

Carlisle denied two goals

LUTON'S promotion push came close to being upset by a brave Carlisle side who held on for a 1-1 draw.

After weathering early pressure the visitors took a 51st-minute lead through Steve Soley with a close-range header.

But Luton equalised through defender Russell Perrett, who bundled home a header from Matthew Taylor's free-kick after 67 minutes.

Carlisle had two efforts disallowed in the first half, Soley's shot being ruled out by an offside flag against Ian Stevens while Richie Foran was penalised for pushing Mark Ovendale over the line as he caught the ball.

Matthew Spring and Adrian Forbes hit the crossbar for Luton while Ahmet Brkovic and Steve Howard both went close.

Stevens brought a fine save out of Ovendale with an angled shot in the first half but in a grandstand finish Jean-Louis Valois and Spring both came close to stealing the win for the Hatters.

Luton boss Joe Kinnear thought his side could have won.

He said: "We should have won that game but Carlisle had the luck of the Irish. If we had scored early on it would have been game, set and match but their luck was unbelievable.

"Then we conceded a Mickey Mouse

Luton 1

Carlisle 1



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goal from a corner and to be fair to Carlisle they worked hard to frustrate us.

"We needed an early goal to make them do something different but we couldn't get it. Once we did score I couldn't see anything else but more goals for us but we had no luck at all.

"It is disappointing but I suppose you should give credit to Carlisle for the way they stuck at it."

Carlisle boss Roddy Collins was pleased to earn a draw against the Hatters but he was disappointed his side did not hang on for the win.

He said: "I am pleased with a point against one of the best teams in the division, especially in view of the injuries we have.

"We frustrated Luton for half an hour or so and then when we got our goal I felt we could hang on so I was disappointed that we didn't.

"It was a scrappy goal to concede but I am pleased with the way the players performed. But it is so disappointing when you get so near to a win and we concede from a corner and I think you should always be able to defend at set pieces."