



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 2 vs. Minnesota United FC 1
Saturday, March 30, 2019

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On the performance today and the lineup adjustments:

Coach Friedel: “Really happy with the performance the players put in, really happy with the work ethic, and really happy with the application to what we were trying to do.”

On the work rate in the first half:

Coach Friedel: “You guys and a lot of experts out there are probably surprised that we can motivate the players to work hard, but all those players, every single day, we see them working hard and the others that weren’t involved. A couple of first-half performances that we’ve had here that haven’t been up to par shouldn’t be the focal point. Very, very proud of the players’ performance today.”

On new players getting an opportunity and their performance:

Coach Friedel: “I’ve said it since I and my staff took over, that if you work hard and perform well in training, you’ll have an opportunity to play. You never know when opportunities are going to arise. An opportunity arose for DeJuan [Jones], and I thought he played very well today.”

On the decision to start goalkeeper Cody Cropper:

Coach Friedel: “Again, every week that starts, every player can get their name in the hat to start. Cody [Cropper], in the last two or three weeks, has trained very, very well, better than we’ve seen him train since we’ve been at the club. And we’ve been averaging two goals-a-game against and I made a change. And he played very well.”

On deploying a new formation:

Coach Friedel: “It’s not a new shape. We did it in preseason, if you watched the preseason games. So, I thought they, with what we wanted to do today, again, very proud of the players’ performance and I thought they did very well.”

On defending Darwin Quintero today and if Scott Caldwell was doing the job of two players today:

Coach Friedel: “Absolutely not. Scotty [Caldwell] played well, but it wasn’t his job on [Darwin] Quintero if you watched the game. It was Michael Mancienne and Jalil Anibaba stepping forward in the midfield to stop him from getting on the ball. At times, it was Scotty Caldwell that would go and get the ball. When he drifted out onto Edgar’s [Castillo] side, Edgar did a great job of closing him down. If you watch the game again, that’s what you’ll see.”

On Carles Gil playing a little deeper today and how it allowed him to get on the ball:

Coach Friedel: “Carles [Gil] is very good on the ball and he can control the tempo of a game, whether we put him higher up the field or a little bit deeper. It’s a different type of game against FC Cincinnati. FC Cincinnati hits the ball long and they play for second balls with [Victor] Ulloa and [Leonardo] Bertone. This game’s a little different, because they do want to play out of the back and I thought we did a great job not allowing them to play out of the back.”

On how the Revolution came out in the first 15 minutes of the second half:

Coach Friedel: “Again, a lot of people have been saying that we don’t have creative players. We do. It takes time to get the people together for it all to come together. I’m really proud of the way the players applied themselves today in the game.”



On shutting down second passes and long balls by Minnesota United FC:

Coach Friedel: “Again, I’m really, really proud at the way the players applied themselves to everything that we tried to work on and talk about through the week.”

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper

On a successful return to the lineup:

Cropper: “It’s been a grind; mentally, physically, emotionally. There’s been ups and downs, and that’s part of professional sports, that’s part of this business. Every player at some stage in their career has gone through that, but to go out there today and to put a 90-minute performance together for the first time since 2017 -- over a year, nearly a year and six months -- I can’t even describe the feeling right now. Every time I talk about it, I’m just getting goosebumps. It’s what I was born to do, I’ve played this game since I was three years old and it’s what I love.”

On the challenges Minnesota gave New England:

Cropper: “From a defensive standpoint, Michael [Mancienne] and Jalil [Anibaba] and Edgar [Castillo] and [Andrew] Farrell and Scottie [Caldwell] dealt very well with [Darwin] Quintero, [Angelo] Rodriguez. Quintero drops into the midfield a lot and one of the things we went over in training was that either Michael or Jalil were going to have to drop into that midfield and track him and at times, not necessarily go three at the back, but one of them were going to have to step in and deal with him so that he could not turn and eventually pick us apart. The two of them and ultimately the back four and the two midfielders did extremely well in dealing with what the coaching staff told us earlier in the week.”

On the decisiveness needed to come off his line to stop multiple attacks:

Cropper: “It’s kind of a gut instinct. One of the conversations I had [Assistant Coach] Ruben [Garcia] and one of the conversations I had with Brad [Friedel] before the game were to trust my instinct. Whether it was on my distribution, whether it was on the decision to come out, whether it was on a decision to catch or parry [the ball], to do the simple things, and today I trusted myself. In the past, when you don’t play games for a very long time you sometimes tend to second guess yourself. Today, I just went out there and I trusted my ability. I trusted everything that I’ve worked on the last year and a bit since the 2017 season and it panned out for me. I hope to continue that down the road.”

