

# Cantona comes off bench and gets off mark

A FIRST goal in English football by the French international striker, Eric Cantona, and a sweet volley to mark Lee Chapman's return after injury took Leeds back to within two points of the League leaders Manchester United. They can regain the leadership by beating Aston Villa at Elland Road on Tuesday.

They were worthy winners over spirited Luton, even though they had to wait nearly an hour for Cantona's breakthrough and were not

safe until five minutes from the end when Chapman struck the second.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said his players were venturing into uncharted territory this season and could have difficulty coping with a nerve-racking finish to the title race. Points at this stage of the campaign are more important than performances and he was delighted with the three his edgy team collected.

It seemed at the end of a goalless first half that Leeds,

who had hit the woodwork through Fairclough, might not have the imagination to break down a determined Luton defence but they raised their game markedly after the interval and could have scored three times in as many minutes.

Cantona, the *enfant terrible* of French football, who began the match on the substitutes' bench, joined the fray after half an hour following a knee injury to England full-back Dorigo and he should have opened his Elland Road

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William Johnson

account two minutes before he did so.

McAllister found him unmarked in the penalty area 12 yards out and the striker, who is on loan for £100,000 from Nimes, chipped the ball over a helpless Sutton but it floated over the top.

Then Wallace became the second Leeds player to hit the

woodwork with a ferocious drive against the underside of the bar before Strachan, having been put clean through by his Scotland midfield partner McAllister, failed to get sufficient power in a low shot.

Cantona's much-celebrated maiden strike owed much to sensible refereeing by Allan Flood who, having seen Sutton commit what could have been interpreted as a professional foul on the breaking McAllister, delayed his penalty decision long enough to see the Frenchman pounce on

the loose ball and steer it home from a sharp angle.

Luton, who had gone close in the first half through Pembroke twice and Harford, and should have taken the lead early in the second period through Harford's header from Harvey's cross, responded positively enough to suggest that Leeds needed a second goal for security.

Chapman, who broke a wrist about seven weeks ago, obliged with a typical opportunist effort to send a 28,231 crowd, well aware of the

developments at Highfield Road, into raptures.

Cantona was again involved, heading back a headed clearance from goalkeeper Sutton, and Dreyer's sliced drive fell invitingly for Chapman to volley home.

At that stage Leeds had yet another striker, Agana, on the field in place of Wallace, who started with a shin injury. Agana, on loan from Notts County, was close to marking his arrival with a goal when he met Strachan's cross with a strong but wide header.

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