

Czech Republic 2-1 England: Sloppy England lose first qualifier in 10 years



England lose qualifier for first time in 43 games, a record dating back to 2009 defeat against Ukraine

A limp England suffered their first qualifying defeat in over 10 years as Czech Republic came from behind to win 2-1 in Prague in European Qualifying Group A.

Level at 1-1 after a sloppy performance, England were punished by 30-year-old Czech debutant and substitute Zdenek Ondrasek, who converted low and unmarked from 10 yards to stun Gareth Southgate's side (85).

England had taken an early lead through Harry Kane's penalty after Raheem Sterling was tripped (5), but the Czechs reacted immediately through Jakub Brabec, turning up at the back post after suspect England defending from a corner (9).

A win would have sent England to Euro 2020, but defeat means England and Czech Republic are level on points at the top of Group A, with Kosovo four points behind.

‘A lot of work to be done’: Southgate says England’s Czech defeat is wake-up call



“We’ve had a lot of plaudits but we’ve always maintained that there’s a lot of work to be done to be a really top team,” Southgate said. “I think tonight was clear evidence of that. We’ve got to get a response and it’s going to be an interesting couple of days for all of us because we haven’t had a result like that, we haven’t had a performance like that and we’ll learn a lot more about ourselves over the next 48-72 hours. Football is all about responding to setbacks. We haven’t had too many so it feels even more unpleasant because it’s a while since we’ve felt this way. None of us like it but that’s the reality and to sail through a qualifying group with no issue is very unusual.”