



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### **TRANSCRIPT (8/23): Postgame at Columbus Crew**

*Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & F Leo Campana*

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

##### ***On the pairing of Leo Campana and Ignatius Ganago in the attack and the team's performance in tonight's win:***

**Porter:** "In my opinion, that's our lineup. That's a strong group. Good defensively, good enough with the ball, enough athleticism and pace. It's an honest group. It looked like a team. I thought it looked that way against LAFC. Unfortunately, we haven't had that group all together. Leo [Campana] was out, then [Ignatius] Ganago was out. It's chopping and adding, and there's no continuity. A lot of times in this league, the margins come down to continuity and that consistency. I think we can hopefully end the year with that."

"I was really proud of the guys. They really were up for the game, you could tell. A big environment here, one of the best environments in the league, really loud, intense. I thought our group thrived in that type of environment. We've shown that, it's our fifth road win. I told the guys before the game that they should be confident going into this game because they've been a very good team on the road. They're the third best team in the [Eastern] Conference in terms of goals against on the road, and top five I think it is, in goals scored on the road. In the end, we've been very good on the road. I think a lot of it's the environment, the stimulation, that energy. Our guys really thrive on that."

##### ***On finishing chances to score and the defensive performance in the second half:***

**Porter:** "Against Columbus, you're going to absorb a little bit. The way they play, the way they dictate the game, the way they pin you back, occupy the final third with a lot of numbers – it's difficult to deal with. The best way to beat them is to get ahead by two or three goals. I love that we found two goals. I wish we would've found a third at the end of the first half, because we had two golden chances to do it. Then obviously, the way the game swings, Carles [Gil] has the chip and then they score a couple minutes later, so this is the sport. One of the main things I told the group in the locker room after the game was that I was really proud of them at 2-1, because they didn't shrink. They stayed strong, and they dug in. I think going into the five [man backline] helped. The personnel we subbed in really helped. It takes a team to win, and we looked like a team today. I thought we looked like a team last week [against LAFC], so that's why I stuck with the lineup."

##### ***On Matt Turner's leadership and presence:***

**Porter:** "This is a sport where the margins come in the form of the boxes. I've said it all year. We've been pretty good, box to box. We've been in every game, and that's the broken record, and people don't like hearing that, but that's the reality. We have been in every game against the best teams in the league, whether you're talking about Miami, Nashville, we're in those positions. We're in and around the goal to score, and we're in and around the goal to stop goals. Matt Turner, he swings the margins. Just like in 2021, he swung the margins. I was on the other side [as Head Coach of Columbus], we'd play New England and you'd say, 'Ah they're not that good and they don't really dictate the game, and this and that.' But Matt Turner would stand on his head and stop goals, and keep you in the game. Then Gustavo [Bou] or Adam [Bukša] would find a goal, and then that was what happened. The margins come in the boxes and personnel. Just like the [Columbus] Crew tonight without Darlington Nagbe, not quite as good."

[Nagbe] runs the show, he dictates the game. In the end it's always the way the Crew play, difficult. You need to dodge a few bullets. I think we did, but you need Matt Turner at the end of the game to make a play like he did to preserve the three points. That's the margins that we need."

***On the defensive performance and the team coming together at the most crucial point of the season:***

**Porter:** "We really liked those two, Brayan [Ceballos] and Mamadou [Fofana]. We wanted to rebuild our backline. In that Starting XI, I believe it's nine new guys. Maybe it's eight, if you don't count Peyton [Miller]. So, it's a lot of new guys. I told the staff this week, 'We're starting to look like the vision I had.' It's an honest group. There's enough pace, there's enough football, there's enough grit and mentality. We scrimmaged on Wednesday. I liked how it looked. This is a group. This group is teed up to have success. We've been very close to success. I'm confident that we're going to finish strong. We'll see where it shakes out, but this group's teed up for success."

***On Ignatius Ganago's strengths and how he complements the group:***

**Porter:** "I really like [Ganago]. When I first started scouting him, when he was presented by [Sporting Director] Curt [Onalfo], I immediately said, 'I like this player.' He has a little bit of everything. He's smart, he has pace, he's kind of part striker, part winger. He's technical, he can go one-v-one. He's my type of player because he's well-rounded and he's pretty complete. When you look at the whole team, it's a solid group. They all defend, they're all pretty good tactically, they have strong mentality. I'm just glad that they're getting rewarded and getting a result, because ultimately, a lot of it is confidence and they weren't getting rewarded. Hopefully, we can turn this momentum the right way. We've been good on the road, now we have to go win at home. Usually, it's the opposite. We have to go win against Charlotte."

***On Carles Gil's effort tonight and how the team can carry momentum into next weekend's match against Charlotte at home:***

**Porter:** "It's been tough, right? In the middle of games, fans are chanting for me to be out. It's a tough energy on the guys. They take it hard because it's just a weird vibe. These players showed it tonight, they're fighting. They want to make it right. I'm really proud of them for that. With Carles, there's a few questions this week. Is Carles this, that? It's absolutely ridiculous. He's so bought in, he cares. Him and I have a great relationship. I get it, you look for something here, a chink in the armor, but there's nothing there. It doesn't mean we've been perfect. Obviously, we haven't won enough games. I get it. But I hope when we come back home, let's just cheer these players on and give them a chance. Give these players positive energy. They need that. They'll thrive on that, they really will."

**Revolution Forward Leo Campana**

***On if the team showed its potential with tonight's performance:***

**Campana:** "I think we have always been confident about the players we have. We just couldn't find what we were capable of earlier, but I think the last games have been good. The last game that we lost against LAFC [on August 16], I think we did a great job. Obviously, the small details make the difference these days and that's something we need to improve. Today, we were locked in, we worked our asses off. But yeah, we worked really hard because we know that the gap is closing and we need to perform, get three points, because that's the only way to get to the playoffs. That's our main goal, [and] then [we'll] see what can happen after then."

***On the defensive performance and Mamadou Fofana's assist on Ignatius Ganago's goal:***

**Campana:** "It's important, obviously, to connect with them. They're really good guys, they're really good players. I'm really happy for Mamadou [Fofana], for Brayan [Ceballos] also, he's performing really good. Hopefully, we can keep like that. I think we have [seven] more games and we need to keep believing, working hard, getting the wins, because it's the only thing that matters right now."

***On how the team created chances and defended against Columbus tonight:***

**Campana:** "Everyone knows in this league – Columbus, they have really good players, they have quality players, they have a really good manager. You can see it on the TV, when you watch their games. They

play a really nice football. Obviously, coming here, working really hard, getting our three points, it was really important. For us, it was a boost of confidence, because we beat one of the best teams in the league at their home. I think this gives us confidence for our next game, and hopefully we can win in front of our fans."

***On the importance of support from the fans as the team looks to collect more results:***

**Campana:** "It's important. Obviously, we understand the fans' frustration. They're frustrated. I came here to win, I came here to compete. We had a really rough start to the season, but this isn't over until the last game, so we still have chances to make the playoffs and anything can happen. The fans keep believing in us, that we'll work really hard to get in there and then, as I said, anything could happen."

***On combining with his teammates in the attack:***

**Campana:** "I would say the one that plays in front with me, I don't have any problem. If it's Luca [Langoni], if it's Carles [Gil], [Ignatius] Ganago, I don't mind. They're really good players, quality players, fast players, intelligent players. For me, it doesn't make a difference. I will help the one that is up top playing with me. I will give them confidence, I will cheer them up when they fail, I will give them a hand when they fail. It is a family and we hope that we can keep winning."