsenal if Wenger returns Mourinho's jibe with interest and lands his first trophy since 2005. The way modern football is governed by extreme finance, however, the FA Cup remains his best chance of that. Either way, short-term this was a big, confidence-boosting win and Wenger was even able to rest a few key players and progress. ENCOURAGINGLY, this was also Mesut Ozil's best performance for some time and he had a part in both goals. For the first, it was his cross that was met by Yaya Sanogo -- starting in place of Olivier Giroud -- who had a header blocked, then a fierce shot, before the ball ricocheted to Oxlade-Chamberlain, who buried it from 10 yards. For the second, it was Ozil whose pass set Oxlade-Chamberlain clear on the right, flying down the flank with Daniel Agger in fruitless pursuit, cutting the ball back to Podolski, who finished smartly past the unconvincing Brad Jones. There were other opportunities -- a one-two between Oxlade-Chamberlain and Sanogo which ended in a cross flashing past goal with no Arsenal man in attendance, a corner by Ozil to Per Mertesacker, whose header was tipped over -- but it was Liverpool who posed the livelier goal threat, and Arsenal had to be at their best to resist. Suarez and Sturridge were signalling intent after five minutes, the England striker rounding Lukas Fabianski but finding the side-netting, and once the first goal had gone in their urgent efforts increased. Just a minute before Arsenal got their second, a lovely pass inside by Joe Allen found Suarez, whose close control left him with only Fabianski to beat. The goalkeeper saved with his feet -- far from the only time his reactions were tested in the second half. His best save, the finest of the match, in fact, came after 63 minutes when Philippe Coutinho set Sturridge clear. only for Fabianski to make a brave, defiant

stop chasing from his line. His sole error was made late, as the pressure increased, tearing out to catch a Gerrard freekick, missing it completely and being fortunate that Daniel Agger steered his header wide. Liverpool players looked gutted, perhaps realising their greatest chance of tangible success -- qualifying for the Champions League would be a fine achievement, but no trophies are given for it -- had slipped by. They could win the League, of course, but a lot of teams ahead of them need to stumble, Arsenal among them, and this result should restore self-belief in north London. As for Wenger, that master of failure, he remains in with a chance of emulating Ferguson's 1999 Treble. He probably won't, but his followers can at least still dream -- and at this stage of the season that makes him anything but a flop.

