



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2019

POSTGAME NOTES: Revolution Fall to Columbus Crew SC, 2-0, in Home Opener

Revolution Academy product Justin Rennicks (South Hamilton, Mass.) makes MLS debut

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – The New England Revolution (0-1-1, 1 pt.) fell to Columbus Crew SC (1-0-1, 4 pts.), 2-0, at Gillette Stadium on Saturday afternoon. Crew SC forward Gyasi Zardes scored both goals for the visitors, first finishing a Pedro Santos cross with a header from the six-yard box in the 26th minute, and later tallying with a right-footed shot in second-half stoppage time. New England's Wilfried Zaha drew a penalty in the 57th minute, but Diego Fagundez's bid from the spot was turned away by Crew SC goalkeeper Zack Steffen.

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

Revolution Academy product Justin Rennicks, who signed with the Revolution as a Homegrown Player in January after more than four years in the club's academy and two additional seasons at Indiana University, made his MLS debut as a halftime substitute. The South Hamilton, Mass. native registered two shots and one chance created in 45 minutes of action.

Forward Tajon Buchanan, selected by the Revolution with the ninth-overall pick in the 2019 MLS SuperDraft, also made his debut in today's contest. Buchanan replaced Scott Caldwell as a substitute in the 81st minute and recorded two shots.

New England returns to action next Sunday, March 17, when it visits Toronto FC at BMO Field. The match kicks off at 7:30 p.m. ET on NBC Sports Boston, 98.5 The Sports Hub, and in Portuguese on 1260 AM Nossa Radio.

New England Revolution 0, Columbus Crew SC 2
March 9, 2019 – Gillette Stadium (Foxborough, Mass.)

Revs Fall to Columbus Crew SC, 2-0

- The Revolution fell to Crew SC, 2-0, on Saturday, setting the club's record at 0-1-1 (1 pt.) through two games of the 2019 MLS season.
- New England's all-time record against Columbus moves to 23-37-13, including a 15-17-6 mark in regular season matches played in Foxborough.

Homegrown Player Justin Rennicks Makes MLS Debut

- Homegrown Player **Justin Rennicks** made his MLS debut as a halftime substitute during today's match. Rennicks, 19, registered two shots, one chance created, 29 touches, one tackle, and one foul won in the second half.
- The forward, a native of South Hamilton, Mass., signed a Homegrown Player contract with the Revolution in January after more than four years with the club's academy, and two additional seasons at Indiana University.

- A two-time UnitedHealthcare Academy Player of the Year, Rennicks recorded 38 goals and 25 assists in more than 100 appearances across all levels of the Revolution Academy.

First-Round SuperDraft Selection Buchanan Debuts for Revs

- Forward **Tajon Buchanan**, who the Revolution selected with the ninth-overall pick in the 2019 MLS SuperDraft, made his MLS debut as a second-half substitute.
- The former Syracuse University standout submitted two shots and eight touches after replacing Scott Caldwell in the 81st minute.
- Buchanan, a two-year starter for the Orange, scored 12 goals with six assists in 33 appearances during his collegiate career.

Revolution Starting XI Sees One Change from 2019 Opener

- The Revolution's starting lineup saw one change from last weekend's regular season opener at Dallas, as defender **Michael Mancienne** replaced defender **Jalil Anibaba**.
- **Mancienne** was initially slated to start at center back against Dallas, but suffered an injury in warmups that forced him to miss the match. Anibaba filled in and played 90 minutes in the 1-1 draw.
- Defender **Andrew Farrell** and forward **Juan Fernando Caicedo** were ruled out for today's match with injuries.

