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## Grant sacked as Hammers relegated from top division

West Ham United

AVRAM Grant was the first out of the door, but a whole load more could follow.

The Israeli was sacked as manager of West Ham straight after the 3-2 defeat to Wigan that confirmed to the club's relegation from the Premier League.

Star midfielder Scott Parker refused to commit his future to the club last week and it is likely that he – along with Robert Green, Carlton Cole, Thomas Hitzlsperger and Matthew Upson – will be among the exodus from Upton Park this summer.

The Irons needed a miracle to survive, but Grant's men looked to go about doing all they could to help that by taking a 2-0 lead against Wigan.

Demba Ba headed home the first from Hitzlsperger's cross on 12 minutes. The same combination lead to the second as the German's cross was flicked on by James Tomkins and Ba finished off.

There could have been more had Ben Watson not scrambled Frederic Piquionne's shot off the line, but Green also had to be on his game to keep out Hugo Rodallega and Mohamed Diame.

Wigan are also in that relegation dogfight and manager Roberto Martinez responded with two changes at half time and a rocket up his side.

They pulled one back on 57 minutes when Charles N'Zogbia curled a free kick beyond Green and the equaliser came 10 minutes later when substitute Conor Sammon slotted home.

Grant threw on Cole and Robbie Keane and as they threw caution to the wind, the game became wide open with chances at either end.

Then, with the game in injury time, N'Zogbia cut in from the wing and fired goalwards. Green should have been able to deal with it, but the ball ended up in the back of the net and Wigan erupted.

West Ham went down.



OUTSTANDING: The Under 11 team from Brentwood Preparatory School.

## League and cup glory for Prep's invincibles

School Football

AS THE football season draws to a close, one Brentwood school can look back on achieving a 100 per cent win rate over the entire year.

The Under 11 side from Brentwood Preparatory School, in Ingrave Road, Brentwood,

were crowned champions of the Brentwood District League and won the Brentwood District Cup.

The side were victorious in all 17 matches played during the season, averaging seven goals per game, scoring 122 goals and conceding 13.

This has meant the team beat off seven other schools in the

League Schools section of the league and also beat St Thomas' School in the final of the Langhelt Cup.

Coach Andrew Matthams said: "This is an outstanding group of boys who have played excellent football. They thoroughly deserve their unbeaten record."

Motorsport

## Life's a dream for racer Dan in his new Ferrari

A 19-YEAR-OLD racing driver is carrying out most boyhood dreams by racing a Ferrari on the best tracks in Europe.

Daniel Brown, from Ramsden Heath, Billericay, drives a modest Fiat Punto during the week but swaps it for a more costlier toy at the weekend.

The undergraduate, from the University of Hertfordshire, races a 200mph Ferrari F458 supercar in the 2011 FIA European GT3 Championship, whose 12 rounds take him to Portugal, Spain, France, Russia and the Netherlands, plus a UK round at the famous Silverstone circuit.

At 19, Dan is the youngest competitor in the race series for AF Corse, whose base is a short distance from the Ferrari factory in Maranello in Italy, home of the Ferrari Formula One team.

The team prepare the racecar from the roadgoing Ferrari F458, which is priced at just under £170,000 in the showroom.

Dan, who is backed by global fuel additive brand STP, and car styling experts, Brown & Geeson in Wickford, has already rewarded their confidence in him, by storming to eighth place in the opening round of the championship earlier this month in Portugal, with co-driver Glynn Geddie.

The youngster started karting from the age of 11, and made the jump into car racing before he passed his driving test, competing in junior categories Saxmax and T-Cars.

However, it was performances in the British GT Championship over the last two years in a Mosler and a Ferrari which made the motorsport take note of his progress.

He said: "My race Ferrari reaches 100mph from a standstill in much the same time my Punto gets to 30mph. It stops from 60mph in not much more than the length of a cricket pitch, and corners quicker than you would ever consider on the road.

"However, when it comes to service bills and fuel costs, I know which one I'd prefer!"

Dan and his AF Corse team will take part in the FIA European GT3 Championship at Silverstone over the weekend of June 4/5. To find out more, visit [www.danielbrown.biz](http://www.danielbrown.biz)