

Torres: We have no fear

By Paul Hassall

Fernando Torres has issued a warning to Liverpool's Premier League title rivals and insists they fear no-one.

The Spanish forward, who has scored eight goals in 14 appearances so far this season, believes the Reds have yet to hit top gear and expects his teammates to build some momentum and push the likes of Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal all the way in the race for the title.

"We have a confidence and a focus which will make us a very dangerous opponent for everyone who has to face us," said the 23-year-old.

"We have maybe not played as well as we are all capable of all the time this season but look at how close we are to the teams at the top of the table. That is highly encouraging for us.

"From what I have seen so far in England we do not have anything to fear from any of our opponents for the title. They are all great teams with a lot of experience and many very, very good players but so are we.

"I am sure that as the season progresses it will come down to a fight between Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea – and we will be in there too."

Since arriving in the summer Torres

had had to adapt to both a new league and a new approach in the dressing room and admits that the expectation for Liverpool to win every match they play in, is one he has now happily adopted.

"There is a winning mentality at Liverpool," he said.

"I look around in the dressing room before a game and in the face of every player and every coach you see the winning expectation.

"They do not go out on to the pitch either hoping they will or praying they will win. They expect it. They have such a belief in their ability that another outcome is just not something they consider.

"It is very new to me but I enjoy that mentality very much and I am thinking this way too now.

"Hopefully we have had all the injuries that we are going to have and for the next few months we can really start to build a momentum that makes us very hard to stop.

"Any team that concedes as few goals as we concede is going to be tough to play against. If we begin to take the chances that we are creating in our games then I am sure those teams above us will start to fear us."

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Torres

Redknapp bid to return Crouch to Portsmouth

By Steve Wilson

Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp wants to bring Peter Crouch back to one of his former clubs is preparing a bid in the region of £10 million for the Liverpool and England striker.

Crouch has seen his first team playing time restricted at Anfield since the summer arrivals of Fernando Torres and Andrei Voronin had expressed his frustrations at working under Rafael Benitez's rotation policy.

The 26-year-old has yet to find the net for the club in the league this season and, despite being a fans' favourite, could be tempted to leave the club in pursuit of regular first-team football.

Portsmouth have started the season exceptionally well and are currently sixth, just a single point behind Liverpool, with serious European ambitions.

Crouch scored 19 goals in 39 appearances for Portsmouth between 2001 and 2002 before

being sold by Redknapp to Aston Villa for £5 million. Redknapp sold Crouch again, for £7 million to Liverpool, when he was manager of Southampton but he insists he would be keen to be reunited with the player.

"You will always be interested in someone like him," said Redknapp. "He is a great player and can be unplayable at times. He is a great lad and great to work with.

"He was fantastic in that year he had at Portsmouth. The club owe him a massive debt for what he did. We bought him for £1 million and sold him for £5 million. He scored 19 goals and without those goals they would probably have gone down.

"He kept the club going and for me he has been one of the main players for the last six or seven years."

Crouch, who tonight leads the England line against Croatia in their decisive final Euro 2008 qual-

ifier in the absence of Michael Owen and Wayne Rooney, scored England's only goal in a friendly win over Austria last week and has 13 goals from just 23 appearances for his country.

One Liverpool player who will not be on the move is goalkeeper Jose Reina. The Spaniard has rejected attempts by Atletico Madrid to take him back to La Liga.

Reina, whose father Miguel played for the club, said: "Interest from a team like Atletico makes me proud but at the moment it wouldn't be a good idea for me to move."



Redknapp



Crouch