

Date: 10 December 2017

Opposition: Everton

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THE TIMES

Wasteful Liverpool have themselves to blame

Jürgen Klopp knew the question was coming and, equally, everyone knew the answer he was going to give.

There had been no Philippe Coutinho from the start for Liverpool, no Roberto Firmino and as the 229th Merseyside derby ended in a one-sided stalemate was he still sure he had selected the right team?

"I thought before the game yes," said the Liverpool manager. "After the game, still yes. Even when the result doesn't show it. We can change as much as we want when we win games. When we don't win, I take the blame. I have no problem with that."

Klopp was right and wrong. Correct in stating that the omission of his Brazilian duo was not the main reason Liverpool frittered away two points against a supine Everton side, but misplaced in thinking that by thrusting his hand in the air and trying to take the rap he would deflect attention.

The reality is that culpability lay all around. When Sadio Mané slalomed beyond Ashley Williams as if he was not there in first-half stoppage time it allowed him to bear down on Jordan Pickford in the Everton goal.

Liverpool had just taken the lead through Mohamed Salah's latest howitzer, a moment out of nothing which ended with a shot beautifully arced into the top corner, and Mané had the opportunity to push the contest beyond their neighbours.

To his right, and unmarked, were Dominic Solanke, Salah and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain streaking into space but the Senegalese backed himself. For once, his sight proved skew-whiff and his effort drifted beyond the post. It was to prove a turning point.

Had he squared the ball, it would have been 2-0. There would have been no way back for Everton, who had been shocking until that point (and for much of the game thereafter), retreating into a defensive shell and conceding possession even if there had not been a cluster of clear-cut chances for the hosts.

While the decision to rest Firmino and Coutinho invited pressure, Liverpool knew a win would have seen them move level on points with third-placed Chelsea. It was not the manager who failed the test.

What can be said with rather more certainty is that it is Klopp's coaching that brought Mané's chance in the first place; press high up the pitch, win the ball and dispatch the chance. Only the last bit failed to materialise.

Salah, too, glanced a header wide immediately after the break, as another opening was wastefully passed up, and for Liverpool this was back to the start of the season when they lacked a little ruthlessness and were punished at the other end by their opponent's first attempt.

They have only themselves to blame, yet an inquest does not need to be conducted in open fury.

Liverpool remain fourth in the table, will await the draw for the last 16 of the Champions League today with interest, and are still on a good way.

Similarly, the penalty Wayne Rooney plundered after Dejan Lovren was punished for a challenge on Dominic Calvert-Lewin could not disguise the work Sam Allardyce has to oversee.

There had been a moment just after Pickford shanked a goal-kick straight into touch for the umpteenth time in the first half, leaving Rooney and Allardyce in competition as to who could shake their head the hardest, that it seemed pertinent to wonder just what Everton had spent the past week doing.

They ended the contest having successfully completed just 101 passes, mustering only 21.3 per cent of possession, and yet that was enough to pilfer a point.

Liverpool's supporters can blame Lovren for putting his hand on Calvert-Lewin's back, blame the midfield for not doing more with all the ball they had, they can blame Mané and Salah. But just blaming the absence of Coutinho and Firmino misses the point.

the guardian

Wayne Rooney penalty earns Everton unlikely derby point at Liverpool
Jürgen Klopp turned on the referee, his assistants, the media and even a member of Everton's press team over the penalty that cost Liverpool victory in the 229th Merseyside derby. Everyone appeared in the firing line for the Liverpool manager except those ultimately responsible for Sam Allardyce's pre-Christmas miracle: himself and his team.

Put simply, Liverpool gave victory away. The home side dominated at Anfield but departed with only a point against an Everton team that came with only containment and a draw in mind. Klopp's team missed gilt-edged chances, gifted Wayne Rooney an opportunity to equalise Mohamed Salah's 20th goal of the season from the penalty spot and their manager made life easier for the local rivals by resting Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino on the bench until the second half.

Rotation resembles flawless management when it works, needless caution when it does not. Needless caution offered Everton hope of a reprieve that their performance did not deserve. Rooney seized it, emphatically converting only Everton's second penalty at Anfield in 80 years, to the obvious fury of Klopp. "The guy in the Everton jacket, are you happy about your game?" asked the Liverpool manager as he disputed Craig Pawson's decision to penalise Dejan Lovren for a slight push on Dominic Calvert-Lewin. The guy in the Everton jacket said he was happy with the point. Klopp, bizarrely, replied: "That's what my mother said when I came from school."

Not even Allardyce could claim he was happy with Everton's performance. The visitors' lack of quality in possession "really did worry me", he admitted, but he had no complaints about the gift-wrapped point or a defensive display that restricted Liverpool to three shots on target.

