



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 0 vs. FC Cincinnati 2
Saturday, March 24, 2019

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On the offensive struggles:

Coach Friedel: “The two halves were completely different. You had one half that we probably had five or six players that lacked any kind of desire to work. You know, it’s as simple as that. When you’re playing a team that will hit the amount of long passes that they do, and only play for second balls, [Victor] Ulloa and [Leonardo] Bertone. I’m not trying to take away from their points at all and all they do is win the second ball and then break. You have to work through that. It doesn’t matter what team you are in the world. Take the biggest of the biggest names. You have to work to earn the right to get the ball. So, the first half, we did not work to earn that right to have the ball. So, going forward, with the exception of one or two attacks, it was all very slow and very cumbersome. In the second half, I think, you’d put it down to a couple times good goalkeeping, a couple times lack of the final ball, a couple times lack of the final cross. But we were in much better positions in the second half to actually hurt them. There was a lot more urgency to our play. The chances they got, were on the counter attack, which you would expect when you’re losing one-nil. You know, the first half, it’s really difficult to explain, based on the week of training that we’ve had, they players that we know we have, and to see five or six not fight as hard as the other team, that’s a worrying part. The good bit is, then you see them come back again in the second half, but this is four games now where the first-half performances haven’t been very good. Second-half performances have been a lot better. I’m not worried about our offense clicking. Carles [Gil] will get used to a lot of the players. Juan Fernando Caicedo is now [fit] – hopefully he doesn’t have a reaction after doing 30 minutes today. You know, he can contribute some more. Andrew Farrell is just about fit. So, on the right hand side, hopefully he can contribute some more minutes, with crosses into the box and things of that nature. So, right now, it’s all about us staying together as a team and working very hard and we have to win against Minnesota.”

On if he felt some of the players took FC Cincinnati seriously enough :

Coach Friedel: “Oh, I don’t know. I think there’s a whole host of reasons when you’re sitting bottom of the Eastern Conference. There could be a lack of confidence. There could be nerves. There could be not [being] fit enough to do that kind of work. There could be not wanting to do the dirty side of the game, because it’s not every player in the world that likes to do that. Again, it’s the stuff that never gets printed. You guys very rarely print, ‘Wow, look how hard he ran today and won all those second balls.’ Every now and again, a player gets the mention. You know, it’s the dirty side of the game that’s not easy to do. And when you’re not prepared to do it against a team, with that is their sole tactic, it’s hard to compete against them.”

On if he feels as though he has the necessary resources to be successful:

Coach Friedel: “Yeah, of course. Of course we do. And we will have another Designated Player coming through the door. And when? We’re trying desperately to get that before May 7th. If not, it will be July, but that will happen. Thirty-five million dollar training facility, to take us up to the next level. A lot of money poured into the academy. Absolutely, we have the same salary cap as every other team in the league. So, as far as resources and scouting, we’ve never had scouts before, since I’ve been here. We’ve hired two full-time and I’m sure we’ll look to expand on that, as and when needed. The resources are here.”

On there being similar refrains and results the last 18 months and how the team is internalizing that:

Coach Friedel: “Well, that happens a lot. I mean, when I stand in front of you guys, I’m not lying to you. You know, you [Julian Cardillo] were one that wrote, I believe, that we didn’t make any changes in the offseason, when we put our protected list out. Well, there’s been a lot of changes, as you can tell. So,



