



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2019

POSTGAME NOTES: Revolution Drop Away Match at Chicago Fire, 5-0

BRIDGEVIEW, Ill. – The New England Revolution (2-8-2, 8 pts.) were defeated by the Chicago Fire (3-4-4, 13 pts.), 5-0, at SeatGeek Stadium on Wednesday evening. Two goals in the first half and three more in the second secured the win for the home side.

Chicago forward Nemanja Nikolic put the home side ahead by a two-goal margin before the halftime break, scoring with headers off of free kicks in the 28th and 40th minutes. New England's best chance of the night came on a Teal Bunbury breakaway in the 59th minute, but his shot was saved by the Fire's David Ousted. Brandt Bronico then tallied for Chicago in the 78th minute, before Nicolas Gaitan scored the fourth in the 85th minute, and Przemyslaw Frankowski added a fifth in the 89th minute.

New England is back at home on Saturday, May 11 for the season's lone meeting with the San Jose Earthquakes. 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, Chicago Fire 5 May 8, 2019 – SeatGeek Stadium (Bridgeview, Illinois)

Revolution Defeated by Chicago Fire, 5-0

- The Revolution were topped by the Chicago Fire, 5-0, on Wednesday evening to fall to 2-8-2 (8 pts.) on the season.
- New England's all-time regular season record against Chicago moves to 21-28-12.

Buchanan Sees Third Consecutive Start

- First-round SuperDraft selection **Tajon Buchanan** saw his third straight start in tonight's match, his sixth appearance this season. Now with 278 minutes played on the year, his season total of 204 minutes entering tonight's match ranked third among all MLS rookies this year.
- Buchanan's fellow first-round selection **DeJuan Jones**, who played 16 minutes in tonight's match after replacing Buchanan, led all MLS rookies in minutes played entering the match. His season total now stands at 389 minutes.

Matt Turner Makes Season Debut

- Goalkeeper **Matt Turner** saw his first action of the 2019 season, making the start in net for the first time since last year's finale on Oct. 28, 2018 vs. Montreal, a 1-0 win. He now owns 28 career MLS starts.

Revolution Starting XI Sees Five Changes

- The Revolution starting lineup saw five changes from last Saturday's match against the Philadelphia Union. Matt Turner, Jalil Anibaba, Antonio Delamea, Diego Fagundez, and Wilfried Zahibo replaced Cody Cropper, Michael Mancienne, Scott Caldwell, DeJuan Jones, and Juan Agudelo.

GAME CAPSULE

Referee: Tim Ford

Assistant Referees: Adam Garner (AR1), Cory Richardson (AR2)

Fourth Official: Ted Unkel

VAR: Edvin Jurisevic

AVAR: Peter Manikowski

Weather: 73° and Cloudy

Attendance: 6,074

Scoring Summary:

CHI – Nemanja Nikolic 4 (Nicolas Gaitan 3) 28'

CHI – Nemanja Nikolic 5 (Bastian Schweinsteiger 1, Nicolas Gaitan 4) 40'

CHI – Brandt Bronico 1 (Aleksander Katai 3) 78'

CHI – Nicolas Gaitan 1 (Aleksander Katai 4) 85'

CHI – Przemyslaw Frankowski 1 (Unassisted) 89'

Misconduct Summary:

CHI – Johan Kappelhof (Yellow Card) 55'

NE – Luis Caicedo (Yellow Card) 58'

New England Revolution: Matt Turner; Edgar Castillo, Antonio Delamea, Jalil Anibaba, Andrew Farrell; Tajon Buchanan (DeJuan Jones 74'), Wilfried Zahibo (Juan Agudelo HT), Luis Caicedo, Diego Fagundez; Carles Gil ©; Juan Fernando Caicedo (Teal Bunbury HT)

Substitutes Not Used: Cody Cropper, Brandon Bye, Scott Caldwell, Brian Wright

Chicago Fire: David Ousted; Jorge Corrales, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Johan Kappelhof, Francisco Calvo; Dax McCarty © (Cristian Martinez 82'), Djordje Mihailovic (Mo Adams 61'); Aleksander Katai, Nicolas Gaitan, Przemyslaw Frankowski; Nemanja Nikolic (Brandt Bronico 71')

Substitutes Not Used: Richard Sanchez, Grant Lillard, Diego Campos, Fabian Herbers

New England Revolution	Team Statistics	Chicago Fire
4 (2)	Shots (on Target)	16 (7)
2	Saves	2
4	Corner Kicks	3
1	Offsides	4
9	Fouls	13
424 (82.5%)	Passes Attempted (% Completed)	499 (83.8%)
47.0%	Possession	53.0%

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

2019 MLS Regular Season

SeatGeek Stadium – Bridgeview, Ill.

Chicago Fire 5:0 New England Revolution

Soundbytes:

To access soundbytes from Chicago Fire Head Coach Veljko Paunović (ENG and SPA),

defender Francisco Calvo and midfielder Brandt Bronico, click [here](#).

