

Date: 27 April 2014
 Opposition: Chelsea
 Competition: League

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27 April 2014

THE TIMES

Mourinho 'buses' put the brakes on dream machine

Liverpool 0
 Chelsea 2 Ba 45, Willian 90
 Referee M Atkinson Attendance 44,726

So this is what happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object. Whatever the powerful, mysterious force that seemed to have been driving Liverpool to their first league title in 24 years, the magic faded at Anfield yesterday in the face of unyielding opposition from Jose Mourinho's Chelsea. An afternoon that began amid such fervent expectation for Liverpool, whose supporters paraded banners imploring their players to "make us dream", turned into a nightmare. Indeed, for Steven Gerrard, it was worse than that. The Liverpool captain would be forgiven for wondering how long he will be haunted by the fateful error and slip that paved the way for Demba Ba's all-important opening goal in first-half stoppage time. Days? Weeks? Months? Years? It has long felt hazardous to make predictions about this Barclays Premier League title race, but that felt suspiciously like the moment when the bubble burst for Liverpool. Mourinho might prefer to see it as a slow puncture. Chelsea's approach, with so many players unavailable and others rested in advance of the Champions League semi-final, second leg against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, seemed designed to deflate as well as frustrate. It was a masterclass in a certain type of football -- winning football, Mourinho will say. Brendan Rodgers, the Liverpool manager, took issue with Chelsea's tactics; rather than "park the bus," he said they had "parked two buses". Rodgers, who served as a youth-team coach under Mourinho at Stamford Bridge, suggested that Chelsea's approach was "not difficult to do" and "the polar opposite of what we do", but what is certain is that it is difficult to break down. Liverpool had won 14 and drawn two out of their previous 16 Barclays Premier League matches, scoring 52 goals in the process, since a 2-1 defeat by Chelsea on December 29. If anyone expected Chelsea to fall into the same trap as Manchester City, Arsenal and just about everyone else, though, leaving themselves open to the Liverpool Blitzkrieg, then they do not know Mourinho. This Chelsea starting line-up featured seven changes from that in Madrid last Tuesday, but that just goes to demonstrate Mourinho's unrivalled ability to coax dogged, determined, disciplined performances out of just about any combination of players. That this one was achieved with a line-up that included Tomas Kalas, a 20-year-old defender making his first Premier League start, simply underlined how well that game plan -- basic or otherwise -- had been drilled into the team over the previous days. It was never going to be pretty. That was clear from the very first moments as Mark Schwarzer and Cesar Azpilicueta started time-wasting. Martin Atkinson, the referee, failed to address it and frustration crept into a Liverpool team who in recent weeks have often been 2-0 up by the midway point of the first half. There was a half-chance early on for Philippe Coutinho, who sent a sidefooted volley just wide of Schwarzer's near post, but, for all the attacking intent of Luis Suarez and Raheem Sterling, Liverpool did not come close to replicating the fluency they had shown at Anfield over the previous months. How could they, when Azpilicueta, Branislav Ivanovic, Kalas and the excellent Ashley Cole formed such a compact, narrow back four, with John Obi Mikel, Nemanja Matic and Frank Lampard closing down the space in midfield? Liverpool missed the energy of Jordan Henderson in midfield and the longer the first half went on, the clearer it became that this game was not to their liking. Chelsea barely looked interested in attack, with Andre Schurrle and Mohamed Salah looking like auxiliary full backs rather than wingers, but they broke to force a couple of dead-ball situations. From one, an Azpilicueta throw-in, Ba had a header saved. From another, a Lampard corner, Kalas rose, unmarked, in the six-yard box and sent a header wide. There is an irony in that both Chelsea goals came in stoppage time -- Ba at the end of the first half, Willian at the very end -- as a result of the very time-wasting that had so irked Liverpool. Not only did it succeed in breaking Liverpool's rhythm, but it seemed to tell them that playing their own game, the one that had come so naturally over the previous weeks, might not be enough, even though a draw yesterday would have kept their destiny in their hands. That, though, cannot explain the Gerrard mistake. It was the type of routine pass he has received tens of thousands of times over the course of his career, just short of the halfway line in a central position, but somehow the ball eluded his control and, as it did, he slipped. Gerrard gave chase, but it was too late. Ba was away. The forward calmly shot past Simon Mignolet and, not for the first time in a match against Chelsea, Gerrard looked crestfallen. Rodgers said afterwards that he had told his players that "this [Gerrard] is a boy who has picked up this club so many times" and "we were hoping that one could step up to the plate instead of him". For once this season, none did. Suarez and Sterling persisted but were largely ineffective. Coutinho's final ball was sorely lacking. Daniel Sturridge, a substitute, did not look fit enough to make an impact against a defence in which Kalas and Cole, in particular, grew in stature as the game went on. Anfield has always looked to Gerrard at moments like this. On this occasion, inspiration was not forthcoming. He lined up a succession of shots from the edge of the penalty area, but his usual conviction and power was missing. The earlier mistake seemed to be playing on his mind and that of the whole team. In desperation, Rodgers sent on Iago Aspas, and when Fernando Torres was summoned from the Chelsea bench, it seemed to be written that the former Liverpool hero might score a second. As it transpired, a mistake in

stoppage time did allow Torres to streak clear, but, bearing down on Mignolet, he preferred to give Willian a tap-in. As Mourinho celebrated, the mood inside Anfield darkened. The Liverpool bandwagon had run into a roadblock and Chelsea were on the move again. What a title race. What a season.