when you do make changes at a club, sometimes it takes time for that to click. Sometimes, it happens overnight. I was at a Liverpool team, where I think we changed 16 players one offseason. It's not easy for it to click all the time. But the refrain? You watched the first half. I just stood up here and spoke to you. Was there a lot different than what I just said? I mean, if you're not prepared to do that side of the ball, that is work. That is running. That is going into tackles. That is, and it is, up to us, to put the players on the field that are willing to do that on the day. That's like step one, that is. So, when you have a salary cap league as well, it takes time to make all the changes that you want as well. But yes, I don't like standing up here talking about losing to essentially what is a depleted Cincinnati team. That doesn't make me happy. And I will be in here with my staff trying to figure out how we make it better. I mean, that's what we do. I don't stand up here and tell you guys stories that I don't think are true. So, yes, mentality. Mentality of a player in this league, a lot of the players, when they lose, it doesn't hurt enough. There's no relegation. They don't get fined. They don't have fans waiting by their cars. They don't have people beating them up. They don't have all this. They don't have the pressures that they have in other leagues. So, we have to, as a staff, put the pressure on them or we have to find the players that it doesn't matter. Some people are self-motivated. Some people aren't. There's some players around the world that will only play because they get a bonus check if they win. I mean, it happens. You just have to find out what motivates them. So, there's some of those players there. It's just all different. I hope that answers your question, but no, I don't want to stand up here – I want to stand up here after we beat Minnesota and say, 'What a great performance. What a great effort. The bare minimum was a requirement that we have to work hard, and we did it.' And then, you let the Diego's [Fagundez] and the Carles' [Gil] and Juan Fernando [Caicedo] or Teal [Bunbury], or Cristian Penilla or whatever – and the attacking third can exploit their qualities. That's what I would like to be talking about, but right now, we got ourselves down in a game, really, because we didn't work hard enough. There wasn't a lot more to it. As a player, whether you liked your coach or your club or all that, it's an easy thing to do, is to work hard. Anybody in the world, whether you're Lionel Messi or somebody else, can work hard. You would agree with that."

On the comment with regards to the players not working:

Coach Friedel: "What I said was, in the first half – so you take the Dallas game. The first probably 18 minutes, I don't think we worked hard enough. The rest of the game, I thought we did. You take the Columbus game. The first half, I don't think we worked hard enough. And by that, I mean, when we have the ball, making quick sharp runs. I don't mean always on the defensive side of things. Second half, much better. If we score the penalty, I'm pretty sure that we come out the winners in that game. The Toronto game, I was pretty proud of the effort the players put in. In the second half tonight, I was pretty proud of the effort the players put in. The first half, I'm not. That's where it is. What I'm saying is, I'm not saying that the players aren't willing to go out and work. I'm saying, what I saw, is what each and every one of you saw, was long ball up front, headed ball down, the last 10 minutes, we didn't win one second ball. They attacked us. That's what I saw. I think that's being pretty honest. So, that is something that we as a staff have to get out of the players. I watched them play against a Portland team. Portland could've probably been up 3-1 up at halftime. [Spencer] Richey made two good saves and in the second half, I saw a Cincinnati team just run over them by winning the second ball and countering. It was no surprise what they were going to do. I guess the disheartening thing in the first half, was that all it took was the willingness to work hard and battle in that first half. That's it, and then your qualities can come up. I don't think, and again, no disrespect to anyone, I don't think they have anyone on their team better than Carles [Gil], technically, but they had a whole host of people that were willing to work really hard."

On the lack of work put in defensively and how it resulted in conceding the first goal:

Coach Friedel: "That's exactly how the first – so about 10 minutes before that, and I assure you it's nothing that we worked on in training through the week – we had hit the ball long probably five times in a row to Brandon Bye. And they started doubling him and they started making it a lot more difficult for Brandon to win the ball. After maybe the second one, something has to register and change. So then, we end up hitting a long ball again, but to six-foot, five-inch [Forrest] Lasso. I assure you again, nothing that we worked on during the week in training. So if [Kendall] Waston was playing or Lasso is playing, you



realistically don't want to be hitting long balls in there, in their area, and that's exactly how it happened. They win the second ball, they counter. The second goal was a mistake by us. It's a counter. We have time to play it. We rashly hit it out of play. Now we're defending a corner. It's individual errors. It's not a big collective, enormous problem. But it's a problem when the players make individual errors every week and it's something that we have to rectify. The only way you rectify that, is on the training ground and working through it. Players are going to be really low right now, confidence wise, without a doubt. And that's up to my staff and I to pick them up now and get ready for the Minnesota game. I remember last year, two teams on the west coast, Portland and Seattle, hardly won a point for probably a couple of months. And you saw Seattle went into the playoffs. Portland was in the final. This is not a great start. I'm not going to try to paint any rosey pictures of it, but we will work hard to rectify it and we have a lot of time to do so."

