



May 25, 2019

POSTGAME QUOTES: New England Revolution 1 vs. D.C. United 1

New England Revolution Head Coach Mike Lapper

On how the last 10 minutes of the match felt:

Lapper: "It felt like an hour, for me. My heart, I can't stand it. (*Laughing*) It was just buckle down and defend like crazy. The guys in the locker room are obviously disappointed. They thought they should've got the three points, but I tell you, I'm so proud of them. I mean, they just worked so, so hard, and everyone stuck to the plan and it was a great team performance. D.C., woah, wow, what a fantastic team they are, with [Luciano] Acosta and [Wayne] Rooney, so dangerous. We got lucky a couple times, but in this game, you need a little luck to go your way and I just can't tell you how proud I am of those guys in the locker room."

On the immediate response after going down to 10 men:

Lapper: "I thought it was great. They picked their chances. They stayed in their block. They stayed disciplined and then when we could hit them on the counter, we went with full gusto and full commitment and that's what you need. You can't do it one foot in and one foot out. Either you do it or you don't and I thought they were committed to trying to get a goal and see what happens. And, I tell you, what a great service by [Cristian] Penilla. Great job by Juan [Agudelo] to head that. And you know, you could see they got a little frustrated. Rooney started dropping back more and more to pick up the ball, because he wasn't having much success against our back line. But yeah, great result, but disappointed we didn't get two more [points], because we're right there. We're right on the cusp, just need a little more luck."

On what has changed given the recent defensive improvement and organization at the back:

Lapper: "That's a good question. The reality is, not much. It's just, I've challenged them a little bit more, given them a little bit more freedom in some regards, but just challenged them to -- and I mentioned it on the TV -- we have a saying. We say, 'Do you'. And what that means is, whatever you bring to the table, whatever you bring to this team, do it to the best of your ability. So, Jalil [Anibaba], you go win balls and tackle. Andrew Farrell, do the dirty work. Get the balls to Carles [Gil], get the balls to [Cristian] Penilla and let them do them. Let them be them, because that's what they're good at. So, maybe if anything, it's really simplifying the game for them. And obviously, you noticed, we're not playing out of the back all that much, because for me, that's not one of our strengths, right now. And that's no disrespect to any of the guys on the back line. It's just not our strength. So, we're playing balls and we're fighting for balls in the midfield and then we're playing, because that's our strength, where Carles can get on the ball, where Juan Agudelo -- you know, so that's really it -- Penilla on the ball. Get them the ball as much as possible. I told them, I want the players to work, Carles and Penilla, like dogs. I want them to work so hard and be tired after the game because they were getting the balls too much. So, the more they get the balls, the better we are as a team, offensively, going forward."

On what the halftime message was and the positive start to the second half:

Lapper: "Well, first of all, our press wasn't very good and I had to sort that out, and that was an easy fix. I think it was just motivation. We challenged them again in the locker room. That wasn't good enough. And a lot of bounces weren't going our way for some reason. I think Brandon [Bye]'s first touch of the game, he touched it and he kind of tried to hook it up the line and he kicked it out of bounds. Again, Brandon not

winning some head balls. Tajon [Buchanan], the ball's bouncing around, it just wasn't settled. And I don't know if it was nerves for some of the young guys in an important game or what it was, but once we got settled and like you said, second half, it looked a lot better. A little confidence -- confidence goes a long way. So, maybe just telling them that, 'Hey, relax. Don't worry about it. I don't mind the mistakes. It's going to happen. Just keep doing what you're doing. Don't worry. It's going to come.' And that, I guess, it worked for us."

On the importance of laying a good foundation down before Bruce Arena steps in to the coaching role:

Lapper: "Yeah, it's huge. So, I used this game all week as being massive. It was big for the club, big for the players individually, as we make the transition. And they need to show themselves in front of Bruce [Arena] and show what kind of fight and grit they have, and they showed it tonight. I mean, it was a great, great result. I can't say it enough. I'm so proud of the guys. And Bruce is going to have some tough decisions, but we have a good team. We really do. That's a very good D.C. United team. I think they're tied for first and we gave them everything they could handle. I think the season, there's so much left to be played and so many points still to get out there. And my challenge to them now is going to be, can we go to L.A. and get three points, because we've got to get three points. We've got to stop getting one point, that's not going to be good enough. We've got to get some wins and we've got to get on a little bit of a roll. But, again, I can't fault the players. It was a great, great effort."