the guardian

Gerrard suffers agony as Chelsea ambush leaves Anfield in despair
 When it was all finished, with Steven Gerrard ruminating on a mistake that threatens to stick to his conscience like superglue, Brendan Rodgers could not disguise his disdain. "There were probably two buses parked today instead of one," he said. Chelsea, he said, had been time-wasting from the first minute, defending with 10 players on the 18-yard line. Liverpool's manager smiled and stabbed. It was not difficult to coach a team to be that negative, he added. No doubt there will be plenty who share his dislike of the way Chelsea set about to smother this game. Their tactics were cynical, calculated and often maddening. They were also, ultimately, spot on and that really was the bottom line after Liverpool's inability to get past those two buses had blown a gaping hole in their title chances. The handbrake was on, the keys had been chucked into the nearest drain and, for the first time in a long time, Anfield watched in something close to silence. Mourinho will not care if the opposition manager wallows in a vat of sour grapes. Call it anti-football, or whatever you like, but this match will not go into the record books with an asterisk to remind everyone that Chelsea did it the ugly way. It may, however, be remembered as the defining moment of Liverpool's season and a personal ordeal for Gerrard bearing in mind the potential consequences. Of all the people, in all the places, nobody could have imagined it would be Gerrard, in front of the Kop, making the mistake that changed everything. Rodgers immediately sought to absolve Gerrard, reminding his players at half-time this was someone who had "picked up this club so many times", and it would need a flint heart not to try to imagine the scale of the player's trauma. Yet this is a hard business and teams that want to win the league cannot be as generous as Gerrard was when Mamadou Sakho's pass rolled under the foot of Liverpool's captain and Demba Ba was suddenly running clear to score. Glen Johnson could be seen in the second half trying to cajole his team-mate but Gerrard played the rest of the match as if he was struggling to shake it out of his system. He knew the ramifications and Liverpool's efforts to retrieve the damage carried none of the elegance and vigour that have been the hallmark of their season. Gerrard, if anything, was too desperate to make amends, rushing his work and trying long-range shots when a simple pass would have been more effective. Chelsea defended with structure, brilliance and the kind of togetherness that seems to come almost naturally to Mourinho's teams on the big occasions. He talked about it afterwards as the immaculate defensive performance - "no mistakes, the best team won" - and it culminated with Liverpool putting so much into trying to find an equaliser that they left themselves vulnerable to that moment, right at the end, when Fernando Torres and Willian broke on the counterattack. The two substitutes had nothing between them and Simon Mignolet but open air. Torres set up Willian and Mourinho was on one of his victory runs, beating his chest, letting out all the pent-up emotion. Rodgers had his say afterwards but, lest it be forgotten, this was a Chelsea side put together with the second leg of their Champions League semi-final against Atletico Madrid in mind. Mark Schwarzer, Branislav Ivanovic and Cesar Azpilicueta will start on Wednesday and Ashley Cole has a fair-to-middling chance. That apart, Mourinho had brought in his support cast, including a 20-year-old centre-half by the name of Tomas Kalas for his Premier League debut. Kalas's previous Chelsea career had consisted of two appearances as an 89th-minute substitute in cup competitions and he recently joked that his role at the club was to be a training-ground cone. Yet he demonstrated here why he has already won a cap for the Czech Republic. "Beautiful," Mourinho said afterwards. "Beautiful . . . this kid, Liverpool, Anfield, just beautiful." Luis Suarez chose a bad day to have one of his more undistinguished performances but a lot of that was to do with the expertise that Kalas and Ivanovic showed. Azpilicueta and Cole matched them and Schwarzer, at the age of 41, showed there is not a lot that fazes him. "They had 10 behind the ball from the first minute," Rodgers said. He had better get used to it. Mourinho's team gave everything to make sure they could not be added to the list of visitors to Anfield who had been blitzed. Time-wasters? Undoubtedly. They tied their shoelaces. They had collective, and convenient, cramp. They pretended they could not hear the whistle and when they had a throw-in or free-kick nobody was ever in a rush to take it. It was calculated, and often unsatisfactory, and when the ball came to Mourinho there was a telling scene as Gerrard and Jon Flanagan tried to wrestle it off him. Chelsea's manager spun it behind his back and tossed it out of their reach. That was six minutes in. What an irony that it was in the added-on time at the end of the first half - and the referee, Martin Atkinson, really should have included more - that Chelsea took the lead. Liverpool had no choice but to take more risks in the second half but they lacked their usual creativity and dynamism. Willian slipped the ball into an empty net and Liverpool, from a position of command, must fear all that brilliant momentum has gone. Man of the match Tomas Kalas (Chelsea)

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The Mail

JUST THE JOB FOR JOSE
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THEY didn't do a job. They did THE job. Manchester City's job as well as their own, the job that has been waiting to be done against Liverpool all season.

Another team may win the league, but against the elite clubs of England, Chelsea are the champions. Victories, home and away, against Liverpool. Victories, home and away, against Manchester City. Six past Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and a draw at the Emirates. Chelsea's record against their equals this season is little short of stunning, with yesterday's win the high point. Jose Mourinho did not send out the reserves, as threatened, but this was still a team selected with one eye on Wednesday's Champions League semi-final against Atletico Madrid.

Gary Cahill and Willian on the bench, Oscar in the stands. Petr Cech and John Terry injured, Ramires suspended. Half strength? Quite possibly. Yet Chelsea deserved this, no matter the predictable howls of outrage about negative play.

There is not only one way to win a football match, and no rules state a great team cannot be built from the back, just the same. Chelsea have not conceded a goal away from home against a team in the top four this season. If Liverpool knew how to defend like them, they would have been handed the trophy two weeks ago.

For all Liverpool's possession, the outstanding performances came from men in blue shirts. Tomas Kalas made his first Premier League appearance for Chelsea and shut Luis Suarez out of the game. Branislav Ivanovic, by his side, was a courageous, yet calming influence.

The full backs, not least Ashley Cole, were superb. Nemanja Matic in central midfield equalled his display away at Manchester City; Frank Lampard played as if 10 years younger. And Demba Ba? He led the line, he scored the first goal and held off what appeared to be a permanent guard of three players. His workrate was such that by the time he left the field after 84 minutes he could barely stand up. How on earth did anyone believe Mourinho would give up the title without a fight, would come to Anfield and not wish to prove a point? He sent out players he knew would give everything, and some that could give everything, knowing they have no part to play against Atletico. Liverpool will not kick a ball again for eight days, yet this may have taken more from them than it did Chelsea. The title is no longer in their hands if Manchester City keep winning, and that is a savage blow after so much expectation. Chelsea will hope to capitalise on the nerves of the teams ahead, too. After this, who knows what the next twist will be?

