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Fabio Capello says England were 'lucky' to draw with Montenegro

Euro 2012 Group G qualifier

Montenegro, who are ranked 40th in the world, stayed on top of Group G after England revisited their World Cup failings in South Africa over the summer by producing a disjointed and lethargic performance. The England manager, Fabio Capello, echoed his captains frustration with the teams display and said that his side had even been "lucky" to draw, after Milan Jovanovic hit the visitors only real opportunity against the crossbar, seven minutes from time.

"We can take a few positives but we really should be winning games like that," said Ferdinand. "I think we deserved better. They hit the bar late on but up until then we were on the front foot trying to create chances and their goalkeeper made a couple of good saves. It seemed like it would be his day.

"Maybe we did try too hard, but thats what happens. You want to please the manager and the fans, but it just wasnt to be."

Capellos side had not been held at home for two years – indeed, England had not drawn a home match 0-0 since Macedonia left Old Trafford with a point in 2006 – and this was a sobering evening after the recovery hinted at by victories over Bulgaria and Switzerland last month. It was more reminiscent of the struggles endured by the Italians side against Algeria in Cape Town in June.

Englands frustration was exacerbated by the officials refusal to award them a penalty after Jovanovics apparent handball – "He might as well have caught the ball, put it under his shirt and run home with it," said Ferdinand.

Montenegro, increasingly, are confident that they can squeeze the favourites from the automatic qualification position in the group.

Adapted from: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2010/oct/13/rio-ferdinand-fabio-capello-england-montenegro/print>