



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 0 vs. Montreal Impact 3
Wednesday, April 24, 2019

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On what made it difficult to find a rhythm during the match:

Coach Friedel: "In the first half, I'll take the blame. Not my staff, not the players. I obviously didn't motivate the players to be up for the game. I thought in the first half, we were second to everything. I thought in the second half, ironically, probably the 10 minutes before they scored their goal, was probably our best spell – if you want to call it that – in the game and we were starting to create a little bit more up front. But all credit to Rémi Garde and his team, the terrible travel conditions getting here. They worked extremely hard and worked harder than we did."

On Cristian Penilla not starting after having a good performance in last weekend's match:

Coach Friedel: "We felt we wanted to keep some continuity. We had a very good performance, we felt, from everybody on the effort side of things against New York Red Bull. We have a lot of games coming up. I'm sure you'll see squad rotation. For this one, with two games at home, we wanted continuity."

On how the travel problems that Montreal had affected the game:

Coach Friedel: "It should've affected us zero. As far as them, you'd have to ask Rémi [Garde]. I don't know what his game plan was, or if it changed. I think, again, you have to give credit to Rémi and his players. Especially in the first half, they outworked us. And again, I'll take the blame for that."

New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba

On what made tonight's game so difficult:

Anibaba: "It was difficult for us to find the rhythm of the game in the first half. In the first half, we were playing with fire. We got lucky they hit the post a couple of times and Cody [Cropper] came up big for us a couple times to keep us in the game. The start of the second half, we were on top of the game and we let one in, then the floodgates kind of opened. That's something that can't happen. Starting tomorrow, we just have to be better and we have to pick this up together."

On whether or not the defense felt less compact compared to Saturday's match:

Anibaba: "I thought they stretched us out in the second half late when we went three in the back. That's what happens sometimes when you're trying to chase the game. That's just kind of how it goes. This is only something that we can get out of together. If everybody stays together, we continue to fight, and we're honest with ourselves about the mistakes that we're making, that's the only way that this is going to get better."

On whether or not it's difficult to stay positive in the locker room:

Anibaba: "No, it's not hard to keep optimistic and positive, but sometimes that can be a little bit dangerous because at this point in time we need to be more critical of ourselves than just blanket positivity. It's very clear that everybody needs to be better—myself, everybody. It's a matter of us sticking together and pulling ourselves out of this. That's not to be mistaken for blanket optimism or positivity. It's just a matter of us being honest with ourselves and everybody holding themselves accountable and making sure that we right these wrongs. It's something that we're not doing on a consistent enough basis."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper:

On his thoughts coming off the field tonight:



Cropper: “Obviously, disappointed. Make a mistake like that, it’s on you. I walked off the field and apologized to the players. I took the blame, now we need to move on.”

On coming off of a shutout and overall thoughts on the defense:

Cropper: “Yeah, in the first half I thought we were good defensively. Obviously, I had to come up with some saves, but overall we were solid defensively. Unfortunately, I switch off for half a second and make that mistake that cost a goal, but we have to be able to bounce back, we have to be stronger, and that starts from me up the field.”

On Montreal’s first goal:

Cropper: “Just a technical error. I think I just switched off—mental error and you just have to take the blame and move on to tomorrow.”

Montreal Impact Head Coach Rémi Garde

On how the team’s traveling obstacles affected today’s game:

Coach Garde: “The result is very positive, but I asked my players not to find excuses about the bad travel we had. The last 24 hours were not at all the ones we wanted in order to prepare for a professional soccer game, but you know, sometimes it happens and they had the right attitude. They took it to be more motivated to win that game rather than find excuses. The answer they gave today was really amazing.”

On his thoughts on the league potentially allowing more charter flights:

Coach Garde: “It’s not for me to say that, but you know, of course when you’re [delayed] on a commercial flight, it can happen. Fortunately today, we had the charter, but even though with the charter, we had the four-hour delay. Then, arriving here just four hours before the game was not very professional for the league and I think that [is applicable] for the integrity, physical integrity of the players [too]. Nobody is injured today, but it could happen differently in the game because we are not prepared for that—especially, when you’re playing three games in eight days. Maybe it’s something when we travel a lot like that if we want to improve the league, something that probably they would have to think about. I don’t know. I’m not here to complain, just to focus on the physical side and the integrity of the players.”

On whether or not the travel had any influence on overall strategy:

Coach Garde: “No, not at all. We prepared a game plan. A plan for the game was already done. I did not focus on that.”

Montreal Impact Midfielder Shamit Shome

On scoring his first MLS goal:

Shome: “Felt good. I mean, it doesn’t get much easier than that, but I’m really happy to get that out of the way. I’m glad that it was an easy one and I’ll just keep building on that confidence, keep pushing, and try to help the team with goals and assists, because that’s what you have to do as midfielders to contribute to the team.”

On taking home three points after a hectic 24 hours:

Shome: “It’s huge for us. I think it’s a big character building thing for us and I think it will bring us all closer together, too, which is great. We can build on this moment to continue pushing, because it was a really hard 24 hours for us. We came through it together and that’s what showed on the field. We all played as a team -- there were no individuals. That absolutely showed and I think we’re all really happy to come out of here with three points and head back to Montreal.”

On the team’s mentality ahead of tonight’s match:



Shome: "We were kind of saying, 'MLS didn't really postpone the match,' which is fine. New England probably didn't expect much of us, because we got here four hours before the game, so we were saying, 'Let's just play, no stress, leave everything on the line, show that they can underestimate us like they've done the entire season already,' and that's what we did and we got a big result."

