

Sports News



● **SURROUNDED:** Gordon Strachan, the Leeds skipper, under the watchful eyes of Richard Harvey and David Preece.



● **CHALLENGE:** Jamie Campbell, in the Town starting line-up for only the second time in his career, and challenging to be Mick Harford's deputy against Crystal Palace on Saturday, lurks hopefully as John Lukic gathers the ball at Elland Road.

NO STING PROMISE BUT FAILS

By Sports Editor Brian Swain

off a major shock against league title contenders Leeds.

The Town's best spell of sustained pressure might have brought the first goal, but for ragged finishing, and Leeds then responded with a powerplay burst and a goal of their own.

Despite that, until the second give-away late goal, the Town kept in contention.

No punch

There was nothing new about the main problem: lack of a knock-out punch to complete the style that therefore flattered to deceive.

Leeds were worth their win, to maintain their unbeaten home record in the league.

But they were forced to work hard for it, and given an easier ride than they deserved because of a Town attack that

was firing blanks.

We saw a solid and dependable Town unit co-operating nicely, defending doggedly, and looking threatening on the break.

On edge

And for nearly an hour the multi-million pound talents of Leeds, assembled at a club where big attendances guarantee a good cash flow, were looking decidedly edgy as the breakthrough refused to materialise.

Chris Kamara, given a warm welcome back by the crowd, had an outstanding game.

He blocked most of the threat down the middle of midfield, and in the later stages got up in support of attack.

Julian James came through a few anxious moments against the pace and trickery of Rod Wallace, and David

Preece competed well with Gordon Strachan, still very much a class player.

After the game much of the talk was about Eric Cantona, the French international who has cost Leeds £100,000 for a loan until the end of the season.

"Jewels like that are hard to find," said Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds boss.

When you look at the Town side, regularly robbed of major young talent to satisfy the money men, David Pleat could also point to a few jewels, perhaps not yet fully polished, but still plainly stars of the future.

The contest between title contenders and the survival battlers comes down to big spenders v big sellers.

Quiet

Mark Pembroke did a highly competent job

THE FULL MATCH DETAILS

LEEDS UNITED 2 LUTON TOWN 0 (Half-time: 0-0)

TOWN: Sutton; James, Peake, Dreyer, Harvey; Hughes (Salton 84 mins), Kamara, Pembroke, Preece; Campbell, (Stein 75 mins), Harford.

LEEDS: Lukic; Sterland, Fairclough, Whyte, Dorigo (Cantona 30 mins); Strachan, Batty, McAllister, Speed; Wallace (Agana 81 mins), Chapman.

THE GOALS: Eric Cantona, 59 mins, after ball ran loose from Steve Sutton's one-to-one challenge on Gary McAllister; Lee Chapman, 85 mins, after poor clearance attempts by Sutton and John Dreyer.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town five saved and eight wide; Leeds six saved, seven wide and two hit the bar. Corners: 6-4 to Leeds.

REFEREE: Allan Flood, Stockport. Excellent, and not intimidated by the raucous home crowd.

BOOKED: No-one.

ATTENDANCE: 28,231, with the faithful from Luton still shouting their corner brilliantly.

ENTERTAINMENT: It's getting hard to enjoy good Town performances away from home, which this was, when they don't add the goal touch. Enough openings were made to have got at least a point, but the Leeds power and persistence turned out to be too much in the end.

FAREWELL: Steve Sutton was playing his 14th and final match on loan, going home because £300,000 could not be found to back the manager's judgement in the First Division survival battle.

Town Match verdict ★★★

AND BRIGHT THREATENS TO DELIVER

Action pictures by Josh Levy

David Batty, and kept him pretty quiet.

Carl Hughes returned to the right of midfield and had his moments, as did Jamie Campbell, in only the second start of his league career.

He showed good touches, but at 19 was not always able to make a big impression on such a difficult stage.

Richard Harvey was a steady and dependable defender, as Leeds tried their luck on both flanks.

Good work

Fortunately, Trevor Peake and John Dreyer were in commanding form again, although their good work was eventually undone in the later stages.

Mark Pembroke did a highly competent job

Important

But for once his killer instinct deserted him, and two chances you would bet on him finishing escaped.

The first was probably the most important.

