



Press Release

FA Cup Final **Liverpool vs. West Ham** **Sunday 14 May @ 12.30am**

There have been a number of surprises in this year's FA Cup, from Arsenal's early defeat to West Ham's first final since they won it in 1980 and finally, for the first time since 1993 there will be no Arsenal, Man United or Chelsea in the final.

It had been a fantastic season for Alan Pardrew's charges and Europe is still in sight for his side. While for Liverpool by all accounts it has been a better season in the premiership but after last year's euphoric champions League victory, it would be seen as a failure of a season if they do not get some silverware this year.

Meanwhile, Hayden Mullins and Luis Garcia could miss the FA Cup final after both players were sent off nine minutes from time in Liverpool's 2-1 Barclays Premiership victory over West Ham.

Semi-final winner Garcia had only been on the field for two minutes when he tangled with Mullins in a tackle. Mullins pushed the Spaniard to the floor and referee Howard Webb showed both players a straight red card.

It is a more serious blow for West Ham than Liverpool. Mullins has been an unsung hero alongside Nigel Reo-Coker at the heart of the Hammers midfield this season.

Liverpool won the game, a dress rehearsal for the Cardiff final, with two expertly-taken goals from Djibril Cisse either side of Reo-Coker's equaliser.

The double sending off brought the evening to a sour end. Before kick-off players, fans and former West Ham stars had paid a rousing tribute to John Lyall, the Hammers' manager for 15 years who died suddenly last week aged 66.

Lyall is the only West Ham manager to have won the FA Cup twice and so it was a fitting evening for the club to pay its tributes.

The Hammers will be hoping that Lyall's memory will be enough to spur their team to an unlikely victory over the much favoured Liverpool side, finding their stride

FA Cup Final, Don't miss Liverpool vs West Ham United in the FA Cup Final, Sunday 14th May at 12:30am