



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 1 vs. New York Red Bulls 0
Saturday, April 20, 2019

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On the team's resolve leading up to Cristian Penilla's goal:

Coach Friedel: "Our goal in this game, believe it or not, was the clean sheet. That was our goal. We've been leaking too many on quick attacks. We worked hard on the midfielders and we put Juan [Agudelo] in a little bit of a different position. But we worked hard in training on that and making sure we had a far better block. So that was first and foremost, I'm really pleased we got the clean sheet. When you have the clean sheet to build off of, then that gives you confidence to create even more chances. We have been creating chances in most all the games that we've had. Luckily, today, one went our way because it probably wasn't our best chance, to be honest with you."

On shutting down Bradley Wright-Phillips:

Coach Friedel: "When New York Red Bulls play against teams that are going to press them, they play direct. I thought Michael [Mancienne] and Jalil [Anibaba] did an excellent job on the first ball and then I thought Luis Caicedo, Scotty Caldwell, and Juan Agudelo did a very good job on the second balls."

On his first two subs making an immediate impact resulting in a goal:

Coach Friedel: "Juan Fernando [Caicedo] is getting his feet under the ground, and more and more fitness. This is a different game against New York Red Bulls, one that he hadn't seen before in this league. We knew that there was going to be a lot of direct play, so when he did come on, we wanted him to try and hold the ball. We've been working since preseason with trying to do two-striker systems, whether that's with someone like Diego [Fagundez] or Carles [Gil], who can come off [the center forward] and be free a little bit – and also with [Christian] Penilla up front using the space. And I thought the game at that time was perfect, as it stretched out a little bit for Penilla's pace."

On if coming off the bench provided Penilla with extra motivation:

Coach Friedel: "You'll have to ask him. He was in a good mood all day, and when he came off the bench he was in a great mood, and he's in an even better mood right now."

On how the clean sheet can impact the confidence during the run of upcoming games:

Coach Friedel: "It was similar before we played Minnesota. It was important to try to claw back the teams that are in front of you. We had the result with Atlanta go our way right before the game, and it was just very important with Montreal [Impact] coming up – they're four points ahead of us. I know it's early in the season, but just to keep in touch with everyone. A clean sheet will breed a lot of confidence, so we'll try to build off that going into the Montreal game."

On Luis Caicedo's performance tonight after playing right back last game:

Coach Friedel: "Luis [Caicedo] is a midfielder. Last week, we had a lot of issues with injuries and suspensions. Luis had played and it was right back. He had played there before in Colombia, and it was a makeshift back four, no doubt. Anybody who has been around Luis Caicedo knows he's an excellent character and excellent worker, and I thought that was probably the best game he's had for us this season."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper

On preventing the Red Bulls from getting the chances they wanted:

Cropper: "I think, just play simple. We did everything simple. We felt under pressure, we put the ball long over the full backs, and we made them face their own goal. I think when the time was right, we played out."



I think I played out, maybe overplayed out once or twice. But overall, I just think we did the simple things right and ultimately it comes down to winning the second balls and winning the battle in the trenches and tonight we did that.”

On the importance of playing simply in wet conditions:

Cropper: “Massive. Obviously, like you said, turf is slick and the ball’s coming through fast, so you really have to trust your instincts. You have to deal with that first ball early and just believe in your teammates and believe that they’re going to be there to help clean up if you make a mistake or help pick you up if you do make a mistake.”

On the team’s mentality while pushing for a goal:

Cropper: “Just constant belief. Obviously, continuing to pump each other up. Keeping [Michael] Mancienne, Jalil [Anibaba], Scotty [Caldwell], and Luis [Caicedo] locked in and focused. Obviously, winning the balls in midfield was huge for us, so we knew that if we came in and we did that, that we would get our chances. We knew that space was going to be wide and I think we exploited that well.”

On what the win means to the club:

Cropper: “Obviously, it’s a derby. It’s versus New York Red Bulls. I think right now, any win for us is huge. We needed this win at home in front of our fans versus a rival on derby day, if you want to call it that. It’s chilling, obviously. It gives us goosebumps. It’s huge because it can start a momentum-builder.”

On the win’s effect on the team’s overall confidence:

Cropper: “Huge. I mean, we know that we have three games coming up—four games coming up in a short amount of time. Really, we’re going to come in, we’re going to work, we’re going to recover, we’re going to do everything we need to do to get fit, and get back out on the field for the next game and hopefully we can take advantage this week at home.”

On the play of Luis Caicedo tonight:

Cropper: “Just winning the second balls. Again, he was in there battling in the trenches, fighting versus Bradley Wright-Phillips, fighting versus Sean Davis, fighting the other midfielders that they had on the field. To win the second balls and to then play simple and play off to Edgar [Castillo], to play off to Andrew [Farrell] when the time was right, to play forward to Scotty [Caldwell] and Carles [Gil]. He’s a fighter and that’s one of his best attributes. He’s a grinder, he’ll fight for 90 minutes, and today he did. Did that for every single minute.”

On tallying the team’s first clean sheet:

Cropper: “It’s been a long time for the team, for me personally, and for this organization since we’ve had a clean sheet. We’re going to see how this feels. Obviously, I have the duty of bringing in donuts now. [Matt] Reis started back in the day, so I’ve got to follow through with that. Teal’s [Bunbury] already telling me that I need to bring in like 48 donuts, so we’ll see how that goes, but it’s just a confidence-builder. Huge for us going into next weekend.”

New England Revolution Defender Michael Mancienne

On his satisfaction getting the win and keeping a clean sheet:

Mancienne: “Massively important for the team, for the team’s confidence. We said before the game we need to keep a clean sheet, because we give ourselves every opportunity to win the game if we keep a clean sheet. And we did. We scored late in the game and we deserved it. I’m really buzzing off the clean sheet.”

