



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (9/11): Press Conference

Soundbytes from Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter & M Allan Oyirwoth

Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

On the mindset and expectations heading into the final five games of the regular season:

Porter: "My mindset is simple – I'm going to keep moving this club forward. That means, in the short term win the next game at home. We have three home games left. For me those home games are very important, getting results in all three starting with Toronto. Leaving our fans with a good feeling, we haven't done that this year enough. So that's short term, win the next game. And then long term, keep building for the future with the players that are going to be here."

On 18-year-old midfielder Allan Oyirwoth's progress and development this season:

Porter: "It has been really amazing to see [Oyirwoth's] growth in a short amount of time. He's 18 years old. We've brought him along the right way. We've used Revs II to get him minutes, to get him confident, to get him in form. We've played him in a couple of [U.S.] Open Cup games as well. And then last game [at Chicago] he got his debut with 20 minutes. I thought he did very well there. He has taken a good progression. With Matt Polster out again this week, we're going to give him his debut start. He's ready for it and I couldn't be more excited for him to get that opportunity."

On 17-year-old defender Peyton Miller's development in his first full MLS season:

Porter: "When you look at our roster overall, we have a good average age. We have a lot of guys that are in their prime or guys that are coming into their prime. There are things to be excited about for the future. The mindset is to win the next game, but we're building for the future. Peyton Miller has had an excellent season. When you look at last year he was kind of breaking through, cracking in, getting minutes and getting games. But this year, essentially being a starter all season long, he has made big steps forward and continues to make big steps forward. That's exciting. And [with] Ilay Feingold, that's three guys with Allan [Oyirwoth] that are 21 years old or younger. I don't know if there's a team in the league that's starting two guys 18 years old or younger [Miller and Oyirwoth]. It's about results and winning, but we feel like our best chance for the future is through some of these young guys and others that are entering their prime. A guy like Brayan Ceballos, who's 24 years old. We have a good core group of guys that are going to do well for us in the future."

On Carles Gil continuing to play at an elite level despite opposing teams game planning against him in different ways:

Porter: "When you look at our team, [Gil] is the key guy that has produced all year, an All-Star, and one of the best players in the league. A lot of teams devote most of their game plan to stopping him and getting numbers around him. I have to do a better job of making sure he gets freed up and in good spots. Whether that's getting different pieces around him, whether that's tactically adjusting our shape, or whether that's putting him in different spaces. I still think in every game he gets in great spots to score and create. Last game was no different, he still ends up getting a goal in the game. He has had an excellent year. He's had over 10 goals and 10 assists [for the third time]. It has been an excellent year for him. In these last five games, my goal is to make sure that he's highlighted even more and that he continues to be effective in what he does so well, which is a lot. He'll continue to be a key player for us

now and in the future. I have to do a better job of just making sure he has the right role and the right spaces to find to be effective.”

On the importance of developing young players in MLS:

Porter: “It’s really important. Obviously, you saw last year, with Esmir [Bajraktarević]. Giving him a run of games and him having such a great year for us, it led to a move for him. Obviously, that helps. Anytime we can sell a player, we reap the benefits in our roster with the proceeds of those sales. It helps that we continue to be a club that is scouted, that teams look at. We’re viewed as a club that develops young players, and it’s no different with a guy like Allan [Oyirwoth], Peyton [Miller], or Ilay [Feingold]. We have a bunch more coming through as well. So, it’s exciting and it’s important. But let me be clear, we want to win and results matter. But we feel like at this club, our best way to have success is through the development of our young players. We’re always going to be a club that prioritizes that.”

Revolution Midfielder Allan Oyirwoth

On making his MLS debut during last Saturday’s match at Chicago Fire FC:

Oyirwoth: “I was very, very happy. It was an opportunity that I waited for, for almost eight months. So, it has been so long. Now finally, I’ve made my debut. It was really unbelievable and I was so happy and impressed. My family too, they were happy. Everyone was very happy for me.”

On how playing with Revolution II has been valuable for his development:

Oyirwoth: “The time with Revs II really helped me a lot. They brought me up from Uganda, where we don’t have good academies, we don’t have good development in football, in soccer. So, I came here. Starting with Revs II, that’s something that’s [been] very good for me, because it helped me develop and I’ve developed very well, and I’m still continuing to develop. Then giving me [U.S.] Open Cup games with the first team to continue monitoring my development, that was really something I appreciate from the coaches a lot, because they helped me. They never wanted to put me into the pressure straight away, into the first team. They said first that I have to go start with Revs II and develop. Then when I come up, they’ll be bringing me in. I train with the first team, I go and play games with the second team, which helped me a lot in my development.”

On representing the Uganda National Team and if he hopes to be called up in the next FIFA international window:

Oyirwoth: “Yeah, hopefully. This window, I think [Uganda] called me, but the request was sent too late. We discussed it with the club, we agreed. We discussed it with the [Uganda] Federation, too. They also agreed that it’s okay, with our games that are going on here, I can remain and focus. They wished me well to make my debut. I think in the next window, they will call me and send their request a bit earlier.”

On suiting up for his first MLS start this weekend:

Oyirwoth: “To me, as a kid, it’s really unbelievable. I’ve worked hard for it. I’ve been working in training. The 20 minutes they gave me in the last game [at Chicago], I really tried my best. I went and watched the [highlights] and I think I did my best and did really well. So, giving me the opportunity to start in a match, in a MLS game, that’s really something unbelievable to me and I appreciate it a lot. I think I have to work hard in that game, so I can continue getting more minutes.”

On how his fellow African teammates have helped him develop and settle into New England:

Oyirwoth: “Those guys are incredible. I appreciate them a lot, because since I stepped my foot here, [Alhassan] Yusuf took me [under his wing]. Mamadou [Fofana] came in, [Ignatius] Ganago, they’re older than me. They’re really watching me so close. Every day they make sure they talk to me, they [make sure] I’m fine. Every day they make sure they talk to me, and they’re keeping me very well. I felt welcomed from the first day, so they’re really good to me. I can’t forget them wherever [I go]. Maybe with time, wherever we go, I can’t forget those guys because they really helped me a lot in settling in here.”