

# Russia v Croatia



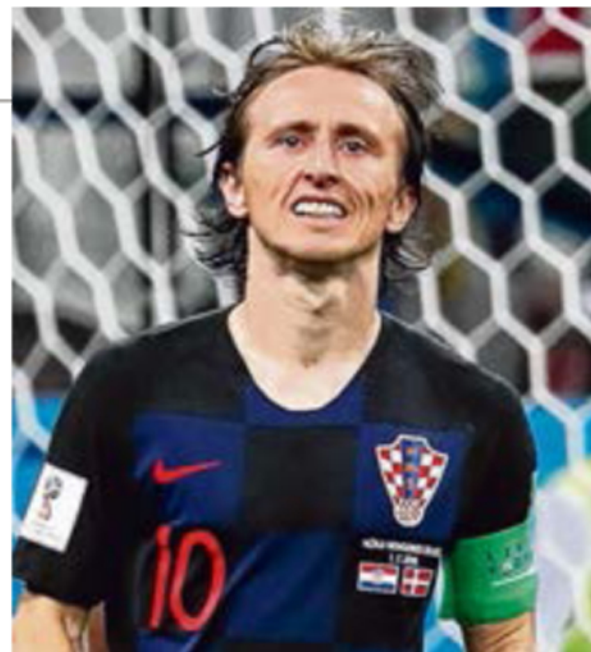
## TEAM NEWS

Russia have no players suspended but there are fitness concerns for Yuri Zhirkov, who is expected to miss the match with a damaged tendon.

## Key battle

### Roman Zobnin v Luka Modric

Zobnin's hard running and tactical discipline allow his attack-minded colleagues to thrive. The central midfielder holds the fort while Russia attack. Modric will be an elusive customer, drifting between the lines to connect midfield and attack. The Real Madrid man showed great mental strength to bounce back from a missed penalty in extra time to convert in the shoot-out against Denmark.



## TEAM NEWS

Croatia are at full strength with no suspended or injured players, apart from striker Nikola Kalinic, who was sent home earlier in the tournament.

## PLAYED

3

## RUSSIA WINS

0

## DRAWS

1

## CROATIA WINS

2

## LAST MEETING

Friendly (November 2015):  
Russia 1 Croatia 3

## Pundits' pick

### Sky's Paul Merson: Hosts have a strategy

Russia will try to take it all the way. It'll be a very tight affair, with Russia being very patient and playing for penalties, which worked for them last time.

### Sky's Charlie Nicholas: Croatia the better side

Croatia were such a disappointment against Denmark. They have far more quality and there's only so far graft can get you. I can see (Ivan) Rakitic, who has been the player of the tournament so far, dragging them through.