On if he got a sense midweek that his number would be called today:

Cropper: “I wouldn’t call it a sense; everybody went into this week knowing that we were fighting for our jobs. It’s been a long season so far, it’s been a difficult one for us. Obviously the criticisms of not putting together performances the last couple weeks, but I think today we went out there and we did everything very well. We played them off the field and we did the simple things right and that’s what we’ve been working on for the last eight-to-nine weeks, including preseason, and we came out with a win and we came out with three points, which is ultimately what we needed from today.”

New England Revolution Midfielder/Defender Brandon Bye

On scoring from a tight angle:

Bye: “I just followed the play and hoped for the best. I saw Teal [Bunbury] get the slip in behind from DeJuan [Jones] and just made the run just in case. He happened to hit to me and I was able to get to the back post and get it in.”

On the frustrating first half with too many crosses not connecting with teammates:

Bye: “I wouldn’t say it was too frustrating. We were creating opportunities and getting in good spots. We knew we could do better. I felt we were getting decent balls in, getting decent opportunities and we hoped in the second [half], we would find a way to score”



On starting in a more advanced midfield position:

Bye: "I was up the field a little farther. [Andrew] Farrell was behind me and he was always talking to me, directing to go inside or outside. We have a good relationship and good connection. I felt like wherever I was on the field, someone was helping me, someone was always trying to connect with me. I felt okay, not too much difference. I am used to playing in that position when I was in college, so I am not too unfamiliar with it."

New England Revolution Midfielder DeJuan Jones

On his perspective on the field:

Jones: "First half, my touches were kind of off – kind of just getting use to the game. Then, second half, got some confidence from my teammates, from my coaches. Then, came out and started getting more touches, seeing the field more, and Teal [Bunbury] made a great run. I just played him in the space, he took a shot – or a cross – and then Brandon [Bye] was there to finish up the play, so it's great."

On how the minutes he saw in his debut last week helped prepare him for a start:

Jones: "It was great. I thought I did pretty good in my debut. So, to get those touches, get some confidence, and going into today having already played in a game before, it was easier for me, for sure."

On his pass to Teal Bunbury that led to the game-winning goal:

Jones: "I saw a great run. He's cutting in, so the center back in front of me couldn't see him. I just wanted to play a nice weighted ball onto him and give him an opportunity to shoot it across."

On his nerves before this match:

Jones: "Not really, I think I got used to the pitch a little bit. The ball was moving a little faster than I anticipated. Like I said, the first half, okay, then I got better in the second half."

On importance of picking up three points today:

Jones: "So important. I mean, we had a lot of negative things come our way, a lot of adversity. So just to fight through it and get through playing against a Minnesota team was huge for us today."

Minnesota United FC Head Coach Adrian Heath

On if he expected to see a motivated Revolution team:

Coach Heath: "Yeah, we did. We spoke about it before the game. We showed our group Brad's [Friedel] interviews from this week and his press comments. So, we knew what was going to come and after we got the equalizer, I thought we'd weather the storm and the pressure that they were going to put on to us and then after that I thought that we were too passive. I don't think we wanted to go win the game enough. I didn't think we were going to lose it, I have to be honest, but, I don't think we did enough to go and try to win the game -- try to take the game to them, try and put them on the back foot enough, and our quality in their half in the second half wasn't good enough. Too many nearly a good ball, nearly a good pass, nearly a good entry ball, not enough."

On if there was anything specific that made it hard to create chances in the run of play:

Coach Heath: "No, I just don't think our quality was good enough in their half of the field. Our final ball wasn't good enough. The ball was either over it or it was on the pass, on the weight, and it was very much, as I said to the players, it was a nearly day. We were nearly good at a lot of things, but unfortunately on the road, nearly doesn't win you many games. We actually, the first two games of the season, we scored when we needed to and on the road you need to get a goal. I thought the two goals we conceded were very poor from our point of view. I don't think the Revolution had to work hard enough for either goal and that's something we'll need to address. Overall, I didn't think we were going to lose the game, but I don't think we did enough to win the game."



