



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (9/23): Media Availability

Soundbytes from Interim Head Coach Pablo Moreira & M Matt Polster

Revolution Interim Head Coach Pablo Moreira

On how the team can build on last weekend's performance at Philadelphia:

Moreira: "I think we're happy with the defensive performance in Philly. I thought we came out in good structures, we came out aggressive, and you saw that. So, I think building on that, but also in the attack, we were kind of held quiet. I know we were a couple moments away from maybe those being bigger chances, but the reality is that didn't come to fruition. So, that's what we're going to look at this week and then refine what we did well."

"But I'm very pleased with the defensive performance. I thought the guys flew around. I thought we created a lot of problems for Philly. I think over time, you just have to be able to connect on a transition moment or a moment in the box. Obviously, score a goal and then change the game, because goals change games and that's what happened. So, just picking up from the positives, getting back to the pitch, working on the improvements and what we see, and how we can make that happen in this next game against Atlanta."

On finding the balance of implementing new ideas in a short window of time:

Moreira: "I think I got a little more time this week. Last week was such a short week, knowing what came into last week in terms of what happened. We were just trying to get through it, get the right mentality, prep as much as we could. But really, it was only a day and a half, two days of prep that we really had. We just wanted to home in on something simple. I thought we did that, and I thought it showed. We didn't want to change too much, just because of the time we weren't able to. I thought the things that we really did focus on, it showed. We just want to do that again, replicate that, and then hopefully the attack, defense, and transition all kind of are running on fluid."

On the team's excitement to play in front of the home fans twice over the final three games of the season, including this weekend:

Moreira: "We're super eager. It brings a smile to my face because I just can't wait to be out there and perform in front of the fans. We're going to give them everything. We know what they want to see, and we're going to try to provide that. We will do everything in our power to do that, and have those fans leave the stadium with that good feeling of three points. That's what we want, that's what they want, and that's what we're going to try to make happen."

On forward Dor Turgeman's first training session with the team today:

Moreira: "It was great. I spoke to [Turgeman]. He's obviously had a whirlwind of the last three, four days in terms of getting here. Now that he's here, he's comfortable. I spoke to him this morning. He has Ilay [Feingold], a familiar face. We have, like I said, an incredible locker room, so he feels very welcomed. We just want to give him freedom and give him the ability to express himself and not hold anything back. We'll provide him with that platform, but we're excited to see what he can do. Obviously, he did well today on the pitch, great day of training, so it was not only him, the entire team. I loved the effort, I loved the mentality, and I'm excited for this weekend's game."

On how the team is preparing to host Atlanta United FC on Saturday:

Moreira: "I don't like to look at where teams are in the standings. As I've said over and over, MLS is such a league or parity, that you can't just look at where they're at in the standings. At the end of the day, [Atlanta] has a very talented roster, a high budget. And if you look at the last four halves that they've played, other than the first half in Columbus, they played Columbus very well [5-4 loss on Sept. 13] scored four goals on them in the second half. Then obviously, San Diego FC is up there in terms of, how good their season's going, and [Atlanta] gave them a tough test too [1-1 draw on Sept. 20].

"So, it's one of those where we don't look at where they're at in the standings. They've had a great three halves, basically, [where] they've had a really good performance. But with that said, the Columbus game, there's something to look at there. Then in past games that we've played against them, there's something to look at there. So, we'll definitely try to exploit those things that we see. They're a very good team that we'll take into consideration when it comes to our prep."

Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster

On the team's mindset and approach for the last three games of the season:

Polster: "I think the attitude should be to stay as positive as possible and finish these three games off as strong as possible. It's not going to be easy. Obviously, we still have good opponents in front of us, and we have to take it seriously and be competitive. We still have a lot to fight for – our respect, our own pride, and showing the fans that we're still committed to this club."

On how the team has pushed through the ups and downs of the season:

Polster: "When a season goes like this, you have to stay mentally into it. There's always these ups and downs. You have to battle through these moments and it hasn't been easy. But, I thought, as a collective, you see the work we put out there. The results haven't gone our way, but you can see the effort we put out. We do it every week and we're still trying to win games."

On his early impressions of forward Dor Turgeman and training alongside him today:

Polster: "It's early, but [Turgeman] looks really clean on the ball. He's very forward-minded, very aggressive. He scored a couple goals today and he was clean on the ball. In a one-hour session, not much to see so far, but he looked good."

On the importance of finishing the season strong in these last three games:

Polster: "We have to show respect to the club, to the fans, and to ourselves and our families that we don't give up. Even though the season, in terms of making playoffs, is done, we still have to go out there and show a good product of ourselves and the club."

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

Polster: "It's been nice to have [Oyirwoth] through the course of the season, and I think he's learned a lot. He's a raw talent. He has, in terms of just like things you can't teach, just a big body. He's very talented on the ball and he has a good head on his shoulders. He really wants to compete and show that he can play at this level. And he always has a smile on his face, which makes me smile."

On veteran defender Andrew Farrell playing his first minutes of the season last weekend and the positive impact he brings to the team:

Polster: "It's the same Andrew that I met when I first got here. He has that energy, even when he hasn't played a ton of minutes this year and even last year. He still brings that energy to the group and that level of maturity. Whatever's thrown at him, he always plays with that kind of mindset. He's someone you need to have in the locker room, [someone] you need to have on a team. He's been pushing us even when he hasn't been playing. He's been pushing me all the time, and demanding more, and I couldn't ask for a better teammate and friend."