



August 31, 2019

POSTGAME QUOTES: New England Revolution 1 vs. Toronto FC 1

New England Revolution Head Coach Bruce Arena

On the takeaways from tonight's performance:

Arena: "It was okay. I don't think, on the night, we played particularly well. I think Toronto played very well. We didn't make good adjustments during the game. I think our ball movement was too slow and not good enough. But having said that, to get a point out of the game, I'm pleased with that. It was good to see our guys push towards the end, to get the equalizer and then try to win the game. But on the night, we didn't play particularly well. I thought Toronto really played well tonight and gave us a lot of trouble."

On if there were particular parts of the field that he felt Toronto FC controlled the play:

Arena: "They were a little bit better, I think, in the middle third of the field. They picked up a lot of second balls. They pushed numbers up on our backline that made it a little bit difficult and opened up a little bit more room for them in the midfield. And I think they were a little bit better than us in picking up some loose balls and all."

On if the final touch wasn't there for the Revolution tonight:

Arena: "Well, that was part of it. But having said that, we had a few chances in the first half, could've had a goal. A couple of dangerous attacks, but on the night, I think the passing, from our backline forward, wasn't good enough."

On Matt Turner's performance tonight:

Arena: "Made some big saves. Again, he probably made two real good saves in this game tonight and they were important. So, he kept us alive. Their keeper made a couple good saves as well. Probably could've done better on Gustavo [Bou]'s goal, but we'll take it."

New England Revolution Forward Gustavo Bou (via interpreter)

On what was missing from the game before scoring the game-tying goal:

Bou: "It was a difficult game. Obviously, it was a very closed game. We knew we had to play well ahead of time because it's the end of the season and there are a lot of teams trying to get a spot in the playoffs, like Toronto. It was a very tough game for us and we're just trying to play strong. We took chances in the first half and obviously it was tough when they scored the goal in the second half, but in the second half we found more spaces where the team was leaving spaces open. It was important to see this result out, because it's a very important point. It's sad because I think that we could have capitalized and done even better, but we'll take the point for now."

On how the team bounced back after conceding to Toronto:

Bou: "We came out a bit more animated. I think it was just a matter of being better. I think we just wanted a result overall. We knew we wanted to capitalize on having two games at home, especially after a result against Chicago last week. So, we just have to turn the page now and move on to next week."

On what he saw from the defense that allowed him to get his shot off and score:

Bou: “The defense will always try to guard me as best as they can. They don’t give up much space, especially Toronto. So, we wanted to find as much space as possible in the second half and I think that’s a big strength of ours. Thankfully, we found a goal in the end, because, fortunately, the keeper made an error and we’re still very happy with the point and thankful for the error. We always want to win at home and we’re just going to keep having to work hard.”

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On the team’s attitude after this match:

Turner: “Yeah, I think both teams had that kind of atmosphere that it was a big game. Both teams were a little frantic in front of the goal, missing some good chances. The longer you leave a team like Toronto hanging around; they were kind of making some chances and you could see every chance that they made. They started getting more confidence and, as soon as they scored the goal, they just kind of dropped off and allowed us to grow into the game and get some shots on goal. When you shoot the ball on net, some good things happen usually. I never celebrate another keeper’s error, but you know, it was nice to get the point.”

On his saves made earlier in the second half:

Turner: “Sometimes the ball comes my way. I’ve got to do what I’ve got to do and hopefully I keep the ball out of the net. That’s my job and I was up to the task in that moment, so that was good. It gives us a chance to keep the game at 0-0 and get a chance to go ahead.”

On his view of the Toronto goal:

Turner: “I think [the defense] did a good job. I think it’s coming from their goalkeeper making a save, and he carried it out to the corner. We actually had a good beat on it; we had them closed in to the corner, but credit to them, they played the ball around kind of nicely. They switched the point of attack and then it was just a foot race. They switched it back and forth, back to the back stick. and I had to come off my line and got a piece of it. He was just wide open on the back post. You know [Andrew] Farrell, I’m not sure who the other person was, DeJuan [Jones] maybe, they were all the way up the other side of the field. They got all the way back. They we’re just unfortunate. I think we overall defended it fairly well given the circumstances, and credit to the other guys for making the run because that stuff is not easy. That’s why I stay in goal.”

On how he views the rest of the season:

Turner: “It just makes these next two away games even more massive. We really wanted to get maximum points in these two home games and we failed to do that. So, we’re going to go to New York, hopefully we can do what we did last year and get three points there, and then we’ll worry about Orlando. We’re just going to take it one game at a time, that’s all we can do.”