The Daily Telegraph

Arsenal steel themselves for Bayern test

ARSENAL 2 Oxlade-Chamberlain 16, Podolski 47

LIVERPOOL 1 Gerrard 59 pen Att: 59,801

So much for the FA Cup losing its lustre. Arsenal and Liverpool fought so hard, counter-attacking brilliantly through Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Raheem Sterling respectively, and ferociously contesting every ball and many decisions. Arsenal emerged victorious, believing in themselves more, a well-timed adrenal shot with the most formidable side in Europe, Bayern Munich, gliding into town on Wednesday. This was a classic Cup tie, with Arsenal powering clear through the outstanding Oxlade-Chamberlain and Lukas Podolski before Liverpool rallied, storming forward and halving the deficit through a Steven Gerrard penalty on the hour. Lukasz Fabianski, Arsenal's reserve goalie, then kept Liverpool at bay in one of the most intense halves of football at the Emirates this season. Reminding the doubters of the Cup's enduring significance, Arsenal and Liverpool fans gave the Emirates a raucous, occasionally splenetic atmosphere, particularly when Howard Webb made two startlingly poor decisions. England's refereeing representative at the forthcoming World Cup, Webb failed to award Liverpool a second spot-kick when Oxlade-Chamberlain robustly impeded Luis Suarez. Unlucky Liverpool. Webb then failed to show a deserved second yellow to Gerrard for another foul on Oxlade-Chamberlain. Lucky Liverpool. It is a perennial disappointment that referees are forbidden from speaking after matches. A few words from Webb to the match broadcasters would have explained his thought process or brought a touch of contrition tempering the opprobrium thudding his way. In the age of the digital soapbox, everyone can have a say on decisions except the person who makes them. It would be instructive to learn whether reputation played a part, whether Suarez was paying a price for past misdemeanours and whether the England armband afforded Gerrard some protection. Who knows? The Professional Game Match Officials Limited does not allow the men in the middle to talk, although technically Webb was appointed by the FA for this game. Webb has previously requested PGMOL and the FA that referees be permitted to give clarifications on points of law. They refused. Both decisions were inexplicable, particularly as Webb was well placed to see the offences. There can be no excuses, barring the slight mitigating circumstances that Webb is less effective when not in his usual World Cup team with Darren Cann and Mike Mullarkey, two of the best assistants around. Webb, Cann and Mullarkey are all off to Brazil this summer and two other Englishmen surely edged closer. Oxlade-Chamberlain and Sterling were both terrific here, advertising their sustained, speedy threats to opposing defences. Sterling started on the left spent some time centrally, but ended up impressing with a mature display on the right, occupying both full-back and wing roles. Sterling did not deserve to see his road to Wembley with Liverpool end here, although he visits HQ soon enough when England take on Denmark on March 5. Oxlade-Chamberlain and Arsenal are on course for Wembley in the FA Cup without leaving London. Having dispensed with Spurs, Coventry and Liverpool at home, Arsenal now host Everton for the right to play in a Wembley semi-final. As ever, the Cup produces intrigue with Gareth Barry again pitted against his Bloemfontein nemesis, Mesut Ozil, and Mikel Arteta facing his old side. Everton's manager, Roberto Martinez, could have the qualities to be a successor to Arsene Wenger. That day is surely a long way away. Wenger's position was strengthened by a day of two victories, first in a football ground and then in the playground with his withering verdict on Jose Mourinho's tacky "specialist in failure" comments. "I am embarrassed for him," Wenger said. This was a good day all round for Wenger, who also managed (eventually) to work the zip on his obstinate sleeping-bag coat. With Liverpool in the Cup and then Bayern in the Champions League, Wenger described these few days as "Arsenal's Olympics" and they have started well, avoiding the downhill slope. They seemed determined to avenge the 5-1 mauling in the Premier League at Anfield last weekend. They had to ride an early storm, though. Daniel Sturridge squandered two good chances. Running on to a Gerrard through-pass, Sturridge caught the ball firmly enough with his weaker, right foot but Fabianski saved. Sturridge then darted through again, chasing Suarez's scooped pass, rounding Arsenal's reserve keeper but shot into the side-netting. Liverpool then discovered Arsenal far more resolute at the back and far more incisive with their attacking. Mathieu Flamini gave Arsenal more steel in midfield, although he was inevitably booked on his return from suspension. This was a different Arsenal to the ones who surrendered so limply at Anfield. Wenger gave a full debut in attack for Yaya Sanogo; the angular 21-year-old had played only 39 firstteam minutes before but proved an awkward customer for Daniel Agger and Martin Skrtel and eventually departed to

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a standing ovation. The road to victory began after 16 minutes. Ozil collected a clearance on the right, looking up and assessing his options, before bringing his left foot down and lifting the ball towards Sanogo. Skrtel, rushing out, missed his attempted interception, allowing the Frenchman to control the ball on his chest before unleashing a volley that struck the turning Gerrard. The ball bounced across the goal and Oxlade-Chamberlain was the quickest, hitting it back across past the sliding Agger and Brad Jones and into the net. Arsenal doubled their lead two minutes into the second half, the move started by Oxlade-Chamberlain who played the ball inside to Ozil before haring down the right. Ozil's pass was weighted to avoid Agger, and perfectly placed for Oxlade-Chamberlain, who reached the byline and pulled the ball back for Podolski to hammer the ball past Jones. Liverpool responded with huge hunger. Sturridge deceived Nacho Monreal and drew a good save from Fabianski. Podolski then clipped Suarez inside the box, gifting Liverpool a clear penalty. Gerrard calmly dispatched the spot-kick low to Fabianski's right. Fabianski denied Sturridge and then Suarez, Webb had his bad patch, before ending a frenetic tie and leaving Arsenal fans singing about Wembley.



Webb's spot of bother allows Arsenal to find their feet again

It was a pity that an FA Cup tie of this quality should have a referee's error at the heart of the outcome, and not just any error but a mistake from Howard Webb that got no easier to explain on the third, fourth or fifth viewing.

With Liverpool chasing the tie on 65 minutes and Luis Suarez running into the left of the area, his legs were taken away from underneath him by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain with the ball far enough beyond both of them for there to be no question about it being involved. In defence of Oxlade-Chamberlain it was not sneaky or malicious or even particularly cynical - it was just a plain old dumb foul that screamed penalty.

Asked about it later, the Arsenal man, who scored his side's first goal showed the politician's sleight of hand in avoiding the question of the legitimacy of whether it was a foul or not, pointing out that he only worried about the decisions that were given against him. He had not tried to con the referee and one suspects that, had Webb pointed to the spot, there would have been a resigned trudge to the edge of the area rather than an animated protest.

Webb had already given Liverpool one penalty by that point, when Lukas Podolski clipped Suarez's leg in the area and the striker went down. Steven Gerrard dispatched Lukas Fabianski to one side of his goal with the power of a glance in that direction, slotted his penalty into the other and his team were back in the tie with enough time for another goal.

