



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2019

POSTGAME NOTES: Revolution Fall to Atlanta United, 1-0, in Round One of Audi 2019 MLS Cup Playoffs

ATLANTA – The New England Revolution fell to Atlanta United FC, 1-0, in Round One of the Audi 2019 MLS Cup Playoffs before a crowd of 66,114 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Saturday afternoon. Atlanta's Franco Escobar scored the game's lone goal in the 70th minute, when he beat Revolution goalkeeper Matt Turner to the near post from the right side of the penalty area. The loss eliminates New England from MLS Cup contention, wrapping up a season that saw the club rebound from a 2-8-2 start with results in 19 of its final 22 regular season games to claim the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference.

- *Postgame interview footage is available [HERE](#). Quotes are available in the attached document.*

Despite recording more shots on target than Atlanta, including a flurry of chances in second-half stoppage time, New England couldn't find the back of the net in its first Audi MLS Cup Playoff appearance since 2015. Carles Gil, who was named the 2019 MLS Newcomer of the Year on Wednesday, paced the team with four chances created and three fouls won. In net, goalkeeper Matt Turner submitted five saves.

Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena coached his 50th career MLS Cup Playoff match today, which moves him into a tie with Sigi Schmid for most in league history. Arena's record with the Revolution across all competitions moves to 9-5-8, including an 8-4-8 record in MLS play, and an 8-3-8 mark in regular season competition.

New England Revolution 0, Atlanta United FC 1 October 19, 2019 – Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Atlanta, Ga.)

Revolution Eliminated from Audi MLS Cup Playoffs by Atlanta United FC

- The Revolution were eliminated from MLS Cup contention with a 1-0 loss to Atlanta United FC on Saturday afternoon.
- New England's all-time record in the Audi MLS Cup Playoffs moves to 17-17-9.
- The loss to Atlanta marks only the fourth time in New England's last 23 games – dating back to May 11 – that it has been defeated. It also marks the club's third loss in its last 12 away games during that same span.
- New England's all-time record against Atlanta moves to 0-5-2 overall, including a 0-1-0 record in the MLS Cup Playoffs, and a 0-4-0 record in games played at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Arena Ties Schmid for Most MLS Postseason Games Coached

- Sporting Director & Head Coach **Bruce Arena** coached the 50th postseason game of his MLS career on Saturday. That moves Arena into a tie with Sigi Schmid for most postseason games coached in league history.
- Arena's all-time postseason record moves to 32-12-6 with the result. His 32 playoff wins remain the most in MLS history.

Bunbury Eclipses 1,000 Career Postseason Minutes Played

- Forward **Teal Bunbury** eclipsed 1,000 career postseason minutes played in the 72nd minute of today's contest.
- Bunbury's postseason experience includes five MLS Cup Playoff appearances with Sporting Kansas City between 2011-13. With the Revolution, he owns seven postseason appearances, including two goals and two assists.
- In 80 minutes of action in today's contest, Bunbury recorded a team-high four shots, two shots on target, one tackle, and a 100 percent passing accuracy percentage.

Revolution Starting XI Sees Two Changes from Regular Season Finale

- The Revolution's starting lineup saw two changes from the club's last match on Oct. 6 at Atlanta United FC, with **DeJuan Jones** replacing **Jalil Anibaba** at left back, and **Scott Caldwell** replacing **Luis Caicedo** in central midfield.

GAME CAPSULE

Referee: Kevin Stott

Assistant Referees: Eric Weisbrod (AR1), Philippe Briere (AR2)

Fourth Official: Fotis Bazakos

Video Assistant Referee: Geoff Gamble

Attendance: 66,114

Weather: Indoors

Scoring Summary:

ATL – Franco Escobar (Ezequiel Barco) 70'

Misconduct Summary:

NE – Wilfried Zahibo (Yellow Card – Unsporting Behavior) 42'

ATL – Josef Martinez (Yellow Card – Simulation) 43'

ATL – Leandro Gonzalez Pirez (Yellow Card – Unsporting Behavior) 53'

ATL – Jeff Larentowicz (Yellow Card – Unsporting Behavior) 58'

NE – Antonio Delamea (Yellow Card – Unsporting Behavior) 76'

New England Revolution: Matt Turner; DeJuan Jones, Andrew Farrell, Antonio Delamea (Juan Agudelo 85'), Brandon Bye; Wilfried Zahibo (Diego Fagundez 80'), Scott Caldwell; Cristian Penilla, Gustavo Bou, Carles Gil ©; Teal Bunbury (Juan Fernando Caicedo 80')

Substitutes Not Used: Brad Knighton, Michael Mancienne, Jalil Anibaba, Luis Caicedo

Atlanta United FC: Brad Guzan; Leandro Gonzalez Pirez, Michael Parkhurst ©, Franco Escobar; Julian Gressel, Jeff Larentowicz, Emerson Hyndman (Florentin Pogba 65') , Darlington Nagbe; Justin Meram (Hector Villalba 65'), Ezequiel Barco (Mo Adams 88'); Josef Martinez

Substitutes Not Used: Alec Kann, Pity Martinez, Eric Remedi, Eric Vazquez

New England Revolution	Team Statistics	Atlanta United FC
14 (6)	Shots (on Target)	14 (5)
4	Saves	6
7	Corner Kicks	7
4	Offsides	3
13	Fouls	9
378 (80%)	Passes Attempted (% Completed)	470 (83%)
45%	Possession	55%

New England Revolution head coach Bruce Arena

On his thoughts after the match:

"The effort was outstanding. I thought it was a good game and we could have been the team walking off the field 1-0 as well. Both teams had chances. They converted one, we did not. I thought for the most part we played well."

