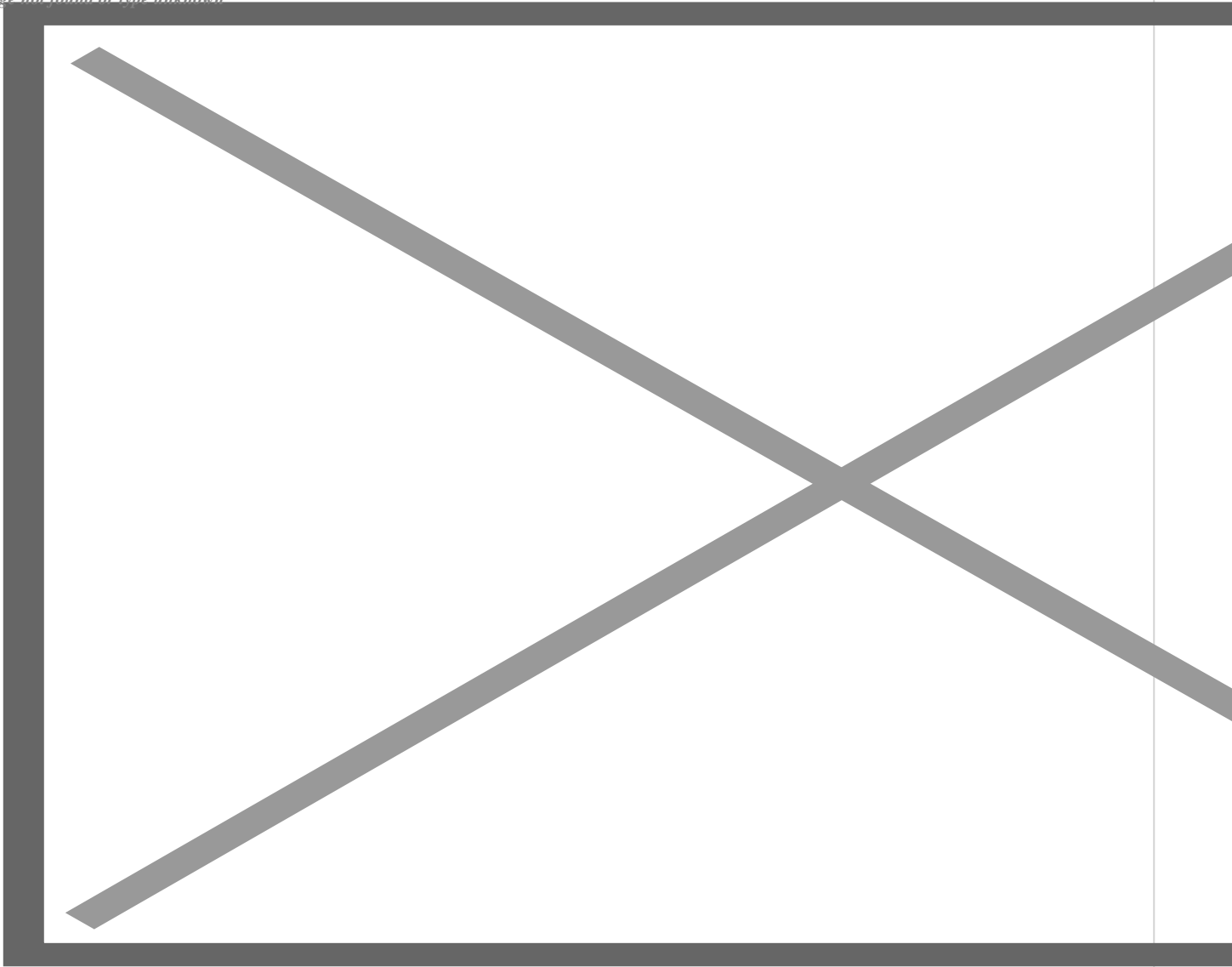


Modric and Madrid smile on Ramos' return to the Bernabeu

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Modric

Madrid, February 26 (PL) - A goal by Croatian Luka Modric gave Real Madrid a 1-0 win against Sevilla in Spanish soccer, on the return of Sergio Ramos to the Santiago Bernabeu stadium now in the Andalusian eleven.

Los Merengues were smiling after Modric's 81st minute whip in, until which point the match remained goalless thanks to a good Sevilla, who also played for the win and again showed flashes of improvement after a drab season that has kept them at the bottom of the La Liga standings.

The 39-year-old veteran midfielder is not getting the minutes on the pitch he usually plays every season, but he showed class and poise to take advantage of a Sevilla clearance in front, elude Sevilla midfielder Boubakary Soumaré and place his shot just inside the post, unreachable for Norwegian goalkeeper Orjan Nyland.

With this win, Real Madrid consolidated its position at the top of La Liga with 65 points, eight more than FC Barcelona (57), followed by Girona (56-playing on Monday), Atlético de Madrid (52), Athletic Bilbao (49), Real Betis (42) and Real Sociedad (40).

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