



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (8/9): Postgame vs. D.C. United

Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter, M Carles Gil & GK Matt Turner

Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

On if tonight's shutout win can be a turning point for the Revolution:

Porter: "Yeah, it has to be. We have to take it one at a time. This is a good three points. Obviously, they're very important, but we have to do it again next week against LAFC."

On Leo Campana's goal scoring performance tonight and his status after taking a knock in the closing minutes of the match:

Porter: "I think [Campana's] fine. I think he took a knock. Obviously, it made sense, because the game was done, just to kind of get him out. I thought he played great. He had some really good moments where he got on the end of things, on the end of the crosses. I thought we did a good job of connecting crosses. It was great that he stuck with it and obviously found the first goal, which is so important in this type of game. I was really proud of the guys in a game that's tight. We haven't been getting wins. You're going to expect that it's going to not be the most perfect game or clean game. But I thought when we went 2-0, you could see the confidence bubble up. I'm really proud of the guys, we looked like a team. One of the things I told them is, a lot of people talk about character being revealed when no one's watching, and I think it's revealed when everybody's watching. These guys were under pressure. I was under pressure. Their backs were against the wall, and I think they showed their true colors. I said it – they weren't going to quit. They didn't quit. They looked like a team. I'm real proud that we got the result, they deserved it."

On goalkeeper Matt Turner's first start since returning to the Revolution last week:

Porter: "Yeah, just quality. You can see in the first couple of crosses, [Turner] comes to the edge of the box and plucks it, and then makes a couple of really key saves, one big one in the first half. Just his presence, his distribution, his confidence really helped us."

On the defensive performance in tonight's shutout win, led by Turner:

Porter: "Great to score two goals, great to get a clean sheet. From here on out, it's going to be tight games. So it's important that we defend well. I thought it was a great week of training. We had five days, and we worked – our two lines of four worked a lot with the back four. Just getting that chemistry back, getting that cohesiveness. I thought that helped, and then obviously, Matt [Turner] just gives you confidence, and he's chirping. It always helps to have kind of a cheerleader back there."

On planning for next week's match against LAFC following the recent signing of Son Heung-min:

Porter: "I haven't thought about it yet. Obviously, just shows this league, where it's going, the money being spent, the quality of players, 26 million, I think it is. We got our work cut out for us, which is why we've got to breathe a little, reset, recover, and go again and stay pretty even keeled on this one. Obviously it feels good, but we have to do it again next week, and we have to find a way against a very good team with extremely talented players. But I feel our group can do it, we just have to block everything out and like I said this week, stay in our box, focus on the prep, focus on the things that matter, what we can control. And I thought the guys did that. I'm real proud of them."

On if this victory feels different and if it brings relief:

Porter: “No, because I don’t ride the roller coaster. There’s a reason why I don’t have social media. I understand the highs and the lows, I’ve experienced them. I’ve twice been at the very pinnacle of this league and I’ve been at the bottom too. In the end if you’re looking for approval or validation and you’re riding that roller coaster, it’s going to be a very tough existence. I built my life in a way where I do my job, I try to do it really well, I try to give everything I have. I’ve given a lot to this club, a lot. It may not seem like it with the results, but day after day for nearly two years I’ve given so much and I’ll continue. It won’t change. We worked really hard this week to make sure the guys were organized and they were ready. And individually, they had confidence, and they felt good.

“A lot of hours were put in to make that happen, and then it’s still hard because when you’re not winning the confidence isn’t super high. But I loved how we just stuck with it in that second half. It could have gone either way, but we had that will to win. I think you saw we were a team that was together, and they were bought in. They wanted to show tonight that, obviously, with the pressure, with the results not going their way, they wanted to show that we can still give ourselves a chance. And the only way we have a chance is to take it one week at a time, one game at a time mindset, and it’s on to the next. We’ll sleep a little better and then it’s back to work. We have to work really hard this week and prepare. We’re playing a better team, much better team in LAFC, so it’ll be harder.”

On switching to a four-man backline and Ignatius Ganago’s return from injury:

Porter: “Yeah, it’s kind of a big decision. Obviously, we had shifted away from the 3-4-3 and 3-4-1-2, and then we lost 3-1 [to CF Montréal on July 25]. We could have gone back, but for me, I just felt like it was the right thing to do. We were getting Brayán [Ceballos], we were getting Matt [Turner], we were getting [Ignatius] Ganago off the bench. I just felt like with a full week of training that we could make it better. I truly felt like it was our best [starting] 11 and I felt like it was the right system to highlight our best [starting] 11. It doesn’t mean next week we won’t change again, honestly, because we have to look at LAFC. We have to take a look at what we think is the best way to go tactically from here on out. We may have to change, from time to time, and throw a wrinkle. Because if the game calls for that, we have to do it. We have to do whatever it takes to win.”