Gary McAllister had just wasted a chance with a wild shot over the bar.

Chris Whyte collected a clearance, but was caught out by the speed of Harford's tackle in midfield. The striker

pinched the ball, strode clear, and with only John Lukic to beat mistimed the shot, and the goalkeeper was grateful as the expected piledriver turned into a gentle pass into his hands.

My worry then was that you don't expect visiting sides to make too many chances at Elland Road, but the Town had other ideas.

Bombarded

Leeds, inspired by Strachan, had more possession, and they bombarded the Town with two long-range assaults: one down the middle direct from Lukic clearances, and the other from the flanks, via Wallace and Speed.

The pattern did not change appreciably when Tony Dorigo went off in the 28th minute with a knee injury.

Happy

At half-time the Town had more reason than Leeds to be happy with the blank scoreline, and doubts were becoming obvious among the home side's ranks and supporters as the Town opened the second half

The season so far

● Results showing Town score first, home and away, Town scorers, attendances and league position:

Barclays League Div One

1991

17 West Ham (a) 0-0	25,079	—
20 Coventry (a) 0-5	10,084	—
24 Liverpool (h) 0-0	11,132	—
27 Arsenal (a) 0-2	25,898	21
31 Chelsea (a) 1-4 (Gray)	17,457	22
4 Southampton (h) 2-1 (Gray, Harvey)	8,055	19
7 Wimbledon (a) 0-3	3,231	20
14 Oldham (h) 2-1 (Harford 2)	9,005	17
17 QPR (h) 0-1	9,185	19
21 Man Utd (a) 0-5	46,491	21
28 Notts Co (h) 1-1 (Gray)	7,629	20
30 Villa (a) 0-4	18,722	21
31 Sheffield Wed (h) 2-2 (Harford, Nogan)	9,401	21
36 Norwich (a) 0-1	10,514	21
4 Everton (h) 0-1	8,002	21
10 Tottenham (a) 1-4 (Harford)	27,543	22
23 Man City (h) 2-2 (Harford, Dreyer)	10,031	22
28 Sheffield Utd (a) 1-1 (Telfer)	21,804	22

11 Tottenham (h) 0-1	8,002	21
23 Man City (h) 2-2 (Harford, Dreyer)	10,031	22
28 Sheffield Utd (a) 1-1 (Telfer)	21,804	22

1992

1 Nottm Forest (a) 1-1 (Pembroke)	23,809	19
11 Liverpool (a) 1-2 (OG Tanner)	35,095	20
18 West Ham (h) 0-1	11,088	22

with a real flourish.

James robbed Wallace, played a one-two with Hughes, and delivered a perfect cross from the right. Harford escaped his markers to meet it, but headed over the top, his second bad miss of the match.

But the striker's all-round contribution was still massive, and from his lay-off after a long throw by Pembroke Preece nearly chipped a beauty. It was heading for the top corner until Lukic made a flying save.

Twice Pembroke burst clear to hammer sizzling drives the wrong side of the bar.

Steve Sutton ended his Luton spell with a game that was perfect until the final five minutes, although he was lucky when Chris Fairclough powered a header onto the top of the bar from a corner by Strachan late in the first half.

And finally came the 59th-minute breakthrough.

Strachan flicked a pass to send McAllister through the Town's back line and Sutton

clipped his bicycle kick clearance attempt, and Chapman despatched a thundering volley into the far corner. And that was that, the Town's 21st away game in the First Division without a win.

And Kamara, the man of the match, found that fact cut short his pleasure at returning to Elland Road and a warm welcome from the crowd.

"I'm a results man," he said. "I would rather have had a stinker and won."

"We seem to be doing reasonably well away from home but come away with nothing."

Not including last night's games: Palace v Forest, Leeds v Aston Villa and Southampton v West Ham.

Number of players used: 29, eight more than last season.

LEAGUE GOALS: Harford 9, Gray 3, Dreyer 2 (1 pen), Harvey 2, Preece 2, Pembroke 2 (1 pen), Stein 1, Nogan 1, Telfer 1, Oakes 1, OG 1 (Tanner, Liverpool).

FA CUP, THIRD ROUND

Jan 4 Sheffield Utd (a) 0-4

APPEARANCES: One each by Chamberlain, James, Peake, Dreyer, Harvey, Telfer, Kamara, Pembroke, Preece, Oakes and Stein. One as sub by Campbell.

