



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### TRANSCRIPT (8/21): Press Conference

*Match preview press conference with Head Coach Caleb Porter & M Alhassan Yusuf*

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

##### ***On the strengths of new U22 forward Dor Turgeman:***

**Porter:** "A good, young player. He has quality around goal. He's a natural finisher. He's mobile, so he can move; he's athletic. Individually, he can create for himself, as well, off the dribble if he needs to. Good profile, and again, a good young player who has quality. It gives us another attacking option, short term and long term, and obviously it made sense, because we're using that U22 mechanism to continue to build a more robust and competitive roster."

##### ***On Saturday's away match against the Columbus Crew:***

**Porter:** "We've been good on the road, so I'm not worried about that, because the confidence is good on the road. We've gotten results on the road, so the belief will be there. I think the challenge is, in [these] two games, we are playing two very good teams in LAFC and Columbus, two of the better teams in the league. You saw last game, we kind of had to be perfect to win the game, and we made one mistake. We played well enough to get a result in the game, but we got punished for the one mistake we made. When you're playing teams like LAFC and Columbus, you have to play well and the margins are tighter, and you have to make sure that you don't make big mistakes. If we play like we did last game and even a little bit better, which I think we will because we've had another week, we're going to be in a position to take the result."

##### ***On how the players managed their emotions after last weekend's loss to LAFC:***

**Porter:** "I mean, everybody's frustrated when you lose, I don't think that's abnormal.... Of course, I was frustrated after the game, the whole team is frustrated when you lose. That's just normal. Carles [Gil's] attitude has been great, so it's nothing abnormal, if that's what you're asking, with regards to him being upset about losing the game."

##### ***On if Dor Turgeman performs best as a lone striker or when he can combine with another forward:***

**Porter:** "I think he's versatile, so I think he can play alone, or he can play together in a two front. He can even play wide, so I think he's versatile. His profile isn't one dimensional. We're probably going to have him for four or five games this year, so I think it's important for people to realize that. He is a 21-year-old player transitioning to a new team, a new league, so you'll probably see more of an impact in the future. But it's great to have him to close the year out. It gives us another option, and as you can see, we are a little light in the front part of our team in terms of depth."

##### ***On what needs to change to get the team back into contention:***

**Porter:** "A win. We need to win. That's what needs to change. I think the performances have been pretty consistent, but we're not getting results, we're not getting rewarded for that. So, we need to win."

#### **Revolution Midfielder Alhassan Yusuf**

##### ***On the keys to facing Columbus Crew:***

**Yusuf:** “I would say the previous games we were really solid and compact. That’s the key, to build from there and then try to see if we can find moments to try to score from a transition.”

***On the mindset of the group approaching each game like a final:***

**Yusuf:** “Yeah, of course. That’s the mindset – one game at a time. Then, try to not focus on the rest of the games and just take the one that is in front of us right now.”

***On mental toughness when playing in a hostile atmosphere like Columbus:***

**Yusuf:** “The most important thing is not to get carried away with the crowd. We know, of course, if you stay strong and win some duels, [we can] just try to silence the crowd and maybe that will go against their team.”

***On how the team felt after the loss to LAFC and rebounding against Columbus:***

**Yusuf:** “It’s not easy, of course, at the moment. It’s a difficult moment that we’re in. We just have to try to stay in it, not think too much about it. Of course, it’s frustrating. Everyone was frustrated, especially after the solid performance we think we had in the first half. The most important thing is the next one, because the last one, you cannot do anything about it. It’s just [about] the next one.”

***On helping Allan Oyirwoth’s development and how he and the other African players on the team have served as role models:***

**Yusuf:** “We’ve been very close to each other, of course. I think he’s developing really well. Training with us, you can see the intensity, and trying to adapt to the culture and everything. I think he’s been doing really well with the second team. We’ll just wait and see what he can do, maybe in the games that are remaining or maybe next year.”

***On going back on the road this Saturday, where the Revolution are 4-4-5 this season:***

**Yusuf:** “Every point now for us is important. For us, it doesn’t matter home or away, the most important thing is to try to get something from it. As you mentioned, we’ve been really strong in the away games, so that’s also something that we put in the back of our minds.”

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