



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (7/22): Media Availability

Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & M Alhassan Yusuf

Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

On preparing for Friday night's home match vs. CF Montreal:

Porter: "It's really nice to be able to go back to a normal process where we prepare the team for, in this case, three or four days. It's a Friday game. The next 10 weeks, we have a full week of prep and then a game, which is really important because when you play a bunch of games in a [short] window, you don't get to train much. It was a good day today because we could have a meeting, we could talk a little bit about the past. We're entering the last third of the year, the last 11 games. The first third was pretty good, the second third was not as good, and this last third has to be the best third we've had in every aspect – points, goals scored, goals against, and certainly the place we end up. We know where we're at. It was good to look back and own what happened to this point, but then also forge a direction for the next 11 games and a path forward. A big part of that is the process, and having a process to be able to train certain things and kind of reestablish, on both sides of the ball, our principles of play. I think that's really important. Then, continue to have a stronger mentality to sustain our execution for longer periods of time. We talked about a bunch of things, and now our eye is on the last 11 games. There's nothing more important than the next game, but we have belief as a group that we can do enough to get in [the MLS Cup Playoffs], and now we have to go and do it. We have to take action."

On the team's energy in training to start the week:

Porter: "Yeah, it's always good, but today, you could see the hunger. We know what we need to do. We have work to do. We've got a bunch of home games, but we have to take it one at a time. We understand what we have to do. It doesn't do any good to think about how many games we need to win. In the end, it's the next one. Win the next one. I think there's a clear understanding of the things we need to correct. The last third, we didn't get enough results and the play was okay. We were there, but we still have things that are happening that we have to correct, and we talked about those things."

On Friday's match against CF Montreal and what the team can take from the first meeting back on May 31:

Porter: "We're really focused on their recent form and what they've been doing recently. We won't look back too much on the last time we played them, because we might do some different things and certainly they're doing different things. We'll look at their recent games, the last several games, and then focus on ourselves as well and what we need to do to improve. With the process now, we're going to make sure, every week, that we don't lose sight of who we are in terms of our game model, our principles of play, and our strengths. But also, we have time to really gameplan for the opponent and make adjustments tactically. We'll continue to do that now for the next 11 weeks."

On needing to rotate the backline due to injuries and suspensions in recent games:

Porter: "Just next man up. Obviously, we've dealt with it all year. We lost guys for different reasons [and] had to rotate. Whether it's windows or injuries, we'll analyze the opponent, see what we think is best for the game, and then we'll pick personnel and we'll pick a plan that reflects what we think is best to win the game."

On Carles Gil participating in the MLS All-Star Game in Austin, Texas:

Porter: “He [Gil] has played almost every minute of every game, if you can believe that, at his young age. He’s incredible. He’s a machine this year, performing extremely well, staying healthy, and working really well on both sides of the ball. His data has never been higher, his production is great, and his buy-in is excellent. So, it’s a nice tribute for him to be able to go there. I texted him yesterday – he’s only supposed to play 30 minutes in the game. I talked to [MLS All-Star Coach] Nico [Estevez] about that as well. He’ll get 30 minutes, which is a very light load, and he should be good to go [on Friday].”

On Cristiano Oliveira scoring in the MLS NEXT All-Star Game:

Porter: “Another good young player for us. We’ve had a bunch coming through. Esmir [Bajraktarević] comes to mind last year with his sale [to PSV Eindhoven]. Obviously, you’ve got Peyton Miller this year really emerging, and others that are close to emerging. Cristiano [Oliveira] is certainly one of them, and that’s why we signed him. He has a bright future.”

On what he’s hoping Carles Gil can take from this week’s MLS All-Star experience:

Porter: “Just have some fun and enjoy your football. It’s a week to get away from the season, get away from the grind and the pressure and where we’re at, and just enjoy to this point how he’s done, reflect on that, and pay tribute to that. Then, we go again. We’ve got a lot of season left. We have 11 games, that’s 33 [possible] points. We’re going to try to win every one. We probably won’t win them all, we probably don’t need to win them all, but we’re going to try to. We know we need to win a good amount, especially our home games, so that’s the mindset.”

Revolution Midfielder Alhassan Yusuf

On Friday’s matchup vs. CF Montreal:

Yusuf: “First of all, for us, it doesn’t matter who we’re playing against. For us, it’s just about going out and trying to win the game, and it doesn’t matter if it’s [CF Montreal] or another club – it’s the same thing.”

On the mindset heading into Friday’s match:

Yusuf: “The mindset is we are still positive and we’re going to take it one game at a time. So, just [CF Montreal] now, nothing else, and then after that we’ll see.”

On how hungry he is to score more goals after tallying his first MLS goal earlier this season:

Yusuf: “Yeah, it’s important for me to score, but the most important thing is the team. So, it’s just going out there and giving everything and help the team to win. If the goal comes, then it’s good.”

On the energy in training today:

Yusuf: “It was good. It’s a positive energy — that we keep pushing ourselves, that the season for us is still on, so we’re not going to give up.”

On the message that Head Coach Caleb Porter is sharing with the team:

Yusuf: “There are a lot of points to take. Yeah, just one game at a time, and it starts from training, so that’s why the energy level is high.”

On how eager the team is to pick up wins at home:

Yusuf: “Yeah, it starts from Friday. It’s going to be a different energy, different mentality, and hopefully we’re going to give something for the fans.”