On drawing confidence from the clean sheet leading into a two-game week:



Mancienne: "It's massive. It gives the boys a massive boost of confidence going into these games. We got a lot go games coming up but to go in with a win, with three points, we just got to keep that momentum going and get the next three points."

On his second-half block on a Bradley Wright- Phillips scoring chance:

Mancienne: "Everyone was fighting for each other out there, and I was just trying to read the situation, and thank God I did. I read it pretty well and luckily the shot did hit me, and yeah, we kept the clean sheet."

On Cristian Penilla coming off the bench to score the game winner:

Mancienne: "That's how important substitutions are. Everyone needs to be ready on the bench and mentally prepared to come in the game and make a difference, and potentially change the game for us. That happened tonight. I'm really happy for Penny [Cristian Penilla] as well. He deserved the goal."

On the team's performance in the second half:

Mancienne: "It's a massive boost of confidence. We had chances. Teal [Bunbury] had a great chance of a header at the back post. He was unlucky. Maybe, I think, he saw it pretty late. With that chance, we knew that we had them. As long as we kept that clean sheet, a chance will come, and well take it."

New England Revolution Forward Juan Fernando Caicedo*

**Quotes provided via translator.*

On his game-winning assist:

Caicedo: "It was a fast play. We knew they were leaving a lot of spaces towards the end, it could be clearly seen from outside. I was lucky to get the ball, fit it through [to Cristian] Penilla, who is a really fast player. He was able to get to it and put it [in] the net."

On how he saw the game developing from the bench and how he felt he could impact the match:

Caicedo: "From outside, I could see they were playing a lot of long balls, there wer e a lot of open spaces. We knew - the guys who were sitting on the bench - we could take those opportunities, come in, make sure that we were winning the open balls. Luckily, we were able to get the ball, score the goal, and we want to dedicate that to the fans who came out today. We needed the win, and good for the team, we got it today."

New York Red Bulls Head Coach Chris Armas

On his overall takeaway from tonight's game:

Coach Armas: "Well listen, I will start by saying it's a tough stretch. It's a tough stretch and it challenges you. I feel for the guys, because they came with a good mentality, the game was in the balance and yeah, you come on the road and you give up two shots on goal and one goes in. Can we create more? Can we do more? That's the question, but it was going to be a difficult game. Two similar styles on a wet turf field, it was going to be difficult, but I think our guys were up for the challenge. Listen, there's one thing to do, you work hard, and you keep pushing, but I love that I'm pushing with those guys in the locker room. They gave everything and they fought hard."

On his message to the team moving forward:

Coach Armas: "There's no big message. Within our walls, we know what we are looking at. We know the effort every day is strong from the guys. The staff -- everyone is pushing very hard -- and in these times you find out a lot about who we are and I know we are going to come out stronger for it -- we will, I can see it already. I can see the intensity in trainings, the attention to details, and we are going to make our breaks. We are going to make it happen, that's what we are going to do."



On the team's overall effort and what it can improve on:

Coach Armas: "The effort is there. What's missing? Listen, you still have to make some plays at each end of the field, right? And sometimes if you can't get that goal or it's just a little bit off, pressure maybe amounts on the other end of the field. Listen, you give New England credit because they make it hard for us, but part of making it hard is in so many of the transition moments. They foul us -- it's not easy. So imagine five-to-10 of those situations where in the middle of the field we do the honest work to win a second ball -- step to plays, commit to our style of play, and when it's in the balance and we win the ball and they just foul us, yeah that makes it hard. I'm not saying it's not part of the game -- that makes it hard. You've got to be better at restarts, you've got to keep pushing and plugging away. Listen, the stretch has been tough, but we like it tough. We are the New York Red Bulls, we like it tough. And when things don't come easy, yeah it challenges you, but we are going to keep pushing."

On being more dangerous in the second half:

Coach Armas: "I think in the first half, like the second half, we had moments. We had control in many ways. We saw what they were trying to do at times and they had two shots on goal over 90. I'm not sure what we gave up in the first half, but the start of the game was fine. I think the start of the game was fine. I think we just have to raise the level of execution, quality, and decision making. That's the goal. Over 90 minutes, can you just be sharper? Can you be better? Can you in all ways commit to things? For sure. Sharpness."

New York Red Bulls Forward Bradley Wright-Phillips

On his overall takeaways from the match:

Wright-Phillips: "It was a bad week. You know when you come in that you have to compete and I don't think we know how to at a high level. Still struggling for creativity and creating our chances. I think they were fortunate with their goal, I think there was no real good play. Derrick [Étienne Jr.] and I are on the attack, we flexed, [and] that's when they ran at it and scored."

On the team's lack of chances:

Wright-Phillips: "I don't know, I think it's not easy to score goals. That's the first reason, I think. You know when you're scoring goals all the time, you know it can look easy, and people forget the work that goes into it. I think we were just not getting any bounces, not doing enough individually, and it's showing. We're depending on the back line to keep clean sheets too much when we've got to score goals. I couldn't put my finger on what it is. It's just one of those, you know, terrible patches we're in. I'm sure we'll get out of it."

On what it takes to compete for an entire game:

Wright-Phillips: "I really don't know. I think, today, I would say it was a decent 90 minutes because this is what we came here to do. We came here to fight. We did that. We came here to win tackled balls, I'm sure we won that count. I just think when the ball is bouncing and when it's time to make a play, we're not doing it. I think for 90 minutes, I know everyone won't agree, but we stuck to the game plan and unfortunately they scored."

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