



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### TRANSCRIPT (7/9): Postgame vs. Inter Miami CF

Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter, M Carles Gil, M Alhassan Yusuf & D Peyton Miller

#### Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

##### ***On his takeaways from tonight's match and the adjustments the team made at halftime:***

**Porter:** "The first 27 minutes, everything went exactly as planned. We had three clear transitions. We probably should have finished the one with Luca [Langoni]. They weren't creating anything, they had a bit of the ball, which was part of the plan. And then we make a big mistake. It's just not a goal they break us down, it's a giveaway off a header that we give right to Messi 20 yards from goal. He's going to score those 10 out of 10 times, so that's a big mistake. Obviously, now we're down 1-0 and the game's different. And the disappointment is everything was, for me, going as planned, and we were executing extremely well, we were getting transitions, and we were compact. They weren't creating any chances. I thought we lost a little bit of discipline for five minutes from there, which led to our lines being a little higher, and then a very good run, good final pass. I mean, we're talking about the best players in the world, and they'll punish you. But I do think if we stay disciplined at [1-0] and don't get our lines too high and continue with the plan, then probably the second goal doesn't come."

"Obviously, at halftime, we're down 2-0 now. But you saw in the second half the confidence was there to come back. We started in the same formation and I thought we created a few chances. Then we went into the 4-2-3-1 and created a lot more. If [Tomas] Chancalay or Luis Diaz probably finished their chances, then we probably get the draw because that would have meant now we have 20 minutes at 2-1 versus us scoring 2-1 late and only having a few minutes. So, credit to the guys to be down 2-0. I mean, I've seen this team, Miami, pick teams apart, especially when they're up in games because the game becomes very difficult. You have to chase it now and the spaces get bigger, and when spaces get bigger usually they punish teams. Columbus lost 5-1, I watched that game. Red Bull lost 4-1. They're capable of picking you apart when you're chasing, so credit to our guys for staying disciplined."

"Overall, the chances were there. I think we doubled them in shots on goal. I think we had a lot more expected goals. I can put my hand up the puppet of stats and make it say whatever I want it to say, but at the end of the day we just outplayed one of the best teams in the league. I think that's the thing that's keeping me encouraged, is we've faced the best teams in the East and we've not been overmatched in any of them. And yet, what we have to continue to get right is the boxes and the details. We had massive chances today to score, and we have to finish. We can't make that early mistake. But overall, the play was there, the chances were there, we got to go onto the next. For me, it feels obviously low because we lost, but I can tell you the team in there is very confident and disappointed we don't win. When you don't win against a very good team and you have the better of it, the confidence remains. So, you saw that after Portland, today you saw it, and you'll see it in the next game. We have a team now that can go and beat anybody, home and away. Obviously, we're under it a little bit chasing it now again, but we have a team that can go and get points. We've got to go on the road and get three points in this next game [Saturday at Austin]."

##### ***On if it's disappointing to come up short on the chances the attack created:***

**Porter:** "Yeah, those have to be goals. I mean, there are half-chances but the ones we had today, those aren't half-chances. Those are one-v-one against the keeper. We have to keep the confidence up, that's

the key. But we need the players in those moments to finish. We gave [Lionel] Messi the first chance, and it's in the back of the net. He didn't have much today, but he scored two goals. We had more, but we have to do better in those moments."

***On what the team can do to improve on finishing its scoring chances:***

**Porter:** "I think it's just Leo [Campana] scoring one, and then you get a little more confident. [Tomás] Chancalay has been in and out with rhythm and stuff, part of it is that. But I can tell you it's not because we haven't worked on it. You can work hours on end, unopposed, do finishing drills, and we always do phase work as well, where we're opposed and we're in the front half, and we work in patterns of play. It just takes the player in the moment, the confidence, the mentality, and quality of score. And some guys obviously are a bit better at it than others. It's that simple."

***On if there's a chance the team will change its formation in upcoming matches:***

**Porter:** "Yeah, maybe. I don't think we lost the game because of the system. We were creating chances in both systems. I think sometimes that's the question, because we pulled the goal to go back in it. But the reality is the whole game is different late in the game, and we're able to risk. If we play that way the whole game, it would have been [Lionel] Messi with five chances and probably another two goals. For me, I liked the way we played because he didn't create much. Obviously, we gave him the first one. The second one I have to look at it, but I didn't think we did well with the run that he made. No pressure on the ball, we have to read it. I think we can play in both systems, but I like chasing in the 4-3-2-1. I think it's been good for us. When I look at the whole group and [the four defender] system for the whole group to start the game, which I've thought about, I don't think it's the best system for us to start a game."