When Liverpool play again, at Crystal Palace on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5, they could be third. Mayday, mayday! Amid all the drama came the ballad of Steven Gerrard. Poor Gerrard. No player has done more to drag his team into the title race, and none will hurt harder if this goes down as the day the title slipped from Liverpool's grasp. It was his mistake, of all people, that gifted the opening goal to Chelsea in first-half stoppage time.

A typical exchange of Liverpool passes ended with Mamadou Sakho squaring a ball to Gerrard. He opened his body to send it out across field, and mis-controlled. In trying to recover, he slipped and fell. The ball ran to Ba, who was suddenly away on goal with only keeper Simon Mignolet to beat. His finish belied the theory that Chelsea are bereft of good strikers. His performance did the same. Ba typified Chelsea's resilience here. He often had Gerrard in front of him, Sakho behind him and Martin Skrtel coming across to do some bullying on the side. Yet, throughout, Ba gave as good as he got. Meanwhile, at the opposite end, the Player of the Year, Suarez, was being frustrated by a 20-year-old from the Czech Republic, whose club experience this season amounts to two minutes.

Kalas had played two games for Chelsea before this; as an 89thminute substitute in the Capital One Cup against Arsenal and coming on, again with a minute to go, against Galatasaray in the Champions League.

Starting him, in place of Cahill -- wrapped in cotton wool with Terry injured -- appeared a huge gamble. Less so when the game started. Two thunderous tackles, one on Suarez, announced his arrival and Kalas rarely put a foot wrong after that. It helps that Ivanovic is one of the most spirited defenders in Europe, at right back or centre half, and that Matic and John Mikel Obi form a giant protective screen ahead. Brendan Rodgers accused Chelsea of parking two buses, but that is disrespectful. There was nothing wrong with the massed banks Chelsea placed in front of Liverpool; the fault lay in their failure to find a way through. Gerrard, in particular, was reduced to trying a series of speculative shots from range, designed to make up for his earlier error. They only served to highlight that Liverpool were running out of ideas. The Anfield crowd, so boisterous before kick-off, grew quieter, frustrated. Mark Schwarzer, in Chelsea's goal, made several good saves, but it was hardly The Alamo. A shot from Joe Allen after 59 minutes was the best of it, until second-half injury time when Schwarzer punched the ball clear to Suarez, whose shot required a fine recovery. From the next move of note, Chelsea gave the scoreline real emphasis. Daniel Sturridge lost the ball to Fernando Torres and with Liverpool piling forward, Chelsea's substitute had a clear run from the halfway line to Mignolet in goal. Willian kept him company and, at the last moment, Torres unselfishly squared for his team-mate to as good as run the ball in the net. Mourinho, who before had been signalling for more encouragement and appreciation from the Chelsea end, made a brief sprint down the touchline before heading back and disappearing into the tunnel. Not so much as a handshake for his old friend Rodgers, although relations between the men may turn frostier after a churlish press conference.

Rodgers claimed this match would be good practice for next week's visit to Selhurst Park, all long balls and long throws, but it sounded like sour grapes. Mignolet had saves to make, too -- from Cole in the sixth minute, and Andre Schurrle in the 62nd, and a Mohamed Salah shot in the first half struck Jon Flanagan on the arm in the penalty area. Yes, there was time-wasting but nothing that we do not see on the continent. It seemed more of an attempt to knock Liverpool out of their stride, to prevent them playing with their usual pace and energy. If so, it worked. Liverpool were on a 16-game run of 14 wins and two draws, yet did not look like getting back into the game once Chelsea nosed ahead. Mourinho, who was laid up with a stomach bug at the weekend and kept his distance from his team, had done it again. His detractors think he is popular because of what he says. He isn't. It's what he does that matters. This is the second time a team have looked like walking away with the title this season and on both occasions it is Mourinho who has stopped the procession in its tracks. He is the reason we have a three-way title race going into May, the first in recent memory. It is so much more than parking a bus, doing a job, playing like Palace. It is, in its own way, really quite special.

The Daily Telegraph

Master Mourinho deflates Liverpool

Liverpool 0

Chelsea 2 Ba 45, Willian 90 Att: 44,726

Jose Mourinho can change his lineup, change his mood and change his wardrobe but what rarely changes is his remarkable ability to keep setting his team up so adroitly against the heavyweights. Love him or loathe him, he remains the man for the big occasion, a ruthless prize-fighter in the points game. Cantankerous and calculating, Mourinho is still the special tactical one, totally changing the Premier League picture here.

Manchester City are now favourites for the title, after a 2-0 win at Crystal Palace which still leaves them third but with a game in hand and a point behind Chelsea and three behind leaders Liverpool. City also boast a superior goal difference. Liverpool could be third when they play next.

Mourinho played down Chelsea's chances but nobody was listening. This is a real three-way title chase, the first genuine such race for years, and Chelsea have every chance of winning it. Mourinho dressed down for the big occasion here, resembling one of Del Boy's sporting-fashion suppliers, but his teams are cloaked in intelligence, knowing the gameplan, rigidly drilled defensively and skilled at the potent counter. It is far from beautiful but it is effective. In the Premier League this season, Mourinho's Chelsea have done the double over City and Liverpool and taken four-point hauls off Arsenal, Manchester United and Tottenham.

