



May 11, 2019

POSTGAME QUOTES: New England Revolution 3 vs. San Jose Earthquakes 1

New England Revolution Interim Head Coach Mike Lapper

On the message to the team leading up to the match and what can be taken away from the performance:

Coach Lapper: "Just trying to tell them to go out and enjoy the game, find the passion and the love and the desire that we grew up playing and knowing how to do it. And I think there was a lot of emotion in the locker room and we challenged them. Upper management also challenged them, because we're all responsible for what happened with Brad [Friedel]. And we can't just point to one person. I think that's unfair, but we know in this business that you can't do what you think sometimes, is get rid of the whole team, and that's not the case. I thought they rallied and I was so proud of them. Obviously, the result speaks for itself, but more than that, it's just the fight and the energy that they brought. Maybe it was the fans, it was the night – I don't know what it was – but they brought something special. If we can do that day in and day out, and that's my job to get them motivated and find the system that they feel comfortable in. And yes, possession wasn't great, but that was a very good San Jose team that passes the ball like crazy and I thought we did a good job staying in our block, staying to the plan of attack, and then countering and hitting them there. I only wish that, one, we would've got the shutout and Andrew Farrell could've made that block, and two, we would've had a little more possession in the second half to really punish them and make them work harder to recover the ball."

On starting Cristian Penilla:

Coach Lapper: "Cristian Penilla is a huge part of this club. Obviously, 14 goals last season. When he's on his game and he's in it, he's one of the better players in the league. I mean, that's reality and you can't argue that. The trick is finding the motivation. I had a meeting with him and Marcelo [Neveleff], and we talked and I told him that I need him and I think that he needs us a little bit at this time because he was dropped and he wasn't even in the 18 last game. He was disappointed, but once he's motivated and he plays like today, he's a person who can just put games on his back and he can take people on and he's incredibly gifted. It's just a matter of keeping him motivated and that's what we got to do. That's obviously our job as a coaching staff."

On the play of Juan Agudelo:

Coach Lapper: "I'll speak about Juan [Agudelo], but I want to say that I'm going to implement something of a team ball or man of the match ball, starting with wins. I got to be honest with you, I don't know who to give it to because everyone put in an amazing shift. Carles [Gil] put in an amazing shift, Luis Caicedo, Teal Bunbury, of course Juan Agudelo. I mean, Juan is great at getting people and holding the ball up, which is really important in terms of what we're trying to accomplish. I wouldn't just point out Juan and that's no disrespect to him. I mean, it was amazing, Brandon Bye winning balls in the air. Matt Turner coming up with some amazing saves. Everyone played a part. So, not to disrespect Juan, because I

thought he had a great game, but I thought a lot of guys stepped up tonight and that's what we need to do. Don't get me wrong. I'm really excited about this win and it gets us in the right motion, but we got a long way to go. The next focus is obviously the Chelsea game with a little bit of fun in it, but also knowing that the big prize is the Saturday game up away at Montreal, which handed us a 3-0 loss and hopefully we can give them a little bit of payback."

On the decision to meet with players individually during the week:

Coach Lapper: "I needed to challenge them. I needed to ask them where their heads were. I needed to also find out fitness levels because of the travel, coming back from Chicago, and the short turnaround. I spoke directly with Diego [Fagundez] and challenged him, because he's been in and out of the lineup. And I wanted to see where his head was at. And he told me the right things, so the coaching staff and I decided to reward him with a start, and he put in a good shift. Again, I didn't mention Diego [in the previous answer]. I talked to Matt Turner, told him he's my guy and that he's going to be the guy until he shows that he's not available. I talked with a lot of people. I probably met with probably 70 to 80 percent of the team, just trying to find out where their head's at, seeing how they are physically, and then just talking to them and challenging them, I guess. And telling them what a great opportunity this is, to push the restart button and see where can go, because this team is good enough to do amazing things. I'm not going to say, 'We can win MLS,' or you know, right now, because it's only one win. They can do great things. I think you saw tonight."

On what the win means on a personal level:

Coach Lapper: "It feels great. I was lucky enough to be an assist with Sigi [Schmid] when he came to the [Columbus] Crew in 2006, and I was in the coaching staff to rebuild that team. And we were able to do it in three years – and I'm not taking any glory or anything for that – but I was in the process and Sigi was an amazing mentor and coach to me and helped me learn a lot. Not just about the Xs and Os on the field, but what it takes in the locker room. Sometimes, you got to give a little to get a lot from the players. So, we're going to slowly implement some things that I think are important to make sure the players are in the right mental standpoint and are fit are ready. It's little things. It's not huge things, but it was great to be a part of that organization that did that, to win MLS Cup in 2008, Supporter Shield in 2008, and then 2009 again after Sigi left to Seattle. So, I take it with a grain of salt. I'm pleased. Don't get me wrong, but I also know it's just one game and we just got to keep digging and realize what kind of team we are and really find our identity. That's what I'm hopefully starting to establish and see where it goes."

New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo

On this being the type of performance the team has been looking for:

Agudelo: "That's very fair. I thought the guys fought for one another today. We needed this win at home. It was just a lot of communication and a lot of encouraging points."

On the key to tonight's win:

Agudelo: "The key was a team effort. If I personally recognized somebody was out of position, I was willing to track back and help him. I felt like it was kind of like a domino effect throughout the whole team; the whole system. Getting an early goal definitely helped the team feel confident and we went back at it again and got another second goal and then we were resilient enough to bunker down and hold them off."