Until Salah illuminated a chilly Merseyside afternoon with his latest touch of class, the derby had been a relative non-event. Just how Allardyce wanted it. His team were set up with two banks of four purely to contain Liverpool and hit Calvert-Lewin and Oumar Niassy with first-time long balls. But even the long ball proved beyond Everton, who had all week to prepare while a makeshift team played Apollon Limassol in the Europa League and Liverpool routed Spartak Moscow in the Champions League.

Allardyce knew his team would have minimal possession – they managed only 20% in the first half – but was understandably alarmed by how careless Everton were when they had it. From the kick-off Mason Holgate swept an aimless ball out of play. By the sixth minute Jonjoe Kenny, with a free-kick, and the goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, with three clearances from his area, had also kicked straight into touch. Calvert-Lewin had a thankless task with such a pitiful supply, and Niassy struggled simply to hold up play in the 45 minutes he was involved.

Liverpool dominated, but for all their efforts and occasional success in getting behind the visiting full-backs, they rarely troubled Pickford before Salah struck. Allardyce's stifling tactics were succeeding. Anfield was growing restless. Then their outstanding Egypt international changed the mood entirely.

Salah's 13th Premier League goal of the campaign originated from a Liverpool free-kick deep in the Everton half, conceding by Idrissa Gana Gueye with a foul from behind on Sadio Mané for which he was booked. The ball was worked out to the impressive Joe Gomez, who found Salah on the edge of the penalty area. Spinning away from a weak challenge by Cuco Martina, the summer signing advanced into the box, cut inside Gueye and lofted a superb finish around Ashley Williams into the far, top corner. Pickford was left grasping at snow.

Having created little, Liverpool should have put the contest beyond their rivals by half-time. Klopp's careful rotation policy has worked well throughout a hectic recent schedule but it was not hard to imagine the havoc his team could have wreaked with Firmino and Coutinho on from the start. Liverpool's territorial dominance and Everton's meekness would have suited them perfectly.

In fairness Dominic Solanke and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain worked tirelessly in their absence. They were left as bewildered as the Liverpool bench when Mané sprinted clear of Ashley Williams in first-half stoppage time and elected to shoot with the pair, and Salah, unmarked to his right. Mané dragged his effort wide and the second half followed the same pattern with Liverpool in control yet unable to find the comfort of a second goal. The misses lent an air of inevitability to Everton's equaliser, although they had not altered their negative approach after falling behind.

Rooney, on a rare foray forward, swept a long ball into the path of Calvert-Lewin. The young striker brought it under control and was running away from goal when Lovren pushed him in the back with two raised hands. It was a soft but needless shove, and Pawson had a clear view of the incident before pointing to the spot. Everton's captain for the day steadied himself and fired the spot-kick down the centre of Simon Mignolet's goal as the Liverpool keeper dived left. Not scoring in a Merseyside derby had always been one of Rooney's great regrets in football. No longer. In the 229th encounter, regret belonged firmly to Liverpool and Klopp.

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The Mail

BUNGLING KLOPP THROWS A STROP; Liverpool boss pays the price for breaking up Anfield's Fab Four

LIVERPOOL Salah 42 1 EVERTON Rooney 77 pen 1

MOHAMED SALAH is some solo act but Jurgen Klopp perhaps needs to realise that, in this city, there are times when there really is no substitute for the Fab Four. He thought he could afford to rest Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino and, if Sadio Mane had simply squared the ball only moments after Salah had struck a quite brilliant opening goal, he would be looking rather clever this morning. But Mane was selfish in shooting when he should have passed to any one of three unmarked team-mates and Liverpool's failure to build on their first-half advantage, in the absence of some South American flair, proved costly. It left Klopp vulnerable not just to accusations of complacency, but to new Everton manager Sam Allardyce's cunning and the threat that Wayne Rooney can still pose in these twilight years of his career.

As Allardyce admitted afterwards, Rooney's 75th-minute ball for Dominic Calvert-Lewin was one of the few decent passes that his team executed in this distinctly one-sided Merseyside derby.

But a tactic that worked well for Allardyce when he won here with Crystal Palace last season - essentially a ball in behind Dejan Lovren - worked a treat.

Lovren panicked and pushed the young Everton striker in the back when he was in fact running away from goal, conceding a penalty that Rooney then buried.

As Rooney revealed afterwards, he had been practising his spot-kick technique the previous day. Straight down the middle as it turned out.

Klopp was unable to contain his anger and disappointment, rowing with a television reporter and then appearing more than a little petulant in the press conference that then followed.

Convinced that Lovren should not have been punished for what he considered to be only minor contact between his centre-half and the Everton forward, he actually requested a show of hands from those who felt it was a penalty.

When the majority did raise their hands, he grumpily conceded that he must be wrong. One reporter started to shake his head and was met with a long, cold stare from the belligerent German.