They adopt a rope-a-dope approach, defending in numbers, absorbing the blows before springing out, either seizing on mistakes, as Demba Ba did when Steven Gerrard slipped, or when Fernando Torres ran 50 yards before squaring for Willian to make it 2-0, sending Mourinho wild in celebration. He clutched the Chelsea crest on his casual club gilet, holding it out towards a group of Liverpool fans, who responded sullenly. He did not care. He loved this opportunity to introduce the memory of Devon Loch into the thoughts of those who live near the Grand National. Mourinho always seems on a revenge mission when he visits Anfield, never having forgotten the way Liverpool defeated Chelsea with Luis Garcia's "ghost goal" to reach the 2005 Champions League final. The sight of Garcia being presented to the Kop before kick-off will have simply added to Mourinho's resolve. In the marathon that is the Premier League, Liverpool have hit the wall, a blue wall constructed by Mourinho. Branislav Ivanovic was magnificent at centre-half, dominant in the air and on the ground, ably assisted by Tomas Kalas. Having represented Chelsea for a minute apiece in the Capital One Cup and Champions League, the 20-year-old Czech international did not betray any nerves on his Premier League debut, helping silence the disappointing Luis Suarez. Chelsea's full-backs, Cesar Azpilicueta and Ashley Cole, were models of mobile defiance, dealing well in turn with Raheem Sterling and Liverpool's full-backs. Nemanja Matic and John Obi Mikel patrolled diligently in front of the back-four, breaking up Liverpool moves. Frank Lampard was a captain of industry and responsibility, enjoying keeping Gerrard at bay. Andre Schurrle was tireless running up and down on the left until cramp slowed his movement. Ba was occasionally ungainly but always relishing his physical battle with Mamadou Sakho and Martin Skrtel. Individually, Chelsea were excellent in a momentous victory but this was a triumph rooted in collective work under Mourinho at Cobham. In resting the likes of Gary Cahill before the Champions League semi-final second leg against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, Mourinho simply prepared his starting ones so well. He prepared them to spoil the party. Liverpool fans had been full of hope as the morning melted into milky afternoon sunshine. They lined the streets around Anfield, waiting for the team bus to appear and occasionally bursting into "we're going to win the league". Ninety minutes before kick-off, the bus inched through the Shankly Gates as fans held their camera-phones to record a moment they hoped would become historic, an entry in the scrapbooks as they seek a first title since 1990. Brendan Rodgers stepped from the bus, followed by players with emotionless faces. As Gerrard marched through the players' entrance, the captain of that 1990 side, Alan Hansen, strolled through the main entrance.

The Liverpool family was gathering as usual. Ian Rush, John Aldridge and Kenny Dalglish also walked in. Garcia was special guest. The Kop launched into You'll

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Never Walk Alone. It all seemed set for another Liverpool win, a 12th on the spin, another case of Gerrard's "we go again". Not here. Not with Mourinho in town. Chelsea's players were ready and waiting, their ambush primed, their game-plan inelegant but effective: to draw the sting from the usual early Liverpool storm. They actually pressed hard, refusing to allow Gerrard and company to settle. They wasted time. Ivanovic probably set an all-comers' record for early running down the clock after 1min 25sec. Mourinho's own early attempts at time-wasting were ended by Jon Flanagan and Gerrard, who grabbed the ball off him. Chelsea were in uncompromising mood. Cole escaped censure for clearing out Suarez, lead-ing with his arm. Every Chelsea player contributed to the defensive work through fair means and foul. Ba covered back to block a left-foot Suarez shot. Lampard brought down Sterling. Ivanovic made two vital clearances. Chelsea were also increasingly threatening going forward. Cole raced down the left, flinging in a cross that Simon Mignolet pushed away. Lampard curled in a corner that Kalas headed wide before kicking the post in frustration as the Kop sighed in relief. Chelsea seized the lead on the cusp of half-time. The wound to Liverpool's ambition was self-inflicted. Sakho rolled the ball square to Gerrard, who was central as usual, preparing to build another attack. Gerrard took the ball and turned but slipped, gifting possession to the lurking Ba. The striker sped towards the Kop, controlling the ball with his right foot before placing it firmly under Mignolet and in. As Chelsea celebrated, the Kop immediately sang in support of their rueful captain. Chelsea fans reminded Gerrard that he had previous with such errors against them, notably with an own goal in the 2005 Carling Cup final and in the Premier League in 2010 when his back-pass was intercepted by Didier Drogba who scored, helping Chelsea eventually beat Manchester United to the title. This was a test of Liverpool's resolve but they were tired in mind and body, incapable of eluding Chelsea. Azpilicueta stopped a Sterling run. Cole thwarted Glen Johnson. Ivanovic ushered Gerrard into a cul-de-sac. On it went. Mark Schwarzer comfortably held a couple of Gerrard shots and saved a Joe Allen volley. Chelsea were giving everything. Schurrle looked shattered but he kept running, even testing Mignolet with a curling shot, before collapsing with cramp and eventually replaced by Cahill as Chelsea switched to a back-five. Cahill blocked Sterling's way to goal. Cole nicked the ball off Johnson. And there was another sting in the tail as Mourinho's subs combined: Torres sprinted through and calmly squared the ball to Willian, who con-firmed that the title race is now a thrilling three-way affair.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gerrard slip sends the title tumbling out of Reds' grasp

Cartoon villain is the role that Jose Mourinho specialises in best and yesterday he was the man who cancelled Christmas at Anfield, the crusher of Liverpoolian dreams and a whole lot more besides. He has a cunning plan for every occasion and the only criteria he brings to bear is whether it will help him win the game. Quite simply, on this occasion Liverpool found themselves "Mourinho-ed". His gameplan was launched in the aftermath of the draw with Atletico Madrid last Tuesday when Mourinho began his narrative of fielding a weakened team and it culminated in this classic counter-attacking victory, which broke Liverpool hearts for its opportunism and its sheer bloody-mindedness.

Brendan Rodgers gave his verdict on the performance, as "like having two buses parked" in front of the Chelsea goal, a variation on the phrase that Mourinho introduced to English football in his first spell at Stamford Bridge.

The Liverpool manager said that he would never pick a team to play in that way with the clear inference that he considered it beneath him, although the thought did occur that it tends to be the pragmatists rather than the purists who have the better medal collections. Whether you like it or not, there is something magnificent in these Chelsea performances, even if it can be an acquired taste, but it comes down to the basics: determination, organisation and an utter devotion to avoiding mistakes. One would not wish to watch it every week for the rest of one's life but to see the millionaires under Mourinho's command working like crazy to carry out his demands to the letter is to get a taste of the power of this coach. Ah, mistakes - a cruel way to decide such a big match, as even Mourinho himself later conceded. In injury-time at the end of the first half Steven Gerrard allowed the ball to roll under his foot and then slipped as he tried to retrieve it, permitting Demba Ba a free run on goal and his finish was a lot more calculated than much of his play over the afternoon.

For Gerrard it was more painful than the moment his ill-advised back-pass found Didier Drogba for a goal at Anfield four years ago because then it was only Manchester United whom Chelsea were competing with for the Premier League title. That his mistake was such an integral part of a defeat that could potentially deny him the only league championship of his life is entirely in keeping with the comic book stories of triumph and despair that have characterised his career.

