



England v Croatia

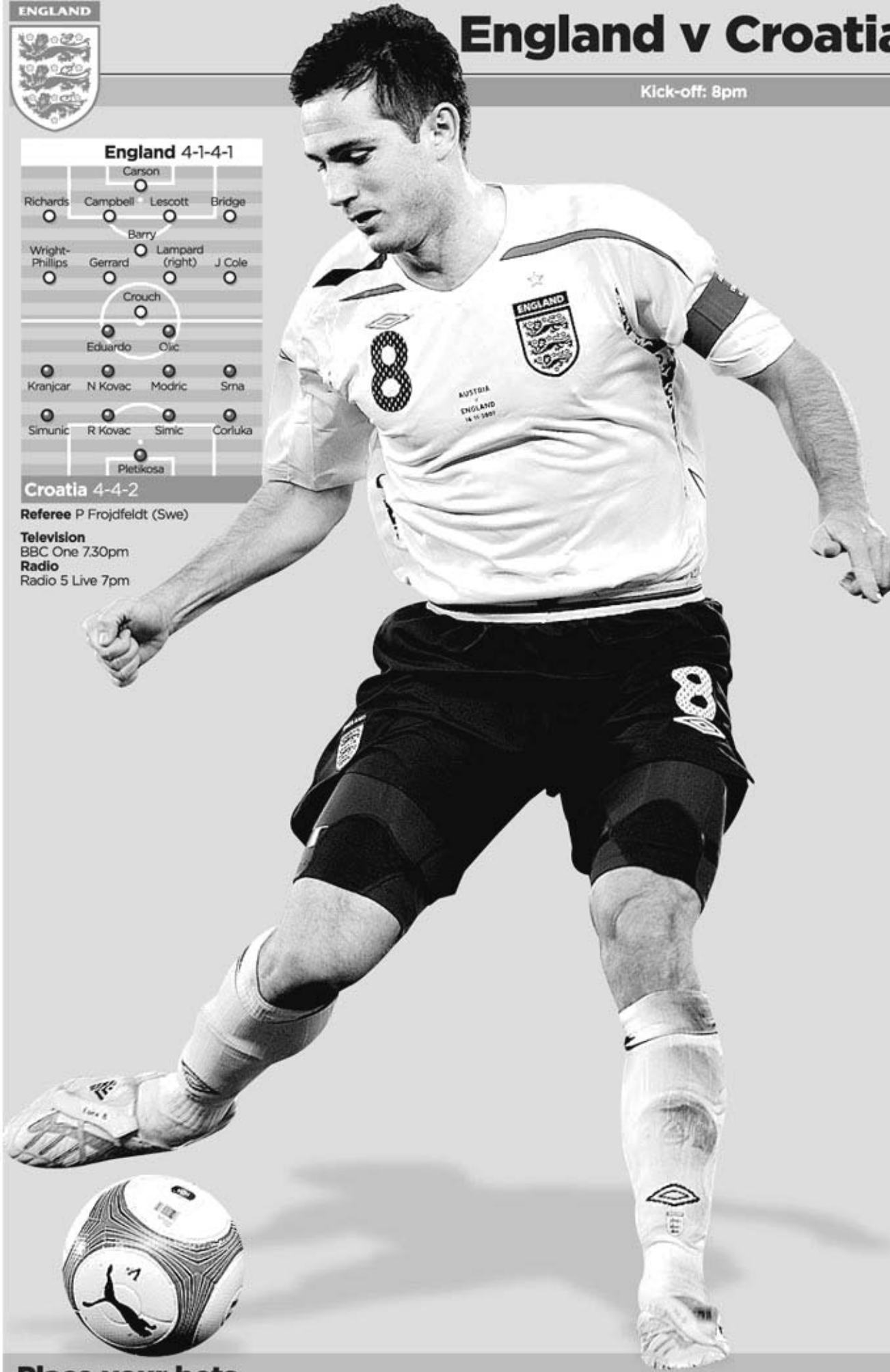


Kick-off: 8pm

Wembley



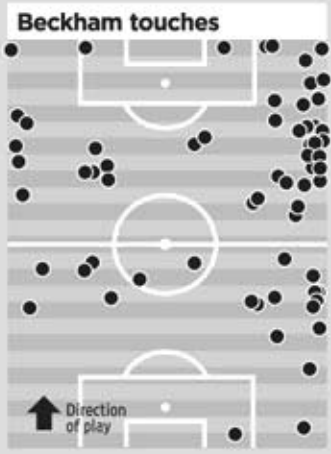
Referee P Frojdfeldt (Swe)
Television BBC One 7.30pm
Radio Radio 5 Live 7pm



The Wright man?



