



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (7/16): Postgame at New York Red Bulls

Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & F Leo Campana

Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

On tonight's match at New York Red Bulls:

Porter: "Honestly, in a lot of ways, I'm trying to figure out what just happened in that second half. The first half was clear. The first 30 [minutes], we were excellent – the way we started the game, the way we defended, the way we attacked. Everything was going as planned. We get two goals, unfortunate to not get a third with the goal called back. We get into the break 2-0. I did feel at the end of the half, we started sitting in too much and we weren't able to keep the ball. Those were things we talked about at halftime, those were things we addressed, and those are things we showed them on the clips that we had. That was the main point: we need to engage higher, we need to not sag in as deep. We can't sit in and start protecting the lead. Those are all things that were talked about and addressed.

"I honestly thought at the start of the second half, we were fine until the goal. The first goal is a tough one. It's a direct ball that we head right into the middle of the field and then they're driving at us, and then we mis-clear another ball right in the top of the box for a deflected shot. So, it wasn't like it was a goal that came from them pinning us back. It's the worst time to give away a goal, when you're up 2-0. We talked about it at halftime, we needed to get through the first 15-20 [minutes] up 2-0. So, that's unfortunate, and now it's 2-1.

"Then, we had to sub off Brayan [Ceballos]. We already had to sub off Peyton Miller at halftime because his ankle flared up again. Then, we already have Mamadou [Fofana] out, as well. So, maybe that had something to do with it. Maybe all the games we have been playing had something to do with it. But at 2-1, we unraveled. We were never able to get a grip on the game at 2-1. It seemed like every time they were in our defensive third that it was a goal. Obviously, we have some guys playing that haven't played a ton. Maybe again, that had something to do with it, but it's not good enough. At 2-1, we have to snap out of it, we have to communicate, we have to reset. Even though we gave up a goal, we should refocus and keep doing what we did to go 2-0. That didn't happen and we gave up five goals from there."

On the attack's performance tonight and how the offense can keep scoring goals:

Porter: "I feel like we have to put together a complete performance, because we have games where we defend really well but we don't finish. We have games where we attack really well, but then in that second half we don't defend well. Again, I'm sure a lot of it has to do with [the fact that] we have to sub so much, so we lose all that confidence and continuity. I have to think with some of the guys that we've had in the majority of the minutes – the Mamadou [Fofana], the Brayan [Ceballos], and the Peyton [Miller]s of the world – maybe we're able to snap out of that funk at 2-1 or even 2-2. Then obviously, the fatigue sets in as well. We changed, at 3-2, into a 4-2-3-1. We were very opened up, obviously, when we changed shapes. You can see a little bit why we don't start with that shape. So, for sure, changing it into a back-four at 3-2 might've led to us getting opened up for the final two goals.

"We have to be better in terms of putting together a complete performance. It's that simple. I am happy with the attack today. I was happy overall with everything in the first 30-35 minutes. It was one of our best starts of the year and some amazing soccer, which I obviously told the group. But then, I just don't understand

from there why we stopped doing it. It wasn't because we wanted to tactically stop doing that [...] At the end of the day, we want to play the way we played in the first 30 [minutes], and we just weren't able to do that. I have to figure out why that happened. I do have my reasons and solutions, and so we'll obviously put this behind us, we'll learn from it, and we have two days to get ready for a massive home game. We have 12 games to go, eight of them are at home, so there are plenty of opportunities for points. But starting with Saturday, we need to win our home games here on out."

On if there were moments when the team lost composure:

Porter: "Yeah, we just lost our way. That's why one of the main points before we went out for the second half that I said to the guys is we have to get through the first 15-20 [minutes] without conceding. We knew that they would come in flying and that the coach would get a reaction out of his guys, and that down 2-0, they would push their lines higher and press even more aggressively. I thought we were fine in the first 10 minutes. I really did. We actually were pretty close in a few moments to get the third goal. Luca [Langoni] was in on a 1-v-1 and maybe he can slip to [Leo] Campana. We weren't defending quite as deep. Then, it's just unfortunate, they go direct and we head the ball in the middle of the field, and they're just driving at us now, and we make a mess out of the clearance and the deflection is unlucky, but it happens. We have to, in that moment at 2-1, reset, refocus. There's no timeouts in this sport. So, you rely on your players in those moments to lead and respond. Really, it's about responding mentally and we didn't. Then obviously we have to sub out Brayan [Ceballos], and Brayan [Ceballos] is a key player for us. Mamadou [Fofana], those are key defenders for us this year, and neither of them was in."

On if tonight's result will lead to the team reevaluating the roster and its depth:

Porter: "I think we have to evaluate everything, always. We have to be better. We're going to have to play guys in compacted windows. When guys get injured, we're going to have to rotate guys in and sub guys in. So for me, we win and lose as a team, but we were very weak at the back when it went to 2-1, and like I said, I'm a bit at a loss for words. It's unfathomable to give up five goals in that second half in a very short amount of time. I think it was five goals in maybe 15-20 minutes. I don't think I've ever had that happen and it's not good enough. It's very disappointing and we've got to correct it. Obviously, we don't have a lot of time, and the bottom line is we've got to win against Orlando [City SC] at home. It's that simple. So, we've got to turnaround, recover, and we've got to win this next game at home. It's a massive game."

On what lessons the team will take away from this match:

Porter: "This hasn't happened to us this year. Obviously, we gave away some goals when we were [up] against [Sporting] Kansas City, but this is different. This was far different – the feel. So, in the end, it's an outlier based on what I've seen out of this group this year, and I do think we've been going through a difficult stretch with games every three days and we're traveling twice to the [Western Conference], and we have a big, emotional game against [Inter] Miami, and then we're back on the road. For me, I don't like those as excuses, but for sure, there's a factor in there – mental and physical fatigue, and then of course with the personnel. There have not been many games that we've played the group that we played in the second half together. [That group] hasn't played together a ton. So, the [lack of] chemistry, you could see. Maybe the confidence, because of the lack of continuity, I think is a big factor in what happened."

Revolution Forward Leo Campana

On bouncing back after Wednesday's loss with four straight home games:

Campana: "I think that's a quality I would say we have. We've bounced back in the past. Now, obviously we're pissed, we're angry, and we don't deserve this. I think we had the game controlled, and I think in the second half we made dumb decisions. Everyone, starting from me. Even if I scored two goals, we're a team, so everyone has their part in this. I think we need to change the mindset and focus, because in two days we have another game. Yeah, I'm definitely disappointed."

On his first multi-goal game of the season:

Campana: "I've been having a difficult year. I had a couple of injuries at the beginning. We had a meeting with the coaching staff and the medical staff to see what was the problem, because I couldn't play more than three games. I think right now, I'm in good shape and I think I'm on the right path, so I take the positives."

Obviously, I want to score every game and I want to help the team. That's why I'm here. But I think good things sometimes take time. I'm confident I know we will get into the playoffs, and it's a completely different story."