



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (9/13): Postgame vs. Toronto FC *Soundbytes from Head Coach Caleb Porter & M Allan Oyirwoth*

Revolution Head Coach Caleb Porter

On the late rally in tonight's 1-1 draw and how the team can improve moving forward:

Porter: "I'll tell you exactly what I told the guys. Maybe it's weird to be positive in this situation, but I try to call a spade a spade, and I try to be always honest and objective with the guys about what I saw and what I felt. I felt like, overall, we got very good individual performances across the board. If I had to rate almost every player, it's probably a six or seven, solid. We've got a guy like Allan [Oyirwoth], an 18-year-old, I thought he was excellent. Collectively, I thought we executed pretty well. We were in good spots to create goals, and I thought we defended pretty well where we didn't give them a ton of positions to create goals. Overall, I thought the individual and collective performances and execution was pretty good.

"But I told them, the difference between us being in the playoffs and not this year is in that second half when it was 0-0. When the game is there for the taking, we don't find a goal and we're not patient, we get a little bit antsy, and then we concede the goal. Great comeback – I thought the response was good. It would be easy to call it a day and pack it in, the guys didn't. But that intangible quality that our team needs to go from a team that's in the game, in every game, to winning the game, that's what we have to improve on. I know we can do it, but that game was there for the taking. We have to find that first goal, and we're in spots. For me, we're in enough good spots to create more, and we just didn't create a ton. Obviously, we don't have Leo [Campana] and [Ignatius] Ganago, that makes a difference, for sure. I think we're in good enough positions to get a little bit more in those moments in the box. I've said it, the boxes are the key, and at 0-0, we have to find that goal versus concede it."

On Luca Langoni and Tomás Chancalay's performances tonight:

Porter: "They worked really hard. Neither is a true striker. I think if we had a [Leo] Campana or a [Ignatius] Ganago with one of them it probably would have been a little better. But I thought they did some good things. They were in good spots. We have to do a little bit better when we're in those positions. I think it was like 11-9 in shots. We didn't get a ton of expected goals and they didn't either. It's just disappointing that they find that goal at 0-0 on us because we're knocking on the door. You said it, there have been too many of those games this year where we're right there to win it, especially at home. We have to go and win it."

On the bright futures ahead for young players on the roster like Peyton Miller and Allan Oyirwoth:

Porter: "Peyton [Miller] was excellent. It's obvious our year has not been good, so it's probably lost in the shuffle the steps he's made forward. I remember when we first started playing him, he couldn't make it 90 minutes. We had to sub him out every single half, he was dead. He's playing 90s, he's playing 90s at a high level, and he's getting better defensively, he's getting better in the final third. He's had an excellent year. His mentality, he takes steps forward every single week. And Allan [Oyirwoth], he made it look easy tonight. For an 18-year-old kid to go out there and kind of breeze it like he did, I don't think he did much wrong tonight. And you never know with a kid when you put him in, what his mentality is going to be like. He was very calm and confident and did extremely well, technically, tactically, physically. I thought he had

an excellent game. It bodes well for the future, for sure. What does that mean for their future? Who knows? We don't know that yet, but it's exciting, those two guys, what they can do in the future."

On deploying a 3-5-2 formation in tonight's match:

Porter: "I really like that shape for this group. I played it for 17 games. Toward the end of those 17 games, we weren't getting results, so I felt like the group needed something different. Went to the 4-2-3-1 and we took a couple of results. But I didn't feel overall, even though we took a couple results, that it was the right way to go. I believe this shape is the best shape for this group, now and in the future. The plan is to stick with it. It highlights our wing backs. It gives us a little more security with three center backs, instead of two. I think it helps our No. 2, our No. 6 and No. 8, our double pivots. I think Carles [Gil] was excellent today, I think it frees him up.