Shaun Wright-Phillips has pace and has developed a good understanding with Micah Richards. The Chelsea winger touched the ball six times behind the edge of the D of his own area in his 83 minutes at home to Israel in September



David Beckham lacks the pace to get back quickly to cover for Richards, who was caught out of position three times when at right back in the first half against Austria. In 62 minutes, Beckham touched the ball only three times behind the edge of his own D

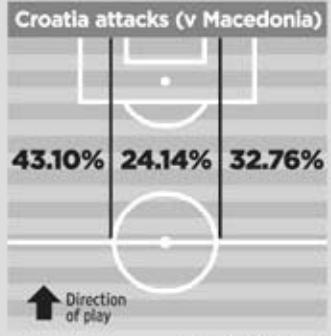
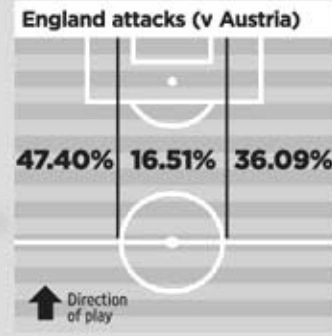
Cornering with confidence

England did not vary their corners against Austria. None was taken short or struck to the edge of the penalty area for a team-mate to volley, for example. Instead, all the kicks were placed just outside the goal area in a region that might leave the goalkeeper in two minds as to whether to come out. Of the 11, David Beckham took four from each side, while the right-footed David Bentley and the left-footed Gareth Barry delivered the others as inswingers. Only two of the 11 corners (both taken by Beckham) were met by an England player



Pushing forward

Much of the attacking in tonight's game will take place on the left, if the matches involving England and Croatia last week are a guide. Each team spent about a third more time attacking on the left side of the pitch than on the right



Words: Bill Edgar

Place your bets

Half-time and full time
 Punters who enjoy white-knuckle rides will find the 25-1 about England winning after being behind at half-time hard to resist
13-10 England/England
16-1 England/draw
50-1 England/Croatia
3-1 Draw/England
4-1 Draw/Draw
12-1 Draw/Croatia
25-1 Croatia/England
17-1 Croatia/Draw
12-1 Croatia/Croatia

Final score
 England to win 1-0 is the 5-1 favourite
5-1 England 1-0
11-2 England 2-0
9-1 England 3-0
7-1 England 2-1
12-1 Croatia 1-0
40-1 Croatia 2-0
25-1 Croatia 2-1
125-1 Croatia 3-0
15-2 match ends 0-0
6-1 game finishes 1-1

First goalscorer
 Paddy Power find it impossible to split Peter Crouch and Jermain Defoe, with the pair quoted 6-1 joint favourites. Sol Campbell is 33-1 to upstage them
6-1 Defoe **9-1 Eduardo**
6-1 Bent **10-1 Petric**
7-1 Smith **10-1 Beckham**
15-2 Lampard **11-1 Olic**
15-2 Gerrard **11-1 Kalinic**
15-2 No Scorer **11-1 Rakitic**
8-1 J Cole **14-1 Bentley**

Match result
 The bookmakers do not anticipate England fluffing their lines and, with so many patriots to indulge, make them odds-on favourites to win
8-15 England
9-4 Draw
7-1 Croatia

Specials
 David Beckham is 10-1 with Coral to score direct from a free kick. Those who think he will be surplus to requirements will instead ponder the 8-1 that Ladbrokes offer against him failing to win 100 caps
2-5 England score first
7-4 England win by two or more goals
5-2 Frank Lampard to score at any time
7-2 England not to score
7-1 England not to qualify for Euro 2008
8-1 Beckham does not win 100 caps
10-1 David Beckham to score from a free kick
10-1 Peter Crouch scores from outside the box
40-1 Peter Crouch grabs a hat-trick

Odds provided by Ladbrokes, Bet 365, William Hill, Coral, VC Bet and Paddy Power

Words: Andy Stephens