

Aussie Filan impeccable

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SKIPPER Jason de Vos rescued a point for leaders Wigan at Luton after the visitors had been reduced to 10 men.

Wigan centre back Matt Jackson, returning to the club where he began his career, was sent off late on for his second yellow card tackle on Luton's Steve Howard.

Luton took the lead through Aaron Skelton following good work by Peter Holmes, but Wigan fought hard and should have scored at least once in the first period.

But their finishing was wayward, with Lee McCulloch putting two chances wide, having another saved and then hitting a post.

Wigan's pace was always a problem for Luton but the Hatters looked strong in defence despite Nathan Ellington hitting the woodwork from 20 yards, before de Vos headed in a late free kick.

Luton manager Joe Kinnear praised Wigan goalkeeper John Filan

"Their best player was their goalkeeper, he was outstanding," said Kinnear.

"It was a tremendous match. I thought we dominated the first half and could have been three in front by the interval."

Kinnear also insisted the referee had a poor game



Luton 1

Wigan 1

and had sympathy for Latics defender Jackson after his 85th minute send off.

Kinnear added: "The referee had a stinker. I probably feel a bit sorry for their man who was sent off.

"But it was a very competitive game between two evenly matched sides, with everyone working extremely hard.

"We desperately needed a second goal before their equaliser, although the draw was probably the right result when you take everything into consideration.

"I was bitterly disappointed at the way we conceded the equaliser. Whether it was a free kick or not doesn't matter now but we should have dealt with the free kick better."

Wigan manager Paul Jewell admitted he would have been happy with a draw when Jackson was dismissed.

"We have to be pleased with a point and we know we have played our part in a smashing game," he said. "Filan was excellent and I felt that we deserved a point."