On Darwin Quintero:

Coach Heath: "He's a quality player. In fact today, I thought we got quite a lot of ball in their half of the field and normally the little fella conjures something up. He either makes that really crucial pass or scores a goal himself and I don't think we had enough quality in and around him and from him today. You know, by his own standards, his nearly balls -- that's what they were, nearly. He normally comes up with something in a game and that really summed up the afternoon in their half of the field."

On the road trip to open the season:

Coach Heath: "Well, we've got another game. You know, we would have settled for six points after three games. Would we have settled for six after four? Probably not, and now we've got a big game against the Red Bulls next week, which is never easy, going to Red Bull Arena. We'll certainly have to probably play better than we did today."

On how he hopes the team will respond:

Coach Heath: "As the record and the history books show, winning on the road in MLS is difficult. A lot of teams don't win on the road. Hence the fact that there were 12 teams that only won two games last year. We're in a situation where we go to the Red Bulls next day. It's five games that we have start. We knew before the season started, it was a difficult start. Now we've got one to come, let's go and give it everything and see if we can pick some points up and if we pick up one or three points next week, I think it will have been a good start."

Minnesota United FC Midfielder Ethan Finlay

On the overall spirit of the team after two road losses in a row:

Finlay: "Absolutely disappointing. I would say both losses we felt like, coming in, we had an opportunity to get three points and to get zero out of them is a disappointment. We have high expectations this year and that means going on the road and getting results. Obviously, a disappointing result today, but we can't hang our heads. We don't have much time with a good team coming up in the New York Red Bulls next weekend that we have to prepare for."

On the offensive lull and source of struggle in the run of play:

Finlay: "I would say I thought New England did a really good job at defending forward and we probably didn't get in behind them as much as we should have and they were able to keep things in front of them. I think the ref let us play today and I would say Angelo [Rodriguez] did well up against their center backs, but they got the better of us today. A great save, obviously, by [Cody] Cropper and a little bit deflating when you feel like you should have one or two. You start to press and maybe you get out of your game a little bit, but there are still positives that we can take out of this game and there were some good moments -- we just have to clear up the bad ones."

On what he personally took from the game:

Finlay: "Apart from the result, you come into the lineup and want to have results, personally and collectively as a team, so that's a disappointment. The body feels good and I want to try to work off the foundation that I have. 75 minutes under my belt today and I'll do what I can to make myself available and make it hard again for the coach to make a selection."

Minnesota United FC Defender Ike Opara

On facing a motivated Revolution team:

Opara: "Of course we knew that. We knew that they were going to come out and press and do all of the things that they wanted to do, but I actually don't think it was anything that was crazy or something that caught us off guard. Honestly, I expected more and I think for the most part of that first half we did a really



good job of trying to manage the game. We hit some objectives that we wanted to hit and then the start of the second half was when, for some reason, it fell apart. We came into halftime and wanted to make adjustments and I'm not sure what happened. We just defended way too many counters, we lost so many second balls, too many of the first balls, and eventually, you can only defend so many counters before you allow a goal."

On the Revolution changing their lineup:

Opara: "Different faces, but we still expected them to do what they did. Wanting to press forward, run forward, be vertical, trap us under pressure—it didn't matter who was going to be in there and that's what we expected. I think their new guys were hungry and motivated, so they really wanted to impress. Maybe they did a good job of it. At the end of the day, it's us, [more] what we did well then what we didn't do well."

On losing two straight games and an upcoming matchup against the Red Bulls:

Opara: "Yeah, the season is peaks and valleys. We started off really well—had a little blip in L.A. Today, we had a great opportunity to rectify the situation and I thought we were better in this game. The effort was there, we just weren't intelligent with how we played from minute one through 90. I think maybe that's a little bit of trying to gel as a new team—a lot of new faces in our lineup—but, I think we have enough experience to know what, especially these games, call for."

On gaining momentum ahead of the home opener at Allianz Field:

Opara: "I think, defensively, we've been okay with defending counters and all of those things, but I think that we need to be a little more difficult in certain areas of the field and not try to sustain so much pressure. Especially on the road, you can only take so much pressure. Even their second goal—terrible shot that turns into a great cross. Those things happen when you're under pressure a lot of the game, so we've got to identify the areas that we need to be better at defending because we get chances. We had a few today and we could have even gone up 2-1 when it was tied 1-1. The opportunities were there, but at the end of the day it was a conscious decision to say 'if we don't give up a goal in the second half, we'll win the game.' That's what we believed in and we turned around and gave up a goal. That's just dedication to being disciplined."

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