On the potential incoming Designated Player that has been mentioned:

Coach Friedel: "I never said he's coming later in the season. We have been given resources to sign two Designated Players. I'll speak openly. I would like those players from Europe. Getting a player out from Europe, who's very good, in January, is really difficult, really difficult. Nothing to do with money – having to do with the club allowing the player to leave. That's really what this amounts to. So, we're negotiating very hard, and not money, on where the team is in the table, where the position, when can that player be released from his contract. This is a player who's been scouted a long, long time, who I know personally. And I've known him for many, many years, who wants to play here, who wants to live here. And it's not easy to find those players that are very good. And sometimes waiting a couple extra months, is worth the wait for the long term. So this isn't pushing anything back. This has to do with the player being under contract with somebody else and it's the player that I and my staff want."

On why it is being discussed now:

Coach Friedel: "I wasn't the one that brought it out publicly. I have to answer questions on it, because it came from within the club. It was already put out there so I've been asked questions about it almost every press conference. So, no, I probably wouldn't have put it out there, but it's out there. But it is happening."

New England Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea

On what made today's match so difficult:

Delamea: "I think we didn't do enough creating space, we were too slow passing the ball. We were not ready from minute one to compete with these guys. They won all the second balls. That's the result of all this together, it's tough."

On the difficulties of adjusting to new tactics this season:

Delamea: "I think that's more a question for coach. I think we've all been playing this game for many years, so even if someone is not playing his right position, he still needs to give 100 percent. Because, today, what we gave out there was not nearly 50 percent. We can have a bad day but, this cannot be an excuse to not give 100 percent, especially out on the home field. It's tough times for us, we need to do much, much better."

On if there are teammates who are not giving 100 percent effort:

Delamea: "I don't want to talk individuals. I always look at us as a group. You could feel there was lack of energy. They won all the second balls. I don't remember a game, especially here at home, in front of the home crowd when we lost so many second balls. It was hard for us to keep the ball to make a few passes, because we were just not focused at doing our job. I kind of felt like we were just defending for almost 70 minutes; that's the result."

On not winning the second ball that led to Cincinnati's first goal:



Delamea: "It's true, there was like 8 minutes when we were just shooting long balls and they won every second ball. We were just keep dropping, keep defending. I don't know, we just don't learn, it looks like that. We still have a hot head right now; it's hard to talk about it. We just know that we didn't give our all out there and it's frustrating."

On if Cincinnati surprised them today:

Delamea: "Not really, I think we're more surprised ourselves. I didn't expect us to be [playing with] that low energy. It felt like we had no passion to win today. Even if they are missing a couple players they're still good enough to punish you and this is exactly what happened against us today."

New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury

On offensive struggle through last few games:

Bunbury: "I think the key is sticking together as a group and kind of going over the game plan during the week. We had a game plan and I think maybe we weren't staying as patient as we should have been. We weren't moving the ball as quickly we should have been. So, different teams present different challenges, and I think today maybe we just didn't execute the way we should have. Disappointing result, but we got to keep going and keep grinding – and I know people hate hearing that. The fans hate hearing that, us players, it gets old but that's all we can do is move forward."

On lack of energy this match:

Bunbury: "I don't know if I detected that. I think that there were a lot of guys that were putting work in. Maybe there was some that weren't, but I'll always back my players and you got to make sure we're all coming and stepping on that field ready to go from the first whistle. We don't have time in games to be lackadaisical or anything like that. A little frustrating, but, yeah."

Where the fight was in this match compared to Toronto:

Bunbury: "I don't [know]. I wish I did, especially playing at home in front of our fans. I think we should have had a little more energy. The least we can do as players, as professional athletes, take everything else aside, is to put the work in. Give effort. Maybe you won't have a good touch here and there, maybe you won't score goals or assists, or whatever it might be. The least you can do is work hard and I think we all need to pick that up"

On bringing together the locker room:

Bunbury: "You got to continue to stay positive. We got to continue to pump guys up and try to find positives in results like that. Or, at least try to put in guys minds that we can turn it around, that we do have a talented locker room, that we got to not listen to outside distractions – whether it be media, whether it be fans at this moment – and just stick together as a group. I think that's going to be huge for us."

