



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### **TRANSCRIPT (7/25): Postgame vs. CF Montreal**

*Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & M Alhassan Yusuf*

#### **Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter**

##### ***On tonight's match:***

**Porter:** "We started well. We got the goal. They opened us up on their first goal. [They] played in the channel and kind of lost the play, and then we get rolled in the box. It was [Prince] Owusu that got the goal, his 11<sup>th</sup> of the year. He's done well. He's a good player. Then we gave up the second one pretty quick thereafter. For me, the problem in the first half was our defensive shape in relation to their rotations and their attacking shape. They did some different things that gave us problems and I tried to get information in during the half to adjust several times. It's just hard. I thought at halftime it was much better, but we gave up two goals before we were able to adjust. You've got to give credit to them. I've got to do a better job of getting the information in there. In the end, we lost two goals because of it. We have to adjust on the fly better for sure, but [Joel] Waterman was wide open the entire half and we never sorted that out. We sorted it out at the half, the defensive side was better, but then we don't find a goal in the second half. That's the story of the game. The guys are obviously down, but we'll keep fighting. There's no quit in this locker room. Certainly, I'm not a quitter, they're not quitters. We're going to keep going and keep doing our jobs and keep fighting and giving everything we have. Whether we won the game or lost the game, the story would be the same – we have to win the next game. That's the mindset."

##### ***On how to keep the players focused despite frustrations on the field:***

**Porter:** "There's emotion, and passion is good, emotion is good; being emotional is not good. That was one of my first points at halftime. Let's harness the passion and the frustration. Let's put it inside the lines in the right way and put it into the performance. I thought we gave it a good run [in the] second half. It's crazy we didn't get a goal. I thought we had enough chances to get at least one goal to tie it. I've got to look at the film though to truly analyze that, how good were the chances, and I will. We'll do what we always do. We've got a little break here, but we'll go back to work. We'll analyze everything. I'll look at myself as well. I think, again, the story was they did some different things in the build than we thought they would do. We saw it right away, we just couldn't get the information in there to sort it out quick enough and then we're down, we gave away two goals."

##### ***On what key moments caused the team difficulty tonight:***

**Porter:** "I still think [their] first goal, we're pretty sorted on that one. We had guys there in the spots. The two goals maybe didn't come from what I'm talking about, but in general in the half, we never solved their build in the first half, completely. It just led to them having more of the play than they should have. Then obviously, in the second half it was different, but the first two goals, we were in the channel, we're there, we just get beat on it, and then we get rolled on the goal. Those are two moments we have to do better. The second goal, we give the ball away. I think we head it to them, and then now we leave our line when we should just drop. By leaving the line, now we open up a slip run. They took their chances well tonight. It's not the time to start spitting out stats and analytics, but it seemed like we had enough chances to score, and it seemed like they were very opportunistic in the chances they had. Credit to them."

##### ***On if the mistakes tonight were individual or systematic:***

**Porter:** “We needed to sort the shape defensively. We needed to do a better job of sorting out our defensive shape based on what they were doing. They had a different shape in the build than what we saw. In a soccer game, you can try to make an adjustment on the sideline and get information in, but the real adjustment comes in the halftime. Until you can get to halftime, you need players to sort those things out – and coaches. I can try to get information in there, which I did, but we didn't play well enough after we scored in that first half. I thought we played much better in the second half, but we had already given up two goals.”

***On if fan criticism affects him mentally:***

**Porter:** “Mentally, it doesn't affect me at all.”

***On the upcoming bye week:***

**Porter:** “We've just got to keep taking it one game [at a time]. For me, nothing external ever affects me mentally. I've been doing this a long time; I'm a pro. In the end, I do my job every day to the best of my ability. I'm not always perfect. I make mistakes, but I always reflect on those. My message to the group is we stick together, we keep going. It's not the time for pointing fingers and blaming people, but we're all accountable. We all need to take ownership. That's a normal process. In the end, I don't ever focus on external factors. I focus on doing my job, always to the best of my ability. I'm very disappointed that the results haven't been there. This is my livelihood. This is what I live, eat, breathe, sleep, and not much sleep in the last couple months with the results the way they've been. I've been grinding and I'm going to keep grinding. Like I said, there's no quit in me, there's no quit in the locker room, there's no quit in those players, and we're going to keep going.”

**Revolution Midfielder Alhassan Yusuf**

***On what went wrong in tonight's match:***

**Yusuf:** “I think we just had a moment. I think we lost control a little bit of the game. Overall, we dominated the game, but then we didn't score.”

***On the team's reaction to the loss:***

**Yusuf:** “It's tough at the moment, you can say. But yeah, we'll see in the coming days. Now we will have three days off and then we'll get back to it. Then, we'll see.”

***On staying united as a team after tonight's loss:***

**Yusuf:** “I think, at the moment, that's the most important thing. To stay as a team. We shouldn't get broken, and I think that's the job of the coaches, and also the leaders [of] the team we have in the squad. So, they have to step up and try to hold everyone together.”

***On how he approaches a break in league play:***

**Yusuf:** “I don't know. With a win, it would be different. At the moment, I don't know what's going to go into everyone's head. The most important thing is to get back to the training fresh.”

***On qualifying for playoffs this season:***

**Yusuf:** “It's one game at a time. You never know. It's football. Anything can happen, so you never know.”