On what he saw from Edgar Castillo ahead of his goal:

Agudelo: "It was crazy. We understood the team we were playing against. I knew I had [Nick] Lima on me. I told Edgar [Castillo] before the game, he's a good crosser of the ball, and if he can hit the ball to the second post then I'll be there. That's why I was pointing at him after I scored because that's what we talked about."

On Nick Lima losing track of him on his goal:

Agudelo: "I'm glad he did."

On finding ways to attack a possession-based opponent:

Agudelo: "With the game plan, we understood the team we were playing against; one-on-one matchups all over the field. [Mike Lapper] put out a team that was able to take on those one-on-one responsibilities and come out with dribbling ability, and that's what we managed to do at times; couple give-and-goes. Once we got past the first guy, things opened up a lot."

On the significance of this victory:

Agudelo: "It means a lot. I 100 percent feel like this can be a huge boost for us for the rest of the season. I hope so and I hope every single one of the players out there realizes how big of an effort we put in for one another today, communicating and encouraging one another."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On whether or not he was surprised to receive the starting job:

Turner: "Absolutely not, I always expected to play."

On his level of confidence after Mike Lapper told him he would be starting:

Turner: "It's really good to have that. You have a little bit of leeway, but also you hold yourself to a certain standard to be perfect always. Disappointed to let in a goal tonight, but overall I think when [the coach says] that they have their confidence in you, you just want to repay that, make the most of that, and fulfill that so that you continue to build that confidence and build consistency within the team."

On what he said to Andrew Farrell after the game:

Turner: "It's just one step in the right direction. Last year, we won games, but we never won two in a row, so it's a building block; it's a foundation. We didn't get the clean sheet and that was goal number one for the night, so we failed at that, but we fought until the end, we stayed together, and that was another thing we wanted to make sure of, which we hadn't done in the past two games. We want to stick together through good times and bad times within the game because games are really emotional. Obviously, we have a mid-week [game], a really great event with Chelsea and we look ahead to our league game at Montreal."

On the defensive effort tonight:

Turner: "I think you saw it. We were holding each other accountable out there. No one was taking things personally and we did a great job of being organized throughout the whole 90 minutes. It was a pretty nice goal. A quick one, too, at the top of the box, outside of the right foot finish through someone's legs, and sometimes you have to tip your cap -- but we were disappointed to concede because, overall, we were resolute defensively."

New England Defender Andrew Farrell

On tonight's response after a long, emotional week:

Farrell: "I think the guys came out and wanted to enjoy playing. We knew the past results have been pretty bad, so we knew we had to be better, we knew we were better, and, obviously, we had a tough team coming in here. San Jose have played well the past couple of games and we knew we had to be up

for the challenge and come out and play the ball in their half to get after them a little bit. I think it worked out. The guys up top did a good job.”

On the resiliency and mentality involved in tonight’s result:

Farrell: “It’s tough. You always feel pressure playing and especially going back to the results that we’ve had and how the season has gone for us. Every time you do something bad, you just feel down and today we had each other to pick ourselves up and everyone had the confidence and belief in each other and that goes a long way. When you see the ball in the back of the net, it just keeps you going. Everyone was working hard and had the belief in each other.”

On Mike Lapper’s coaching style so far:

Farrell: “He’s been great since he’s been here. All of the guys like him. He’s a guy you can have a conversation with, he tells you what he thinks, he can help you in different areas, and we got the win tonight, so it’s good.”

On tonight’s defense performance:

Farrell: “Obviously, you don’t want to give away that goal, but defensively from the back, everyone put in the shift. [Matt] Turner made some good saves. They have some good really players. [Magnus] Eriksson and [Danny] Hoesen -- he’s so fast and really good. Keeping a team like that with so much talent to one goal is a good job for us, especially given how we have been playing lately. It was great to build on this and get ready for this week. We’ve got Montreal, but we also have Chelsea.”

San Jose Earthquakes Head Coach Matías Almeyda

On his overall thoughts on the match:

Coach Almeyda: “It was a game where we maintained control of the game and the first two goals came from our own errors. After a difficult game of having control, [New England] had a lot of players in the area around the defense and it was very difficult for us.”

On the challenges his team faced in tonight’s match:

Coach Almeyda: “Well, we knew this team was playing poorly, and with a team playing poorly and a change of a head coach, it’s always an advantage for us. I think that after they scored the first goal in the first half, they defended very well.”

On preparing for Chicago next weekend:

Coach Almeyda: “First, we have a long trip home. This week, we’ll start out by watching what occurred in this game, and we’ll start to analyze the game.”

San Jose Earthquakes Midfielder Siad Haji

On his emotions upon making his debut:

Haji: “My emotions were just, mixed emotions. Being able to go there and just work hard and just being in front of my family was amazing. Working for the team was just amazing to me.”

On the impact of scoring their last-minute goal:

Haji: “It was good, because it shows momentum. It shows that we can do it. It shows that we are capable of keeping going and scoring. We just worked collectively and just kept going at them.”

On his takeaways from the game:

Haji: “I just think we’ve got to keep working and fighting. Other than that, I’m proud of these guys, I’m proud of everything they have done. Being able to support everybody, one another, especially for the young guys, I think that’s the big key.”

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