Klopp also stood by his decision to leave his Brazilian forwards on the bench until the second half, pointing to the fact that his side did have more than enough possession and opportunities to win this game.

In fairness, he was right. Liverpool enjoyed nearly 80 per cent of the ball, unleashing 23 shots to Everton's three.

But Allardyce said he was lifted by the sight of Coutinho and Firmino on the bench and there can be no denying that a side that had scored 40 goals in their 11 games prior to this contest lacked their usual potency.

It amounted to an opportunity missed given that here was a chance for Liverpool to cement their position in the top four on a weekend when Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United had all dropped points.

It was actually rather perplexing given how dangerous they looked after Salah had finally breached a determined, well-organised Everton defence in the 42nd minute.

The game had a distinctly British feel about it, and not just because of the snow that descended relentlessly on the perfect Anfield playing surface.

There were 13 British players in all; 11 Englishmen, Scotland's Andy Robertson and Welshman Ashley Williams were all on the pitch in a bruising encounter.

It took a moment of genius from Salah to break the deadlock; a wonderful combination of strength, balance, skill and intelligence.

After collecting a pass from the excellent Joe Gomez, some players might have opted to go down under the challenge that then came from Cuco Martina.

But Salah stayed on his feet, turned away from him, slipped inside Idrissa Gana Gueye and then used Williams to shield his curling left-foot shot from Jordan Pickford's view.

By the time Pickford had reacted to this moment of magic, the ball had sailed past him into the top corner of his net.

It was the Egyptian forward's 19th goal of the season, and his 13th in the Premier League to make him the leading striker in England's top flight.

With Everton now forced to display a bit more ambition - Allardyce pushed Rooney further forward - the visitors suddenly seemed more vulnerable.

But the chances Liverpool had created were squandered, not least by Mane when he opted to shoot and, much to the annoyance of his colleagues, dragged his effort wide. Klopp responded by hooking Salah and sending on Firmino; another questionable call.

The German reacted to Rooney's penalty - and it was a penalty - by then dispatching Coutinho and Danny Ings from the bench. But to no avail.

Allardyce's Everton had gained what was a well-earned point, a reward for their endeavour if not for their ambition.

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Mignolet; Gomez, Klavan, Lovren, Robertson; Oxlade-Chamberlain (Coutinho 78), Milner, Henderson; Salah (Firmino 67), Solanke (Ings 82), Mane. Subs not used: Karius, Wijnaldum, Can, Alexander-Arnold. Booked: Lovren. EVERTON (4-5-1): Pickford; Kenny, Holgate, Williams, Martina; Davies (Lennon 46), Rooney (Jagiello 83), Gueye, Sigurdsson, Calvert-Lewin; Niasse (Schneiderlin 46). Subs not used: Robles, Keane, Vlasic, Lookman. Booked: Gueye, Sigurdsson, Schneiderlin. Man of the match: Wayne Rooney. Referee: Craig Pawson. Attendance: 53,082.

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp rages against penalty call after Rooney saves point

In a schoolmasterly fashion, Jurgen Klopp asked journalists for a show of hands. "How many of you thought it was a penalty?" he said. Some responded and a few willingly kept arms down. Others thought the inquisition a tad irrelevant and wanted no role in the theatre. Had the Liverpool manager asked who thought he picked the wrong line-up against Everton, adding if anyone felt he made unnecessarily risky substitutions, the more ambivalent would have stretched their limbs.

Managers can be forgiven such displays of emotion under duress, particularly after a Merseyside derby. This felt like a classic deflection. Derby tradition dictates there must be at least one perplexing decision to caussuitable levels of rage.

There were several at Anfield as Sam Allardyce claimed the most unlikely point in what will rank one of the most curious recent meetings between the clubs.

Everton left satisfied with the result having left their supporters perturbed by much of what they had seen, especially for a dire 76 minutes. Klopp declared himself satisfied with the performance but disturbed by the circumstances of the 1-1 draw, superiority absurdly surrendered. The Liverpool manager's gaze was fixed on referee Craig Pawson for gifting Everton the penalty from which Wayne Rooney struck the equaliser, his first goal in this fixture.

"I don't think it was a penalty," he said. "We have to take it. Obviously you all think it is a penalty then all the fouls between [Ashley] Williams and [Dominic] Solanke should have been free-kicks. That is how it is. We have to take it. The last moment [Dominic] Calvert-Lewin makes a step, he doesn't push him or anything. It's just body contact. That happens in midfield and 60 or 70 times it is not a free-kick. Today we get a penalty which wasn't a penalty."

Chastising the referee disguises multiple reasons why Mohamed Salah's latest exquisite strike was not the winner - just as against Chelsea a fortnight ago. This is more than Liverpool ill-fortune. It is an unhealthy habit.