Whether it was Suarez's past reputation for simulation that crossed the World Cup referee's mind, as he made that split-second decision, is debatable. More likely it was that he had given a penalty just seven minutes earlier that he may not have been completely convinced of and was in no frame of mind to do it again. Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, to his credit, did not excoriate the referee after the game, simply saying that Suarez should be given legitimate penalties, regardless of his reputation.

A clue to Webb's thinking came later when Gerrard, already booked, fouled Oxlade-Chamberlain as he prepared to cross from the right wing and was not given a second yellow card. Although the referee had also avoided booking Podolski on a number of occasions, one got the strong sense that Webb, having realised he had got the second penalty call wrong, was subconsciously opting out of big decisions from there on.

In so many aspects of the game Liverpool were the better side and even after they had gone behind within 16 minutes it felt like a matter of time before they would eventually punish Arsenal, but the goals never came. When it seemed they would overwhelm Arsenal, especially in the excellent performance of Raheem Sterling, they began the second half by being carved open for Podolski's goal. As for Arsenal, they rediscovered their confidence following the thumping at Anfield in the Premier League last weekend and the failure to beat Manchester United at home in midweek. Wenger made seven changes to his team, including a debut for Yaya Sanogo, which looked brave at the time. He later justified it by saying that many of his changes were a question of fitness. Jack Wilshere has a back problem, while Santi Cazorla and Kieran Gibbs, both second-half substitutes, were ill and not fully fit respectively. Bacary Sagna was "tired".

Sanogo played a role in the goal for Oxlade-Chamberlain, and despite a willing shift was raw at best. He was in the team in place of Olivier Giroud, who saw fit before the game to tweet his apologies about having been less than truthful over an extramarital relationship. Such are the demands made upon the modern footballer. In his absence, there was a much better performance from Mesut -zil and Oxlade-Chamberlain. The old defensive double act of Per Mertesacker and Laurent Koscielny, for the most part, did their job and, when he was called upon, Fabianski had a good game, especially two saves from Daniel Sturridge, the first of which was in the initial five minutes.

At the end of the game, Sturridge, who had missed three decent chances, looked like he was doing his best to express his sorrow with a prolonged bout of reflective sitting down on the pitch. Then he walked, handdog, to the away fans to hand over his shirt as an act of penance. "He's a wonderful player," Rodgers said of Sturridge, "we can't hold it against him."

In an early blitz by Liverpool Gerrard picked out Sturridge with a through ball and Fabianski saved. Shortly afterwards, Suarez played in his strike partner and Sturridge went round Fabianski but hit the side-netting with his shot. Oxlade-Chamberlain scored on 16 minutes. -zil recycled a free-kick from Mikel Arteta, Gerrard blocked Sanogo's shot and the young Englishman followed up. Towards the end of the half, Sterling grew stronger, accelerating around Carl Jenkinson at one point before stumbling over his cross. His response to Webb was a concern, with Gerrard called over to placate his young team-mate. Arsenal's second goal, after half-time, was excellent. Sterling lost the ball on the left and from -zil to Oxlade-Chamberlain it was worked to Podolski to finish. Their confidence grew and after the hour Rodgers made a major tactical change, bringing off Aly Cissokho for Jordan Henderson, switching Jon Flanagan to left-back and moving Sterling to cover most of the right side. He pushed his full-backs on and left the defending to his centre-halves. It was an anxious finale for Arsenal, especially when Fabianski came for a cross and got nowhere near to it. Luckily for him, Daniel Agger's header was off target. In the end it came back to the penalty that had not been given at a time when Suarez was the key player for Liverpool. In Rodgers' view, his side had "virtually dominated most of the game".

That might be putting it a bit strongly, but they came in the mood to win the match and had the chances to do so. But Arsenal held them off to earn a tie against Everton and the team-change gamble worked for Wenger, who retains an interest in a trophy that, whatever happens to Arsenal in the league, would make for a nice end to his season.



REDEMPTION

THE swingometer went back to Arsene Wenger being a genius. If it's not Jose Mourinho branding him a "specialist in failure", then it's Wenger gambling on making seven changes to spare his players for Bayern Munich.

It has been one hell of a week for Arsenal after the five-goal humbling at Liverpool when Wenger's management was questioned. Yet, eight days later, he proved the doubters wrong again. This felt like redemption for Wenger and vindication for his team selection as Arsenal are into the quarter-finals and Chelsea aren't. Who is the failure now, Jose? Certainly not Wenger.