The league is not Liverpool's to lose any more, not after Manchester City's victory at Crystal Palace which put them in charge. Should City and Liverpool win their remaining games then they will both finish the season on 86 points and, barring a dramatic avalanche of goals for Rodgers' team, it will be City who claim the title on goal difference for a second time in three seasons.

To be so close after 24 years, having taken full advantage thus far of this unpredictable season, is taking its toll on Anfield. Before the game they lined the streets to cheer in the team bus and by the time that Fernando Torres and Willian

broke away for the Brazilian to score the second in injury-time at the end of the match there was a wild, impotent rage directed at the little unshaven Portuguese man in his gilet and tracksuit beating his chest in front of the away fans. This was once a stadium where Mourinho found himself denied and frustrated on occasions in the Rafa Benitez years, but now it feels like he is becoming a curse around the place. As the Chelsea manager reminded everyone afterwards, it is his team who have won home and away against Liverpool and City this season. With their remaining league games against Norwich City and Cardiff, Chelsea might yet win the league if the other two contrive to slip. It was a spiky occasion, testament to the dislike between the two sets of supporters that has grown over recent years. At their hotel in Formby on Saturday night, Chelsea officials reported fireworks being set off outside well after midnight and a receptionist kept busy intercepting calls to the players' rooms. Once inside the stadium, Luis Garcia, scorer of the contentious goal against Chelsea in the Champions League semi-final second leg in 2005, was conspicuously introduced as a pre-match guest on the pitch and embraced by Gerrard. In the opening moments, Chelsea were the brighter side but on eight minutes, Mourinho held onto the ball as Gerrard tried to retrieve it for a throw-in and already the tone was set. The Chelsea players wasted time at every opportunity with Luis Suarez at one point sarcastically applauding the Chelsea goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer as he lingered over his kick. Unfortunately for Liverpool, their chances were so few. Raheem Sterling was excellent in the first half but he failed to have a meaningful shot on goal. Ashley Cole's goal-line clearance on 14 minutes was from a Liverpool corner that struck John Obi Mikel and the loose ball fell to Mamadou Sakho who missed the target. Among Chelsea's back four, the debutant Tomas Kalas was impressive, with Branislav Ivanovic, Cole and Cesar Azpilicueta now old-hands at this kind of game. In the space of five days, Cole has come back from the wilderness to play his part in two defensive masterclasses. It has looked like he has never been away. In the second half, Schwarzer saved from Joe Allen and then, at the end of the game touched a shot from Suarez over the bar. The Australian was solid but he was hardly over-worked. For the second goal, when Torres advanced there was simply no one but Simon Mignolet between him and the Liverpool goal, although the Chelsea striker played it safe with a ball square to Willian to finish the move. The absence of a managerial handshake at the end and Rodgers' withering assessment of Chelsea's approach - delivered with a smile, it should be said - could put pay to the public, and possibly the private, friendship between the two men. That makes life a little easier for Rodgers. At Anfield they like their managers to share their own hate figures, as with Benitez and Sir Alex Ferguson, and at the moment there is no one the Liverpool support would rather see de-perched than Mourinho. This result told them that accomplishing that mission will be a lot harder than they thought.



WHAT HAVE I DONE?

CRUEL, cruel game. Heartbreak for Merseyside. Despair for Brendan Rodgers. And feeling the debilitating anguish more than anyone, his personal grief magnified a thousandfold, the man who has carried the hopes and fears of a club for more than a decade. Amid Jose Mourinho's breastthumping posturing, as the genius of the arch manipulator was demonstrated again, you would need a heart of stone not to feel for Steven Gerrard. The Liverpool skipper has waited his entire career to be in this position, to have the title within his grasp, the chance to take the Reds over the line. He, as much as anyone in Rodgers' side, had guided Liverpool to the brink of glory, the 11-match winning run in the league which appeared to have destiny in its sails.

Yet when the story of this title race is told, the abiding image may not be his tear-strained, "We go again; no slips" huddle after the win against Manchester City but the slip that gifted Demba Ba the crucial opening goal yesterday.

Gerrard was waiting for the half-time whistle, the chance to reinforce his messages of calm patience, when he took his eye off a square pass from Mamadou Sakho by the centre-circle. The ball slipped under his foot and Ba pounced, heading directly for goal, the breath of 12,000 devastated Kopites powerless to prevent his shot beating Simon Mignolet.

The shock was palpable, intense, devastating. And in that moment, although it was not until almost the final kick of the game that Willian walked the ball home for Chelsea's second, you sensed Gerrard's dream, Liverpool's dream, may have come crashing down around them. What will hurt Liverpool so much over the coming days, weeks, perhaps months and years, was they had got so tantalisingly near. That when the opportunity was there, against a Chelsea side with a rookie centre-half, featuring just three of the team that will start against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday and only Mark Schwarzer in the same position, they failed to take it. And that in the game where they needed Luis Suarez to show why he was last night named Player of the Year, he failed to come to the party.

A party which was transformed into something of a wake, bitter anticlimax, Rodgers' attacking armoury nullified by Mourinho's blue blanket.

Effort, of course. But the inhibitions that have been banished since the turn of the year suddenly squeezing the lifeblood out of Rodgers' men.

Just five shots on target, only one - by Suarez in stoppage time - from inside the penalty area. Not enough. Not nearly enough. Not at this stage of the season. Chelsea were hardly the entertainers. They used up time from the opening minutes, dropped back in a curtain in front of Schwarzer, filled in every hole,

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prompted and provoked, made Anfield boil with indignant fury. But Suarez never isolated Tomas Kalas to test his mettle, Ashley Cole wore down Raheem Sterling, Nemanja Matic and John Obi Mikel clamped tight on Philippe Coutinho, Daniel Sturridge made no impact off the bench. It led to too many forced, ambitious efforts, Gerrard shooting from anywhere, trying to make amends, only Joe Allen really extending Schwarzer. And when it mattered, Chelsea took their opportunities. Ba did the hard bit with his goal - his third this month. Willian had a far easier task, supporting Fernando Torres as the striker raced clear on goal and collecting the Spaniard's pass which stranded Mignolet and presented his team-mate with an unguarded net. Of course, it is not over yet, although it felt that way as Martin Skrtel booted the ball away at the final whistle, Anfield briefly booed Chelsea for their game-plan, clapped politely and then rallied itself with cries in support of the team and the captain. City still have to take maximum points from their last three games to deny Liverpool. After so many incredible twists and turns, in just the past few weeks, anything is possible - even Chelsea coming through the middle and beating them both. The brutal truth is that a mood of misery will hang like a cloud over Liverpool until they run out at Selhurst Park next Monday. For Chelsea, too, even as they celebrated, a feeling of missed opportunity. Mourinho will know he may have taken the title out of Rodgers' hands, but placed it in Manuel Pellegrini's. Nothing, though, compared to Gerrard's pain.



