



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (9/4): Press Conference

Soundbytes from Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter & M Jackson Yueill

Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

On Chicago Fire FC:

Porter: “[Chicago] are a positional play team. They like to have the ball, like to use the ball to disorganize you and create chances with the ball and they’re good at that. [Chicago Head Coach] Gregg [Berhalter] is a good coach; his style of play is very clear. They have been much improved this year. Obviously, they were on the wrong end of a tough result against [Philadelphia], but prior to that, they were on a very good run of form.”

On the playoff implications of this weekend’s contest:

Porter: “We’ve been in the same situation the last five, six games where every game is a really important game, so it’s no different. For sure, this is a game with a direct competitor where we need to win.”

On accounting for the players who will be away on international duty:

Porter: “A couple of guys are gone, but we’ve got capable guys to step in. Obviously, Leo [Campana] out and Mamadou [Fofana] out, so you’ve got a couple of key guys [missing], but we’ve got good guys to step in and I have a lot of confidence in the group. The last four games, we’ve played very well overall. We got two wins, obviously two losses, but I felt like in the games where we lost, we did enough to win. I think we’re playing our best soccer of the year right now.”

On Tomás Chancalay potentially having an opportunity to make an impact on Saturday:

Porter: “Yeah, Tomás has goals in him. We need goals to win the game and obviously, Leo [Campana] is out. We will try to keep as much continuity as possible, because I like where the group is at and I like how we’re playing. I like the confidence that we’re playing with. I thought that second half [against Charlotte FC] was very good, so we will build off that and keep as much continuity as possible. Obviously, we will factor in Chicago and how they play. We’ll make some adjustments in relation to them as far as our plan, but there’s not a lot that I want to change right now. I kept the group very loose this week. They’ve been giving me everything they have, so [I’m] very pleased with that. I just want them to get rewarded and I feel that if we keep playing the way we’ve been playing, they will get rewarded.”

On Ignatius Ganago finding his form with goals in the last two games:

Porter: “[Ganago] has played really well recently and [he is] a big reason why I think overall we’ve taken some results in the last four games, and he’s had some goals. Luca [Langoni] is playing well too. I thought [last game] was probably his best game in a long time. The group is confident. I know it’s crazy because we’ve had a rough year, but you want your team to be playing its best soccer at the most important time and I think we are, so that gives us a shot. We know this is a very important game. We know what we need to do, but we’ve been in that mindset, so I didn’t feel any extra pressure out of the group this week.”

Revolution Midfielder Jackson Yueill

On what gives the squad confidence heading into the final six matches of the season:

Yueill: "I think there was a good core group here when a lot of new faces came in at the beginning of the year. Those guys were vital to getting the team dynamics right. I think inside the locker room, people come from a lot of different places and backgrounds, but I think we've become a good group and a good family. I think a lot of guys spend a lot of time off the field with each other. We obviously spend a lot of time on the field and on road trips and everything, so I think the team has gotten stronger and stronger as the year has gone by. I think that closeness and those relationships help, especially in tough moments and times to really dig in. That's what we have to do these last games. When you're close with a group of people, you've got their backs and you continue to fight the harder challenges that arise. That's what this group is ready to do these last few games, and it starts Saturday."

On approaching his 200th MLS start and how he feels he has grown into a leader during his time in MLS:

Yueill: "Definitely, the growth has been crazy, I think from the league and from myself. When I was starting off, there was a lot of older players, and [now] you see a lot of younger kids. I don't remember a lot of 17-year-olds in the locker room [then], and you've got quite a few now. For my experience going through it, I had a lot of really good mentors and a lot of guys who had a lot of experience in the locker room and in this league help. In tough moments, they were the ones to kind of step up. Now, you have a lot of younger kids, especially a lot of talented younger kids. We have a few on this team who are very, very vital to our success."

"Of course, 200 [starts] is a great number. You try to get better with each one. I think this team has helped me learn a lot this year. Whether it's someone who's a rookie or first year, or they have been in the league for a long time, leaning on everyone and getting everyone's support through moments throughout the year is important. You gain a lot of good relationships, and that's one of the best things about this job, is you meet a lot of people from different backgrounds. I'm excited that I'm able to reach that milestone, and hopefully you get this one and you just go for the next one. So yeah, I'm excited about that one."

On if this weekend's match against Chicago will have a playoff feel:

Yueill: "I think we've known that we have to catch up and we have to make the gap smaller. Every training session and every week leading up to the game, we've focused solely on that game as if you would a playoff game. [Chicago] is a team that is directly in front of us, so I think it's a little bit more that this is a 1-v-1 battle. It's an opportunity for us to gain on them significantly. It's definitely got that playoff feel to it. I think the guys are ready, and I think we've been a little unfortunate with some of the results, but I think we're playing well and the cohesion throughout the team is really coming in. We need to rely on a lot of guys, especially with this international break, but that's the point of gaining this good group. There are a lot of good leaders in this locker room who have played in a lot of really high-level games, and we'll need everyone for this Saturday."

On the team being in nearly every game and maintaining confidence throughout the season:

Yueill: "I think you can pull a lot of examples from the year of how many expected goals we probably had, especially in some of these tight one-goal games, where if we could have got the goal earlier, I think the whole dynamic of the game changes. So, I think the team has a lot of belief in itself. We have a few things to get sharper at. I think in and around the final third, if we can a little bit more have that killer instinct of putting the goals away and putting them away early, I think that will only help us. Defensively, the team is very strong. A lot of really good guys who understand space and cover for each other. I think the work rate and effort is there. We have a really, really solid middle to low block, and when we press high up on the field, I think we can create counters. I think the team is very, very well-structured for the defensive side. Then offensively, we have a lot of talented players and we need to make the most of opportunities and put goals away, especially Saturday. Try to get a goal early and then two goals if possible to find a way to win."

On Tomás Chancalay's ability to score goals and be an impact player:

Yueill: "Especially in the final third, you want guys who obviously have good striking ability and [Chancalay] is one of the best that I've seen at hitting a ball. I think from distance, he's got power and he's got accuracy, and so I think he's a guy who we'll rely on heavily, especially on the road. In these games, you're going to have to operate in small spaces as well, so I think between our attacking guys, we're going to need quick combinations and being able to shoot from some of those distances and following up with rebounds. Tomás is one of those guys who is a work horse. He works hard to get into the right positions, and he's got a good

understanding of the guys around him and where to take his first touch to set himself up for opportunities. I think the goal for us is to feed those guys as much as possible and let their qualities shine in and around the box."