GAME CAPSULE

Referee: Dave Gantar

Assistant Referees: Oscar Mitchell-Carvalho (AR1), Logan Brown (AR2)

Fourth Official: Rubiel Vazquez

VAR: Alan Kelly

Weather: 42° and Clear

Attendance: 13,808

Scoring Summary:

CLB – Gyasi Zardes 1 (Pedro Santos 1) 26'

CLB – Gyasi Zardes 2 (Héctor Jiménez 1) 90'+6'

Misconduct Summary:

NE – Wilfried Zahibo (Yellow Card – Unsporting Behavior) 35'

CLB – Wil Trapp (Yellow Card – Unsporting Behavior) 36'

CLB – Pedro Santos (Yellow Card – Unsporting Behavior) 77'

NE – Brandon Bye (Yellow Card – Video Review) 86'

New England Revolution: Brad Knighton; Edgar Castillo, Michael Mancienne ©, Antonio Delamea, Brandon Bye; Wilfried Zahibo, Scott Caldwell (Tajon Buchanan 81'); Cristian Penilla (Diego Fagundez HT), Teal Bunbury; Carles Gil, Juan Agudelo (Justin Rennicks HT)

Substitutes Not Used: Cody Cropper, Jalil Anibaba, DeJuan Jones, Luis Caicedo

Columbus Crew SC: Zack Steffen; Waylon Francis, Gastón Sauro, Jonathan Mensah, Harrison Afful; Artur, Wil Trapp; Justin Meram (Robinho 74'), Federico Higuaín ©, Pedro Santos (Héctor Jiménez 90'+3'); Gyasi Zardes

Substitutes Not Used: Joe Bendik, Josh Williams, Ricardo Clark, Patrick Mullins, Jerome Williams

New England Revolution	Team Statistics	Columbus Crew SC
11 (3)	Shots (on Target)	6 (4)
2	Saves	3
1	Corner Kicks	2

2	Offsides	2
13	Fouls	13
471 (78%)	Passes Attempted (% Completed)	593 (84%)
44.7%	Possession	55.3%

MEDIA RESOURCES

[Media Website](#) | [2019 Schedule](#) | [Roster](#) | [Photos/Video](#)
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NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 0 vs. Columbus Crew SC 2
 Saturday, March 9, 2019

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On the team's performance:

Coach Friedel: "First half, quite poor, to be honest with you. There wasn't a lot of life in the game, from either side, to be honest with you. They had one attempt at goal and I think we had one attempt at goal. We weren't aggressive enough defensively and we weren't moving the ball quick enough."

On how things changed with the halftime substitutions:

Coach Friedel: "I thought they [Justin Rennicks and Diego Fagundez] both tried to do what we've been working on in training all week. I thought they were a lot more dynamic in what they were trying to do and they gave us a big spark in the second half."

On what the team was lacking:

Coach Friedel: "Looking back on it, we had enough chances to score a goal. We had a penalty. That was a very good save by Zack Steffen. Goals change games. If that one goes in, you never know what happens. I think we want to be a little bit more versatile in the attack, no doubt. We want to be able to combine, but also get crosses in the box. I don't think we had the telling pass today, but that's going to be a little bit of a work in progress as we go through with a lot of new faces. Some people thought we weren't making changes this season. As you can see, there's a lot of changes. So, we'll take a little bit of time, but we're happy with the players we have."

On the play of Justin Rennicks:

Coach Friedel: "Justin [Rennicks] and Tajon [Buchanan], both very good players, both very athletic. I thought Justin coming on at halftime, when he probably didn't expect to – a lot of players don't expect to come on at half. I thought he provided the necessary spark that we needed and he actually made [Waylon] Francis defend a lot, made Artur shift over and defend a lot, and we started moving them around a little bit more. I feel if we started the game in that manner, then by the time the second half came we would've created more openings."

On what went into the decision for which player would take the penalty kick:

Coach Friedel: "Before the game, Cristian Penilla was on penalties. He came off. We have Teal [Bunbury] and Diego [Fagundez] and Carles [Gil]. Carles was off the field [with the medical staff] at the time. So, I would imagine Carles would've taken it if he was on the field, but Teal grabbed the ball. When it comes down to that, whomever it feels. I never blame a player, at all, for missing a penalty. Diego felt that he would score and Zack Steffen made a great save."

