

The magician

Luka Modric is a Croatian professional footballer who plays as midfielder for Spanish club Real Madrid and captains the Croatia national team. He plays mainly as a central midfielder, but can also play as an attacking midfielder or as a defensive midfielder, usually deployed as a deep-lying playmaker. He is widely regarded as one of the best midfielder of his generation, and the greatest Croatian footballer of all-time.

Born in Zadar, Modric's childhood coincided with the Croatian War of independence which displaced his family. He made his debut for Dinamo Zagreb in 2005 and won three consecutive league titles and domestic cups. In 2008, he moved to Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur for a club-record transfer fee £16.5 million, where he led Spurs to their first UEFA champion League appearance in almost 50 years, reaching the quarter-finals of the 2010-11 tournament.

In the summer of 2012 joined Real Madrid for a £30 million transfer fee. There he became a key contributor and helped the team win many champions. In 2015, he became the first Croatian player to be included in the FIFA FIFPro World XI, in which he was regularly included until 2019. And he became the first player other than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to claim the awards in more than a decade.