



TRANSCRIPT (4/27): Media Availability

Soundbytes from Assistant Coach Blair Gavin & D Ethan Kohler

Revolution Assistant Coach Blair Gavin

On the team securing four points during last week's two-match road trip:

Gavin: "It has been good. Overall, it was a difficult road trip, two very good teams. The guys did a great job over the two games, and to earn those points the way we did, we're very happy with that. We showed some progression of the team, but we've talked a lot about never getting satisfied and how we continue to build and continue to improve. We're excited about the week ahead."

On opening another two-game week with a U.S. Open Cup Round of 16 match against Orlando City SC on Wednesday:

Gavin: "We have another opportunity in the [U.S. Open] Cup. I think it's a great tournament. We're always going to try and progress and improve, and it's another opportunity to do that. We're excited for the opportunity to [compete for] a cup and then obviously to continue our form in MLS play."

On what New England expects from Wednesday's opponent, Orlando City SC:

Gavin: "Orlando has recently had a [coaching] shift and switch. I think now they're starting to settle and understand exactly what they have and what they're trying to do moving forward. We expect a very difficult game. They're hitting form currently, at a very good time for them, so we need to make sure that we're very well organized, getting the guys prepared as much as we can during this short window to go and provide a good game."

On midfielder Alhassan Yusuf's performance in last Saturday's draw at Inter Miami CF:

Gavin: "It was impressive, what he does for our team, how [Yusuf] covers ground, and how he initiates the attack once we win the ball. He has a unique engine that we've seen over his time here with us, and it was fully on display on the game Saturday. It was enjoyable to watch."

On defender Ilay Feingold's status after exiting last weekend's match at halftime due to injury:

Gavin: "We're working through that with the doctors right now and looking at what we have for [Feingold] in the next couple of days to understand what the injury is. You saw the toughness that he showed in his ability to get to halftime and his ability to progress the game for us, help us in a difficult spot to get to halftime, and help us save the moments, and continue building in our unified team."

On what he has learned from working with Head Coach Marko Mitrović:

Gavin: "I think that [Mitrović's] ability to bring the whole group together, to bring one unified fighting spirit, is pretty impressive. To see everyone within the organization is pushing in the same direction is really nice to see and be a part of."

On players approaching Open Cup matches as a way to push for more minutes moving forward:

Gavin: "We saw a lot of guys in the previous Open Cup game that got some good minutes that we're hoping to progress further. We're also leaning on experienced guys too as well, to understand what these

games mean, how they're played, and how difficult they are to help establish that. So, we'll have a good mix of the team and we're looking forward to a whole collective club performance."

On featuring Peyton Miller in the Starting XI in last Saturday's match:

Gavin: "That's something that we discussed as a staff, and we went with the team that we felt like was the best opportunity to start that game. I think we had a very good game throughout the whole 90 minutes, so we're happy with how the game was played out."

On how Peyton Miller's versatility helps strengthen the team:

Gavin: "I think [Miller] provides a lot of dynamic movements, especially behind the defense, with his ability to generate chances off his cross, but also get in the box and finish. We're trying to find ways to get Peyton in positions where he can hurt the [opposing] team the most and help our team the best. We've done it in a lot of different ways, and he's been great in how he's been so flexible and still providing the same kind of output that we're looking for."

Revolution Defender Ethan Kohler

On the messaging from the coaching staff following Saturday's result at Inter Miami:

Kohler: "The message right after the game was rest, recover, and we have it all written on the walls, 'Don't be satisfied.' We're in a good run right now. We have a good bit of momentum, so let's do anything we can to keep that rolling."

On the vibes within the locker room as New England is unbeaten in six matches, including MLS and U.S. Open Cup:

Kohler: "It's always a good vibe when you're winning games and you're playing well, but you can tell that guys are continuously hungry for more. So, it's a positive vibe, but you see guys are still really getting after it, which is amazing."

On featuring in the Starting XI for each of the last three league matches:

Kohler: "Personally, it's great. Coming into the league, I think in my first game, my first start [on Feb. 21 at Nashville SC] was a hard one. That being your only reference point to how you can play in the league, it's definitely tough. So, that game against Columbus [on April 18] was big to get me over that hump. Then, I'm just happy that I can be in a position where I can contribute to the team, and kind of keep that momentum flowing from earlier. For me, on a personal note, it's obviously great, but I'm just happy that the team's success has continued."

On the opportunity to advance to the Quarterfinal Round of the U.S. Open Cup with a win over Orlando City SC on Wednesday:

Kohler: "I mean, it's just important to win. I'm always excited to win, quarterfinal or whatnot. Cup games are always big, it's special. There's a different feel about it. I think everybody is super excited to have that opportunity."

On midfielder Alhassan Yusuf's performance in last Saturday's match:

Kohler: "[Alhassan Yusuf] is top. Yusuf is unbelievable. The way he works on and off the ball, he does all the little things right, and all the big things right as well. I think he was so important in winning first balls, second balls, and he carried us up the pitch [last Saturday]. Individually, he would take the ball and bring us 30 to 40 meters up the pitch, and then that let us kind of settle. So, he was a really important part of our success in that game. He's been doing so well this entire season. I'm really high on Yusuf, not just as a player, but as a guy."

On playing alongside Mamadou Fofana in central defense:

Kohler: "It's great. [Fofana] is a guy that I just trust immediately. He cleans up everything behind you. You know if you're stepping out, he's so quick. He'll cover everything behind you, and he's a guy that's just very steady. He's a top pro, and you know what you're going to get from him. For me, it really helps ease

my nerves knowing that he's there next to me. He's a very positive guy, he's very encouraging, and he definitely helps in all moments of the game. It's been great playing next to him."

On his relationship with teammate and Revolution leading scorer Peyton Miller:

Kohler: "Scoring or not scoring, we're just young kids, so it's always banter. But I'm super happy for [Miller]. He deserves it. He works super hard day in and day out. Obviously, he's a really big talent, and I'm just happy that he's continuing to show his value."

On playing against Lionel Messi last weekend:

Kohler: "It's pretty surreal. It felt like a dream. Every now and then, you're kind of looking across the field, you check your shoulder, and it's just [Lionel] Messi, and [Luis] Suárez is there as well. I think it was a really special moment for me, and it was just the cherry on top holding [Messi off the scoresheet]."

On if players could approach Wednesday's Open Cup match as an opportunity to gain more minutes moving forward:

Kohler: "Absolutely. That's where I kind of started off my rhythm two weeks ago [against Rhode Island FC]. I think it's super important. It keeps you sharp, it keeps you ready. Any time you have a chance to play is a chance to show yourself to the [coaching] staff. I think the guys are looking at it that way, and I have no doubt. There's a ton of quality and a ton of depth that our guys will show."

On playing in front of goalkeeper Matt Turner:

Kohler: "It's a similar feeling to playing with Mamadou [Fofana]. You just know you're safe. [Turner] is a guy that you can feed off his energy. You make a big tackle, and that guy is right there pumping you up. He gives me a lot of confidence, and I just feel this freedom to defend as I want, to play as I want on the ball, give him the ball. He's just a top professional, super experienced guy, and he saves everything he's supposed to save, and more. As a center back, you really can't ask for much more."