Before Pawson had any influence Liverpool could point to Sadio Mane's decision to shoot rather than pass to two team-mates, who would have had a tap-in to make it 2-0 just before half time.

They could point to Dejan Lovren's decision to make any contact with Calvert-Lewin, who did not look in an especially dangerous position when he felt the Croatian's shove leading to the 77th-minute spot-kick.

They could point to Klopp's generosity when deciding to omit Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino from his line-up, and his even greater assistance when substituting Salah with the game still in the balance. If team-sheets can surrender momentum, Klopp had already offered the visitors hope before kick-off. Allardyce confirmed that, although he also suggested his side's defensive could also have nullified the Brazilians.

Resting some of your best players in a Merseyside derby is unprecedented. Given Coutinho stayed on against Spartak Moscow for 90 minutes, despite Liverpool strolling through that second half, sparing him for Everton when West Bromwich Albion and Bournemouth are up next is bizarre. "I thought before the game [it was right]], yes. After the game, still yes," said Klopp. "Even when the result doesn't show it. We did it like this for seven weeks. When we don't win it I take the blame. I have no problem with that. The boys who came in were fresh and worked hard. We felt we needed fresh legs. We could have won it but didn't, so blame me."

There will be denial, of course, but it smacked of being too preoccupied with how to win the next game instead of the current one. Liverpool were under no pressure but there was always the possibility they would give up one chance. That was all Everton needed after toiling their way through two-thirds of the game. From the first whistle the visitors assumed what can only be described as the Rorke's Drift formation, dropping deep and trying to deny space.

You could admire how their new manager had organised their defence, but it was archaic stuff in the direction of Simon Mignolet's goal. Rooney, Gylfi Sigurdsson and Calvert-Lewin could do little more than chase long and second balls.

It still yielded reward when Lovren was penalised and Rooney ensured it was the away fans who took most from the outcome, even if they too will expect much more when returning for the FA Cup third-round tie in the new year. That, too, is now guaranteed to be feisty. Klopp may think twice before leaving too many of his stars on the bench next time.

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Liverpool dominate only for Rooney to snatch draw

The bitterest of days where Jordan Henderson completed 60 passes in the first half. That's six more than the entire Everton team in the same period. Statistics can often be misleading but this one reflected a reality. A manager can have strategy but if he does not have the players to execute it and the opponent has an abundance of quality, there will usually be only one outcome.

But then, there are those occasions where dominance is so absolute, a team forgets to score for a second time. Complacency filters in from the crowd. Passes aren't quite as crisp. Sloppiness creeps. Stupid mistakes are made. And then the struggling team's opportunity presents itself. This is what happened here.

Only Dejan Lovren can explain why decided it was necessary to place his arm across Dominic Calvert-Lewin's back. Judging by his protestations when referee Craig Pawson awarded the subsequent penalty, he did not immediately think it was enough to send the striker sprawling. It gave Wayne Rooney with a chance. With that, the mood of an entire mood shifted dramatically. Everton's winless run at Anfield in the league will stretch into a twentieth year. Yet this draw was a small victory for them.

Sam Allardyce might claim that this was his plan all along. This point was a product of Liverpool's inefficiency, though. Everton battled but Liverpool's win should have been secured when the game's equaliser came.

The result leaves Jürgen Klopp with questions to answer. He made changes to the team that did not have to exert much energy in beating Spartak Moscow 7-0 on Wednesday night. If Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino were on the pitch from the start rather than appearing from the bench, perhaps Liverpool would have been more ruthless.

The kick off provided an immediate insight into Everton's mindset. Glyfi Sigurdsson passed the ball back to Mason Holgate. Holgate boomed a pass forward that hinted at more of a clearance. It went straight into the Kop. As early as the twentieth minute, Rooney was telling Jordan Pickford to take more time with his goal kicks. The two taken prior had ended up clattering into the advertising hoardings of the main stand. Pickford looked nervous. But Liverpool were initially struggling to find ways of really testing him.

By the half hour mark, Liverpool had 80-per-cent of possession. Yet none of their six shots at that point had been on target. It would be inaccurate to say Everton were comfortable. They were jittery and were struggling to string passes together. But Liverpool were not moving the ball quickly enough to really unsettle them.

It would take a moment of genius to alter the pattern. That moment was delivered by Mohamed Salah whose 19th goal of the season involved a sharp turn past Cuco Martina, a twist that negated Idrissa Gueye's presence as irrelevant and then a glorious curling shot beyond Pickford and into the very top corner of the net.

