



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### TRANSCRIPT (7/19): Postgame vs. Orlando City SC

Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter, D Ilay Feingold, D Mamadou Fofana

#### Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

##### ***On his assessment of tonight's match:***

**Porter:** "It's tough because I felt in that first half, it was a bit of a chess match to start. A little slow, which is what we felt [it would be like and] they'd sit on us and try to counter us, and we were going to sit on them a little bit and counter them, so there weren't a ton of chances. Then we just lose focus and give up the first goal. We all know, down 1-0, the game gets a lot harder and we just weren't switched on in that moment. It's not a play that's hard to read. The guy is on the ball, he cocks his leg, and we don't drop our lines. They're in behind us, we're not connected, and that was really the only major chance they had in the half."

"Then in the second half, we changed to a 4-2-3-1. I thought it helped. We pull the goal back, we get a few chances to go up. The goalkeeper makes a big-time save and then we get burned again, giving the ball away. So, when you look at the group, they are giving everything they have, they are fighting, they are running, and they're united. That's clear. But it's the moments and being switched on. The margins for us that we need to turn is what's between the ears, and it's just little moments where we switch off and we lose a goal. That's what we have to get right, because the team is fighting, the team is working, the team is bought in, and the team is united. But that first goal killed us, and it has nothing to do with anything other than, in that moment – we talk about it all the time – if there's no pressure on the ball, you've got to drop the line. You can't allow one ball in behind us, and then we've got to be connected. Obviously when they're in behind us, we've got to come and clear the ball. That dug us a hole. That really made it difficult and it can't happen."

##### ***On the second-half performance and the energy Tomás Chancalay brought to the match:***

**Porter:** "It was good. I thought, again, the guys gave it everything. We've had five games in 15 days, so it has been a very tough stretch. A lot of the guys played all five, but they still gave everything and anybody that's watching that game and saying the team is not fighting, the team's not working, and the team's not giving everything they have, then you're watching a different game than I am. You can see that we're losing games because we're making mistakes with focus. In this sport, every moment is a moment that matters. Whether it's a set piece, whether it's a transition, or whether it's a ball in behind, those little moments become big moments if they turn into goals, and that's what we're not getting right. It's just being switched on and being focused for 90-plus minutes. I think Tomás [Chancalay] did well, took the goal well and brought good energy; what we would expect out of him. I thought at 1-1, it was going to be all us, but then we give the ball away and we get burned on it. That's kind of the way it's going for us right now."

##### ***On evaluating the squad ahead of the summer transfer window:***

**Porter:** "The results haven't been good enough, no doubt, and it's about results for sure [...] Transfer window – yeah, of course, we're going to continue to evaluate the group, continue to look where we need pieces, but the results aren't changing that strategy. We had intended to evaluate the group and continue to add pieces whether we had won the last 10 or lost the last 10. You always have to improve. We don't have a ton of cap. We do have some mechanisms to make some moves. Obviously, with those you need transfer money. So at the end of the day, those are things that [Sporting Director] Curt [Onalfo] – it's probably more of a question for him. I think we've got a good enough group, no matter what, to do better"

than we've done. I feel for the group, because they're giving everything they have and they're not getting rewarded for it. I have to look at myself. I have to figure out how I can position them in a better way. How can I get them more focused? The buck always stops with me. I don't have to say it every press conference, but it always stops with me. I've been doing this a long time, I know that, I take responsibility for the results and I still believe in the group. I still have confidence in the group. I think they're fighting for me, I think they're giving me everything they have, and it's clear. I just wish we were getting rewarded more. But at the end, we've got to win more games, there's no doubt."

