

# Tactical Analysis

## Gerrard does his bit

Steven Gerrard played below his normal England standard but still recorded the most tackles and chances created as well as faring well in terms of duels and dribbles

### Most chances created

Gerrard 8

Lampard 4

### Most successful duels

Ferdinand 14

Cole 11

Gerrard 9

### Most successful tackles

Gerrard 4

Brown 2

Cole 2

Ferdinand 2

Lampard 2

Upton 2

### Most successful dribbles

Wright-Phillips 4

Gerrard 3

Walcott 3

Beckham 3

Words: Bill Edgar

## Was it really 4-4-2?

While England's half-time personnel switch suggested a move from 4-3-3 to 4-4-2, the average touch positions suggests little change. Wayne Rooney moved inside from the left wing for the second half to become Emile Heskey's nominal strike partner but took up a position that was no more advanced than Steven Gerrard's had been before the interval. Gerrard in turn dropped as deep in the second half as Gareth Barry had been in the first. Perhaps the improvement in England's fortunes owed more to Kazakhstan's inability to continue marking tightly. Such was England's improvement that after the interval they recorded ten goal attempts on target. Before the break they had managed none



## England take centre stage

England directed far more of their attacks (one third of them) through the central third of the pitch on Saturday than they had in last month's 4-1 victory away to Croatia (one quarter). Perhaps England felt they possessed the skill to cut through the centre of Kazakhstan's defence whereas the more formidable and battle-hardened Croatia central defenders were best overcome from the flanks