New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo

On tonight's performance and earning a point:

Agudelo: "I think we were deserving of the three points. We scored a goal a man down; we defended very good against a very strong D.C. side. Unfortunately, we got a point instead of three."

On the team's morale after the result:

Agudelo: "I think there are very few games like this. I just felt like it wasn't really our fault. Refs, they get rated on the decisions they make. They're human and it just didn't go our way. Personally, for me on the field, I thought it [D.C.'s awarded penalty] was the same play that happened in the first half and unfortunately it didn't go our way."

On his goal and what he saw from Cristian Penilla's cross:

Agudelo: "He's a quality player. I know if he's cutting in on his right, he's curling it. I was just able to put my right arm on the defender's chest, create some space, and kind of a little basketball play dunked it on him."

On the defensive efforts the last few games:

Agudelo: "What I do see is everyone's defending; everyone's fighting for one another. We're just a hard team to play against now. I don't know why we weren't before, but our defenders are just nasty, tenacious, and clearing balls all over the place. All credit to them with these past three games. We're not leaking that many goals anymore."

On Brad Knighton being called upon to replace Matt Turner in goal:

Agudelo: "It's huge. Big professional Brad [Knighton] is and for him to come in and to see who just got up from being hurt and was ready to take a free kick—Wayne Rooney—and for him to save that, to be disciplined enough to stay on his post and to make that save; that was huge for us. I think that encouraged us. That made us believe, okay, the next keeper that came in—he's up for it. Unfortunately, we weren't able to pick up the three points."

New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba

On his overall thoughts on the game:

Anibaba: "It's a tough one. We thought we had three points; sometimes that's how it goes. I thought everybody put everything they had in the game and everybody fought hard. It was a team effort. [Brad] Knighton came in and did an unbelievable job. [Matt] Turner got unlucky on the red card—that's football

sometimes. Everybody tried to gear everything they could to make sure we had three points, but unfortunately it ended up being fate.”

On Brad Knighton coming into the game:

Anibaba: “Brad [Knighton] is unbelievable in training and in the locker room, so he stays dialed in; he’s a team guy. [Matt] Turner’s a guy that is irreplaceable, but at the same time, too, Brad [Knighton] did a fantastic job coming in—and like you said, making an immediate save and making some crucial saves and some crucial holds and some crucial carries throughout the rest of the night.”

On the team’s performance playing a man down:

Anibaba: “We were organized pretty much through most of the game. There were some spurts where we got open in the spots that we didn’t want to be, but by and large, it’s training pitch stuff. We really focused over the last couple weeks on making sure that we’re organized and making sure that our defensive roles are crystal clear. Then, offensively [we] were well aware of what we were trying to do. It’s just a matter of everybody being on the same page and doing what they need to do.”

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Brad Knighton

On entering the match after Matt Turner’s red card:

Knighton: “That’s the nature of our position. You got to be ready at a moment’s notice. It’s unfortunate what happened with Matt [Turner]. It’s happened to me before, and I’m sure it won’t be the last time that it happens for either one of us. That’s not something that you wish upon or expect to happen, but you train every week, you train every day, and expect for a moment like that to happen and when you do you’ve got to take it [and move on].”

On Turner’s decision to approach the ball:

Knighton: “I wouldn’t say he took him down, that’s a bit harsh. I haven’t seen the replay or whatever, but that’s a bit hard. It’s a 50-50 ball. Anybody can get it, the wind can pick it up, and the ball can skip off the turf in any different direction. So, if that’s the way you want to look at it, that’s the way you look at it. We’re a reactions-oriented position, and he made a split second decision and he went with it and we’re all going to do that at all points of the game. It’s just unfortunate what happened. I don’t wish that on anybody because it couldn’t have been me back there.”

On playing with 10 men:

Knighton: “Since Mike [Lapper] has taken over, our emphasis has been on defensive shape and being tactically sound and hard to break down. You’ve seen that from the first two games that he managed, and going into tonight, it’s the same result we wanted. I thought the guys in front of us did a fantastic job on limiting their opportunities. They’ve got some very good players in the attacking third. I thought overall as a team, we did a very good job of limiting that, especially going down a man and weathering the storm the last 20 minutes of the game.”