Arsenal rode their luck at times and Liverpool will go home wondering how they lost the tie. Especially when England's World Cup referee Howard Webb failed to give them a stonewall penalty. It was a fantastic rip-roaring cup tie which just went to prove that the FA Cup really means something. Arsenal's fans at the end were euphoric, cheering every last player off the pitch. It needed heroics from Arsenal keeper Lukas Fabianski to keep out Luis Suarez and the defence was pushed to the limit by the pace and runs of Raheem Sterling and Daniel Sturridge. But in the end, the ruthless finishing of Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Lukas Podolski was enough to see off Liverpool. Oxlade-Chamberlain's performance of pace, power and strength also means that Wenger will find it hard to resist not picking him to start against Bayern Munich. But more important, the momentum from this victory will surely restore the belief which had been chipped away by the defeat at Anfield and midweek draw with Manchester United. That clearly had taken its toll as Liverpool started much brighter, twice Sturridge - looking to set a club record of scoring on his ninth consecutive appearance - went close in the opening five minutes. But after their slow start, Mikel Arteta and Mathieu Flamini dug in, showed grit in the midfield battle and Arsenal pushed forward with Yaya Sanogo, the biggest surprise of all, really putting in a shift on his full debut. When Arteta's set-piece was not cleared, Mesut Ozil swung the ball back in, Sanogo's 16th-minute shot was blocked by Steven Gerrard and Oxlade-Chamberlain rifled the ball into the net. But Liverpool came back well. Sterling's pace was only countered by Carl Jenkinson's energy while Luis Suarez looked unstoppable. Fabianski defied Suarez time and again. But as Liverpool piled on the pressure, Arsenal broke out. Jenkinson robbed Sterling and Oxlade-Chamberlain's pull-back was perfect for Podolski to rifle home after 47 minutes.

That could have been that as Arsenal had, before yesterday, kept 10 clean sheets in their last 12 games at the Emirates. But Podolski sent Suarez tumbling. Gerrard, with his usual poise, sent Fabianski the wrong way on the hour mark and it was game on again. And just six minutes later, Oxlade-Chamberlain's challenge on Suarez sent the Uruguayan flying. It was a clearer penalty than the first but Webb waved away the appeals. It was a howler. Arsenal hung on to gain revenge for Anfield, and Wenger's FA Cup gamble was justified.

ARSENAL: Fabianski 8, Jenkinson 8, Mertesacker 7, Koscielny 8, Monreal 7, Arteta 7, Flamini 7, Ozil 7, Oxlade-Chamberlain 8 (Gibbs 75), Podolski 7 (Cazorla 69, 6), Sanogo 7 (Giroud 88).

LIVERPOOL: Jones 6, Flanagan 6, Skrtel 6, Agger 6, Cissokho 6 (Henderson 62, 6), Gerrard 7, Allen 7, Coutinho 7, Sterling 8, Suarez 8, Sturridge 7.

REF: Howard Webb ATT: 59,801

MATCH STATS

43% POSSESSION 57%
3 SHOTS ON TARGET 7
2 SHOTS OFF TARGET 5
8 CORNERS 5
3 OFFSIDE 3
19 FOULS 12
2 0 CARDS 3 0

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Arsenal 2 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 16, Podolski 47)

Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 59 pen)

Steven Gerrard's 59th-minute penalty wasn't enough as earlier goals in either half from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Lukas Podolski sent the Gunners through to a quarter-final showdown at home to Everton. But Brendan Rodgers' side were hugely aggrieved not to be awarded another spot kick by referee Howard Webb after Luis Suarez, fouled for the first penalty, was clearly felled by Oxlade-Chamberlain inside the area. Liverpool, though, were guilty of spurning a succession of chances with Daniel Sturridge – aiming to become the first player in the club's history to score in nine consecutive appearances – the prime culprit. How the Reds could have done with one more of the five they thumped past Arsenal in their historic 5-1 top-flight victory last weekend. Now the Premier League – with a top-four finish still the priority – remains their sole focus for the remaining weeks of the season. While this week again downplaying suggestions of a title challenge, Rodgers was far more forthcoming over his team's chances of FA Cup glory. His starting line-up said as much, although there were still three changes from the side that won dramatically at Fulham in midweek. Daniel Agger replaced Kolo Toure for his first start since the third round win over Oldham Athletic last month, while Jordan Henderson's wrist surgery meant a place in midfield for Joe Allen. The big call, though, came between the sticks where Brad Jones continued as goalkeeper in the competition. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, with one eye on his team's imminent Champions League showdown Bayern Munich, dipped into his squad with Yaya Sanogo making his first start for the club in attack. Six players remained from the team thumped at Anfield eight days' earlier. Yet it appeared they hadn't learned their lesson as they twice almost conceded inside the opening five minutes. In the second minute, a fine throughball from Steven Gerrard released Daniel Sturridge only for the striker's angled drive to be saved by the legs of Arsenal goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski before being booted behind.

