



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### **TRANSCRIPT (8/19): Media Availability**

*Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & D Mamadou Fofana*

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

##### ***On what the team can draw from the last match against LAFC to prepare for Saturday's game at Columbus:***

**Porter:** “[We] showed the team clips from the first half, clips from the second half that I think encapsulated what we did well and what we need to do better. In the first half, we did very well defensively. [LAFC] had zero shots on goal. I thought we controlled their key talented players in a very good way. I felt we could’ve created a little more in transition in the few moments that we had. But overall, I was okay with the [first] half. I thought we executed really well, especially defensively.

“We showed them three clips in the start of the second half, in the first 10 minutes; all three were goal kicks. I thought Matt Turner did a really good job of making the right decisions on goal kicks, which is something we always talk about – don’t be predictable. [Turner] stepped the group up and kicked once, he played short, and then we went direct once. Then the goal that we gave up, we played short and obviously gave away the goal. The issue wasn’t decision making, the issue was execution. The goal we gave up, we have a good structure, we have a lot of time and space, it’s just a mistake. When you play out of the back, it happens. We just have to execute better.

“We should’ve leveled the game. It really should’ve been 1-1. Overall, the message is that there were a lot of good things defensively, especially against a very talented team, but we need to execute better, especially in those first 10 minutes [of the second half].”

##### ***On what makes Columbus a difficult opponent:***

**Porter:** “They’re very aggressive, with and without the ball. They pin you back with the ball and they really load your back line. They occupy the final third with a lot of numbers and players. They pin you back and break you down, wear you down. They counter-press you in, and then without the ball, they’re aggressive and stepping high. In the front half, they want to be dominating the game, controlling the game, and they’re very good if they’re able to do that.”

##### ***On if midfielder Eric Klein and other young players from Revolution II could potentially see increased minutes moving forward:***

**Porter:** “Eric is one and we have a few others that we would have on the bench, but we can’t because of their international status. We’re all tied up with our international status. Allan Oyirwoth is one. Malcolm Fry is also doing really well and scoring goals. We opted to give [Fry] another game [with Revolution II], but he continues to get closer. Then hopefully the signing we make, he’s a young player, if that signing happens. Revs II, a couple of guys that are first team [signees] that are starting to come through like Eric Klein, Allan, Malcolm Fry, and then the [new] signing.”

##### ***On the importance of complete 90-minute performances:***

**Porter:** “It’s 90 minutes of execution. Like I said, the first half [against LAFC] was good. We were in great position, and then the first 10 minutes [of the second half], we’re mixing it up, they’re pressing, we’re not naïve. The decision making is there. Honestly, [LAFC’s first goal was] just an unfortunate mistake. It’s

probably a game where you have to be perfect because of how good they are. It's probably a game where the team that makes the mistake loses the game. Unfortunately, we did. That's the story of the game. Like I said, I showed them the film. We'll continue to work in training to make sure they execute in those phases and moments for 90 minutes."

***On goalkeeper Matt Turner's ability to play the ball quickly:***

**Porter:** "It's normal when a goalie gets it and we can launch it quick before a team gets their blocks set up. That's the best-case scenario."

***On how much New England can draw from its first match against Columbus on March 1:***

**Porter:** "It's too far back. There's not much to look at there. Obviously, we'll look at their recent form and we'll continue to work on the things we need to work on. That's more important than looking back five months."

**Revolution Defender Mamadou Fofana**

***On takeaways from Saturday's defeat to LAFC ahead of Saturday's match at Columbus:***

**Fofana:** "We know when we play against a good team, our level can't come down. The first half [on Saturday] was good. Then, in the second half, the level for them was also high and we made some mistakes. We have to train for this for the next game in Columbus, because we know it will not be easy but we will work on that."

***On building a relationship and playing with Matt Turner:***

**Fofana:** "I think he [Turner] is a very good goalkeeper who gives us confidence. He talks a lot, and I hope we can continue like this to help the team and to get the win."

***On what the team expects against the Columbus Crew:***

**Fofana:** "We know, because we played against them here, they play out of the back and they want to build out of the back. We will work on this. We know it will not be easy because they are a very good team. They have been together for a long time. But we are also a good team and we will do everything to get the three points."

***On the additional pressure on defenders when the attack is struggling to score goals:***

**Fofana:** "We are a team. Attackers, they can score, and defenders also can score. We are a team. We worked on that, and we know we can do better. As a team, we will work on that for the next game."

***On his chemistry with fellow center back Brayan Ceballos:***

**Fofana:** "I think, as I said, if we play together we don't have to speak the same language because football is general everywhere. So, we know it's not perfect but we train every day for this and I think we will do better."

***On 18-year-old Allan Oyirwoth leaning on fellow African players at the club as role models:***

**Fofana:** "We know he [Oyirwoth] is a young player. Me also, I was in his position when I was young. Somebody helped me, they talked to me all the time and told me what I have to do. So, we want to do the same thing to him, because here and Africa, we know it's not the same – the life, everything. But we are here for this, and we will take care of him."