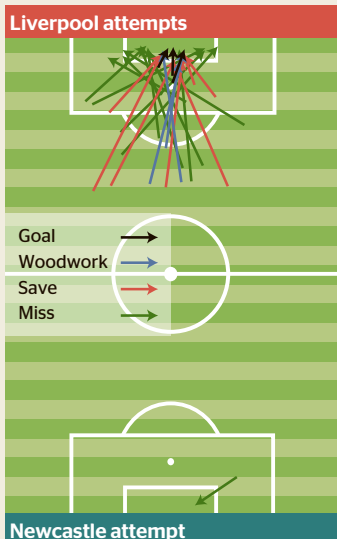


Tactical Analysis

Shot to pieces

Newcastle's habitual collapse away to a "big four" side was pitiful even by their standards, as the two sides' graphics for attempts on goal indicate

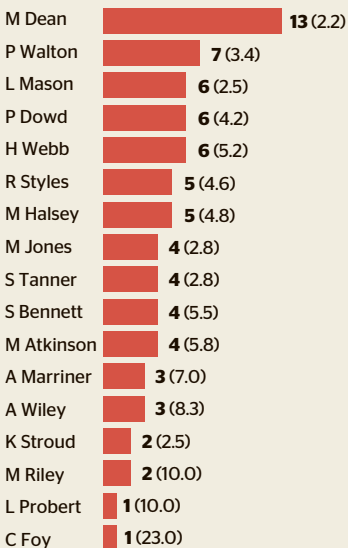


Dean cracks down

Mike Dean cemented his reputation as a disciplinarian referee by giving Manchester City and Blackburn Rovers a spot-kick each. Dean, who has shown a Premier League-high eight red cards this season, is also the most frequent penalty-awarder

Penalties awarded

(games per spot-kick)



Rooney on a run

Wayne Rooney has hit a rich vein of form for Manchester United

Most chances created for Manchester United in past three league games



Words: Bill Edgar

Alonso attracts dirty half-dozen

Joey Barton, of Newcastle, yesterday became the sixth player to be sent off in the league this season after fouling Xabi Alonso, of Liverpool. Aside from Liverpool, only two teams as a whole have "won" as many red cards as Alonso this season

Most red cards for opponents



Dismissals after fouling Alonso in league this season

- Sept 13: Nemanja Vidic, Man Utd, **Yellow** (2nd)
- Sept 27: Tim Cahill, Everton, **Red** (straight)
- Oct 5: Pablo Zabaleta, Man City, **Red** (straight)
- Oct 18: Antonio Valencia, Wigan, **Yellow** (2nd)
- Feb 1: Frank Lampard, Chelsea, **Red** (straight)
- Yesterday: Joey Barton, Newcastle, **Red** (straight)

Getting shirty

Felipe Caicedo, who opened the scoring for Manchester City against Blackburn Rovers, became the twentieth player booked for removing his shirt when celebrating a goal in the Premier League this season. Sunderland lead the way with four players given a card for post-goal exuberance

Clubs with players booked for removing shirt after scoring



Close shaves

Newcastle were lucky to lose only 3-0 at Anfield as Liverpool hit the frame of the goal three times. Xabi Alonso did so twice and Steven Gerrard once, taking them joint top in this category for the season

Most woodwork strikes in Premier League this season