Defence beats attack as Liverpool suffer frustrating defeat against Chelsea

Dismissing suggestions Liverpool FC could crumble under pressure, Brendan Rodgers has always maintained it would instead be a mistake that could undermine his team's title challenge. But not even the Reds boss could have envisaged this. A rare error from skipper Steven Gerrard helped gift-wrap Chelsea an unlikely victory and blow open the race for the Premier League title. Gerrard's slip in first-half injury time allowed Demba Ba to send Rodgers' side tumbling to their first league defeat since losing at Stamford Bridge in December 2013. The loss was confirmed in the closing stages when, on the counter-attack, ex-Red Fernando Torres raced away to allow fellow substitute Willian to roll the ball into an empty net. That both goals were scored during injury time created by Chelsea's time-wasting will only compound the misery for Liverpool. Fans who had lined the road outside Anfield long before kick-off expecting a party were instead treated to something akin to a wake. Of course, it's not over yet. But Liverpool need to drag themselves off the canvas before next Monday's visit to Crystal Palace and ensure this does not prove a knockout blow. Chelsea will have won few friends with their negative, niggly approach. But football is not about winning over the neutrals. It is about winning matches. And while few people like Chelsea, few win games like Chelsea under Jose Mourinho. As much as Liverpool huffed and puffed, in truth they rarely appeared capable of blowing down the doors to the visiting defence. All the flicks and tricks that have so thrilled this season came to nothing. Indeed, Liverpool could have played all day and not added to their 96-goal tally for the campaign. Much of the pre-match debate centred on whether Mourinho would follow through with his threat to field a weakened team given this match came in the middle of Chelsea's Champions League semi-final against Atletico Madrid. There's no doubt the Portuguese dipped deep into his squad, with seven likely starters against Atletico not included in the starting line-up. But that the cost of Chelsea's first XI still outstripped that of Liverpool underlined the respective financial clout of the two title rivals. Given the Reds' habit of exploding out of the blocks, Chelsea made their intentions clear from the start. Men behind the ball, letting the clock tick down at every available opportunity and, of course, Mourinho up to his old tricks. Liverpool just had to get on with it and attempt to chisel a way through the massed visiting ranks who had kept clean sheets at the Etihad, the Emirates and Old Trafford earlier in the campaign. But for all their possession during the first 45 minutes, Chelsea goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer didn't have a save of note to make. Not that there weren't moments of hope for the Reds. In the 11 minute, with the Chelsea defence drawn towards Luis Suarez on the right flank, the Uruguayan crossed for the unmarked Philippe Coutinho on the far post but the Brazilian's first-time volley on the run was into the side-netting from a tight angle. Moments later, a corner from Gerrard was met by a combination of Jon Obi Mikel and Joe Allen which Ashley Cole hacked off the line. Mamadou Sakho retrieved possession and sent it to the far post, where Suarez crossed back towards the Frenchman who, stretching, knocked the ball over from six yards. Gerrard saw a piledriver charged down by Branimir Ivanovic, but clear openings were at a premium and it wasn't until four minutes before the break Suarez was given a sight at goal, curling over from 20 yards after Cole had given the ball away to Coutinho. Chelsea's negative approach was encapsulated midway through the half when a rare two-on-two counter-attack ended with a backpass to Schwarzer from the halfway line. But having forced the first opportunity of the match on six minutes - Cole's shot parried out by Simon Mignolet - they ended the half the stronger. Chelsea had a decent claim for a penalty turned away when one-time Reds target Mohamed Salah saw a shot handled by Jon Flanagan at close range. File under 'you've seen them given'.

Liverpool had an escape in injury time when league debutant Tomas Kalas completely missed a free header from Frank Lampard's corner. The reprieve, though, was brief. There was no danger when Gerrard received a square pass from Sakho just inside his own half. So it was agonising to watch the skipper first miscontrol and then slip when looking to atone for his error, allowing Ba to run 30 yards unchallenged before slipping the ball under Mignolet. Liverpool needed something different, and Daniel Sturridge was introduced on 58 minutes. Seconds later, a corner was cleared by Mikel as far as Allen, whose fierce volley was brilliantly parried out by Schwarzer. At the other end, Andre Schurrle drew a similarly impressive save from Mignolet with a low shot following a forceful run to the edge of the area. The Reds cranked up the pressure but, with Chelsea locking down the penalty area, Schwarzer was happy to field long-range punts from Allen and Gerrard. Gerrard headed at Schwarzer from a Suarez pass, but in truth Liverpool didn't do enough against the typically well-drilled Chelsea back line. Iago Aspas, on for Flanagan, almost pierced a hole in the visitors' defence, while in the closing seconds Schwarzer turned over a Suarez volley. Willian's strike, though, confirmed what Anfield had feared for much of the second half. LIVERPOOL (4-1-3-2): Mignolet; Johnson, Skrtel, Sakho, Flanagan (Aspas 81); Gerrard; Lucas (Sturridge 58), Allen, Sterling; Coutinho, Suarez. Subs: Jones, Toure, Agger, Alberto, Cissokho. CHELSEA (4-2-3-1): Schwarzer; Azpilicueta, Ivanovic, Kalas (Cahill 77), Cole; Matic, Mikel; Schurrle, Lampard, Salah (Willian 60); Ba (Torres 84). Subs: Hilaro, van Ginkel, Ake, Baker. BOOKINGS: Salah, Lampard and Torres (all fouls) and Cole (time-wasting). REFEREE: Martin Atkinson. ATT: 44,726.