Statistics:

To access the full box score from tonight's match, click [here](#).

Chicago Fire Quotes

Chicago Fire Head Coach Veljko Paunović

On if the Soldier Field rumors has affected the team...

"My reaction to all of that is go step on the field and win the game, and that's what we did today. I think the club had a statement about that and we are all happy about it, but what we have to do is keep going and we had a game like this that we needed to play and perform on this day when actually everyone was focused on something else. We were capable of refocusing our guys to what is most important now, to win games and win the next game and in this case, it was a great performance from everyone. I'm very happy with how we played and obviously the result is important, but we also know who we are and where we are and this is just the beginning of what this team is capable of. I've been saying in the past here in this room and also in the locker room to our players that we are much better than we are right now, and at this point I have to say that we don't need any excess of confidence and we have to know that we still have to earn our respect and fight our way throughout the season. Nobody's going to make it easy for us and I believe that today was a special day but we are all champions here and we want to win the next game and we want to prepare for that so just in two days, we have to be ready. We just have today to celebrate and then tomorrow, come back, recover and prepare for the next game."

On scoring five goals after not scoring in the last three games...

"Well, I think in the last three games we didn't score because we missed. It's the execution that we didn't have. But other than that, the team today had a performance where the execution was better because we created much more opportunities that we could have scored before we scored the first goal, at least two goals, very, very obvious opportunities but that's futbol, you know. And while we are creating those opportunities and especially when we convert them, I'll be happy with that and I'll keep saying that it's going to come. Today, the only difference was that once we found the back of the net and once we scored the first goal, the team got that confidence needed to keep going and seeking for a second and later third goal and other goals."

On scoring two goals on set pieces and adding Francisco Calvo...

"I think that we got two goals after set pieces was very important for the team because we were practicing, really practicing a lot and we were addressing (this topic). We were creative with some offensive plays but finally -- as I said when Nicolás Gaitán came here -- he's a set piece-taker specialist, (in addition to) other qualities he has and that's going to improve and at some point it's going to click. Now, that was important and we will keep improving. I think some games you have to open or even win on set pieces and, just look at the Champions League, look at how many goals are scored on set pieces. We have to have that phase of the game. We have to have weapons that can convert those goals on set pieces. On the other side, yes, I'm happy with the team. I always said I'm very happy with the team and I'm happy with the additions we had in the last hour or the last few days of the transfer window and it's important. The guys who come in, you can immediately sense and notice that are they buying it or not. In the case of Calvo, in the case of everyone that came in this year, we were very, very happy with what they were

bringing to the table and their commitment. If not, it's very simple and we said it in the past, when somebody's not committed, we don't hesitate to move on from that player and in this case, we have a very good group. As I said, we are building the spirit of the team. This win helps, this performance helps, but we haven't done anything and it's just the beginning of what can be a great season of a great team. But, there is still a long way to go."

On the contribution of Brandt Bronico...

"Yeah, great day, today we announced his new contract and it was a great boost for him. Coming in from the bench, he was just on fire, I think. I remember when he came in, when he had actually that play, when he got inside, I was just saying 'finish it, finish it.' He has huge potential. He is the model of the player that we want in our Club. He's super committed, he's 100 percent with the team from the very beginning. I remember the day when we drafted him, no one knew about him but we saw a great, first of all, great human being and we saw great potential in a player that can have a long, long career in our Club because he's a great fit soccer-wise and obviously as a human."

Chicago Fire midfielder Brandt Bronico

On his goal and signing a new contract...

"I guess you can't really ask for much more than that, right? Obviously, a huge thanks to the Fire and the MLS. I'm extremely happy to be here if you couldn't tell after today. I love this group of guys. I love this staff. I love the organization. I'm just happy to be here and obviously a great day, not only for me, but for the team as well. I mean five goals gives us huge confidence going into the weekend."

On his role with the team...

"I just grind and stick to the process. There's not much else you can do, you know? You come here, you do your job the best you can. You lift up other guys. You push other guys to do better, and it not only makes you better it makes the whole team better and you might get a couple of opportunities but you just got to take advantage of them. At the end of the day, you know, Pauno makes the decisions of who gets to play and obviously I respect him and the coaching staff's decisions week-to-week. I just kept working for my chance, working for my opportunity."

On what he saw on his goal...

"The defender kind of stayed off me so, you know, Pauno was originally telling Katai and I to listen to the things that he tells him (Katai) in case I'm in those situations, to take him into the box and either draw him in, or if he gives you space, shoot the ball. Neither of the defenders stepped to me, so I cut inside and shot the ball."

Chicago Fire defender Francisco Calvo

Overall thoughts on the win and performance tonight...

"I think the performance was really complete. The team put everything on the field, defensively and when we attacked. I think that shows ourselves that if we put everything on the field, we can beat any team in this league so we have a really, really good team. Even the guys on the bench. Because you can see, the guys on the bench get in and scored too."