Allardyce, who'd spent the half on his feet pointing his players into the positions he wanted, sat down in his dugout suddenly and Everton lost focus. Liverpool were rampant and their half time lead should have been by two. Having been released by Dominic Solanke, though, and with Everton's defenders trailing behind him Sadio Mané rush his responsibility. Solanke's inclusion had been another surprise decision by Klopp.

Further opportunities came for Liverpool. Salah headed just wide via a superb James Milner cross. Pickford palmed away another delivery from the wing just when it seemed Mané was destined to make it 2- Liverpool's control was unquestionable and the level of confidence inside Anfield was reflected by ironic home cheers when Everton forced their first corner in minute 70.

At 1-0, any team is always at risk regardless of the flow. All it needs to change the mood is a lapse in concentration or a flicker of old brilliance from someone like Rooney. Everton got both because it was Rooney's pass that prompted Calvert-Lewin into a foot race. Lovren seemed to have the situation under control because the striker was heading away from goal. Yet as soon as the Croatian placed an arm on his pack, it gave Calvert-Lewin the reason to fall and from there referee Pawson had a decision to make. It was only Everton's second penalty at Anfield since 1937. Rooney would make no mistake. Out of nothing, Everton were saved.



ROO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE KIDDING, KLOPP?

IT IS hard to remember a more one-sided derby.

But, incredibly, it was Wayne Rooney who emerged as the most unlikely hero with his first-ever goal in an all-Merseyside skirmish.

Rooney described not scoring against Liverpool as one of his biggest regrets when he left Everton the first time around in 2004.

But it was Kop boss Jürgen Klopp who was left with the regrets this time because Liverpool must see this as two valuable points dropped.

Klopp showed exactly what he thought of Everton by starting with Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho on the bench and relying on 20-year-old rookie Dominic Solanke to lead the attack.

The final insult was when Klopp clearly thought Liverpool were so in control, so in command, that he took off their best player Mohamed Salah with 23 minutes left. It came back to bite him on the backside.

Never mind arch-rivals Everton, Liverpool wanted to make sure they were fresh to face West Brom at Anfield on Wednesday.

But that was Klopp's biggest mistake.

He underestimated former England skipper Rooney and his desire to have the last laugh on the Kop, and Big Sam Allardyce's desperation to play party-pooper.

Rooney smashed home a 76th-minute penalty to equalise and in that single moment justified his return to his beloved Goodison Park last summer.

Former Manchester United star Rooney raced to the jubilant Everton fans behind the goal and celebrated like he was in there with them. He could not contain his delight.

Nor could Allardyce at the final whistle. Big Sam punched the air and, if Everton fans had any doubts about him before, they won't have them now.

Anfield was in a state of near-disbelief, the Liverpool fans aghast at failing to win a game they dominated from start to finish.

Liverpool had 79 per cent possession, Everton barely got a kick in the first half, showed very little spirit and, until the penalty, Allardyce must have been worrying about the scale of the job in front of him.

There have been bigger scorelines in recent times in this fixture - Everton were probably more competitive last season when they got stuffed 3-1 - but rarely has it been such one-way traffic.

And that was with two members of the Fab Four watching from the sidelines. Liverpool were far too good in the first half, especially as Allardyce's formation left too many players out of position in a lopsided formation.

Liverpool were slicing Everton open at will but somehow - through luck and desperation - the visitors held firm until the 42nd minute.

Typically, it was Salah who provided the inspiration. The magical Egyptian winger overpowered Cuco Martina, dummied Idrissa Gueye, and then curled a brilliant left-footed shot into the top corner.

It was a moment of pure genius. Maybe Liverpool could afford to rest two of the Fab Four when Salah can do this.

But Sadio Mané - the other member of Liverpool's forward quartet - was offkey and hit a bum note as he dragged a shot wide after going clean through in first-half injury time.

Everton did not manage a shot on target themselves until first-half injury time but Dominic Calvert-Lewin fired straight at Reds keeper Simon Mignolet.

Allardyce made changes at half time but it did not really stem the tide.

Yet for all of Liverpool's possession and threat, they had only three shots on target as they were far too wasteful with their final pass and finishing. Salah, Mané and Jordan Henderson all missed openings.

Everton were barely in the game but it was Rooney's long, hopeful punt into the Liverpool box which ended up giving them a lifeline.

Calvert-Lewin tried to control the ball, Dejan Lovren gave him a nudge, and referee Craig Pawson had no hesitation.

Klopp (right) was fuming afterwards and insisted it was not a penalty.

But it was stupid on Lovren's part to even make the challenge.

Rooney smashed it down the middle into the roof of the net.

Of all the highs of his career, you can bet he will rate this one with the best of them.

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Jürgen Klopp's Reds have only themselves to blame as derby day ends in frustration

Jürgen Klopp marched on to the field after the final whistle to shove an accusing finger in the direction of Craig Pawson.