Sturridge, though, should have done much better moments later when found by Suarez's classy lofted pass over the top of the Arsenal defence, the striker touching the ball around Fabianski but thumping into the side-netting with his lesser-used right foot. Those misses proved costly when the Gunners went ahead on 16 minutes with Liverpool once again unable to properly defend a set-piece. To be fair, there was a fair element of fortune involved. Mikel Arteta's free-kick from the left wasn't properly cleared and, after Mesut Ozil returned the ball into the box from the right flank, Sanogo's shot struck Gerrard and bounced kindly for Oxlade-Chamberlain to thump beyond Jones from 12 yards.

Liverpool then dominated the remainder of the half in terms of possession but only rarely threatened to pierce an Arsenal backline far better organised than the previous weekend. They were helped by Suarez being largely on the periphery on the right flank and the Reds' reluctance to test Fabianski with any speculative efforts. Raheem Sterling, Liverpool's most dangerous weapon, raced down the left flank in the 34 minute and cut back inside the area only for his eventual shot to be blocked. Referee Webb was busy dishing out a flurry of yellow cards during a fiery encounter in which scores were certainly being settled.

Liverpool began to knock louder either side of the interval.

Suarez reached a searching ball over the top from Allen and drew a fine save from Fabianski then, 33 seconds into the second half, was fed by the same player, drifted beyond Koscielny only to be denied by the foot of Fabianski.

But the visitors' task became more difficult on 47 minutes when they fell victim for a swift Arsenal counter-attack, Oxlade-Chamberlain exchanging passes with Ozil, racing away from Agger down the right and then cutting back for Podolski to finish first time. The game opened up. Suarez shot over, Jones saved well from Ozil and Fabianski clutched a fierce Sturridge effort. Then the Reds were gifted a route back into the game on 59 minutes when, with Suarez going nowhere, Podolski couldn't resist a daft kick at the Uruguayan for a clear if needless penalty from which Gerrard kept his nerve to convert. And Liverpool should have been level four minutes later. Philippe Coutinho won possession in midfield and slipped a perfect ball in for Sturridge, but the striker took too long to go around Fabianski and allowed the keeper to touch the ball clear. Then came the moment of controversy. After his initial free-kick was charged down, Suarez reached the rebound first only to be taken out by Oxlade-Chamberlain. Incredibly, Webb waved away appeals despite being mere yards from the offence. Liverpool kept chipping away. Suarez played a one-two with Allen and shot powerfully at Fabianski before scuffing a volley at the keeper, while Coutinho couldn't convert a delicious Gerrard pass. Arsenal were upset Gerrard didn't receive a second yellow card for a foul on Oxlade-Chamberlain, but it wasn't the only such oversight from the poor Webb. Agger beat Fabianski to a Gerrard free-kick only to head wide, but there was to be no late drama as at Craven Cottage five days earlier.

ARSENAL (4-2-3-1): Fabianski; Jenkinson, Mertesacker, Koscielny, Monreal; Arteta, Flamini; Oxlade-Chamberlain (Gibbs 76), Ozil, Podolski (Cazorla 70); Sanogo (Giroud 88). Subs: Viviano, Sagna, Wilshere, Gnabry. BOOKINGS: Monreal and Flamini (both fouls).

LIVERPOOL (4-1-4-1): Jones; Flanagan, Skrtel, Agger, Cissokho (Henderson 62); Gerrard; Suarez, Coutinho, Allen, Sterling; Sturridge. Subs: Mignolet, Toure, Aspas,

Moses, Kelly, Teixeira. BOOKINGS: Flanagan, Coutinho and Gerrard (all fouls).

REFEREE: Howard Webb.

ATT: 59,801.



Arsene Wenger answers his critics as Gunners execute perfect response to Anfield drubbing

Arsenal avenged their Anfield aberration with a 2-1 defeat of Liverpool in a pulsating FA Cup fifth-round clash at the Emirates Stadium.

The Gunners, still reeling from last weekend's 5-1 Premier League loss at Liverpool, twice scored in the opening 50 minutes despite being second best before surviving a second-half onslaught to set up a home quarter-final with Everton. Arsene Wenger was described as "a specialist in failure" by Chelsea's Jose Mourinho on Friday after last leading Arsenal to a trophy almost nine years ago, in the 2005 FA Cup, but now his side are in the last eight. The Blues are out. Arsenal conceded four times in the opening 20 minutes at Anfield and might have gone behind twice in the opening five minutes on Sunday.

