

LUTON boss Joe Kinnear hailed his side's battling spirit after grabbing victory with 10 men over struggling Barnsley.

Tony Thorp hit two second half goals to hand Luton their first league win at Oakwell in 50 years.

"It's a great result especially as we won with only 10 men," said Kinnear. "We were a little rusty as we haven't played for a couple of weeks so I'm delighted with the three points. It keeps us up with the other teams battling for the sixth place spot. I think there's enough about us to beat the top teams in the league.

"I've told the players if we can get into the play-offs and stay injury-free we are capable of winning it."

Kinnear's men had gone behind in the second minute after Kevin Betsy capitalised on a mix up between keeper Carl Emberson and Chris Coyne.

The Luton pair were involved in an aggressive confrontation before being separated by Kevin Nicholls.

Kinnear said: "It was just a misunderstanding between the two. On this occasion Coyne should have cleared his lines but he thought he heard a shout from Carl. But there's nothing

Thorpe 02/03 earns victory

wrong with a raucous on the pitch. It show they both care, the team spirit is great and all of the players want to be winners."

Matthew Spring equalised for Luton with a first half strike before Thorp's double secured the win.

Barnsley pulled one back from the penalty spot through Bruce Dyer, but it only proved to be a consolation strike.

Barnsley caretaker boss Glyn Hodges blamed defender Brian O'Callaghan for Luton's equalising goal.

Hodges said: "Brian said in his programme notes before the game that he likes fancy footwork and playing with the ball and that's what has cost us the first goal.

"Brian has let his team-mates down because he is not in the dressing room at the moment. He went straight home after I substituted him at half time. There are a lot of selfish people at this club but there's not much we can do about that. If he wants to play for this club again he has to come and see me on Monday morning."