

Match points: Man City v Liverpool



Key battles

Raheem Sterling v Nathaniel Clyne

It would be particularly painful for Liverpool fans if Sterling, the man who rejected a new contract, were to inflict defeat. Clyne has to ensure his England team-mate does not. Pellegrini is trying to make Sterling more prolific, getting him into the inside-left channel to finish. Clyne must make sure there is no room between him and Martin Skrtel.



Eliaquim Mangala v Christian Benteke

City's defensive record has been almost perfect with captain Vincent Kompany in the team, but his absence could allow Mangala to return against the similarly tall and quick Benteke. The striker scored for Klopp in cameos against Southampton and Chelsea but missed chance after chance against Palace.



Sergio Aguero v Dejan Lovren

The bare facts are that Liverpool's best centre-back, Mamadou Sakho, has been ruled out for up to eight weeks with a knee injury and that Aguero scored five goals in 20 minutes in his last City appearance. With Wilfried Bony hamstrung, Pellegrini may have to thrust him back into action. Klopp has to pick the £20 million (\$\$43 million) misfit Lovren.



TEXT: RICHARD JOLLY PHOTOS: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, ACTION IMAGES, REUTERS

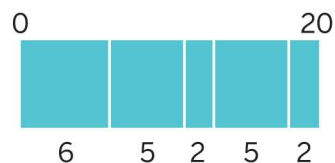
Key statistics

0-0 trending?



City have drawn two of their last three league games 0-0 (at Manchester United and Aston Villa) – this after going 60 top-flight games without a goalless draw.

City's home goal fest



City have scored 20 goals in their last five home games in all competitions, scoring at least five in a game three times.



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They have scored 13 goals in their last five home league games against Liverpool.

In good company



City have conceded only one Premier League goal with Vincent Kompany on the pitch this season – against Norwich.

Sterling's haul

How the forward fared in his opening 11 Premier League games

	2014-15	2015-16
Minutes	913	772
Goals	3	4
Shot conversion rate	18%	24%
Chances created	26	16
Assists	3	1

Source: Opta