Toronto FC Head Coach Greg Vanney

On the result tonight:

Vanney: “The result is disappointing in the end. I mean, we left a lot of chances on the table. I thought maybe two or three others besides the one we scored were very good position to finish and we didn’t, which made the game a little more complicated as it went on. Towards the stretch after we score, we made an adjustment, Auro had to come off and we tried to push Nick [DeLeon] a little bit higher. We didn’t want to change, we ended up sitting a little bit deeper than we wanted to, we still wanted to try to stay a little bit more on the front foot. But in the end, we still should have defended it out. That’s a game we should get three points. We should have been able to deal with what they were throwing at us, we should have been able to deal with that shot, and we should have taken three points.”

On if he takes solace that his team did dominate the game at times:

Vanney: “Yeah, I was comfortable with our approach to this game. I thought we defended very well. We showed that we didn’t have to have the ball the whole game and we can still hurt people in the transition, hurt the opposition in the transition. We showed a block, I just wish we would have gotten the shutout out

of it, so that's something we're still scratching and clawing for and unfortunately we're finding ways to give up that goal that comes back to haunt us. But I was very pleased with the way we played today."

On how he feels about Quentin Westberg and the goal he let in:

Vanney: "I feel the same about Q [Quentin Westberg]. A lot of guys have errors or make a mistake, and it doesn't mean I dislike Q, right? That's that. As we look forward, I still have to take consideration just like every position what direction I go. We had guys miss sitters from five yards away that could have put the game out [of reach]. These things happen in both boxes, you've just got to make plays."

On if it's only a matter of time before the team starts to bury these chances:

Vanney: "I'd like to think so. I think with these last two games, I think we've played very well. I think we had a great road mentality. We haven't played well in New England in a long time, so I thought it was one of our best performances here. I thought the mentality was fabulous, that's not always the case when we come to this field, but I thought our mentality was extraordinary. We should have taken more out of it. So, I'm pleased. We've got to let the fact that a couple of points slipped away in the end not impact our mentality and keep moving forward with what we have been really doing well the last couple of games. I think we are very much on the right track with this group of players that we now have together."

On the team's ability to stay connected tonight:

Vanney: "Again, I thought like last week we were very well connected. They passed the ball around, but they didn't hurt us very much. I thought at the end, I would have liked just to see us try to get a little better pressure on the ball a little higher so they weren't able to face our backline so much from those deep areas. But in general, I was pleased with our connectedness and again we made it difficult on the opposition and then we had more opportunities to win this game than they did. I can't remember a ton of great chances for them, but yeah, I was pleased. All good things start from us just being connected as a group and playing for the things we have talked about for five years and a lot of that is starting to come through with this group now that we've got guys healthy, we've got everybody in and everybody on the same page, and it's starting to take shape."

On how he takes tonight as a positive:

Vanney: "We came here trying to get three points, but we wanted to make sure we came away with something. Again this is one of the teams we are trying to track down. A couple of teams around us have one more game than us. We would have liked to get three and we were in position to get three. So that was the objective, but we wanted to make sure that we didn't go home with nothing and that's what ended up happening there down the stretch, but through much of the game we felt this was a game we could get three points."

Toronto FC Midfielder Michael Bradley

On the match overall:

Bradley: "It's never an easy place to play. I thought by and large we went after the game in a good way. I thought the mentality was good. I think we understood the type of game it was going to be. They're on a good run this last stretch, so to come here and play the way did and come away with a point is still positive, obviously. Given the fact that we went up one-zero, and given the fact we were ahead late in the game, we feel like we should probably be walking away with three, but that's life sometimes. Now, we'll regroup and get ready for another big one in Cincinnati."

On if the performance was encouraging:

Bradley: "Yes."

On team's trend at this point in the season:

Bradley: "I think we feel good about what we've been able to do the last few weeks. Games this time of year are scrappy and they can hang in the balance for a long time. Obviously, we were able to grab a point late in Columbus. Tonight, we gave away a lead late, but the mentality has been good. I think we're continuing to improve. We're more solid. Those are all important things as we head into the last part of the season."

Toronto FC Midfielder Nicolas Benezet

On scoring his first MLS goal:

Benezet: "When I score, I feel good. I [would have loved] to win tonight. One point when you play outside Toronto is good."

On the team's performance:

Benezet: "I think we played good. We had the ball every time, but when we have the goal time continues to go, you should win tonight. I hope to win the next game."

On if he can be a good player in this league:

Benezet: "Yeah, I think we have the good team and the good players. When I play with [Alejandro Pozuelo], I like it. I'm angry, because I hoped to win tonight."

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