

Match points: Liverpool v Manchester City



Key battles

James Milner v David Silva

Milner was rarely granted his preferred central-midfield role at City. He has it now and has been a revelation for Liverpool this season. Yet his meeting with former teammate Silva feels like a clash of industry against artistry. The oddity is that, as wonderful a passer as Silva is, he has no assists this season. Milner appears less creative but has two.



Virgil van Dijk v Sergio Aguero

Aguero scored the opener in Manchester City's 5-0 win over 10-man Liverpool at home last season, but he has never found the net at Anfield. He has scored in his last three games but faces a formidable opponent in van Dijk, a former target of City boss Pep Guardiola but whose £75 million (\$135 million) price put City off. Liverpool have proved the beneficiaries.



Mohamed Salah v Nicolas Otamendi

Salah has scored in his last three games against City. However, he has scored only three times against all opponents this season. Yet he has the highest expected goals in the Premier League: Teams are not keeping him quiet, he is just missing chances. He tormented Otamendi last term, so the Argentinian should be wary of leaving gaps behind his backline.



Key statistics

Table-toppers



Points Liverpool and Manchester City have each dropped out of 21.

Grudge match



Average goals per game in their four meetings last season.



City have not won on their last 17 trips to Anfield.



Jurgen Klopp has the most wins of any manager against Pep Guardiola.

On the front line



Goals Gabriel Jesus scored in his last three games against Liverpool.



Starts Daniel Sturridge made as a Manchester City player.