D.C. United Head Coach Ben Olsen

On his takeaways from the match:

Olsen: “I’m going to put my optimistic hat on and say that it’s a good point on the road, and that they’re a dangerous team. It’s a hard place to play. The turf stinks and, historically, it’s been hard to grab points here and we’re able to do that tonight. Yes, we were up a man when they scored, but they’re a dynamic team. We didn’t do so well on the day in a few areas and they hit us, but we responded. We’ve had some teams that weren’t able to do that and our heads didn’t hang. We understood what we needed to do to get the goal back, and we got the goal. So, maybe have a chance for the second [goal] there and maybe a little bit more clinical or creative in the final third to see that out, but it didn’t happen. And again, it’s not an easy place to be. So, we’ll take the point and go back home knowing that we have to go try and maximize the points over the next two games before the break.”

On lapses in judgment over the last two games:

Olsen: “I see it and we’ll address it, but I don’t want to highlight that too much. We’re going to give up goals. We’re not going to have clean sheets every night in this league. We’ll try to fix some of those mistakes and continue to chug along.”

On the attack looking more vibrant and engaged from the start of the match:

Olsen: “I thought Titi [Rodriguez] right from the get-go was extremely busy and I thought he was a real handful. I thought Ulises Segura had a very good game. Again, I said before the game that he, like Paul [Arriola], has been shifted around a bunch of different spots over the span of these last six weeks or seven weeks and that’s his natural position. When he’s in there, he does a pretty damn good job for us, so I thought he did a good job. Wayne [Rooney], obviously clinical on the PK and had his moments. Leo Jara, I thought, was dangerous getting forward. I thought the subs, Quincy [Amarikwa] and [Zoltan] Stieber, really affected the game in a positive way. So, again you would want three points if you look at the stats and the red card, but it’s not an easy place to get anything from.”

D.C. United Forward Wayne Rooney

On the collision with Revolution goalkeeper Matt Turner:

Rooney: “It’s like being in a car crash. I think it’s misjudgment by the goalkeeper. As I turned, I see him right on top of me and [it was] poor judgment, and the referee got the decision right. These things happen. It’s sore, but I’ll be okay.”

On what hurts most after the collision:

Rooney: “A bit of everything – chest, shoulder, a bit of my face. It’s one of those things, and I’m sure he meant no harm in it. He just misjudged it.”

On conceding a goal after going up a man:

Rooney: “It’s been probably two goals in the last three games where we’ve been caught out on the back post and conceded a goal, so it’s something to look at. I felt we were in control of the game a lot of the time, so I think there’s times where you come off the field and you’re more disappointed with certain aspects of your game at times. I thought today we played a lot better football than we have been. We’ve been a bit more confident. And, obviously, to get the goal back to take the point, it was good for the soul. I don’t think it’s as disappointing performance as some of the previous performances, so it’s something for us to build on the next two games.”

On the general sense of the team heading into an upcoming busy schedule:

Rooney: “We’ve got two games at home and then a bit of break from the league, so we’ve put ourselves in a good position. There’s a lot teams gathering up now in the East and it’s gotten tight. At the minute, we sat at the top of that, so if we can win the next two games going into that break, midway in the season, it gives us something to reflect on and try to improve on that going into the second half of the season.”

-end-

MEDIA RESOURCES

[Media Website](#) | [2019 Schedule](#) | [Roster](#) | [Photos/Video](#)
[YouTube](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [SoundCloud](#) | [Broadcast](#)
Social: NERevolution | #NERevs

COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

Communications Staff		Media@revolutionsoccer.net
Kaitlin Gangl Alden, Communications Director	(508) 549-0496	KaitlinGA@revolutionsoccer.net
Adam Klionsky, Communications Manager	(508) 455-7551	AdamK@revolutionsoccer.net
Scott Altman, Communications Coordinator	(508) 549-0533	ScottA@revolutionsoccer.net
Nick Sobel, Communications Coordinator	(508) 404-0248	NicholasS@revolutionsoccer.net

#NERevs

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION | ONE PATRIOT PLACE | FOXBOROUGH, MASS. 02035