New England Revolution Defender Michael Mancienne

On his overall sentiments after the loss:

Mancienne: "Absolutely gutted, to be honest. I feel like their chances came from nothing really, like they just came out of the blue. We dominated, we had chances, we should've obviously done better, and that changes games sometimes. If we get a goal, that will change the whole flow of the game. Like I said, we're just gutted to come out of that with nothing."

On coming back from injury and thoughts on the defense:

Mancienne: "To be honest, defensively, we never really felt under pressure. We felt comfortable the majority of the game, throughout the game. Like I said, they got chances from nothing—out of the blue. The goal in the first half came from nothing, we were dominating at that point, and defensively, I felt comfortable. I know the whole back four felt comfortable as well. Like I said, we're gutted and really disappointed."

On whether or not he would've changed his strategy on Gyasi Zardes' goal:

Mancienne: "To be honest, yeah. I've been thinking about it. The ball was so perfect that it gave me no time to jump and it was just inch-by-inch perfect and it was a great ball to Gyasi [Zardes]. Just obviously gutted."

On his message to his teammates after the saved penalty kick:

Mancienne: "Just keep talking to them. Keep motivating people around me. Keep pushing the boys, keep telling them to keep doing what we're doing because at that part of the game, we were dominating again. That's why we won the penalty and were all over them. I felt like I was hardly in the defensive half; in our defensive half. When the boys are switched on anyway, everyone could smell blood and we were trying to go for it."

On what the team can do to improve in the final third:

Mancienne: "That's a tough question. Well to be honest, I did think we created chances. We created the better chances of the day. It's just a matter of taking chances, being clinical in front of the goal—that's the most important thing."

On the speed of the team's build-up this afternoon:

Mancienne: "Sometimes in our build-up we were a bit too slow. We have to move a bit, one touch and two touch. The pitch was a little bit dry as well, so we have to make sure to move it even quicker because if the pitch is dry, it isn't as zippy. Yeah, just move the ball quicker I suppose."

On the importance of returning to the lineup after his injury last week:

Mancienne: "Obviously, I'm proud to be, to have played today, and proud to have captained the boys. I wish I was standing here and talking and we had three points in the bag. But, that's the way football is. We've got to pick ourselves up and focus on the next game at hand."

New England Revolution Forward Tajon Buchanan

On his thoughts as he got ready to be subbed on for his professional debut:

Buchanan: "I was a little nervous. It was going to be my first game in MLS. I just wanted to come on the field and bring some energy, and just try to get a result and help the team. Unfortunately, we came up short. We just keep moving forward and hopefully next game we can get a result."

On his shot off target late in the game:

Buchanan: "I just feel like I mishit it, but I'm always going to take those opportunities when I get them. Unfortunately, I came up just a little short on that one."

On the difficulties of subbing on late in a match:

Buchanan: "Getting into that rhythm. I never played in MLS before, so it was going to be different. I was up for the challenge, and as I got my first few touches I felt pretty good."

On taking in the moment as he made his MLS debut:

Buchanan: "Right before I came in, I prayed. In that moment, I just reflected on my past. I've been working so hard to get this opportunity. I'm grateful and I'm happy I was able to make my debut."

New England Revolution Defender Edgar Castillo

On struggling to create chances in the first half:

Castillo: "It was a tough game. We created a couple chances in the first half and we didn't get lucky enough to put them in, but got to move on to the next game."

On getting involved with the attack:

Castillo: "My job on the field is to defend a little bit more, but this game I felt like I did get a little bit more touches in. I went forward a couple times. We just didn't get lucky enough to put one in. It's a tough result [with it being] the home opener. It's tough."

On developing chemistry with Cristian Penilla:

Castillo: "[Cristian Penilla] makes my job easier. I just have to defend and then whenever I can go forward, I can go forward. I just give him the ball. He's a great player. He can take people on and that's pretty much it. I feel comfortable playing behind him."