THE RUMBELOWS CUP

Rd 2(1) Sep 25: Birmingham (h) 2-2 (Gray, Nogan)

Rd 2(2) Oct 9: Birmingham (a) 2-3 (Gray 2)

APPEARANCES: Two each by Chamberlain, Jackson, Preece, Beaumont, Pembroke, Thompson, Telfer and Gray, Stein 1(1).

One each by Peake, Harvey, Dreyer, Rodger and Harford. Nogan two as sub. Salton one as sub.

Zenith Data Systems Cup

Rd 2: Oct 22 Ipswich (a) 1-1 (Telfer). Lost on pens.

APPEARANCES: One each by Chamberlain, Telfer, Rodger, Salton, Allpress, Pembroke, Nogan, James, Hughes, Williams and Harford. One each as sub: Rees and Campbell.

charged at his feet and brought him down.

It might have been a penalty, but the ref had no need to decide because the ball ran loose and Cantona cracked it into the empty net for his first English goal.

Hughes and Harford both headed wide as the Town fought back well, and Stein, on for the last quarter of an hour, put a header at Lukic from a cross by Preece and then hit a sharp shot on the turn inches wide of the far post following a neat build-up by Kamara and Preece.

Debut

Darren Salton went on for his league debut as sub for Hughes with six minutes to go, and arrived just in time to see Leeds collect a crazy killer goal.

McAllister flicked a high pass down the middle over Peake and Dreyer, and Sutton raced out of his area to head clear.

He managed only to balloon the ball into the air and McAllister lobbied it back into the penalty area.

Sutton got back quickly, but Dreyer nudged his bicycle kick clearance attempt, and Chapman despatched a thundering volley into the far corner. And that was that, the Town's 21st away game in the First Division without a win.

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● **HAPPY FAMILY:** Man of the match Chris Kamara with the Town's mascots at Elland Road—his own sons. The Kamaras still live in Yorkshire, and the boys were pleased with the result, to avoid having to take stick from pals at school on Monday! "But the wife understood why I felt a bit grumpy," said the midfielder who was a Leeds player before his transfer in October.

Young players give pleasure

HOWARD Wilkinson, the Leeds boss, admitted that his side did not really dominate the game as he would have liked.

He picked out Chris Kamara as one of the major reasons, and David Pleat did not argue with that judgement.

He was delighted with the way the Town competed, and thought the result was flattering to Leeds.

He was particularly pleased at his side's refusal to give in after Leeds

Managers' viewpoints

took the lead.

"It was a good game for us," he said. "One or two younger players came of age. Hughes battled well and kept going, and Jamie Campbell showed some nice touches."

"I am fairly confident about him."

"Julian James and Richard Harvey are playing stronger at fullback, and some of the service up to the

strikers in the second half was delightful.

"We had spells when some of our football completely unsettled Leeds and the crowd."

But we needed a goal at the end of it, and couldn't get it.

Better

"It was a far better display defensively, without the ball, and in attack with the ball, than at Crystal Palace, and if we can continue to play with the spirit and the energy and the football that we played today we are going to win one or two."

GOALS: Mark Bright for Palace, 19 mins, scramble after cross-shot by Mark Pembroke for the Town, 50 mins, penalty after Brian Stein was pulled down by Eric Young.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town four saved and four wide; Palace three saved and eight wide. Corners: 9-7 to the Town.

REFEREE: Paul Danson, Blaby; very firm throughout with both sides.

BOOKED: Pembroke and James of the Town; Osborn and Thorn of Palace, all for fouls.

ATTENDANCE: 12,109, Selhurst Park's lowest of the season.

ENTERTAINMENT: A very good contest between a team of footballers and the Palace battering ram.

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 LUTON TOWN 1

produced some deft footwork to take out three opponents and send Stein clear in the penalty area.

He got goalside of Eric Young, who brought him down, and Mark Pembroke thumped home the penalty, volunteering for spot kick responsibilities after the manager decided that John Dreyer should give them up.

David Preece was lively and effective on the left, and from one of his crosses a marvellous save by Nigel Martyn denied Brian Stein a first-half equaliser.

Five minutes after the break Julian James broke forward and

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