***On if it's frustrating to come up short on chances to score and if he feels he saw promising signs in tonight's match:***

**Porter:** "I'm not frustrated. Actually, when my team plays well, like last game [at Portland], this game, I'm not frustrated. I'm disappointed we don't finish. But there's not a lot that I want to change. There have been some games recently where there was a lot that I wanted to change. For me, playing Miami, playing Portland—two of the best teams in each conference, and playing the way we played, yeah, I'm encouraged. But also, it's two games where we have big chances that we don't score, so, that has me wondering why and how I can correct that."

***On if the team has been paying close attention to where they are in the standings:***

**Porter:** "I mean, we have a table up in the locker room. I don't break it down every day, but they see it and they knew we were four points off the playoff spot with one game in hand. We still have a lot of games left. After I was done talking to the group, Carles [Gil] stood up and his message, I thought, was excellent. Because he said that when you look at the best teams in the league, we've played well enough to win, and we know we can go and win these future games. That's the key, right? When the results aren't coming, you don't want to lose that five percent energy and confidence. It has to go the opposite. You have to gain five percent energy and confidence to get those boxes right. But we can, like Carles said and I've been saying, we can go and beat anybody. We have to go do it, but I'm confident that we can do it. Whereas if, you're not winning and you're not playing well, there's not a lot of confidence that you can go and do it. That's not the case with this group, and that's certainly not the case for me."

***On if he feels Lionel Messi is playing some of the best soccer in his career:***

**Porter:** "I said it going into the game, that I thought he was playing some of his best soccer of his career, and it just shows how professional he is, how competitive he is. The guy is a beast. Just look at the fact that he comes back – he plays every game in the Club World Cup, comes back from there, and you think maybe he takes a break one of these games. I'm sure he's going to Mascherano's door and saying, 'I'm playing, I don't want a break'. Many players would say, 'yeah take a break here or bring me off the bench this next game', and this guy, I'm sure he heard it was going to be a big crowd, so he wanted to show fans that he's the best in the world and put on a show. We tried to make it about business, and we knew, obviously, that it was a big game, a big crowd, and a lot of people were coming to see Messi. We tried to make it business and getting three points, and I thought we were pretty professional overall in the match, especially considering just how much quality they have. But Messi, it has been said a million times, he's the best ever. In my opinion, it's not even close. I've seen it firsthand now three games [coached against

Messi] in this league. It's unbelievable that he continues to show up every single game, after game, after game, three days in between, again, and again, and again. That's just why he's the best ever. That's why."

### **Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil**

#### ***On the positive takeaways from tonight's match:***

**Gil:** "I think it is similar to the last games. We start by conceding a goal that I think was a gift for [Lionel] Messi, even worse. We created some chances, but we're still missing many and in the end, it's difficult. We finished with higher expected goals [than Miami], but in the end, we just scored one goal. This way is difficult because we are still conceding not just one, but two, and it's difficult to win games this way."

#### ***On the team's confidence in its ability to create chances:***

**Gil:** "I think after one or two months of the season, we started a little bit slow, but then we started performing better and attacking. I think we still created very good chances tonight. We missed incredible chances that normally we are going to score. Honestly, I prefer to create and miss than don't create, but we need to continue to work on that, on the finishing, and on the goals we concede."

#### ***On the atmosphere and a message to the fans:***

**Gil:** "Against Miami, because [Lionel] Messi coming, it's always special. Thank you all for coming. The fans are coming every game. The fans support us every day, and it doesn't matter who is coming, doesn't matter the weather. So it's nice. Thank you, because it's hard when you don't win games here, and they are still coming. Hopefully, we can bring them a win in the next game at home."

#### ***On what team can carry moving forward from today's performance:***

(Translated from Spanish)

**Gil:** "Well, it's true that the team demonstrates its character when it appears as though all is lost. We demonstrated that against Colorado. Tonight, we showed it as well coming close to tying the game. We'd like to not put ourselves in these situations. But we're fortunate that in three days we get the chance to play again in Austin and a chance to take three points."

### **Revolution Midfielder Alhassan Yusuf**

#### ***On the positive takeaways from tonight's match:***

**Yusuf:** "Except for the goals that they scored, I don't think they created chances thanks to the discipline we had. Also, we stuck to the tactics. Even though we conceded the two goals, we stuck to the game plan."

#### ***On captain Carles Gil and Head Coach Caleb Porter sharing positive messages to the team postgame:***

**Yusuf:** "For sure it is something we can carry for the next games we're playing, because it is positive things that we can create chances, we just have to finish them."

#### ***On if it's frustrating having trouble scoring despite creating chances:***

**Yusuf:** "No, I don't think so. The most important thing is to create, and then I think the finishing will come."

### **Revolution Defender Peyton Miller**

#### ***On playing against Lionel Messi:***

**Miller:** "I mean, it was surreal. At the end of the day, it's just another game for me. I wasn't too mind blown by it. I was more focused on the game."

#### ***On regrouping after consecutive:***

**Miller:** "We just look back at the game. We watch it, learn from the mistakes, and then we go again."