Seconds before an incensed Dejan Lovren had been dragged away by Jordan Henderson and James Milner after venting his spleen at the referee.

Anger and a sense of injustice reigned amid the blizzard. But if Liverpool really wanted someone to blame they only had to look in the mirrors of the plush home dressing room.

Their wounds from the 229th Merseyside derby were self-inflicted.

Two points were carelessly squandered as the Reds gave their neighbours an early Christmas present at Anfield.

Lovren was the villain after he senselessly shoved Dominic Calvert-Lewin over in the penalty box and Wayne Rooney stepped up to restore parity.

Yes, it was soft as the England Under-21s striker needed no second invitation to go down, but it was also an act of stupidity by the Croatian defender.

Calvert-Lewin was going away from goal. There was no danger, there was no need to make a challenge. But Lovren had a rush of blood and Liverpool were left counting the cost.

The scoreline massively flattered Everton. Sam Allardyce could hardly have shown less ambition on his derby bow.

His game plan involved defending deep and in numbers before launching it route one at every opportunity. At times it was like watching one of the minnows trying to pull off a giant-killing act.

The gulf in class was vast but Liverpool paid the price for not being ruthless enough.

Mohamed Salah's 19 goal of the season just before the break was a beauty as he gave the hosts the lead their dominance merited.

But Liverpool wasted a stack of chances to wrap up the points. Sadio Mané will be having nightmares about the one he dragged wide when three team-mates were queuing up for a tap-in.

At 1-0 Everton always had hope and Lovren's indiscretion sparked wild celebrations in the away end.

The Blues still haven't won at Anfield this century and the draw extended Liverpool's unbeaten run in derbies to 15 matches – equalling a club record set in the 1970s.

But that will be scant consolation for Kopites having witnessed the Reds let Everton off the hook in such an infuriating fashion.

Klopp's team selection will certainly divide opinion. Leaving Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino out of such a high profile fixture was a gamble.

Liverpool were without half of the 'Fab Four' who had stuck seven past Spartak Moscow in midweek. As a result their potency was significantly reduced.

Dominic Solanke put in a decent shift up front but he's a much easier proposition for defenders than Firmino.

It's a tricky balancing act for Klopp as he tries to negotiate his way through a gruelling schedule. Rotation has worked for him in recent weeks but this time fresh legs didn't get the job done.

Not playing your strongest XI in a derby won't sit easily with many fans. Everton didn't feel the full force of Liverpool's attacking armoury.

But the bottom line is that the Reds still served up a performance which should have been more than sufficient to secure victory. The hosts had 79% possession, 23 attempts on goal and a dozen corners – derbies don't come much more one-sided than that.

Everton set their stall out from the opening seconds. Gyfi Sigurdsson played the ball back to Mason Holgate who duly hammered it 60 yards downfield and out for a goal kick.

The Blues rarely ventured out of their own half as they were set up simply to contain. It was defence against attack as Liverpool huffed and puffed in a bid to break them down.

There was much to admire about Klopp's side as they snapped into tackles and won battles all over the pitch.

Captain Jordan Henderson played like a man with a point to prove after being left out in midweek, while Joe Gomez and Andy Robertson shone down the flanks.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain caught the eye in the central role he craved when he left Arsenal as the £35million man continues to go from strength to strength.

When they lost the ball, the Reds hunted in packs to win it back as Everton were never allowed to settle. Klopp applauded the collective show of desire in front of him.

Mané slipped after being teed up by Robertson before James Milner's effort was blocked. What let Liverpool down was their final ball as a lack of composure at key moments enabled Everton to survive until three minutes before the interval.

Then Salah took centre stage. Gomez played it into his feet and the Egyptian shrugged off Cuco Martina and darted away from Idrissa Gana Gueye before curling an unstoppable left-footer beyond Jordan Pickford.

It was a goal of supreme quality and Liverpool should have quickly added to their account.

Mané burst clear after a rash lunge from Ashley Williams. The winger had Solanke, Oxlade-Chamberlain and Salah all crying out for a pass but went for glory and missed the target.

Allardyce brought on Aaron Lennon and Morgan Schneiderlin for the second half but their approach didn't change. They didn't chase an equaliser.

Salah should have made it 2-0 when James Milner's deep cross picked him out but he nodded wide.

Everton were under the cosh in front of the Kop with Mané's overhead kick forcing another save from Pickford.

Mané was inches away from converting Oxlade-Chamberlain's delivery before Gomez headed agonisingly over from Salah's free-kick.

Still there was no sign of an Everton fightback. Lovren and Ragnar Klavan had dealt well with the aerial bombardment with Simon Mignolet virtually a spectator.

However, after Klopp took off Salah the pressure eased and Liverpool's stranglehold on proceedings loosened. The Blues started to sense that all was not lost.