***On if he would consider changing the formation to start future games:***

**Porter:** "I'll always evaluate everything and try to see, just like when I switched into a 3-4-1-2. I thought it was the right thing to do. [With the] back three, [tonight] it was like we were wasting a number there. Instead of just getting tight to guys, we were floating, and it was too easy to just pass guys on. To play the system right, you've got to be aggressive. I know it looks like a five on paper, but it should never be a five; it should always be a four, with one guy stepping in and then four behind. We're just sitting in and sagging into a five too much, probably because of confidence a little bit, maybe fatigue. But we just haven't been as aggressive in that shape releasing guys and getting pressure. It's just too stretched and too easy to find spaces in front of our back three, and we're just not getting tight to guys. Even the goal, we're not getting good enough pressure. I still feel like I want to see the line move more. We need to be dictating the opponent more, take them away from goal. [We need to be] stepping, we're dropping, we're holding, and I don't think at times there's someone leading that line. I've said that a million times, and we've worked on it. But when you look at where we potentially need a voice, that's where we need a voice. Brayan [Ceballos] is a great player, Mamadou [Fofana] is a great player, but you need someone to boss the line. Matt [Polster] can't do it from in front, and Aljaž [Ivačič] can't do it from behind. You need someone in the line to be running the line up – step, drop, hold, slide. It's just natural things and we just don't have someone that's doing that. They're working together, but there's not someone leading that line, if that makes sense. I think you've seen it recently when we've given up some goals. We've got to get a leader there."

***On Ilay Feingold returning to the starting lineup tonight and what factored into tonight's loss:***

**Porter:** "It was really good to have [Feingold] back and Peyton [Miller] as well. I didn't want to take Peyton out. They wanted him out at 60, got him an extra 20 minutes. But I felt like I had to get him out then, so at that point, we just gambled with Luis Diaz. It wasn't ideal, but in the end, I thought those two guys were excellent today and they bring a ton to us. Carles [Gil] gave everything. He played all five [games over the last two weeks], every minute of all five. Matt Polster, [Alhassan] Yusuf, I love these guys. They're giving everything, I just want them to get rewarded. It's just, for me, again the margins, are in between the ears. And it's just being alert, switched on, and focused for 90-plus minutes because if you let your guard down in this sport you're always going to get punched in the nose, always. And we did. We did that first half."

***On what needs to change for better results moving forward and if he's confident the team can improve to climb back into a playoff position:***

**Porter:** "Yes, I'm confident in my ability and the team's ability to make the playoffs. The first question, what needs to change? We talked about a lot of things – the margins, the focus in moments. The margins in this sport are the moments, and we are losing the moments. We're playing well, but we're losing moments that cost us the game. Some of those moments are transitions. Some of those moments are like today, a simple ball in behind our lines. Some of those moments are finishing the play. I mean, if Peyton [Miller] scores that goal we at least get a draw. So, those are the margins, that's what needs to change. Now, big picture, yes, I mentioned some of the things, like we need to get someone leading the line and so those are a few things."

**Revolution Defender Ilay Feingold**

***On how the team can move forward after today's loss:***

**Feingold:** "We try to stay positive and keep each other as high as we can and keep pushing. Again, it's soccer, it's sports, you have to push until the end. We know it's not over yet. We have like 11 more games, seven at home. It's crucial, and hopefully we'll get the best results that we can."

***On losing close games this season:***

**Feingold:** “In a lot of games this season, we’re almost there. The Red Bulls [on Wednesday], we started with a good game and then I don’t know what happened. We conceded five goals in one half. Even Nashville at home, a top team in the league. Also, Cincinnati, which is tough, really suffered here against us. I think we’re a tough team. We’re a little bit unlucky, but it’s not an excuse. We have to raise ourselves to get better results.”

***On what the team can do to turn losses or draws into wins:***

**Feingold:** “I think being more focused defensively and offensively. The first goal we conceded today, we need to do better, as well as the second one. On the offensive side, score our chances. It’s simple, it’s these things.”

***On if changing the system of play is something that might help the team moving forward:***

**Feingold:** “I don’t think so. With any system, we have to play our best football, positive football both offensively and defensively. To be in our position, as I said, we have to stay focused, and not make any mistakes. We’re a little bit unlucky, but that’s not an excuse. We lost those three points. We have to raise ourselves and get ready for next Friday against Montreal.”

**Revolution Defender Mamadou Fofana**

***On what led to Orlando’s first goal tonight:***

**Fofana:** “It’s football, it’s the game. We lose our concentration, and they put the ball behind us, and they score. It’s like this, as I said, that we have to work on. There’s some areas to improve on, but I think we will do that.”

***On how the team can move forward:***

**Fofana:** “We’re are having a difficult moment. We all know this, but we have to work to do better, to win some games, because since [nine] matches, we didn’t win. It’s a difficult moment sometimes. You play soccer, sometimes these things can happen. But we have to do better, and I hope [in the] next match, we will take three points.”