

McIlroy slams referee after draw

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Luton 2 Stockport 2

LUTON overcame the loss of leading scorer Adrian Forbes (*pictured*) to earn a 2-2 draw against battling Stockport.

Forbes was dismissed for a first half clash with Danny Jackman just after Luton had got back into the game thanks to Danny Griffin's own goal.

Stockport opened the scoring in the 18th minute when Simon Lynch finished well after a great run by Andy Welsh.

Luton looked to be heading for defeat when Fraser McLachlan was given a free header in the second half to put County back in front.

But Steve Howard equalised from a free kick 10 yards from goal given after James Spencer handled a back pass.

County substitute Aaron Wilbraham could have sealed the points at the death but his diving header was well saved by Marlon Beresford.



County manager Sammy McIlroy slammed referee Alan Butler for the decision which cost his side two points.

The official, who also sent off Luton's top scorer Forbes in the first half for squaring up to Jackman, penalised Stockport goalkeeper Spencer for handling a Rob Clare back pass.

The indirect free kick was touched to Howard, who rammed home his seventh goal of the season from 10 yards.

McIlroy was furious and banished from the dug-out for expressing his views.

"The referee sent me off for swearing but that was totally wrong," he said.

"It was never a back pass. The ball came off his shin. The ball went over his head and he stabbed it backwards. If you can do a back pass with your shin you shouldn't be playing at this level.

"I'm disgusted. You work hard all week and look like you're winning and then the referee evens it up. I feel as though we've lost."

Luton manager Mike Newell said: "I'm disappointed we didn't win because even with 10 men we had the better chances. Stockport's goalkeeper made several very good saves and we should have won it in the second half.

"I don't know about the red card but if you put your head in someone's face you can be in bother. I'll look at it on video and see the referee's report before deciding whether to do anything about it."