With 13 minutes to go they were level. Lovren has revived his Anfield career after that Wembley meltdown in October, but bringing down Calvert-Lewin was another blopper for his collection.

Klopp threw on Coutinho and Danny Ings in search of a late winner but it never looked likely.

Liverpool had lost control. Talk about shooting yourself in the foot.

MATCH FACTS

Liverpool: Mignolet, Gomez, Klavan, Lovren, Robertson, Milner, Henderson, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Coutinho 77), Mané, Salah (Firmino 67), Solanke (Ings 82).

Not used: Karius, Wijnaldum, Can, Alexander-Arnold

Everton: Pickford, Kenny, Williams, Holgate, Martina, Gueye, Davies (Lennon 45), Rooney (Jagiela 82), Calvert-Lewin, Sigurdsson, Niasse (Schneiderlin 45).

Not used: Robles, Keane, Vlasic, Lookman.

Referee: Craig Pawson

Attendance: 53,082

Goals: Salah 42, Rooney 77

Bookings: Lovren, Sigurdsson, Gueye, Schneiderlin.

Man of the match: Joe Gomez. Outstanding defensively and a threat going forward.

Date: 10 December 2017

Opposition: Everton

Competition: League

	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	BBC
	Independent	Mail	

10 December
2017



Captain Wayne Rooney scored a 77th-minute penalty as Everton came from behind to earn a draw against a dominant Liverpool side in the Merseyside derby at Anfield.

Mohamed Salah's sublime curling finish from an angle towards the end of the first half was deserved reward for the command shown by Jurgen Klopp's in-form side. Sadio Mane wasted a fine opportunity to double the lead before Everton, who had only one shot on target from open play, were awarded a penalty when Dejan Lovren pushed Dominic Calvert-Lewin in the back.

Rooney drove his penalty down the middle to beat Simon Mignolet in what was the former England captain's first goal in six Merseyside derby appearances.

Liverpool remain fourth in the Premier League table, two points behind third-placed Chelsea, while Everton stay 10th.

Liverpool must look at themselves

Lovren and captain Jordan Henderson angrily remonstrated with referee Craig Pawson at the final whistle after his decision to award the visitors their first penalty at Anfield since 1988.

Liverpool clearly felt it was a soft decision by the match official yet the hosts must also look at themselves for their inability to secure victory after failing to turn their long spells of possession into more than one goal.

They remain unbeaten in 10 games in all competitions but this will feel like a defeat for Klopp, whose team selection will also come under scrutiny.

The German opted to start Philippe Coutinho, who scored a Champions League hat-trick in midweek against Spartak Moscow, and fellow Brazilian Roberto Firmino on the bench.

Instead Klopp handed 20-year-old striker Dominic Solanke his second league start for the club, while there was an all-English midfield of Henderson, James Milner and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Klopp made six changes in total yet Liverpool's play was still fluent, even if they were frustrated by the visitors before a brilliant piece of individual skill by Salah put them ahead.

The Egypt forward took his tally for the club since signing in the summer to 19 goals with an exquisite finish after beating Cuco Martina and holding off Idrissa Gueye.

However Mane's selfish decision not to pass to a team-mate cost Liverpool the cushion of a second goal before the interval.

He ran clear of the Everton defence but instead of squaring to Solanke, Oxlade-Chamberlain or Salah he went for goal and dragged his shot wide of the right-hand post.

Liverpool continued to press after the break.

Klopp even sent on Danny Ings for his first Premier League appearance since May 2016.

But their failure to add another goal ultimately cost them a fourth successive win as Everton secured a point from a game they never had control of.

Rooney and Allardyce come up trumps

Everton remain without a win at Anfield since 1999 yet this was a result to enjoy for the blue half of Merseyside.

The Toffees managed just two shots on target and spent most of the first half camped inside their own half as Liverpool dominated possession and territory.

In fact Everton posted a 21% possession figure in the game, their lowest-ever in a Premier League match since 2003/04 (when Opta started recording possession).

Liverpool midfielder Henderson completed 60 passes - six more than all of Everton's players put together - in the opening 45 minutes alone.

Yet new boss Sam Allardyce's side dug deep to stay in the game so that when the chance arose to beat Mignolet, it was a meaningful goal - one that extends their unbeaten run to four games in all competitions.

Rooney, whose pass led to the penalty, had been eagerly awaiting this fixture since rejoining his boyhood club in July from Manchester United.

The 32-year-old remains without a win in the derby but his spot kick, straight down the middle after Mignolet dived early, at least earned his side a point to savour.

Man of the match - Jonjoe Kenny (Everton)

Why Rooney loves facing Liverpool - the stats

Wayne Rooney has scored five goals in his past six Premier League starts against Liverpool.

