

Latics steal the points in a Lancashire hotpot

UNDER-PRESSURE Oldham boss Andy Ritchie promised his basement strugglers would get out of trouble with all-out attack – but it took them until the second half before they could deliver.

The home side completely lost the plot in the first half and were let off the hook by a Luton side who failed to find a finish.

There was no doubt that the visitors were on top but all they had to show for their efforts were two shots from teenager Matthew Taylor which

OLDHAM

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bounced to safety after hitting the woodwork.

A grateful Ritchie was able to get his side into the dressing room at the break without conceding a goal.

He revealed afterwards: "I had a real go at them and there were no nouns, just expletives."

"We went out and really went for their throats in the second half to play with plenty of pride and passion."

LUTON

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The three points – only their second in 10 games – lifted the Latics to fourth from bottom.

Oldham, grateful for the earlier let-offs, took the lead in the 66th minute. David McNiven, looking well offside, superbly rounded keeper Nathan Abbey on the edge of the box before slotting the ball into an empty net.

But Luton, to their credit, hit back with an equaliser just five minutes

from the end.

In a rare moment of panic the home side's keeper Gary Kelly foolishly raced way off his line and substitute Neil Midgley took full advantage of the blunder to score.

But Oldham were far from finished. They continued to go at the Luton defence and were rewarded with a last-minute equaliser.

A free-kick from veteran John

Sheridan on the edge of the box picked out top scorer Mark Allott and the young striker made no mistake with a brave, close-range diving header.

Oldham: Kelly, McNiven, Thom, Graham, Holt, Rickers, Sheridan, Duxbury, Adams, McNiven, Allott. Subs: Innes, Miskelly, Sugden, Tipton, Hotte.

Luton: Abbey, Fraser, Sodje, Watts, Johnson, Taylor, Spring, McLaren, Locke, Gray, Douglas. Subs: White, McIndoe, Kandol, Midgley, Ward.

Referee: M Cowburn (Blackpool).