On Carles Gil’s mentality and how it has contributed to his success as a player:

Porter: “I just can’t say enough about Carles [Gil], because he’s a top player and yet he’s so humble. He’s a team guy. We actually had some good conversations this week. Sometimes I’ve had top players, and you lose, and they can be tricky. But not him. He’s just so professional and he has so much character, and he’s such a team guy. That’s just very rare. There was no flinch in him, there was no flinch in me, there was no flinch in this team. We’re not going to back down. We’re all fighters, we’re all winners. We have not been winning, but we’re winners. Sometimes I love it when the adversity is really high and the pressure is really high, because again, you just find out what you’re made of. You find out what your team is made of. And I thought in this game, we have to do it again. We really showed a lot of character.”

On if it was special to see Carles Gil break the club’s all-time goal contributions record, surpassing Taylor Twellman who was in attendance on Alumni Night:

Porter: “Absolutely. I give Matt Reis a little credit for coming down to the bench in the second half to pump us all up. I thought that was a nice thing. I had Matt with me in Columbus. He’s such a great guy and such an awesome goalkeeper. I thought that was really cool, that he came down to the bench and showed support. I think it’s not by accident that [Gil] set the record with all those special alums here, some of the greats, Taylor [Twellman] himself. I think it was nice.”

Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil

On getting the win and Matt Turner’s return:

Gil: “Obviously it was a key game. Right now, every game for us is a final if we want to make the play-in or playoffs. It was very important win, and to have Matt [Turner] back is special for everyone here, for the fans too. We love him, and I think we are very lucky to have not just him, but also [Aljaž Ivačič]. Two quality keepers. I don’t think many teams can say that here in MLS.”

On breaking the club's all-time record for goal contributions with Taylor Twellman in attendance:

Gil: "It's special to break the record. Like I've said many times, [Twellman] a legend here in the club, in the league. I have more games [played] than him, I think, to break the record. But it's a pleasure to have these words about him, and he's a big legend."

On the locker room remaining united and embracing challenges:

Gil: "We are professionals. What's happened, has happened. We need to come back every Monday, every Tuesday, train hard, think about the next game and give our best. And we need to do that together, but also individually. I think we are there and trying to do it, but the truth is we need to improve. We are coming from a very difficult run, having bad games. But like I said, maybe it's an opportunity for this group to do something special and important, because if you ask everyone right now, no one is going to say New England is going to be in the playoffs. No one. So, it's an opportunity. We need to take that opportunity and try to do it."

Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On returning to New England and getting a warm reception from the fans tonight:

Turner: "Yeah, it was really nice being back. Obviously, it was pretty emotional walking out for me, just being back in the stadium, feeling the love from the warmup to before the game, to everything. I love it here. I love New England. It's really like a home for me. I wouldn't say I had any expectation. For me, it was just more about showing up, but also understanding that there's something to achieve, something to do. I want to also put in good performances. I always wear my heart on my sleeve when I'm on the pitch, so it felt really nice to be well-received and to be back."

On building chemistry with his new teammates:

Turner: "I mean, one-for-one with clean sheets. So far, so good. I think I'm a very personable person, and through sports has always been my way to create meaningful relationships ever since I was a kid. So, for me to come into a new locker room for the fourth year in a row, it's not anything new. The best part about coming back here is that I had familiar faces and familiar surroundings. I didn't have to reacclimate to a lot of things, but I did have to take the time and make the effort to really start getting to know guys. I don't want to overreact. It's been one week, it's been one game, and it was a great night. Now, it's about rest, recover, getting ready for next week, and continue to build on those relationships."

On Carles Gil breaking the club's all-time goal contributions record and the leadership he brings to the team:

Turner: "I was really happy to be here for Carles [Gil]. He's unassuming, he's quiet, but he is a leader. He's a leader in the way that he cares, in the way that he always contributes with goals and assists. And to be honest, you think about Taylor [Twellman], and he's kind of like hand-in-hand with that old Revolution logo, with the navy blue and the silver on the sleeves. And it's like, that's the Taylor Twellman Revs. But, in the last six years, I mean, to do it in six years, and in the position that he is, it's not his game necessarily to score goals. Obviously, most of those are assists. He's just such an amazing player and such an amazing talent. I think there's no one more deserving to have that record for this club right now."