



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (9/18): Match Preview Press Conference

Soundbytes from Revolution Interim Head Coach Pablo Moreira & M Carles Gil

Revolution Interim Head Coach Pablo Moreira

On his objectives for the final four games of the regular season:

Moreira: "I think [Sporting Director] Curt [Onalfo] had mentioned it in his press conference, just in terms of ending the last four games on the right foot. What does that mean? For me, it means getting the most out of the team. Almost just releasing the chains, letting them be free, play within the system that we're creating, but also, not be afraid to make mistakes. I just want to give them the ability to have that vibe, and kind of see where they go from it. But definitely, there are high-character individuals in that locker room. I know mathematically we're not out of it. Obviously, it looks bleak, but I know every player in that locker room is looking to win these last four games. To get back to your question, how do we do that? I think it's multifaceted, but just playing free, playing aggressive. At this point, we have nothing to lose, and we really want to show the fans, show you guys, show everyone that that locker room is capable. Unfortunately, we didn't get the results and we're in this position that we are. We know that, we own it, and we're going to correct it."

On his approach to being the interim head coach and if he views it as an opportunity to audition for the role of head coach:

Moreira: "For me, if I'm honest, I've spent 11 years in the league, so it's something that I do feel like I have a good amount of experience to take on this role. In terms of nerves or anything like that – you get nerves if you haven't done it, you know what I mean? Behind the scenes, I feel like I've done pretty much every single role, so I feel comfortable in my own skin there. Really, you just have to control the controllables. All I can do is take one day at a time, one training at a time. It was a heavy week, let's be honest. It was what it was, but we got the guys in, we all talked about it. We addressed it. We don't shy away from that, and then we talked about how we're going to move forward. I know I have the belief in that group in there. They believe in themselves, they believe in us, they believe in what we're trying to throw out there. We just want to do what's best for the club. From my standpoint, again, just control the controllables. Take it one day at a time. If I do that and I do the right things, then hopefully, my name is in the conversation [to be the new head coach]."

On preparations for this weekend's contest at Philadelphia Union after facing them in March:

Moreira: "Funny enough, I was just watching that [2-0 loss to Philadelphia Union] last night because, like you said, sometimes when it's such a large distance, because we played them in March, I just wanted to kind of get a look, because Philly is Philly. [Philadelphia Head Coach] Bradley [Carnell] has done a great job. If you look at over the last three years what he did in St. Louis and what he's doing now in Philly, and obviously he's kind of been in that New York Red Bulls system, so you know what you're going to get with Philly, right? Not saying that they don't have tactics, but a lot of it is kind of the way that they want to play, and that's kind of unfazed based on the opponent for them. For me, looking back at that game, I think you can draw from that on how we expose them, how they exposed us. It was something that we looked at as a coaching staff. Like today, we just went over defensive shape, kind of looking what that would look like when they have the ball and how can we affect them in our defensive shape, and being aggressive within that. Tomorrow, we will go through attacking. But yeah, we saw some things, we shored some things up, and we gave them multiple solutions within that to know what to do in that moment."

On if he will make tactical changes the rest of the season:

Moreira: "I think it will be similar; I don't think it will be the same. I think there's little nuances that you can get within the system. Again, we had two systems that we've used heavily this year. I like the fact that depending on the player personnel within those systems, it can morph within that, within the same game. We're kind of looking at that, how can we tactically approach the game, the schemes. It's definitely something that we are looking into and obviously planning out."

On what he believes has been missing from the team this year with so many close margins:

Moreira: "I think as we all know, MLS is a league of parity, right? Again, I think [Sporting Director] Curt [Onalfo] said it yesterday, the margins are thin. So ultimately, when the margins are thin like that and we have come up short, it is about self-reflection at some point. Looking at what you can tweak, what you can do better. The previous question of talking about the tweaks and all that – those are the little things when you're talking about finite details are what make the difference. It's just trying to home in on those finite details and then again, just giving these guys the freedom, the ability to find solutions within it. But also, they're prepared for exactly what's to come and the solutions are there. Not saying our solutions are always correct, but I want to make it very black and white in terms of scenarios, and hopefully that gives them that extra lift so in these close-margin games, we win versus tying or losing. Again, just trying to control the controllables and going from there."

Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil

On the club parting ways with Caleb Porter and how the team moves forward:

Gil: "Like you said, in a difficult situation, we know what happens in football. Obviously, we were not happy when that happened, because that means that we are not doing what we want to do, which is win games. But now, we need to be focused on our next four games, try to help [Interim Head Coach] Pablo [Moreira] to win games, because we are still playing for our club. So, every game matters and every game is important for us. We will try to win in Philly [on Saturday]."

On his role in leading the team this week and over the next four games:

Gil: "We are all professional and we want to win. Like I said, every game matters and in the end, we know that we are not going to make the playoffs, but we want to win. It's not the same to win the last four games and go into the next season with a different feeling, than continue losing games. I think everyone knows that and is focused on Philly and the [following] three games."

On if he was involved in the club's decision to part ways with Caleb Porter as the team's captain:

Gil: "No. In that case, I was a player more. They told us the decision when that happened. Obviously, like you say, I'm the captain, [but] we also have other leaders in the group like Andrew [Farrell], Matt [Polster], and Matt [Turner]. In the end, the goal is clear; it's to win games. We are not happy with the season we are having, but there's still four more games. Like I said, it's not the same to finish with some wins, [or] finish the season with bad feelings, losing games again. So, we will try to win in Philly and [then] continue to win the last three games."

On undergoing another coaching change in this stage of his career:

Gil: "In that case, it's a different situation, because we know Pablo [Moreira], and it's just four games left. It's not the same as when somebody is coming in the beginning, with a preseason. Like I said, we are going to try to help him in everything. He has energy, he wants to win. It's an opportunity for him and for everyone, for the future, for the present right now. We want to win and we will try to do it."

On how the team has prepared for the Philadelphia Union on Saturday:

Gil: "We know Philly. Even [though] they changed their coach in the beginning of the season, they are a similar team. They will fight, they try to win duels around the pitch, and it's always difficult to go there. But, like you said, they are coming from difficult moments, even though they are still in a good position obviously. Maybe they will be tired too with traveling. We will go there, try to make a good game. Like I said, it will be difficult, but we will try to get the three points."

On 18-year-old midfielder Allan Oyirwoth and his progress this season:

Gil: "I'm very happy for him [Oyirwoth], because he's a good guy, a guy who came, and I didn't think he didn't play professional games [in Uganda]. He's learning a lot, improving every day, trying to listen to everyone. I think he did a good job in the last game and he's going to make the next step for sure. He's a good player. I'm sure he's going to make big games for this club. Eric [Klein] too, it's a similar case. In that moment, when we have a difficult moment, trying to have this type of players is good for the club."

On what is missing from the team's performances when they are competing well but not getting results:

Gil: "I think in some moments, we were there. In some games, maybe we deserved better, but honestly in the end, you see the whole season and whole game, I think we are in the place we deserve. Every year, MLS is more difficult. You can see in MLS right now, there are top teams, and I don't think we are close. We need to change many things. I don't think that after this season, we are close and it's just these things [falling short in close games]. Because in the end, it's two consecutive seasons that we are almost five or four games left in the season, that we cannot make the playoffs with so many points. We had a bad season, that's the reality, and we need to know that. Starting on that, we need to make sure that we can change that situation."

On how it's been training under Interim Head Coach Pablo Moreira:

Gil: "Obviously, it's an opportunity for him [Moreira], but it's a difficult situation because we don't have time. It's two or three days [of training] and we go to Philly. Like I said, he has the energy, he's positive, and yeah, he wants to change some things. We are happy to train with him, and we will try to help him in everything. We are a professional team and we need to go with the right mentality. Philly is a team that if you don't go 100 percent, then you are going to lose and have a difficult loss. So, we need to make sure that everyone is on the same page."