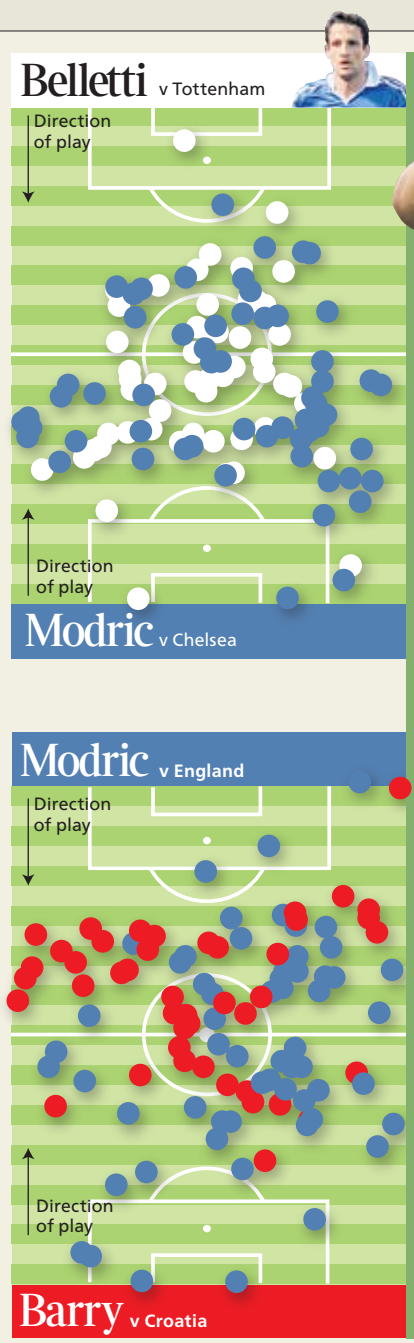




Luka Modric

As Gareth Barry, England's holding midfielder player, ponders the task of nullifying Luka Modric, Croatia's main midfield creator, in England's World Cup qualifier in Zagreb next week, he could

use Juliano Belletti as a role model. Chelsea's Brazil right back took on his club's defensive midfield role against Tottenham Hotspur last Sunday and his discipline in holding his position prevented Modric from exerting much influence. The two players' touch graphics from that match at Stamford Bridge suggest that Modric did not get past Belletti's shield too often. In contrast, Barry was not as successful at keeping Modric quiet when Croatia won 3-2 at Wembley last autumn to prevent England qualifying for Euro 2008. The graphics indicate that the Croat was able to get behind his rival regularly – Modric took possession eight times beyond Barry's deepest touch for England



Gareth Barry