On his first home game with the Fire...

"I was happy, you know. I'm enjoying the moment right here. I'm happy to be here. The group welcomed me really good so that's all that matters, you know. I just want to get good things with this group and, first of all, go to playoffs. That's our main goal and then in playoffs, anything can happen."

New England Revolution Quotes

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On what made tonight tough...

"First two goals are off set pieces. Actually the first three goals, the third one is off of a throw-in. We were making up ways to concede goals. We wanted to sit back a little bit and hit them on the counter. I felt that we had the pace to do that going forward. We simply in the first half weren't aggressive enough. Second half, I thought not too bad at the start. I thought the inclusion of Juan [Agudelo] and Teal [Bunbury] helped a lot. We changed to a press a lot higher up the field, I thought we were winning balls in really good areas. When we do that, we have to be careful of the counter. It's there for people to see. When you concede a goal off of a throw in, to really put the game out of reach for us, it's a sickener, really. It's tough to replicate a throw in like that in a training session but we will try our best to try to galvanize the team for probably what is the most pivotal game in our season coming up on Saturday."

On the duels he spoke about at halftime...

"In any game of futbol, anywhere in the world, no matter what formation you play, no matter what system it is, whether your Barcelona, or Bayern Munich, the game evolves into one versus one duels at some stage and you have to win them. You have to win them offensively, you have to win them defensively. They were far better in that department than us in the first half."

On the change in goal to Turner...

"We are conceding far too many goals, far too many soft goals. Matt is the third goalkeeper to be rotated in this season. I think that's 15 goals we conceded in the last three games which again is unacceptable. The defending part of things comes down to the horrible thing, the horrible side of the game that people don't like to do. It's the hard work, it's the concentration, it's the effort. The way I look at the game is you can't always be good on the ball, that would be silly to think that, but you can always control how you are off the ball. It's something we really have to get back to basics on, and start getting some clean sheets if we are going to have any chance of rectifying the season and getting up into the playoffs."

On how you begin to turn things around...

"The confidence is low in that locker room, that's for sure. I'm afraid there's no easy way out of it. It's hard work. It's up to us as a staff to try to get eleven players on that field, that will have the confidence to go play San Jose and we just have to work incredibly hard as a team to try to keep that clean sheet and hold on to something in the game. We have some very good players in the locker room, we have goals in the locker room, but we have to build off something. We have to start building off the defensive nature of the game. Something last season, especially at the beginning of the season we were far better at."

On wondering as a coach what he can change...

"Of course. The first person that I look at after every single game is myself. That would be silly to think that I didn't. We as a staff, we always talk about what we can do better to help the players. That's what we are here for. Lately, we haven't been doing a good enough job of that. Likewise, the players haven't been doing a good enough job with that. I am sure if you speak to any of the players, we all say the same thing, we are working really hard in training, we are trying to find the antidote to get a win and we won't stop until we start getting the wins. Soccer is a funny thing. You can win a game and the confidence just goes through the roof, and you can have six on the bounce and everything is different. But right now we are not in that vein of form. We are in the opposite direction. In the end of the last two games, Sporting Kansas City game was a little different because we were playing with two men sent off, but the concession of goals and the way teams are scoring on us are all stoppable, to be really honest

with you. We are going to keep working, that's all I can say."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On what made tonight difficult...

"We came in with a game plan. In the beginning we didn't do a great job following it but after 20 minutes, we settled down and got into it. They were having a tough time breaking us down and creating quality chances apart from one of the occasional turnover, myself included. They just kind of picked us off and created chances but when we were in our block they weren't creating anything. It's just attention to detail, we can't get beat especially on the road on set pieces two times. Same kind of play. It's just super frustrating because you go in the locker room down two-nothing, we didn't create much going forward but we were doing enough to hold our block until those set pieces."

On what could be a pivotable game of the season on Saturday...

"It's tough. A couple games of a row where we are just bleeding goals. We are going to get on the training pitch and work hard. I'm sure that's not what the fans want to hear but that's the reality of the situation. And hopefully we go out there and we give them something to be proud of because I am sure they're tired of our words and ready for action on the field."

New England Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea

On what made the game difficult...

"I think the first half, we changed our whole tactics because conceded two set piece goals. And in the second half we went out and tried to press all over the field. It sort of worked until the 70th minute. At that point, we just opened up the game. Jalil and I, we were going against the whole field. It's just hard to defend. Obviously we didn't do a good job."

On where the breakdowns happened on the set pieces...

"Defending set pieces is a matter of concentration. I'm not going to point a finger at anyone. The whole team didn't do a good job."

On facing San Jose and rallying the team...

"First of all, we all need to look at ourselves and not point fingers at each other. I think this is something that will helping. It's hard to talk right now. We are all disappointed, we are all feeling low. I'm speechless."