



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### TRANSCRIPT (7/8): Match Preview Press Conference

*Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & F Leo Campana*

#### Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

***On how the team is preparing to “play the game and not the occasion” on Wednesday against Inter Miami, with a season-high crowd expected:***

**Porter:** “We approach every game with the understanding that we need to perform, with the idea that we need to analyze the opponent. Obviously, we need to do what we do well. We need to be aware of what they’re good at and how they’re going to try to hurt us. It’s like any other game. The results haven’t been there at home in the last several games, but there’s been a lot of positive play. That helps, because we can continue to fine tune versus changing everything. So, there’s a lot of little fine tuning that we need to continue to do, but obviously we haven’t been good enough at home and we need to adjust that. We feel like we have the right idea of how to do that. Some of that is just continuing to understand the balance of a game and how that might be different at times at home versus away. I think that’s part of it. Some of it is health and continuity and consistency of how we’re playing.

“We’re prepared. We feel like we have an idea of how we need to go about this game, the right idea to win the game, and I feel like we have a plan. Obviously, we know everybody has a plan to beat Miami. It’s like the old [Mike] Tyson [saying], you have a plan until you get knocked out. But we feel like we have a good plan and our guys are bought in.”

***On defending Inter Miami’s attack while also picking times to get forward and create offensive chances:***

**Porter:** “It’s like any soccer game, right? You’ve got to find the moments to control the game on both sides of the ball, and you’ve got to understand the reality. I think when you look at Miami, you’ve got to understand the reality of what’s going to happen. You can’t be naive. You have to be pragmatic and you’ve got to be smart with how you approach them. There have been some teams this year that really haven’t been smart frankly, and there have been some teams that have been a little bit smarter in how they approach them. At the end of the day, we feel like our group is confident, ready. [We] understand that it’s a big game for the season, for the fans, obviously against a very good team. I feel good about our guys, their confidence. I feel good about our mentality. I feel good about the kind of idea that we have to hopefully give us a chance to win the game.”

***On forwards Luca Langoni and Leo Campana forming a partnership:***

**Porter:** “Forget home and away, I thought we played really well last game [at Portland]. I thought it was one of our better games of the year. We were unfortunate to not get a result out of the game. So, we can build on that. This game is going to be different. It doesn’t mean it’s going to be the same team, same subs, same plan. We’ll make adjustments based on Miami, but when you have a tight turnaround, it is nice that you don’t have to change everything – that we can build off the last game. Like you said, I thought Luca [Langoni] did really well. Obviously, he scored a great goal [and] had one other [opportunity] where he’s in that was on [onside]. They actually called it off, but if he scores, it’s probably a goal and they overturn it, we [could] win the game or we get the draw. He had another one where he was in where he gets fouled and they gave a corner. He had many moments where he was in behind the opponent.

Obviously, we have to evaluate now, can he go again? He's coming off an injury, but it is three days in between the games. It's matchday plus three; today is normally a hard day. Matchday plus four is normally a really hard day. So, at the end of the day, we can't overthink that either."

***On the availability statuses of Ilay Feingold and Tomas Chancalay:***

**Porter:** "Still evaluating them. We'll see if they're available or not. We don't know [yet]."

***On using the energy of the home crowd to help lift the team to three points:***

**Porter:** "I think you saw that [last year against Miami], that didn't help to score the first goal. And then in the game [at Miami], we scored two goals and were up 2-0 on the road. What I mean by that is you need energy for 90-plus minutes, not five minutes. There have been a lot of teams that have had a ton of energy to start the game and have gotten the first goal many times against Miami and lost the game. For me, it's not about the energy of the crowd and playing off that for five minutes, it's about having a really strong mentality for 90-plus minutes. Honestly, playing the game that we need to play to win the game. Not playing the game for the crowd."

