

Dear Liverpool, Please give others a chance!

Ten-year-old Daragh Curley's teacher gave his class a letter-writing exercise. Daragh, a Manchester United fan, decided to write a letter to Jurgen Klopp, the manager of Liverpool Football Club. Although Klopp is a very busy man, he took the trouble to reply. The young football fan and the club boss showed that sporting rivals can be good sports. Daragh probably had fun writing his letter. Mr Klopp's reply was gentlemanly. He shared his personal values of sportsmanship and mutual respect.

DARAGH'S LETTER

Dear Jurgen Klopp,

My name is Daragh. I am 10 years old. I go to Glenswilly N.S. in Donegal. I support Man United and the reason I am writing is to complain.

Liverpool are winning too many games. If you win nine more games, then you have the best unbeaten run in English Football. Being a United fan, that is very sad.

So, the next time Liverpool play, please make them lose. You should just let the other team score. I hope I have convinced you to not win the



GORDON CURLEY

League or win another match ever again.

Yours sincerely,
Daragh

JURGEN KLOPP'S REPLY



THOMAS RODENBÜCHER

Dear Daragh,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for writing to me. I know you did not send me good luck or anything like that, but it is always good to hear from a young football fan no matter what, so I appreciate you getting in touch.

Unfortunately, on this occasion I cannot grant your request, not through choice anyway. As much as you want Liverpool to lose, it is my job to do everything that I can to help Liverpool to win as there are millions of people around the world who want that to happen, so I really do not want to let them down.

Luckily for you, we have lost games in the past and we will lose games in the future because that is football. The problem is when you

are ten years old you, think that things will always be as they are now. If there is one thing I can tell you as a 52-year-old, it is that this most definitely isn't the case.

Having read your letter, though, I think I can safely say that one thing that will not change is your **passion** for football and for your club. Manchester United are lucky to have you.

I hope that if we are lucky enough to win more games and maybe even lift some more trophies, you will not be too disappointed because although our clubs are great **rivals** we also share a great **respect** for one another. This, to me, is what football is about.

Take care and good luck,
Jurgen Klopp



A young Manchester United supporter and other fans outside United's Old Trafford stadium.

CHERIAN GEORGE

THEN, THIS HAPPENED

After Daragh's letter, Liverpool started losing! The club lost three of their next four matches. Before this, they had been unbeaten for 422 days. Of course, it was just a coincidence. Still, British media were amazed that Daragh's wish somehow came true.

VOCAB BUILDER

passion (say "pe-shen"; noun) = a very strong feeling.

rivals (say "rai-vels"; noun) = competitors.

respect (say "res-pekt"; noun) = deep admiration for someone's good qualities.