



I'm feeling White Heart strain

By Harry Redknapp

THE SAS motto of Who Dares Wins tells you exactly their attitude and I reckon who dares will win the nail biting chase for fourth place in the Premier League.

For the first season since I can remember it is a REAL battle for fourth, not the usual procession of the top four slugging it out and it has created unbelievable tension for managers, players and fans alike.

This job of professional football management takes it toll no matter what level the game is played at as it doesn't show any favouritism on who it can affect.

About a year ago, I needed to take heart pills and I am still taking them regularly - although I must admit my wife Sandra has to remind me because I get so wrapped up in the game that I'm capable of forgetting just about

everything else.

I am absolutely fine and have no worries about my health but this game can make the most mild mannered of people explode as when you are sitting on the bench you get eaten up inside from first to last whistle.

Who would have thought mild mannered David Moyes of Everton would get involved with mild mannered Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini on the touch line the other night.

It's happened to the best hasn't it, remember Alan Pardew's row with Arsene Wenger when Arsenal were playing at West Ham and I've been sent to the stands too.

It illustrates exactly what is at stake for every manager because the buck stops at his door, no one else's if

things go wrong.

When I was manager at Portsmouth, there was a break in play and I went over to the then manager David Jones to have a chat about the referee.

We both agreed the ref was total rubbish and on the way back to my seat I told the fourth official the ref was having a nightmare.

Before I knew it the ref was summoned over to the touchline and I was sent up into the stands...grassed up by the fourth official.

After a game I cannot sleep, there is too much going on in my head as I go over moves, think about game plans, think about which player has had a good or bad game - and it's worse if you lose.

It's not only night matches that affect me that way,

Saturday games do the whole night through.

I can't have a drink, lips is the occasional sometimes played in crack under the press.

I don't jump about during games, Joe Row and he does it for me.

But I can tell you that I am kicking every ball every shot and making

It's your life, your winning a 90 minute good week, lose and

When it doesn't go your way, if you are getting a job you get well paid

Some managers sit on me. It would drive me stupid comments through

I've tried it a few touchline because he turn around and say

I can just sit there and think positive as you ham to play in a very

Spurs are one of a 4-4-2 these days. Everton, Manchester United, Chelsea one up front.

Man City, Aston Villa way through the division, venturous and will a

It's not only being in this season, you need tries along the way.

I've said all Man City even though they do you shouldn't write of

Of the teams hoping League, they have the ing eight games.

Arguably Tottenham, Chelsea at White away, all played one

Of course it's a big in where the title will end up - fourth, I'll ju

Tottenham look to hold the upper hand in the race for fourth

No one would put money on Manchester City, Liverpool or Aston Villa taking advantage of any slip-ups by Tottenham

Tottenham Hotspur were celebrating more than a place in the FA Cup semi-finals on Wednesday night. News of Manchester City's defeat to Everton and Aston Villa's draw at home to Sunderland had reached the players "as soon as we got in the dressing room", according to Peter Crouch. Moments later, their rivals for fourth place in the Premier League were installing Spurs as the new frontrunners in a race that has started to resemble a crawl.

"Spurs are favourites now," said Manchester City's Micah Richards. "We thought we could capitalise on our game in hand but it didn't work out that way and we were devastated in the dressing room. What we have to do now is make sure that we use the loss as a springboard. We have eight cup finals and we have to win them all, starting against Wigan on Monday night."

The reality, however, is that City - whose manager Roberto Mancini was sent off

along with his Everton counterpart David Moyes following a confrontation near the end of Wednesday's defeat - are unlikely to need anything like 24 points to seize the final Champions League qualifying berth. Tottenham are playing with confidence after four successive Premier League wins but back-to-back fixtures against Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United next month threaten to derail their progress. "We've got some big games coming up so it could be a defining month," admitted Crouch.

Not that anyone would want to put money on City, Liverpool or Villa taking advantage of any slip-ups from Harry Redknapp's team between now and the end of the season. City and Liverpool have won only two of their last six league matches, meaning they sit 10th and 13th in the top-flight form guide, while Villa have recorded just three victories from a run of 10 games unbeaten since the turn of the year.

"There are a few teams up and down at the minute," reflected Villa's Stewart Downing. "Man City were getting results and now they've lost. We were on a great run and we've drawn a few. There are a lot of twists and turns still to go and we've still got to play Everton and Man City, teams around us, so I think it is wide open. Whoever puts two or three wins together will be in a good position."

Villa had hoped successive victories would arrive from two home matches in the space of five days, against Wolverhampton Wanderers and Sunderland, but instead there was only frustration. A lack of attacking options has been exposed in the absence of the injured Gabriel Agbonlahor, with Martin O'Neill forced to introduce two academy graduates, Marc Albrighton and Nathan Delfouneso, against Wolves and Sunderland.

The contrast with Tottenham is stark. Against Fulham, Redknapp brought on

David Bentley, Tom Huddlestone and Roman Pavlyuchenko to turn the game in Spurs' favour while on Saturday, at Stoke, Eidur Gudjohnsen scored one goal and set up another after stepping off the bench. That strength in depth not only allows Redknapp to freshen things up but also lets him rotate his players when Tottenham's lengthy injury-list eases.

O'Neill has never felt able to do likewise and Villa are now paying the price. Downing admitted the players "were out on our feet" at the end against Sunderland. James Milner and Emile Heskey both departed with achilles problems and others were playing through the pain barrier. "Richard Dunne was struggling all week and James Collins is struggling - basically half the team is struggling but they all want to play," said Downing.

O'Neill highlighted City's strength and depth as a reason for his belief that they have the best chance to finish fourth but that was before Roberto Mancini's

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