***On limiting Miami's league-leading offense:***

**Porter:** "We have to find moments to be smart about how we're going to recover the ball and how we're going to limit their time and space. You have to do it with a team and not individuals. We need to get pressure on the ball. We need to be good in our ones and our twos. They are always looking to combine through you, so our pressure-cover balance and how we defend in our zones and in the dangerous spaces. You can't just sit in all game, but you can't press recklessly. Many teams don't get that right. They all think maybe you're going to get it right and they don't. We've analyzed Miami a lot and we think we have a plan that is the right one. We'll see how it goes."

***On Brandon Bye stepping into the starting lineup last match and his professionalism despite occasionally coming off the bench:***

**Porter:** "It's normal for guys to be in and out. They're pros and it's a part of the job. I obviously communicate with every player, so they always know ahead of time when they're in, when they're out, what they need to do better, and what my reasons are. That's why I don't think you see guys that respond in the wrong way when they don't start, because I communicate with them and, in a lot of ways, they understand it based on performance and based on the tactics in the game. This is a team and it's a squad, and we're going to use everyone. I think you see with Brandon [Bye], when he's played he's done really well, he's been strong. I thought he had a good game [at Portland], he had some good crosses, defended well, and he's an experienced player."

***On the team staying disciplined against a dynamic attacking team like Inter Miami:***

**Porter:** "Sometimes it's easier to stay disciplined because you have to. If you don't, you're going to get killed. Sometimes it's harder when you think you're the superior team. You look at the game [against] San Jose at home, on paper we were the superior team and we weren't focused enough. Colorado [was the] same. So, I think you look at the games where maybe we went into the game and felt like we were the underdog, we knew everything had to go right and we knew we had to be disciplined, we had to be organized, we had to be pragmatic, and we had to play in the right way to win – not the right way to entertain and not the right way to dominate the game. I think this is a game where it will be very easy for the guys to understand what they need to do and then we have to go out and do it. Obviously, there have been some very good teams that have been opened up [by Miami]. You look at the Columbus Crew, they lost 5-1 [to Miami], so you can see right there just how lethal they are. You have to do the right thing to give yourself a chance."

***On what Carles Gil brings in his preparation for a game and how he interacts off the field:***

**Porter:** "I think [Carles] is just a great pro. He's very steady. There's not a lot of peaks and valleys with him. He's very passionate and competitive, but just such a good pro, very steady and not real emotional. He's competitive, quietly confident, and quietly passionate. No one wants to win more, but he just has a very steady hand and is a true pro. That's why he's so consistent, because there are not a lot of ups and downs with him. He's just very consistent in how he lives, how he trains, how he eats, how he sleeps, and how he thinks about the game. That's why, honestly, Carles Gil is a seven or eight [rating] every single

game, sometimes a nine or a 10. I don't think he has had a game this year where he has had a poor performance. Not one game. He's also got a little more edge too, a little more chip on the shoulder, because he feels slighted, a little bit, by not making the All-Star Game. He's made Team of the Matchday six times and he's been one of the best players in the league all season. I think that doesn't hurt a player to have that little bit of an edge and something to prove, as he should, because he's definitely one of the best players in the league."

### **Revolution Forward Leo Campana**

#### ***On preparing to match up against Inter Miami CF tomorrow:***

**Campana:** "It's definitely a different game, unlike the other ones that we have played. I think everyone will come to the stadium. Tomorrow will be a good game. First of all, the best in the history of soccer plays [once in a lifetime]. I think everyone is excited for the game tomorrow, especially us here. We've been talking the last couple of days. We know what Inter Miami is, the names they have. They're a really good team. They performed well in the Club World Cup. I think we're really confident in what we can do. We're excited for tomorrow. Hopefully we can reverse the wheel and take the three points tomorrow."

#### ***On playing against his former Inter Miami CF teammates:***

**Campana:** "To be honest, I'm excited to see my old teammates. I'm happy to see them. Today, I'm going to go to the hotel to say hi to them, to speak to them, because I haven't seen them since last year. We created a nice group, like a family. So I'm definitely happy to see them and excited to go into it tomorrow, to give my all. My teammates have the same mentality. Hopefully we can win the game and give the three points to the people of Boston."

