

Kane saves England; Dutch, Austrians win openers

AFP, BARCELONA: England kept their World Cup qualifying on track with an ugly 1-0 win while Austria and the Netherlands made

national goal ensured England avoided the ultimate embarrassment of failing to beat Andorra. Even so, Thomas Tuchel's side were

Tuchel is the first England manager to win his first three competitive games without conceding a goal.

But given the paucity of opposition provided by Andorra, Latvia and Albania in the Group K qualifiers, that achievement rings a little hollow after this miserable display.

England pulled five points clear after three matches in Group K as second-placed Albania drew 0-0 at home with Serbia. Rey Manaj of Albania wasted a penalty in first-half added time.

Serbia was one of three teams playing their first qualifying match Saturday after they had been involved in Nations

League play-offs.

Netherlands made their debut with a crisp 2-0 win over Finland in Helsinki.

Memphis Depay scored after six minutes. Denzil Dumfries, one week after his unhappy experience playing for Inter Milan in the Champions League final, added the second after 23 minutes.

Netherlands jumped to third in Group G, overtaking Lithuania and Malta who drew 0-0. The Dutch are one point behind Finland and three behind leaders Poland who did not play.

Marcel Sabitzer and Michael Gregoritsch scored as Austria beat Romania 2-1 in Vienna. Florin Tanase headed an added-time reply for

the visitors who had squandered several chances in the closing stages.

Bosnia-Herzegovina lead Group H on nine points af-

ter Edin Dzeko scored the only goal in a 1-0 victory home over San Marino. Romania, Cyprus and Austria all have three points.

EUROPEAN QUALIFYING RESULTS

Malta 0 Lithuania 0, Finland 0 Netherlands 2 (Depay 6, Dumfries 23), Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 (Dzeko 66) San Marino 0, Austria 2 (Gregoritsch 42, Sabitzer 60) Romania 1 (Tanase 90+5), Andorra 0 England 1 (Kane 50), Albania 0 Serbia 0

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

related starts to their campaigns with victories on Saturday.

Harry Kane's 72nd inter-

booed off in Barcelona after struggling to impress against a team ranked 173rd in the world.

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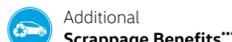
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