Both chances fell to Daniel Sturridge, who was unable to add to his nine goals in the previous eight games, before Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain put Arsenal in front. Lukasz Fabianski was alert to deny Luis Suarez an equaliser and Arsenal broke to double their advantage when Oxlade-Chamberlain turned provider for Lukas Podolski. The Germany forward then tripped Suarez and Steven Gerrard converted the resulting penalty. Howard Webb might have awarded Liverpool another spot-kick when Oxlade-Chamberlain made a late challenge on Suarez, but the Uruguayan's amateur dramatics did him no favours.

Daniel Agger headed wide of an open goal in the 87th minute when Fabianski failed to meet Gerrard's free-kick and Arsenal held on to advance to jubilant scenes in north London. Wenger's team selection suggested Wednesday's Champions League last-16 tie with Bayern Munich was his priority as he made seven changes from the side which began the dour goalless draw with Manchester United. Yaya Sanogo made his first start and only Per Mertesacker, Laurent Koscielny, Mesut Ozil and Mikel Arteta - suspended in Europe - were retained against a Liverpool side unburdened by continental competition this term. Brendan Rodgers' men showed their Premier League title credentials at Anfield and threatened to tear through the Gunners again.

First Gerrard slid a pass through to Sturridge, who shot into Fabianski's legs when he should have done better. Then Suarez lofted the ball over a static Arsenal defence and, with angle always becoming more acute, Sturridge fired into the side-netting.

The Reds found themselves behind when they cleared a corner only as far as Ozil, who turned the ball back into the area.

Sanogo brought it down on his chest and had a shot blocked by Gerrard, but the ball broke for Oxlade-Chamberlain for a composed finish.

Flamini, back from a three-match ban, was shown a yellow card for a late tackle on Gerrard, becoming the fourth player booked in a feisty first half.

The hosts survived after threatening runs from Raheem Sterling and Suarez, who saw a volley across goal saved by Fabianski.

Arsenal had few moments of respite and had a promising counter-attack brought to an abrupt halt when Gerrard was booked for tripping Oxlade-Chamberlain, who was the hosts' most-threatening attacker in the first half.

Suarez, with one goal in his previous six games, was denied by the feet of Fabianski in the opening seconds of the second half and was made to pay.

Carl Jenkinson won the ball on the right wing and Arteta fed Oxlade-Chamberlain who broke down the wing and cut the ball back for Podolski to tuck in.

Still Liverpool looked the more dangerous side.

A Suarez shot dipped narrowly over before Ozil forced Jones to save sharply at the other end.

Sturridge was denied by Fabianski before Podolski clumsily tripped Suarez from behind and Webb pointed to the spot. Gerrard sent Fabianski the wrong way.

The Poland goalkeeper had to get his timing spot on and did when Sturridge attempted to round him moments later following a defence-splitting Philippe Coutinho pass. Liverpool appealed for another penalty when Oxlade-Chamberlain mis-timed his tackle on Suarez, whose exaggerated tumble meant Webb was unmoved. Replays suggested the official was wrong.

Liverpool introduced Jordan Henderson, who underwent a small operation on a wrist injury on Thursday, and continued to pore forward, with Suarez becoming increasingly influential and twice testing Fabianski.

Arsenal were playing on the counter-attack and substitute Santi Cazorla wasted a good opportunity set up by Oxlade-Chamberlain, who was then tripped by Gerrard.

The Liverpool skipper was fortunate not to receive a second yellow card.

Liverpool should have levelled when Fabianski failed to meet Gerrard's free-kick and Agger headed off target as Arsenal survived again.

Sturridge tied Fabianski's boot laces to ensure the goalkeeper had little time to waste, but that was as close as Liverpool got to Arsenal's goal in stoppage time as the Gunners progressed.