"We have a bunch of strikers, and most of them are two-front guys. Obviously, we go Luca [Langoni] and Tomas [Chancalay tonight], but we have Dor [Turgeman] coming, we have [Ignatius] Ganago, we have Leo [Campana]. Probably, all those guys are better in a two-front so that's why I made the move. I thought overall it was pretty good on both sides of the ball. We just have to keep sticking with it and even see at the end if we need to chase it, we can keep the shape, but go even more aggressive with Will Sands and an Ilay [Feingold] and the wide guys in the three. So now basically you're defending with one, or you can go more defensive if you need with more defensive outside backs. There is a lot of flexibility there. And you could go with the two-front, you could go with the front three. There's a lot of things we can do differently, so I thought it was pretty good."

On forward Sharod George making MLS debut tonight and his future ahead with the first team:

Porter: "I know [George] hasn't played a ton because he just got here. But he's 21 years old, Trinidadian-American. I love his profile. That's the profile you want. In a lot of ways today, this game was going to be decided off the crosses. With Tomas [Chancalay] and Luca [Langoni], we didn't get on the end of a lot of those crosses. So, I'd prefer that if we play this system, 3-5-2, that one of the two up top is more of a true No. 9, a profile that has pace, power, and can finish with his head in the box. [George] has that profile. He's raw, but he's a specimen. We need that up top. We need a guy that brings something like that. What does it mean for him in the future? We'll see. But I thought he did alright."

On falling short of the postseason and the team's mentality with four games remaining in the regular season:

Porter: "[The mentality] is going to be the same. We knew it was going to be unlikely coming into this game, so I have been very clear with the group that I believe in them. Doesn't mean there isn't room to improve. There's a lot of room to improve. Our mentality to win games needs to improve, our ability in the boxes to score goals needs to improve. We need a couple of pieces still, but we're close. I really believe we're close to success. I'm going to keep moving this club forward. We're going to keep building for the future. We're going to develop continuity in the system, and in the offseason we're going to keep adding players and keep getting better. We need to get better in the boxes. We need to add a few pieces to turn those margins."

On what the team is missing to make a postseason run next year:

Porter: "I think we're close. I really do. I think we can be a team next year that finishes really high in the Eastern Conference. I believe that. I believe [we're] very close. I hope they keep continuity, because continuity is key. I'm disappointed, frankly gutted in a lot of ways, that we're not going to make the playoffs again. I've said that it's on me, obviously. I'm disappointed in that. Results do matter, but I believe that this project is getting there. I really believe that. And I think we're a couple of pieces [away]. We're time, that's the big thing, we're time and continuity away. Psychologically it's hard to have that killer instinct at 0-0, that belief, when you haven't gotten over the hump with results. And if we had taken a few more of those results I believe that the belief is there [tonight]. So, we just need to take a few more results when it's 0-0. I'm all in here. Hopefully they see the same things that I see."

Revolution Midfielder Allan Oyirwoth

On suiting up for his first MLS start tonight:

Oyirwoth: "I feel very confident because I was motivated by most of the players and coaches. They motivated me a lot. I felt everything was fine. I think the team played really well, and I'm proud of everyone. The confidence they gave me, the motivation, I'm very happy, and I hope for the rest of the season, we continue to work together to make sure that we get wins for the club. And the fans also, make sure we make them very happy."

On his ability to cover ground at a high rate:

Oyirwoth: "Mostly, that's something I'm used to. I think, even when I'm playing with Revolution II, I always make sure that I work very hard and cover ground for the team. I'm always used to that, so it's not something new to me. Working hard, that's really something I look to do, to make sure that I'm always [giving] my top performance, so I need to work very hard for the team."

On remaining confident as he plays increased minutes with the first team:

Oyirwoth: "I've trained with the [first] team for very long, and I've been training with them even when I'm playing with the second team. I've been training with the [first] team, so it's not something new, to play with my teammates. I've had that confidence for a long time, so for the coaches to trust me and give me this opportunity, I really wanted to make sure I show myself that I can – I want to remain among the MLS squad, and hopefully next season, I can at least make more appearances."