Blues dreaming of double after Steven Gerrard slip blows open title race

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho got his tactics spot on to punch a huge dent in Liverpool's title dreams at Anfield and keep alive the Stamford Bridge side's hopes of an unlikely double. In a battle between a home side committed to attack and visitors intent only on defending, the latter triumphed, which may not have made for a good spectacle, but Chelsea - and Manchester City - were not complaining. Much has been made of this being the season when Reds captain Steven Gerrard ends his long wait for a championship medal, so it was cruel that his mistake led to Demba Ba crucial opening goal in first-half injury time - only added on because of the visitors' persistent time-wasting. Substitute Willian scored a breakthrough second in the final seconds. While victory took Chelsea within two points of their rivals at the top of the table, the ones to really benefit were third-placed City, still with a match in hand on both the teams above them. The Champions League is still the primary objective for the Londoners and to that end they fielded a slightly weaker side. It showed seven changes from the midweek goalless semi-final first-leg draw at Atletico Madrid, but it still boasted more than 500 international caps with an entire squad value of about £200million. Tomas Kalas, with just two minutes' action in two different competitions this season, made his Barclays Premier League debut at centre-back and surrounded as he was by massed ranks of blue shirts he coped well. In January Mourinho criticised West Ham for playing a game from the "19th century", but the Portuguese brought to Merseyside his own unique brand of defensive football - and then some - as they slowed the game at every opportunity. Not only were the visitors happy to defend throughout, they almost actively engaged in not wanting to play the ball anywhere on the pitch, with players frequently looking to run into the corners. In time-wasting and breaking up play Chelsea denied their opponents any opportunity to establish the sort of rhythm which has regularly blown away teams in the first half. They even went as far as going to take throw-ins and free-kicks before suddenly changing their minds and getting another team-mate to leisurely wander over to have a go instead. It was a classic Mourinho destruction and frustration ploy and infuriated Liverpool so much Gerrard engaged in a bit of push and shove with the Chelsea boss in trying to get the ball back into play and Suarez stood to applaud goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer's time-wasting. Referee Martin Atkinson made a big show of pointing to his watch, intimating he was adding on time, but he did not take decisive action in actually booking anyone until stoppage time. But Mourinho will argue the ends more than justified the means against a side which had won their last 11 league matches and dropped just five points at Anfield all season. That Ashley Cole had an early shot parried away by goalkeeper Simon Mignolet was almost surprising considering how much possession and territory Chelsea were happy to concede. A rehearsed corner saw Glen Johnson's shot deflected behind and Philippe Coutinho volleyed Suarez's cross into the side-netting before Cole cleared off the line from team-mate John Obi Mikel's deflection and Mamadou Sakho blazed over from the breakdown. Chelsea's mindset was exemplified when Andre Schurrle found himself one-on-one with Martin Skrtel on the halfway line, but five seconds later the ball had been passed back to Schwarzer. Optimistic shouts for handball against Jon Flanagan were waved away, while, at the other end, Suarez failed to capitalise on Cole's mistake in giving away possession by curling a shot over.

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Ba was not as wasteful when Gerrard slipped in possession 10 yards inside his half to present the Senegal international with a free run on goal and he did well, considering how little of the ball he had seen, to finish expertly.
 If Liverpool were frustrated in the first half they knew they would face much more of the same after the break, but in addition they found Schwarzer in fine form as he produced a great save to keep out Joe Allen's first-time effort, although Mignolet's denial of Schurrle was equally as good.
 Gerrard tried his best to redress the balance, but twice found Schwarzer with shots from outside the area and once from a header inside it.
 For once, though, even the Reds' often inspirational captain could not get his side back into the game and even the return of striker Daniel Sturridge from a hamstring injury as a second-half substitute did not puncture a hole in Chelsea's thick blue line.
 Suarez had one last chance in added time, but Schwarzer punched over his volley. Instead the match ended with the familiar sight of a jubilant Mourinho running down the touchline to celebrate substitute Willian's breakaway goal.



Chelsea blew open the race for the Premier League title by ending leaders Liverpool's 11-game winning streak with a deserved victory at Anfield.
 Demba Ba gave the Blues the lead at the end of the first half after Steven Gerrard's slip and Willian capped the win with a breakaway goal in stoppage time. The result ends Liverpool's 16-match unbeaten streak that had seen them march to the top of the table and means the title is no longer in their control. Manchester City can draw level with them if they win their game in hand, while Chelsea are two points behind, within touching distance should Brendan Rodgers' side slip up again.
 Blues boss Jose Mourinho had threatened to field a weakened team at Anfield ahead of his side's Champions League semi-final second leg with Atletico Madrid on Wednesday but, helped by a disjointed Liverpool display, he produced another tactical masterclass to earn the points.
 Liverpool's attempt at a trademark fast start failed in the face of a wall of blue shirts, with the visitors' five-man midfield sitting deep to protect their back four. Chelsea were keen to disrupt the home side's flow in other ways too, taking their time over set-pieces from the first minute onwards to visibly frustrate Liverpool's players as well as annoying their fans.
 The game's pattern of play was soon established. The Reds were still dominant in terms of possession but, on reaching the edge of the Chelsea area, they struggled to open up a typically well-organised defence.
 After Liverpool wasted a rare sight of goal when Mamadou Sakho blasted over, they failed to bring a meaningful save from Mark Schwarzer in the first half. Aside from a skidding Ashley Cole shot and an appeal for a penalty when Mohamed Salah's shot hit Jon Flanagan's hand inside the area, Chelsea did not threaten much either.
 But, with Branislav Ivanovic solid alongside rookie Czech defender Tomas Kalas at the back, their game-plan of frustrating their hosts was working and received an unexpected bonus before the break.
 Gerrard miscontrolled a Sakho pass then slipped inside his own half, allowing Ba to run unopposed towards the Kop before coolly slotting the ball past Simon. The Liverpool fans chanted Gerrard's name at half-time but, try as he might with a succession of long-range shots, their usually inspirational skipper could not make amends for his mistake.
 An absorbing second half again saw Liverpool's attack up against Chelsea's defence and, again it was the stubbornness of Mourinho's men that prevailed. Even the introduction of Daniel Sturridge to join Luis Suarez in attack made little difference, with their usually prolific partnership failing to find a way through. Liverpool's best effort was a volley from Joe Allen from the edge of the area that a diving Schwarzer brilliantly palmed away, but in truth Schwarzer had little else to do until he acrobatically denied Suarez in stoppage time.
 Moments later, Chelsea made sure of the three points that puts the title race back in the balance. Fernando Torres broke clear and unselfishly played in Willian to fire home their second goal and ensure it was Mourinho, and not Rodgers, celebrating at the final whistle.