Date: 16 February 2014

Opposition: Arsenal

Competition: FA Cup

Telegraph	Mirror	Standard
Guardian	Mail	BBC
Independent	Echo	

16 February
2014



Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain scored one and set up the other as Arsenal earned a degree of revenge on Liverpool to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals. The Gunners, thrashed 5-1 at Anfield in the Premier League last week, led when Oxlade-Chamberlain guided in a loose ball after 16 minutes. The England winger provided the cross for Lukas Podolski to fire in from 15 yards at the start of the second half. Steven Gerrard converted a penalty but Liverpool could not force an equaliser. However, the visitors felt they should have been awarded the opportunity to level from the spot when Luis Suarez was sent tumbling inside the Arsenal area by Oxlade-Chamberlain. But referee Howard Webb, who will go to the World Cup this summer as England's top official, decided Oxlade-Chamberlain's clumsy challenge from behind was fair. It meant the Gunners were able to survive a Liverpool onslaught and hold on for victory in a dramatic fifth-round tie at Emirates Stadium, booking a quarter-final date with Everton. More pertinently, the win will serve to further restore Arsenal's confidence after their Anfield thrashing in time for the visit of Champions League opponents Bayern Munich on Wednesday. Gunners manager Arsene Wenger claimed his side would react positively and, after they survived another rampant start from their Premier League title rivals, they responded in the manner demanded by the Frenchman. FA Cup quarter-final draw
Arsenal v Everton
Brighton & Hove Albion or Hull City v Sunderland
Sheffield United v Sheffield Wednesday or Charlton Athletic
Manchester City v Wigan Athletic
Ties to be played 8/9 March
A much-changed home side had barely threatened in the opening stages before Oxlade-Chamberlain broke the deadlock. He pounced on a loose ball in the Liverpool box, after debutant Yaya Sanogo's shot was blocked by Reds skipper Gerrard, to calmly steer past Brad Jones. However, Arsenal were fortunate not to be already trailing as the Reds produced a high-tempo start, just as they had last week. Brendan Rodgers's side should have led through in-form striker Daniel Sturridge, who was aiming to become the first Reds player to score in nine successive matches. Inside the opening five minutes, Sturridge fired into the legs of Arsenal goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski and then smashed into the side-netting after rounding the Pole. Uruguay international Suarez, the subject of a failed £40m-plus bid from Arsenal in the summer, tested Fabianski twice either side of the break, before Oxlade-Chamberlain turned creator for Arsenal's second. He raced past Daniel Agger down the right before picking out Podolski with an inch-perfect cutback. Feed the Ox
Arsenal winger Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain has scored three goals and assisted once in his last three appearances for the Gunners at the Emirates. But the German handed a lifeline to Liverpool when he clumsily fouled Suarez from behind in the area. Gerrard confidently sent Fabianski the wrong way to halve the deficit with his eighth goal of the season - and it set up a grandstand final half-hour. The match, which had already been an entertaining spectacle, exploded into life as Liverpool rediscovered their attacking rhythm and laid siege to the Arsenal goal. Sturridge was denied by the legs of Fabianski after being picked out by Philippe Coutinho with a deft and perfectly-measured through-ball. The Poland goalkeeper, making only his fifth start of the season in place of regular stopper Wojciech Szczesny, was rapidly emerging as Arsenal's hero and denied Liverpool again when he held Coutinho's angled drive. However, he almost cost his side when he made his first mistake in the final five minutes. He tried to punch clear Gerrard's deep free-kick, but was beaten to the ball by Agger, who headed wide. And that was Liverpool's last chance of a dramatic equaliser as Arsenal, who are aiming for their first silverware since winning the FA Cup in 2005, celebrated a priceless win.