New England Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil

On the difficulty of penetrating the defense and dealing with conceding goals:

Gil: "I don't know what's really happening. It has to do more with effectiveness. We're creating chances, but we're not scoring goals. The problem is that we concede too many goals. When you normally concede two or three goals, it's very difficult to come back from behind. To start winning, the most important thing is to not concede so many goals."

On what has surprised him most about MLS:



Gil: "Well, the truth is that it's a new league for me and it's different from all the ones I've played in before, like the Premier League and La Liga. Truthfully, I like what I am experiencing right now, I am happy, and we'll see if the team dynamic can change."

On the differences between MLS and the other leagues he has experienced:

Gil: "Logically, it's different. There is no relegation, which means we don't have that pressure, but we have to be equally ambitious. I think the objective of getting into the playoffs is clear and appealing and if we don't reach that goal we should be disappointed."

FC Cincinnati Head Coach Alan Koch

On the result:

Coach Koch: "It's huge. Obviously, coming on the road and getting three points is an amazing achievement for our club. We spoke to the guys on the field and we said, when you signed up for this project, you knew we were going to go through ups and downs. We've gone through a lot of ups and downs already in the last few months, but we also knew we were putting ourselves in a position where we can go have a lot of historic milestones. Tonight, come on the road and get our first three [away] points in this league, it's obviously a huge achievement and I'm very, very proud of the group."

On exceeding expectations:

Coach Koch: "We're big-time exceeding expectations, but we'll take it. And we know we'll go fighting every single game. We've said this since the very beginning. We're going to go every single game, give everything we can to try and get three points. If you'd said to me we'll start the season off with four games and having to play these particular four games that we have and we'll have, what, seven points. I'd say you're crazy. Full credit to the players, full credit to the staff – everyone is buying into what we're asking them to do. They're willing to be selfless. They're working for each other, and we continue to improve. But we're not going to get carried away. It's still early. You don't gain anything in this league by being anywhere in the table after four games. It means absolutely nothing. It's a long, long, long season. But I am happy for the players. They'll take a lot of confidence from this. I hope they'll continue to grow as a group."

On the team's confidence going forward in the attack:

Coach Koch: "We know we're going to have to defend. We know we're going to have to defend in certain moments in games. We know there's going to be long stretches of games where we're going to have to defend, but you cannot defend for a full 90 minutes. So, if we can go and possess the ball, it'll make our lives a little bit easier. I think we showed moments of times in the game today where we did a good job of possessing, and other times we gave the ball away too easily. I think we all know we're very good in transition, and that's obviously something that we work on and we recruit players to be able to do that. But we have to manage all the moments in a game. We can't just be a team that's just going to defend and try to hit you in transition. We have to possess the ball to make our lives a little bit easier. The first half was way too open a game. It was almost like an NBA All-Star Game. They come down and see if they can have a chance, we go down and see if we can have a chance. And that, from a coaching perspective, is not a good place to be in because it could've been 3-3, 4-3, at halftime. Those are moments we can try to take away."

On Kenny Saief:

Coach Koch: "Continues to get better in our group. It's not easy for a player that didn't go through preseason with us – for any player, for that matter – to come in and join into the group. He continues to get better and better. He's more aware now of what we ask him to do within our group and within our system of play. But you can see his moments of class. He's very, very comfortable on the ball. Already for us, he's had some quality moments."



On three players making their first MLS starts for the club:

Coach Koch: "Forrest [Lasso], not surprised. He's shown big moments for us already in this club. He did exactly what we know he's capable of doing, and he embraced that opportunity. I'm very, very happy for him. Manu [Emmanuel Ledesma] hasn't started a game for us, so I think he did a very, very good job leading the line with Kekuta [Manneh]. He showed his class at moments. I think he got a little bit tired at the end, understandably. He hasn't played that much recently. Very happy with Greg [Garza]. He got fatigued, too. He hasn't played a full 90 minutes so far, but came in, he was comfortable, he helped manage his flank. I think we got exposed a little bit on the flanks – not just Greg – but on both sides as the game went on. That makes it more difficult for us to play and manage the game. But very, very happy with everybody today."