On the team's travel obstacles on the trip to New England:

Shome: "Hectic, crazy. There were so many wild card things that happened that it's just crazy. I've never seen this before. I don't think anyone's ever seen this before, but like I said, it's something that brings us all together. It's just such a crazy experience. I think it's good to build on this, because if we can get three points like this and play like this after going through such a hectic travel experience, we can do anything."

On preparing for the game with less time:

Shome: "Physically, you feel it a lot in your legs because you're just sitting around in an airport all day. On the plane, there's not much space, so it's tough. It's more mental—it's a lot more mental where your legs might not be physically there, but it's all about mentally pushing out the excuses, fighting through that, and everyone did that today. There were no passengers, nobody struggling today, we all put in a shift, and that's how we got such a good result."

Montreal Impact Goalkeeper Evan Bush

On the past 24 hours:

Bush: "First of all, I told the group in this room today that I was excited to play with them, because it's a group that I can trust, a group that works for each other, that was going to run, hit the right spots, bring energy. They are a youthful group that wasn't going to make excuses, a group that we trusted. There was a reason guys got opportunities tonight. I couldn't be happier or more proud of them. I think that does great things tonight for this locker room, first of all. For the guys that aren't here, it should motivate them a little bit too, because you saw guys stepped up tonight and perform at a really high level. The other side to that question, everything we've been through the past 24 hours -- honestly, it's a joke. You talk to anyone from administration to the coaches to the players, it should have never happened. I'm fine with saying that. The powers that be know how I feel about it. We didn't use it as an excuse, we used it as motivation to get here. That's not to say that makes it any better. It became a player safety issue. It's not just a matter of inconvenience for us. It's a matter of being in an airport for 18 hours basically, going home, getting on three different planes, going through the circus this morning, getting to the hotel at 3:30 today, having to prepare for a game in less than four hours. We're lucky that we didn't have guys get injured today, because of the way their bodies were treated in the last 24 hours. The people that can make the decisions didn't want to change anything. That's how it is. I won't point fingers necessarily, but something needs to be done. The Players' Association's aware of it, I saw they made a statement, and it's true. I don't know if it's something that if it was a different club maybe they change something. We seem to get the short end of the stick on a lot of these types of decisions. I understand that there are certain things that they can't do, but when it comes to player safety and dealing with the assets of the league, and players are the assets of the league in many ways, they need to do better."

On Anthony Jackson-Hamel:

Bush: "Another guy I'm really proud of. He doesn't need me to say that, I'm not his father. There are certain guys that you have to continue to push along. They're not getting every week the opportunity or the accolades, all those things. The guys that are getting those, you don't need to say anything to because they're aware of the situation and they're happy with their situation. The guys that aren't maybe playing 90 minutes every week that are getting limited opportunities that you need to continue to push along. Jackson's done a really good job with it this year. There have been times in the past where maybe that wouldn't have been the case but this year he's been fantastic with his mentality. His work rate and effort paid off for him tonight."



On if he thinks the game should have been called off tonight:

Bush: "Yeah, it should have been. There's really no doubt about it. If we would have been able to get out this morning on time -- I don't know if you know all the details...We were supposed to leave at 10:00 a.m. this morning. Logan Airport refused to have us come in, because they didn't want to deal with our customs there, so we had to go through customs in Montreal. Because of that, we had to go to the terminal in Montreal, go through customs, which is fine. It didn't take too long to do that, but because of that, we had to take all the bags off the plan, re-search them, re-tag them. We didn't get onto an airplane, we didn't leave until I think it was about -- closer to 1:30. If it was just an isolated incident and that was the plan all along, to come the morning of or to come later in the day -- obviously we never do that, but okay, that's fine. But you have to put into context everything that led up to it. We had to deplane twice yesterday, got home to our houses at 11, 11:30, didn't eat anything until we got home at 11:30, so I'm sure guys were just stopping at fast food restaurants, because on a Tuesday night, what's open at 10:30, 11 o' clock? Personally, I got home at 11:15 and made eggs and hummus and naan bread as my meal, and then went to bed and woke up in the morning, and went through it all again. It shouldn't have been played. I don't want to come off as sounding whiney or any of those things, but as the representative for these guys and as a leader in this room, and a leader within the Players' Association, I have to stand up for the guys. If it was my team, if it was any other team, it doesn't matter. If that happened to New England coming to Montreal, do the same thing. Just move the same into the three-week period where no one has games in June, and we'll figure it out. I don't know, we'll see what happens. I don't think many people are very happy about it. We're just very fortunate that nothing happened and we got a good result."

On if gaining more charter flights should be a priority in negotiations for the next Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Bush: "It's been a priority, for sure. There's a lot of priorities, absolutely. I won't dive into what's important compared to what other things are important, but charter flights should be important not just for players, but for owners and management. My argument all along has been that it's not about convenience for the players. That's good, and you'll get better players in the league if there are more charters, that's absolutely the case. But for me, if they want to view it one way and they want to look at financial implications and the economics of it. Take for example, a guy like Ignacio Piatti, who is getting paid whatever he's getting paid, and the recovery from a midweek game to a Saturday is altered now, because he can't recover properly by taking a charter flight to and from. So now he is wasting time and wasting 24 hours and maybe he gets hurt on the Saturday game, and now you lose him for three or four games. That's a financial implication. You're paying the guy for those three or four games that he can no longer play. It's always been for me a player safety thing, a player maintenance thing. We'll see how it goes. I don't know if they'll give us unlimited charters or anything like that, but there needs to be progress in that area and I think there will be. Is just a matter of how much progress there will be and what they prioritize in that fashion, I guess."

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