Date: 16 February 2014

Opposition: Arsenal

Competition: FA Cup

Telegraph	Mirror	Standard	16 February 2014
Guardian	Mail	BBC	
Independent	Echo		



Full time Match ends, Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1.
90:00+3:30Full time Second Half ends, Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1.
90:00+2:41 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
90:00+2:41 Mesut Özil (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.
89:37 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).
89:37 Per Mertesacker (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.
89:03 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
89:03 Foul by Mikel Arteta (Arsenal).
87:51Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Arsenal. Olivier Giroud replaces Yaya Sanogo.
87:11 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
87:11 Foul by Kieran Gibbs (Arsenal).
86:36 Foul by Jon Flanagan (Liverpool).
86:36 Yaya Sanogo (Arsenal wins a free kick in the attacking half.
85:45 Attempt missed. Daniel Agger (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses the top right corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard following a set piece situation.
85:18 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
85:18 Foul by Mikel Arteta (Arsenal).
81:18 Offside, Arsenal. Yaya Sanogo tries a through ball, but Mesut Özil is caught offside.
78:29 Offside, Arsenal. Nacho Monreal tries a through ball, but Kieran Gibbs is caught offside.
76:47 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.
75:10Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Arsenal. Kieran Gibbs replaces Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.
74:01 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool).
74:01 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.
72:18 Offside, Liverpool. Martin Skrtel tries a through ball, but Luis Suarez is caught offside.
71:24 Attempt missed. Santiago Cazorla (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high.
69:59 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Nacho Monreal.
68:46Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Arsenal. Santiago Cazorla replaces Lukas Podolski.
68:09 Hand ball by Yaya Sanogo (Arsenal).
67:51 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Joe Allen.
64:12 Attempt blocked. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
63:11 Jon Flanagan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
63:11 Foul by Mikel Arteta (Arsenal).
62:11 Offside, Arsenal. Mikel Arteta tries a through ball, but Lukas Podolski is caught offside.
61:12Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson replaces Aly Cissokho.
60:24 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
60:24 Foul by Laurent Koscielny (Arsenal).
59:45 Foul by Daniel Agger (Liverpool).
59:45 Yaya Sanogo (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.
58:59Goal scored Goal!Goal! Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the bottom left corner.
58:14 Penalty Liverpool. Luis Suarez draws a foul in the penalty area.
58:14 Penalty conceded by Lukas Podolski (Arsenal after a foul in the penalty area.
56:40 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Luis Suarez.
55:19 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is close, but misses the top right corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling with a cross.
54:30 Attempt saved. Mesut Özil (Arsenal left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Lukas Podolski.
53:25 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Jon Flanagan.
52:34 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
52:34 Foul by Lukas Podolski (Arsenal).
50:36 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
50:36 Foul by Mathieu Flamini (Arsenal).
50:02 Offside, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.
49:46 Daniel Agger (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
49:46 Foul by Yaya Sanogo (Arsenal).
49:15 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Joe Allen.
48:37 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Daniel Agger.
46:48Goal scored Goal!Goal! Arsenal 2, Liverpool 0. Lukas Podolski (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.
45:40 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.
45:37 Attempt blocked. Aly Cissokho (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Joe Allen.
45:32 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Joe Allen.
45:00 Second Half begins Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0.
45:00+1:19Half time First Half ends, Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0.
45:00+0:04 Foul by Yaya Sanogo (Arsenal).
45:00+0:04 Daniel Agger (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

44:57 Attempt blocked. Per Mertesacker (Arsenal header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Mesut Özil with a cross.
44:29 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Daniel Agger.
44:26 Attempt blocked. Yaya Sanogo (Arsenal left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Lukas Podolski.
43:13 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.
42:49 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Joe Allen.
41:59Booking Steven Gerrard (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
41:53 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool).
41:53 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal wins a free kick in the attacking half.
38:46 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
38:46 Foul by Carl Jenkinson (Arsenal).
36:04 Attempt missed. Lukas Podolski (Arsenal left footed shot from the left side of the box is high and wide to the left.
34:10Booking Mathieu Flamini (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
34:06 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
34:06 Foul by Mathieu Flamini (Arsenal).
32:38 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mathieu Flamini.
32:35 Attempt blocked. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is blocked. Assisted by Aly Cissokho.
32:06 Jon Flanagan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
32:06 Foul by Lukas Podolski (Arsenal).
31:13 Foul by Steven Gerrard (Liverpool).
31:13 Lukas Podolski (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.
30:29 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
30:29 Foul by Mikel Arteta (Arsenal).
29:21 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.
28:20 Offside, Liverpool. Martin Skrtel tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.
22:49 Foul by Lukas Podolski (Arsenal).
22:49 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
21:38 Laurent Koscielny (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.
21:38 Foul by Luis Suarez (Liverpool).
20:49 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Nacho Monreal.
19:49Booking Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
19:45 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal wins a free kick on the right wing.
19:45 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).
19:34 Per Mertesacker (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.
19:34 Foul by Daniel Agger (Liverpool).
18:55 Foul by Nacho Monreal (Arsenal).
18:55 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
15:46Goal scored Goal!Goal! Arsenal 1, Liverpool 0. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal following a set piece situation.
15:44 Attempt blocked. Yaya Sanogo (Arsenal right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Mesut Özil.
14:46Booking Jon Flanagan (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
14:39 Nacho Monreal (Arsenal wins a free kick on the left wing.
14:39 Foul by Jon Flanagan (Liverpool).
14:11 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Bradley Jones.
13:27 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Joe Allen.
9:31 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
6:19Booking Nacho Monreal (Arsenal is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
6:09 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
6:09 Foul by Nacho Monreal (Arsenal).
4:18 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Luis Suarez with a through ball.
3:31 Foul by Mikel Arteta (Arsenal).
3:31 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
2:42 Corner, Arsenal. Conceded by Aly Cissokho.
1:43 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Per Mertesacker.
1:42 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a through ball.
1:00 Yaya Sanogo (Arsenal wins a free kick in the defensive half.
1:00 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).
0:00 First Half begins.
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.