On Michael Mancienne returning to the lineup:

Castillo: "It's good. Whoever is ready to play. When [Mancienne] is there, he's a very good player and I feel good with him there."

Columbus Crew SC Head Coach Caleb Porter

On the win and what it says about his team:

Coach Porter: "It says a lot. Road points in this league are difficult. I thought for us in our first road game, to come here – it's a home opener, they had a good first result, we knew they would be flying. But I thought the way we managed the game, the way we kept the ball, the way we finished our chances – we defended well. We managed the game excellently."

On the team's overall rhythm:

Coach Porter: "I actually thought we had a lot of rhythm on the day. Obviously, I'm looking for the perfect game, so there are going to be 10 minutes or 15 minutes here where we don't pass the ball like we want to. We're a dominate passing team. I thought 25 minutes in the first half and a good 20 to 25 minutes in the second half, we bossed the game and that's exactly what we want to do."

On getting three points on the road:

Coach Porter: "Yeah, it's great. Again, to come on the road, get three points – it was a team performance. Our striker scored two goals and our goalkeeper made a big save. I thought our midfield was excellent in keeping the ball in, winning balls. It was a team effort across the board and that's what we need. We're a team. We're not a group that has individuals that are any better than each other, so for us, we always have to keep the concept of that team and it was a team performance today. I'm really proud of Hector [Jimenez] coming in the game and getting the assist."

On his being in his first year coaching the Crew:

Coach Porter: "This is a good team. I've always admired this team and watched this team from afar. That's one of the reasons I decided to come here. It's great group of guys. We have to take it one game at a time. Obviously, we can't get ahead of ourselves. This is a big three points. We go back at home and we need to take care of business and do what we didn't do the last home game."

On what his team can take away from the win:

Coach Porter: "It's a tough league. You have to be able to grind through home and away games. We had a tough week. It was cold. We couldn't train at our home facility and we had to adjust and deal with it. This group has a really good attitude and they showed a really good attitude today."

Columbus Crew SC Midfielder Wil Trapp

On the importance of getting the win:

Trapp: "It's really important, I think, for us early in the season to get that road victory. They're difficult to come by in this league, and I think for us to understand the mentality it takes to win on the road and for it to actually execute and come off is really important for us."

On what this win means to the fans back home:

Trapp: "I think it's just building momentum with this group – for the fans to find that confidence in us, and for us to find the confidence in ourselves. Last week was a disappointment in a lot of ways. I think this week we responded really well and we a good job of scoring two goals, not conceding, and coming away with three points."

On the difference playing under Head Coach Caleb Porter:

Trapp: "I think Caleb [Porter] has done a very, very good job of taking a group that's been established and evolving it, and trying to implement small things that he believes will take us a little bit further. I think that's a wonderful thing as players, to be challenged. He's a passionate guy, he's a fiery guy. It's a very, very inspiring type of leadership that I think is pushing this group along very well."

Columbus Crew SC Goalkeeper Zack Steffen

On the team's fight this match:

Steffen: "It was a good battle. New England is always a tough team, coming here and trying to get a point, or three points it's always tough, it's always a battle. I'm proud of the effort the guys put out today and they stepped up in a lot of moments for the team and I had to step up once or twice and luckily I was able to."

On this week's win compared to last week's result:

Steffen: "Of course, when you're away, an away win is amazing. We were disappointed in last week's performance and result. So we wanted to come here, get three points and kind of show ourselves and show everybody else that were a good team."

On whether the practice grind pays off in wins like this:

Steffen: "Yeah, because it's motivation and confidence to keep going and keep working. Now, we can go to any place and get a result. As long as we perform and help each other out."

On what this win means to the fans:

Steffen: "It's amazing, I can only imagine that they're just as happy as we are with the win. It's going to be good going back to Columbus tonight with three points and go back to MAPFRE [Stadium] next weekend and hopefully get a win there."

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