#### ***On his experience playing alongside Leo Messi during his time at Inter Miami CF:***

**Campana:** "For me, he's the best in the history. It was a dream come true playing with him, being his teammate. The same, as I said, with Jordi [Alba], with Sergio [Busquets], with Luis [Suárez]. They're a really nice group of guys. I'm really happy to play against them tomorrow, to say hi to them, to talk with them. But inside the pitch, that goes to a side. It's going to be a really good game, tough game. Our mentality is to win, to get the three points, and reverse the wheel so we can get back on our winning path."

#### ***On playing alongside Luca Langoni in New England's attack:***

**Campana:** "I think we had a really good game in Portland. We didn't get the result that we wanted and that's the most important thing, to win and get the three points. But I think everyone was confident in what we did in that game. Playing with Luca [last weekend] was nice because he's a guy that has a lot of pace, he goes behind. He gives me that freedom, a little bit more, between the lines. The players know they can do their best. I think we have really good, quality strikers. Right now, it's my time to play, to enjoy these coming games, and hopefully I can score. That's why I'm here. Hopefully, I can give that my happiness to my family, to my teammates, and get the three points."

#### ***On the opportunity get a win over Inter Miami CF and Leo Messi tomorrow:***

**Campana:** "It would be nice, definitely something that you want to do. Every time you play against [Messi] everyone is watching him. Everyone is watching Inter Miami now because of the guys they have. It's one of the most important teams in the world right now. I think it's going to be a really good game. I'm excited to be part of it tomorrow. I think my teammates agree."

#### ***On the opportunity to play in front of a big crowd tomorrow:***

**Campana:** "I think last year was one of the first times that we [Inter Miami CF] played in a massive stadium with huge attendance. Definitely, you enter the stadium and you feel the impact because of how many fans we can get in our stadium. Hopefully, tomorrow we can get the same amount of people. Now

I'm on the other side of the pitch, so I think I will enjoy it a little bit more. Hopefully, we can score a lot of goals to see all of our fans happy and enjoying the game."

***On returning to the starting lineup after working through injuries and his hunger to score:***

**Campana:** "I try to see the positives in the bad things that happen in your life. I think it made me grow as a person and as a professional. Obviously, I had a difficult time here in the first months because you play three games and you're out four, you play three games and you're out four. It's difficult to find that rhythm of the game again. I think it's just a matter of time, to keep playing, to keep enjoying, to be confident again, and then the goals will come. I'm not anxious about it. I know what I'm capable of, I know what I can do, so hopefully tomorrow will be the day that maybe I can score and help my teammates win."

***On what the team needs to do to return to its winning ways:***

**Campana:** "Tomorrow, as I said, is a different game. We play away and home also against Inter [Miami]. For me, besides the playoffs, these are the two most important games you can have in the [season]. I'm very confident in what we can do. The last couple of games have been really tough for us. But as I said, last game I think we did a great job. We will work hard, give our all tomorrow, and maybe at the end of the game we'll have the three points."

***On if he feels pressure to score goals:***

**Campana:** "No, it's not pressure. It's just like that feeling that I know what I have, I know what I'm capable of, and I know I can score a lot of goals on this team when I'm playing. As I said, me being out injured and everything was just tough because I know what I can do inside the pitch while having a lot of games. It's frustration, I would say, but I manage that frustration really well. I've been working really hard with the team. They're helping me a lot because throughout the years I've been having a lot of problems, like injuries, muscle injuries. They're helping me a lot to find the solution of everything, so I'm really grateful for them. They made me feel special. That's the only thing I need, to feel that I have their support and then everything will come sooner rather than later."

***On his expectations for tomorrow's match against Inter Miami CF:***

(Translated from Spanish)

**Campana:** "It's definitely a different game for all of us. I'm very excited to see my old teammates, my friends, brothers you can call them. We know tomorrow's game is one of the most important ones of the season, the one here and the one we play there in Miami. We know what Inter Miami represents with the players they have. Leo [Messi], Sergio [Busquets], Jordi [Alba], Luis [Suárez]. We know they're great players. I've always said that in addition to being great people, they're great players. Hopefully we can celebrate tomorrow with three points, which is what we want."