



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (8/7): Press Conference

Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & M Matt Polster

Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

On how eager the group is to resume play after a bye weekend:

Porter: "Obviously, the last feeling we had at home wasn't a good one, and we have a chance now to make it right. One game at a time. Our mindset is very much one game at a time and throwing ourselves into this match to get the win and really thinking about nothing else. I stay in a very simple box. I've done this a long time and I don't leave that box. That box is about process and preparing the team, and nothing else do I think about, worry about, wonder about, or talk about."

On improving the team's form at home:

Porter: "I agree with [Sporting Director] Curt [Onalfo] 100 percent, we have to be [better]. The results don't lie. Results at home haven't been good enough. I feel like we've played well and we've been in position to win at home a lot of times, we just haven't gotten it done. For me, it's less about what we're going to do to start the game. Again, we've shown most games, not every game, that the guys are prepared, they're ready mentally, and they're organized. But when the game changes, adjustments happen, and goals happen, what is our mentality like from there and handling the ups and downs of a soccer game. So, that's going to be the key is having a 90-plus minute performance. I've said it, in most games we're in good positions to score and the opponent isn't in a ton of positions to score. That's what you want. But in the end, it's going to come down to those moments and the players making plays in the boxes on both sides of the ball."

On Brayan Ceballos' impact on the backline this season:

Porter: "Brayan [Ceballos] has quietly had a pretty solid year in my opinion. There are a lot of things to poke holes in this year, but we have eight clean sheets – that's two away from the club record, I believe. He's been a big part of that. He's very consistent in his play. He's athletic, good in duels, all things I've said all year. But I really like his consistent mindset to compete, and he wants to win. Most games, he does a great job of helping our team be in a position to win."

On if he's confident the team is getting closer to playing its best soccer on both ends and how adding Matt Turner helps the team get closer:

Porter: "I think in most games we're there to win the game. In those moments where we should score, or where we should stop a goal, we have to be better. Some of that is confidence for sure, but it's quality. We have players in those moments in the attack who have shown that they have that quality. But it goes back to, again, the consistency. They have to show it consistently, game-after-game. Same with the defensive side, there's a lot of little moments and plays recently where we need to do better. For me, [Matt] Turner hopefully sways the margins a little bit with his confidence, especially, and with his experience at the highest level. He's won a lot of games at Gillette Stadium, so that doesn't hurt as well."

On if he feels the team can produce a run of positive results over the final 10 games of the regular season:

Porter: "I think if you ask anybody in the locker room, they all believe that we still have a chance to make the playoffs. They understand that we have a lot of work to do and they understand that we have to win the next game. I've been getting the question a lot about the players – how are they, how is the energy. The

players are very bought in, their energy is excellent, and they're working extremely hard. But we do have to fight a little bit, human nature, when things aren't going your way. That's not because they have bad attitudes, or they don't want to work hard, or they want to lose confidence. Sometimes, when you're not getting results, the brain and the human nature kicks in, you lose a little bit of confidence and you can get frustrated. But we have a great group and they're very confident that they're prepared and they're ready to tackle the end of the year, one game at a time. We can't worry about anything but this next game. We understand that, in this league, things can change quickly and teams get on runs. They get on runs, and I don't need to rattle off all the examples of teams that have gotten hot at the end of the year, but there are a lot of examples of teams that have gotten hot at the end of the year. Those are usually the most dangerous teams."

Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster

On the approach heading into the final 10 games of the regular season:

Polster: "It's been a long season so far, but with 10 games to go to have two full weeks to prep ourselves and find that right formula to get us back on track, obviously these last 10 games are massive for us. We want to make a push for the playoffs, and we still have that opportunity."

On what goalkeeper Matt Turner adds to the team:

Polster: "Another positive voice. A leader. Somebody that we relied on heavily through those seasons when he was here. [Turner] came up big in multiple games for us and nearly won us a couple games just single-handedly. He's somebody that you know we can count on. I talked to him yesterday, obviously it feels a little weird to see him back in the locker room, but it's great to have him here. I'm looking forward for him to step up for us again."

On what the team focused on this week in preparing for Saturday's match:

Polster: "We focused a lot on ourselves. Again, we have 10 games to go where if we can just hone in on what we're really good at and focus on those things, I think we still have a lot of talent in this team and a lot of experience. Yes, again, it's been a tough season, but we have 10 games to go, we need to stick together, and we have an opportunity still to make playoffs."

On how Matt Turner's strengths can help the team:

Polster: "I think we've been, in that position, pretty solid all season. But yeah, Matt [Turner] is a player that he plays with the National Team, he's played over in Europe, he has a lot of experience that he can bring to this group. I think he's very positive in his play and I think he's somebody that makes big time saves. He's continually done that over his career. That's what I remember most about him. But then also just in the locker room, he's a great guy to have. He brings a lot of energy, and I think that's what's going to help us the most is that energy and that positivity."

On how the team stays focused on reaching its goals through difficult stretches of the season and frustrations from fans:

Polster: "Yeah, I see where they're coming from. I'm frustrated myself. It's not the season I envisioned. It's not the season that I'm sure the entire front office, the coaching staff, the ownership envisioned. But at the end of the day, I don't want to dwell on what's happened. There's still an opportunity, 10 games to go. All we can focus on is D.C. [United], that's all we can control at the moment, and to find a way to get three points and then just go from there. I don't want to dive into it too much. Yes, we're all frustrated, but we still have to stick together, back each other, and find a way to win."

On the leadership and guidance defender Andrew Farrell brings to the team:

Polster: "[Farrell] is somebody that you want to have in your locker room. He's a great guy to have. He just brings a ton of energy, and he motivates guys on the field. He motivates me. Even when he's not playing and maybe he's not on the roster, he still brings that energy somehow and it's infectious. He's someone I've grown really close to. He's very close to my family, the kids love him. I can only say the highest of things about him and he means a lot to me personally, but I know he means a lot to this club."