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Full time Match ends, Liverpool 0, Chelsea 2.
 90:00+5:30 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 0, Chelsea 2.
 90:00+4:42 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).
 90:00+4:42 Branislav Ivanovic (Chelsea wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 90:00+3:01 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 0, Chelsea 2. Willian (Chelsea right footed shot from very close range to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Fernando Torres following a fast break.
 90:00+2:30 Booking Fernando Torres (Chelsea is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 90:00+2:28 Martin Skrtel (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 90:00+2:28 Foul by Fernando Torres (Chelsea.
 90:00+2:03 Booking Ashley Cole (Chelsea is shown the yellow card.
 90:00+1:13 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mark Schwarzer.
 90:00+1:11 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal.
 90:00+0:56 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by César Azpilicueta.
 85:51 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
 83:57 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Chelsea. Fernando Torres replaces Demba Ba.
 81:51 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by John Obi Mikel.
 81:46 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right following a corner.
 81:27 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Gary Cahill.
 80:35 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Iago Aspas replaces Jon Flanagan.
 78:31 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Luis Suarez.
 76:52 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Chelsea. Gary Cahill replaces André Schürrle.
 76:11 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
 75:38 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 74:30 Delay in match André Schürrle (Chelsea because of an injury.
 73:57 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 72:51 Attempt blocked. Glen Johnson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 72:06 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tomas Kalas.
 71:29 Attempt blocked. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 70:50 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.
 70:23 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 70:23 Foul by André Schürrle (Chelsea.
 69:45 Attempt missed. Nemanja Matic (Chelsea left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the left. Assisted by John Obi Mikel.
 68:50 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).
 68:50 André Schürrle (Chelsea wins a free kick on the left wing.
 66:50 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Glen Johnson.
 65:56 Attempt saved. Joe Allen (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.
 64:42 Foul by Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool).
 64:42 Willian (Chelsea wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 63:48 Attempt blocked. Demba Ba (Chelsea right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Willian.
 61:52 Attempt saved. André Schürrle (Chelsea right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Ashley Cole with a headed pass.
 61:06 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.
 61:03 Attempt blocked. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Luis Suarez.
 59:59 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Chelsea. Willian replaces Mohamed Salah.
 59:15 Attempt blocked. André Schürrle (Chelsea right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Demba Ba.
 58:47 Attempt saved. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 58:16 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mark Schwarzer.
 58:12 Attempt saved. Joe Allen (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner.
 57:46 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Lucas Leiva.
 57:14 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mohamed Salah.
 55:21 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 51:36 Attempt missed. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.
 48:20 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by César Azpilicueta.
 46:13 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 46:13 Foul by Branislav Ivanovic (Chelsea.
 45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 0, Chelsea 1.
 45:00+4:54 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 0, Chelsea 1.
 45:00+4:48 Attempt missed. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool header from very close range is too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.
 45:00+4:31 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Nemanja Matic.
 45:00+2:31 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 0, Chelsea 1. Demba Ba (Chelsea right footed shot from outside the box to the centre of the goal.

45:00+1:50 Attempt missed. Tomas Kalas (Chelsea header from very close range misses to the left. Assisted by Frank Lampard with a cross following a corner.
 45:00+1:26 Corner, Chelsea. Conceded by Mamadou Sakho.
 45:00+0:47 Hand ball by Jon Flanagan (Liverpool).
 45:00+0:05 Attempt missed. John Obi Mikel (Chelsea left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.
 42:35 Booking Frank Lampard (Chelsea is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 42:30 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 42:30 Foul by Frank Lampard (Chelsea.
 41:49 Foul by Jon Flanagan (Liverpool).
 41:49 Mohamed Salah (Chelsea wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 40:31 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
 39:08 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by César Azpilicueta.
 37:20 Foul by Luis Suarez (Liverpool).
 37:20 Branislav Ivanovic (Chelsea wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 37:12 Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Chelsea left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Demba Ba.
 35:50 Corner, Chelsea. Conceded by Mamadou Sakho.
 34:19 Corner, Chelsea. Conceded by Jon Flanagan.
 27:47 Offside, Liverpool. Glen Johnson tries a through ball, but Lucas Leiva is caught offside.
 25:53 Attempt blocked. Luis Suarez (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross.
 24:29 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 24:29 Foul by Ashley Cole (Chelsea.
 24:03 Attempt missed. Jon Flanagan (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left following a corner.
 23:25 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by César Azpilicueta.
 20:37 Booking Mohamed Salah (Chelsea is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 20:31 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 20:31 Foul by Mohamed Salah (Chelsea.
 19:35 Attempt blocked. Demba Ba (Chelsea left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by André Schürrle.
 18:57 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.
 16:17 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).
 16:17 Frank Lampard (Chelsea wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 15:53 Steven Gerrard (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 15:53 Foul by André Schürrle (Chelsea.
 14:50 Attempt blocked. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Luis Suarez.
 13:13 Attempt missed. Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Luis Suarez following a corner.
 12:42 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by André Schürrle.
 10:41 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Luis Suarez.
 8:33 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by John Obi Mikel.
 8:31 Attempt blocked. Glen Johnson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Steven Gerrard.
 7:47 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Tomas Kalas.
 5:35 Attempt saved. Ashley Cole (Chelsea left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by John Obi Mikel.
 4:30 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 3:55 Delay in match André Schürrle (Chelsea because of an injury.
 3:18 Foul by Glen Johnson (Liverpool).
 3:18 André Schürrle (Chelsea wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 0:39 Ashley Cole (Chelsea wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 0:39 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
 0:00 First Half begins.
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up