On if Atlanta played the way he expected them to:

"They played exactly the way they played two weeks ago."

On his changes to the lineup:

"Dejuan Jones played very well at left back. Dealt with (Julian) Gressel, who hurt us last time, did a good job. I felt like (Scott) Caldwell gave us a little balance in the midfield, helped our passing. I thought they both did well."

On New England's chances at the end to tie the game:

"Yeah, what can I say? I know Juan (Agudelo) had a real good one. And Juan Caicedo had that possible chance at the backpost off the (Diego) Fagundez cross in the closing minutes as well. There were some chances there. (Brad) Guzan made a terrific save in the first half on (Cristian) Penilla. All of these little plays are the difference in the game. We knew it would be one play. We fully expected to be able to go to-to-toe with them for 90 minutes and we did. But we fell short."

On going toe-to-toe with Atlanta United:

"The team has gotten much better. It is our job in the offseason to strengthen the roster. We obviously made only one change to the team since I've been in charge. We are certainly going to make some changes in the offseason and hopefully build a stronger team next year."

On making the playoffs:

"I think they did well. They have improved. Obviously, we have gotten to know all of the players on the roster which will help us make decisions for 2020."

New England Revolution midfielder Scott Caldwell

On his thoughts after the match:

"It was a really great effort. Everyone fought for each other, everyone battled for each other. We stuck together. Ultimately, couldn't come out on top, but everyone stuck together which is a great sign."

On being one of the changes from the last match against Atlanta:

"We didn't want to let any balls get in behind us. Just kind of sit in there and make sure we keep them in front. I thought, for the most part, we did a good job of that. Ultimately, they finished one chance and we have to try and prevent that. We will learn from it in the offseason."

On how Atlanta played and starting Michael Parkhurst:

"Michael Parkhurst is very good on the ball. I thought that was something that changed with him inserted into the lineup. I still thought we did a good enough job pressing and eliminating their chances coming from back-to-front. I thought overall we stuck together defensively and we stayed compact until it got stretched towards the end. But we did a decent job eliminating their chances which is what we wanted."

On his thoughts on the season:

"I'll focus on the second half because I thought the guys responded really well and played together for the second half of the season and it is really great to see. I think we can take it a step further next year and we are looking forward to doing that next year."

On if making the playoffs is a good sign for the future:

"It's a good sign. We are not happy with how today went, but we are overall proud of each other and know that we can take it to another level."

New England Revolution defender Andrew Farrell

On the team's effort in today's match:

"Obviously, it was an even match for most of the part. They had chances. We had some chances. I thought we could have played a little bit better in some instances. This game was going to be one big play – or someone would make one play – and (Franco) Escobar was the one who made it. We had a chance to tie it up there at the end. But yeah, credit to them. They played well. They're a good team. Obviously, that's why they're the defending champs, but I'm still proud of how we how we fight and how far we've come."

On if they wanted to do anything differently in the game today:

"Yeah, we tried to limit (Julian) Gressel's service. I think DeJuan (Jones) did a great job and had a great game in doing that and limited how much space was in behind us, so (Josef) Martinez couldn't just run in behind like he did in the first game. I think, for the most part, we did well. He is going to get behind a couple times, but for the most part, that worked well. Just on a day, we couldn't make a play to get the ball, and that was going to be the difference."

On keeping Josef Martinez from getting behind them:

"It was just a result of being tight. Sometimes, dropping when there's no pressure on the ball, which is common, when there is no pressure on the ball, you drop. But with him, he likes to stay offside and then runs back onside, and then he goes. So, you've just got to be aware of him at all times, where the ball is, and if there's pressure, where he is, so it's a lot of things going on at the same time. But, you know, communication, and our midfield did a great job of getting pressure to where it needed to be. Like I said, DeJuan (Jones) did a good job on (Julian) Gressel; I think he frustrated him for most of the game.

On how he feels the season went:

"I think we're happy. I know, to be in the club, it's exciting. I think it's a credit to, you know, the coaching staff, the front office, the players to get back out of that hole that we dug ourselves into. Obviously, with a lot of change, we knew it was going to take some time, but I think everybody put their head down and tried to put the work in and get here. Obviously, we're happy to be in the playoffs but disappointed that we couldn't make it a little bit further than I thought. Going toe to toe with the defending champs as well, and, you know, one play here and one play there that could have changed the narrative, could have changed the story tonight. But, I'm proud of the effort that we put in, like you said, it's been a long time. It's been, four months/three months from where we were. We've come a long way."

On the status of the team:

"It's good. We've got a lot of good players, and you can tell Bruce (Arena) is very ambitious, and he wants this club to succeed, and so, he's going to do what's best for the club going forward."

On how he would characterize this season:

"It's kind-of been a tale of two halves or two years in one year. We were in a really dark place, and it was tough when we'd come to practice. Now, we finally kind-of got ourselves out together and there's a lot of optimism, and I think is a lot of exciting stuff for the future. I think we have really good place here and, you know depending on who's going to be here next year. Bruce is going to bring in guys, and it's going to be a good team going forward."