

How United can blow the title

By Ian Wright

MANCHESTER UNITED are one point ahead of Liverpool with a game in hand. But the title is Liverpool's to lose due to the incredible momentum they have built.

After crushing United 4-1 at Old Trafford, Rafa Benitez's team have reacted in the way I hoped. A poor result on Sunday would have meant all their hard work at United was for nothing.

United, meanwhile, went to Fulham and proved for the second time in a week they are not unbeatable.

This is why I now think Liverpool will win the Premier League.

I'm going to stick my neck out here, and predict that Liverpool should win ALL of their remaining league games this season.

When Rafa went on his anti-United rant, I thought he was losing the plot and about to implode. The contract saga did not appear to be helping.

But, incredibly, both Rafa and his team are looking stronger and more confident than ever. Rafa says there is more to come from his team and he's right

Liverpool obviously have some tricky games coming up and none more so than their next league trip to Fulham.

But I do not see Liverpool, on current form, delivering a similar away performance to the one that United served up at the Cottage.

I can only see a convincing victory over Blackburn and while Liverpool's next match after that is at home to Arsenal, I can still see them nicking it.

They will have too much for Hull and Newcastle, who they could thrash, before squeezing past West Ham.

Liverpool will win at West Brom and while Tottenham on the final day is a nasty fixture as Harry Redknapp has done ever so well, I think Liverpool will have enough to win.

Now, let's look at United's games. I think they'll recover from this current blip to beat Aston Villa following the international break.

Villa are not playing well and I can only see a United victory. In fact, I can see United winning all their forthcoming games until a nasty little patch at the beginning of May.

I think they'll end up drawing three games in a row which could cost them the title.

Manchester City would love nothing more than to upset their neighbours and I think they could get a point at Old Trafford — hopefully with my

boy Shaun scoring.

United go to Wigan a few days later and I really fancy Steve Bruce's side getting a point and then the following Saturday, on May 16, United are at home to Arsenal.

It's a big shame my old team are not involved in the title but I still think they could have a big say in the trophy's destination by holding United to a goalless draw.

As I said last week, teams have got to show some courage when they face United and take a punch at them.

Fulham showed how to rattle them and the occasion certainly got to Wayne Rooney.

After getting sent off, Rooney said he was aiming the ball he threw at a team-mate and I'd have said the same thing if I was still playing. But we all know who the ball was being aimed at — and I don't remember many United players being around.

That said, I can hardly criticise Rooney as I sometimes used to behave like that.

Maybe United are beginning to feel the pressure and it is certainly shaping up for a tremendous end to the season.

Those who were moaning the season was boring and unpredictable probably wish they'd kept their mouths shut.

The one thing I'm fairly sure of is that Chelsea and Guus Hiddink won't be fighting for the title.

Whereas the league is Liverpool's priority it is obvious that Chelsea's players, their coach, the owner and their fans are all desperate to win one thing — and that's the Champions League.

Mind you, when you look at their quarter-final opponents, they're going to have their work cut out . . .