On managing the lineup with injuries and players on international duty:

Coach Koch: "We knew we were going to be challenged this week. Any time you have a game where you have to make this many changes, you're in a precarious position. You don't quite know how the individuals are going to respond, you don't know the group is going to respond, but very proud of the character of this group. We talk about character all the time. We talk about being selfless, we talk about coming together, and the group will define how far we go this season. You could see today was three points for the group, which was very, very pleasing."

On Spencer Richey's shutout streak:

Coach Koch: "I'm not surprised. Spence [Spencer Richey] has been with me in two different places now for several years. He's a class goalkeeper. He's an MLS goalkeeper. I knew that before we started the season, and I know that now. He has the ability to make big saves at big moments in games. He did that again today, I think. He made that double save when we were winning, 1-0, and that kept us ahead. It allowed us to take confidence from it and go finish the game off. I'm not surprised with how he did. What I will add, though, I'm very happy with Spence, but I'm also very happy with the collective defensive responsibility from the group. I think we figured that out. I think in Seattle, we really struggled. I think the first five minutes might've caught us. Since then, Spencer has grown, and our entire group has grown a lot. If we continue that as a group, no matter who plays, we're going to give ourselves a chance in every game that we play."

FC Cincinnati Forward Kekuta Manneh

On if the team has momentum now with two straight wins:

Manneh: "Definitely. We spoke about that, we need to keep that momentum going. We have fighters on this team. Everyone on this team is a fighter. I think that's been what's getting us going. It's been great. We deserve everything we got the last couple games. We were very unlucky in the Atlanta game, but we put that behind us. I think that in the past few games, we've been working hard, we took our chances and things are happening for us."

On if the team felt extra pressure with several players away

Manneh: "No, definitely not. We know ourselves. Like I said, the coaches, they've done their homework. They brought a lot of quality players in here. It doesn't matter who is here, it doesn't matter who's not here. We know our team, we believe in our system, we believe in our players, and our players came and stepped in, and got the job done. Kenny [Saief] stepped in today, [Emmanuel Ledesma] came today and stepped in for guys that are absent – [they are] going to have to come back and fight for their spots. That's what the coaches are trying to create in here, so it doesn't matter who is away – and Greg [Garza] also stepped in today. We have a really good team. They can take this whole 11, scrap it up, bring in the guys that are not playing right now, and I think it would be the same. So it doesn't matter who is here or who is not here. We're going to play our game, we know our system, and we believe in it."

On how Kenny Saief looked in his first start:



Manneh: “Amazing. I know this guy from back in camp—amazing guy, amazing player. His quality, technical ability to see the pass, the final pass, I think that’s what has impressed me the most, and I’ve known him for a while. So there are no surprises there for me – maybe for you guys who haven’t seen him play or been around him. There’s more to come from that. He’s going to be a special player for us, so he’ll be good for us going forward.”

FC Cincinnati Midfielder Kenny Saief

On his goal:

Saief: “I just saw a space—Kekuta [Manneh] was going to just put the ball in the box and I’m happy I was in the right place at the right moment. It wasn’t a big goal, but it was an important goal.”

On tallying an assist and scoring a goal in his first start:

Saief: “I’m happy, but I feel like there is a lot to work on still. The season just started, I just started, so there are still a lot of points to work on individually and as a team. We’re very happy that we again took three points and now we’re looking forward to the next game already.”

On acclimating to MLS:

Saief: “In this moment, it feels good. I still need more time to connect more with the guys. It’s a completely new group—it’s not only me, but also the other guys. For the moment, we’re doing well. Hopefully, we’re going to keep going that way and we’re already looking forward to next game.”

On the overall mood of the locker room coming off of two wins:

Saief: “Fantastic. It’s a very good group with great spirit—hard-working guys. It’s a great mentality.”

On assisting Kekuta Manneh’s goal:

Saief: “I saw everybody was going to [Roland] Lamah and to take the ball from him. I saw two guys just a bit behind, so I thought I just needed to put a ball in hard, so I’m happy Kekuta [Manneh] was there to put it in.”

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