The Everton captain has been directly involved in five goals in his past three Premier League games (four goals, one assist), one more than he managed in his previous 11 with Everton this season.

Mohamed Salah has scored 19 goals in 24 appearances for Liverpool this season (all competitions), as many as he netted for Roma last term in 41 games.

Salah has been directly involved in 23 goals for Liverpool in all competitions this season, two more than any other player in the Premier League.

Liverpool have equalled their longest-ever unbeaten run against Everton in all competitions - 15 games - set between March 1972 and April 1978.

Everton have lost just one of their past six Premier League games (W3 D2), after losing six of the eight before that (W1 D1).

What's next?

Liverpool are back at Anfield on Wednesday when they host struggling West Brom in the Premier League (20:00 GMT), while Sam Allardyce takes Everton back to his former club Newcastle on the same night (19:45).

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Match ends, Liverpool 1, Everton 1.

90'+5' Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Everton 1.

90'+3' Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

88' Foul by Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool).

88' Dominic Calvert-Lewin (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.

88' Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.

87' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Idrissa Gueye.

87' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Danny Ings.

86' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner.

85' Morgan Schneiderlin (Everton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

85' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

85' Foul by Morgan Schneiderlin (Everton).

83' Foul by Danny Ings (Liverpool).

83' Idrissa Gueye (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.

83' Substitution, Everton. Phil Jagielka replaces Wayne Rooney.

82' Substitution, Liverpool. Danny Ings replaces Dominic Solanke.

78' Substitution, Liverpool. Philippe Coutinho replaces Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

77' Goal! Liverpool 1, Everton 1. Wayne Rooney (Everton converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the high centre of the goal.

76' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

76' Penalty conceded by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool after a foul in the penalty area.

76' Penalty Everton. Dominic Calvert-Lewin draws a foul in the penalty area.

75' Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

75' Foul by Cuco Martina (Everton).

73' Attempt missed. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Andrew Robertson.

72' Corner, Everton. Conceded by Joseph Gomez.

71' Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain is caught offside.

67' Substitution, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino replaces Mohamed Salah.

67' Hand ball by Idrissa Gueye (Everton).

65' Attempt missed. Joseph Gomez (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Mohamed Salah with a cross following a corner.

65' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

65' Foul by Aaron Lennon (Everton).

63' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jonjoe Kenny.

60' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Gylfi Sigurdsson.

60' Attempt blocked. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.

58' Attempt saved. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.

58' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cuco Martina.

57' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

57' Foul by Morgan Schneiderlin (Everton).

55' Attempt missed. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Sadio Mané following a corner.

55' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Dominic Calvert-Lewin.

54' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ashley Williams.

53' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mason Holgate.

52' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Idrissa Gueye.

50' Attempt missed. Dominic Calvert-Lewin (Everton right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Wayne Rooney following a fast break.

49' Hand ball by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool).

49' Attempt missed. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.

48' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jonjoe Kenny.

47' Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Dominic Solanke.

Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Everton 0.

45' Substitution, Everton. Morgan Schneiderlin replaces Oumar Niasse.

45' Substitution, Everton. Aaron Lennon replaces Tom Davies.

45'+2' First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Everton 0.

45'+2' Attempt saved. Gylfi Sigurdsson (Everton right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Dominic Calvert-Lewin with a headed pass.

45'+1' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Dominic Solanke.

45' Attempt missed. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high following a corner.

45' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ashley Williams.

45' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

42' Goal! Liverpool 1, Everton 0. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box to the top left corner. Assisted by Joseph Gomez.

42' Idrissa Gueye (Everton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

42' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

42' Foul by Idrissa Gueye (Everton).

38' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

37' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

36' Delay in match Jordan Henderson (Liverpool because of an injury.

36' Gylfi Sigurdsson (Everton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

36' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

36' Foul by Gylfi Sigurdsson (Everton).

35' Foul by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool).

35' Idrissa Gueye (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.

35' Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

35' Foul by Oumar Niasse (Everton).

34' Attempt missed. Andrew Robertson (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.

30' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jordan Pickford.

30' Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.

27' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

27' Foul by Jonjoe Kenny (Everton).

23' Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

23' Cuco Martina (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.

21' Foul by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool).

21' Gylfi Sigurdsson (Everton wins a free kick in the defensive half.

18' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

18' Foul by Dominic Calvert-Lewin (Everton).

15' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jonjoe Kenny.

15' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

13' Attempt missed. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.

13' Attempt blocked. Mohamed Salah (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Sadio Mané.

11' Mohamed Salah (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

11' Foul by Idrissa Gueye (Everton).

10' Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box is blocked. Assisted by Mohamed Salah with a cross.

4' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).

4' Tom Davies (Everton wins a free kick in the attacking half.

2' Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Mohamed Salah.

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up.