



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (8/16): Postgame vs. Los Angeles FC

Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & M Alhassan Yusuf

Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

On if Los Angeles FC's attack caught New England off guard in the second half:

Porter: "No, it shouldn't have. Before the game I told the guys that to win the game, we're going to have to put together a 90-plus minute performance. I thought the first half was excellent. We made it a very tight game. They had no shots on goal. They had two shots, total. That put us in a great position going in the second half, being at home. And last thing I told the group before we left the locker room was they're going to raise their level- we need to be ready for it and we need to raise ours. That's exactly what happened. They came out flying and pressing, and we didn't manage it well. We gave away a silly goal. That 10-minute spell where they raised their level, we didn't manage it, and that cost us the game."

On what's missing in the final third on the attacking end:

Porter: "Yeah, just finish. It's an even game. There's a lot of those this year where I don't need to look at [the stats]. It's a very even game, a tight game, against a very good team, a very talented team. It's exactly the way you want the game to go. That start of the second half is just so disappointing that we give away a silly goal like that, that we don't manage their level, raising their press. We don't manage those 10 minutes, and that now puts us in a position down 1-0. I still thought it should have gone 1-1. Obviously, we had the great chance for [Tomas] Chancalay. Of course, the last goal makes the score line look a lot bigger, the game was done. They're always going to have transitions as we look to push and chase. But those 10 minutes, we have to learn from that. I know it's crazy to say this late in the year, but we haven't been able to put a 90 minute-plus performance, a complete performance, together. We're in every game. But back to the question, that's why we're falling short, we have to start that second half better."

On how the team's performance in the first half gave New England a chance to win tonight:

Porter: "I thought it was a great half. There weren't a lot of chances in the game, but that was by design. We needed to slow them down. We needed to make it a game where we were controlling the dangerous spaces, and where we were controlling the transitions. I really liked our mentality. I liked the way we started the game. I thought we probably could have been a little more ruthless in the transition moments, have more precision in some of those moments. I felt good after the first half. And I felt like we could have had our noses in front. I knew exactly what was going to happen to start the second half. In the end, they have to learn from it."

On Ignatius Ganago making his first start after returning from injury and the decision to start him over Tomas Chancalay:

Porter: "It was a tactical decision. With the game plan we had, I wanted wingers that would track, defend, and then have pace in transition. In a different type of game, where we're in the front half a lot of moments, and where we have the ball in the box, it's a different decision. But I thought Luca [Langoni] and [Ignatius] Ganago did well and did the role I wanted them to do. It is too bad to give away that goal."

On how the Revolution defended Los Angeles FC's attack tonight:

Porter: "Really well. I mean, I think if you can limit their team, like we did, you're putting yourself in a position to win the game. That's how I approach every game and how I approach the prep for every game. I want

to put my team in a position to win the game and absolutely we were in a position to win the game. For me, a lot of it is the mentality for 90-plus minutes, and just being a little smarter when we start that [second] half, and we see that they're flying around – let's go big, let's step up, and/or let's just not give away a goal like that. It's very uncharacteristic out of Matt [Polster] to do that. I know he feels bad. Again, it's just a shame."

On any updates regarding potential new additions to the roster:

Porter: "Yeah, we're hopeful. I think it looks pretty good. We'll see, though."

Revolution Midfielder Alhassan Yusuf

On how the team defended Denis Bouanga, Son Heung-Min, and Los Angeles FC's attack:

Yusuf: "I think, first half, we dealt with them really well. But then, second half, we conceded a goal quite early. So, yeah, it was a different game [after the goal]. So you can say it was just kind of just transition. We dealt with them [in the] first half really well."

On Matt Turner:

Yusuf: "For sure, [Turner's] a good addition to the team. With his experience, he's vocal, he talks a lot. I think it's really good for the team."

On the positives the team can draw from the first half:

Yusuf: "I think we played as a team, and that's how we wanted to play. That was the game plan, and we were really compact and shut them down. Then the beginning of the first half, a little bit of a mistake. Then they scored the goal, and then the game changed."

On how the team can move forward:

Yusuf: "The most important thing is to kind of reset and then recover and then get ready for the next game."