



Salah brace lifts Liverpool

Mohamed Salah celebrates scoring his second goal for Liverpool (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

London

A virtuoso performance from Mohamed Salah ran Southampton ragged as his two goals inspired Liverpool's 3-0 win at Anfield and fired the Egyptian to the top of the Premier League scoring charts.

His summer arrival for £38 million, at the time a club record, was questioned by critics after his disappointing spell at Chelsea but on this form he is looking an absolute bargain.

Both his first-half goals had a touch of class and his constant threat had visitors backpedalling for 80 minutes

before his departure to a standing ovation - by which time Philippe Coutinho had added the third goal.

Having edged one ahead of the likes of Harry Kane and Sergio Aguero, both strikers, Salah is racking up some impressive numbers.

The 25-year-old's double took him to nine goals in his first 12 Premier League matches, breaking the club's previous best held by Robbie Fowler - the man affectionately hailed as God by the Kop for his goal-scoring exploits.

Salah's overall statistics are

Other scores:

Arsenal	2	Tottenham	0
Burnley	2	Swansea City	0
Crystal Palace	2	Everton	2
Leicester City	0	Manchester City	2
Chelsea	4	West Bromwich	0

equally impressive with 14 goals, all from open play, in 18 matches and three assists. Last season Philippe Coutinho was the club's leading scorer with 14.

And this from a winger whose finishing has, at times this season, still been criticised.

But Liverpool are far

from a one-man team as with Salah on one wing, the equally-pacy Sadio Mane on the other, Roberto Firmino running the channels as the nominal centre-forward and Coutinho pulling the strings in midfield Jurgen Klopp's team have all the ingredients to be devastating.

As they approach a critical

part of the season everything appears to finally be aligning for Liverpool having overcome most of their injury problems - albeit defender Joel Matip missed this game with a thigh problem - with the fit-again Adam Lallana not even able to make the bench against his former side.

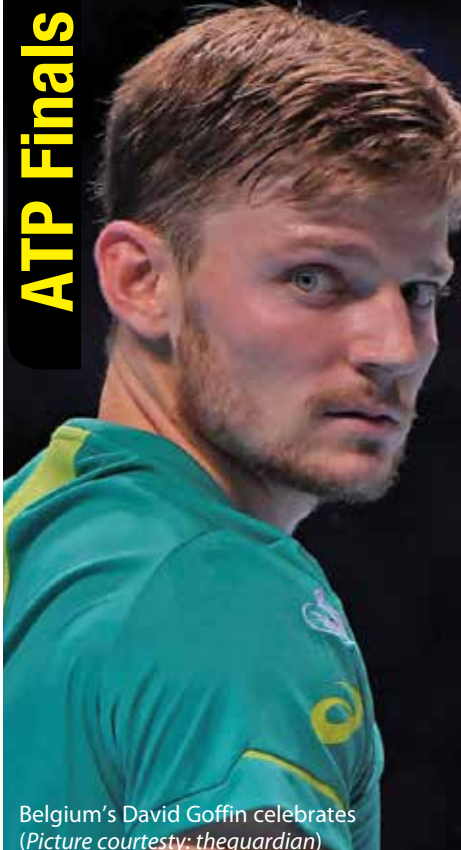
Many inside Anfield would have been closely watching Saints centre-back Virgil van Dijk, the man Klopp believes is the missing link for his defence, but it quickly became apparent there was more compelling action on Liverpool's flanks.

The defender's mis-control

almost put Trent Alexander-Arnold in for the first goal early on before Salah, who had already volleyed wastefully wide, ended his club's 459-minute goal drought against Southampton with a superb curling effort from Georginio Wijnaldum's lay-off just past the half-hour.

His second was just as brilliant. Van Dijk half-heartedly and somewhat inexplicably stepped forward with Coutinho on the ball and the Brazil international's outside-of-the-foot pass allowed Salah to run in behind and clip past Fraser Forster. (espn.in)

ATP Finals



Belgium's David Goffin celebrates (Picture courtesy: theguardian)

Goffin ends Federer's season

London

David Goffin mounted a spirited fightback to stun six-time champion Roger Federer and reach the final of the season-ending ATP Finals in London.

The Belgian seventh seed, 26, came from a set down to win 2-6 6-3 6-4, his first victory in seven attempts against the 19-time Grand Slam champion.

"I have no words. I cannot describe how I'm feeling - so much joy, so much happiness," said Goffin.

Grigor Dimitrov will face Jack Sock in the second semi-final.

Britain's Jamie Murray and Brazilian Bruno Soares take on

defending champions Henri Kontinen and John Peers in the doubles semi-finals at the O2 Arena.

Federer, 36, went into the semi-final with a 6-0 record against Goffin, whose resistance appeared to have been broken after only seven minutes.

Goffin battled gamely to cling on in his opening service game but Federer took it on the fifth break point and went on to dominate the set. Two rasping backhand winners down the line helped the Swiss to a second break at 4-1 and the set was wrapped up in little over half an hour.

The match turned early in the second set, when Goffin swung a cross-court forehand into space

vacated by Federer to edge 2-0 ahead. What at first appeared to be an exercise in damage limitation grew into an increasingly potent threat as Goffin's serve subdued Federer, who fired a forehand into his only break point in the set.

When Goffin broke in game three of the decider, helped by a beautiful backhand up the line, his belief spread to the 17,000 spectators, thrilled by this unexpectedly tight contest.

A surprisingly flat Federer could not muster another challenge as Goffin served out in style to reach the biggest final of his career and guarantee a new champion on today night. (BBC)



Roger Federer (file pic)