



August 3, 2019

POSTGAME QUOTES: New England Revolution 0 vs. Los Angeles FC 2

New England Revolution Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena

On the game being more of a wide open game:

Arena: "Yeah, and the better team won the game. No question about that. I think for us to have a chance to get a result in this game, we had to do better with some of the potential goal scoring opportunities we created, and we just wasted a number of opportunities tonight. Had a breakaway, had a couple of runs at goal where we had a man advantage and didn't make the right play. So, that was our theme in the attacking part of the field. I think in the middle third of the field, they dominated the game. We needed to win more second balls, win a few more tackles, and then the end of the game, you know, I hate using all my substitutions too early. And typically, that's why you see, you hold out until the last five or 10 minutes, but we gambled a little bit and then Toni [Antonio Delamea] had to come out. So, the end of the game was difficult for us. And certainly, [Carlos] Vela's goal-scoring streak ended, but he's to blame for that tonight. He had a bunch of chances to get some goals at the end. But overall, I think it's a good experience for us. It -- what's the right word for it? -- it supports some of the things we talk to our team about all the time. They see this a little bit, so to get better and compete with a team like this, we've got to be a little bit better in some of the things we do on the field. We'll learn from that and hopefully grow as a team."

On what LAFC did defensively to cut down on the Revs' attack:

Arena: "Well, I think it's what we didn't do, not what they did. We had a number of chances in each half to create a real good goal-scoring opportunity and put the ball in the back of the net and we didn't get it done."

On the talk of LAFC being one of the best teams in MLS history:

Arena: "Well, I wouldn't say 'in MLS history.' They haven't won anything. If the Patriots didn't win any Super Bowls, would you be talking about [them]. To be one of the best teams in history, you have to win something. They haven't won anything yet. That's their challenge and I would not be surprised if this is the year where they win, but that, to me, is stupid talk, saying they're one of the best teams in MLS history. Let them win something first and I would not be surprised at all if they did it this year."

On the midfield play of the Revolution and whether it was the players not trying hard enough:

Arena: (Laughing) "I suspect they were trying hard enough. They [LAFC] are a little quicker, physically, mentally. I think the pressure that their three central midfielders put on the ball was outstanding. I'm saying [Latif] Blessing and [Mark-Anthony] Kaye and [Eduard] Atuesta, really very impressive. I think that's a part of their game that is not appreciated and I think they're really outstanding there."

On if he believes there should have been penalty kicks called for fouls against Cristian Penilla:

Arena: "Well, I'm guessing that we didn't have one. I'll look at the tape and all. Maybe the one in the first half for [Cristian] Penilla, but I think this VAR [video assistant referee] checks those potential penalty kick calls and nothing was confirmed, so I have to believe they weren't fouls."

On if the lack of finishing was a factor of the team not playing together for a long period of time:

Arena: "I don't believe that's the case. I think a couple of players are at fault for not executing properly."

On if players were shooting when they should have passed in certain situations:

Arena: "Yeah, I could say that. I think the one potential chance we had with [Gustavo] Bou and [Teal] Bunbury, 2-v-1 at goal, I think Bunbury has to lay that ball off to Bou. And Bou had the breakaway and wasn't able to finish off the play. There were, on the night, maybe four or five plays like that, that if you convert one of those, then you're really giving them a game and you're testing them. And we weren't able to do that. Their goal, it's just kind of an accident, that first goal. Certainly, he was trying to cross the ball. That's a classic artificial field goal. I've seen that throughout the years and those things happen. And then in the second half, they certainly had a number of good goal scoring opportunities."

On the play of Matt Turner:

Arena: "Yeah. He did very well. I mean, [Carlos] Vela was coming at him at the end of that game and Vela easily could've had a couple of goals. Matt did very well, made one, I thought, absolutely terrific save on Vela at the end of the game."

On the importance of getting points from the next couple of tough away games ahead:

Arena: "Well, you kind of answered your question. If you want to position yourself to make the playoffs, you've got to get some points, right?"

On the injury status of Antonio Mlinar Delamea:

Arena: "I haven't seen him, but my guess is, he's going to be out, would be my guess."

On what he and his son, Kenny Arena, spoke about after the game:

Arena: "Well, not much to say. I obviously know him pretty well. I know the LAFC team pretty well and their staff, and it was just congratulations and well done. We might have a beer after the game here sometime and talk about it, but just good to see a quality team on the field like that, to play against them and give our team a measuring stick as to where they need to go to get better. So, I think, on the night, was certainly disappointed losing, but hopefully we can learn something from this."

On if he is still looking to add players:

Arena: "You know, if it's possible. We only have a couple days left to do that. It's possible, but I think everything I'm doing this year is to try to give us a plan for the future. There's no reason to believe that we have to do everything now. We have the offseason to try to strengthen our roster."

On if he'll be watching closely to see how the team responds to the first loss in months:

Arena: "Oh, they'll be fine. They'll be fine."

On how the squad handles the emotions of the past few weeks:

Arena: "I think they'll be fine. One thing is that there are guys with a lot of character. We have good leaders in the locker room. When you play this game, you realize that you don't win every game and it's challenging and I think at this point, we can be pleased at the effort that the guys are giving and the progress we're making. I think that's a positive."

On if he sees comparisons between his previously coached LA Galaxy teams and the current LAFC team:

Arena: "No, we had different teams. We played differently. Maybe my D.C. United teams are maybe a little bit more like this, but both teams are different. Real Madrid doesn't play like Barcelona. Bayern Munich doesn't play like Man. City. All good teams have their own styles and they certainly have theirs, and they've proven to be very successful."

On Andrew Farrell's effort, particularly on the goal-saving play in the first half:

Arena: "It was a great individual play. His second half, certainly tested. A lot of this is still new for Andrew [Farrell]. He's typically been a right back and he's still learning a little bit about his positioning, how to play out of the back from that position, but he's made progress and he's had really a good run in that position since I've been here."

On if he thinks Andrew Farrell's future is at center back or right back:

Arena: "I don't know the answer to that question right now. He has to be a center back right now. And it's been a little thin. You know, we're really thin in the back, and Michael Mancienne was in our 18 tonight for the first time in, I would think, three or four months, I don't even know. So, that's good to get him back and now it looks like Toni [Antonio Delamea] is going to be out. So, Andrew's certainly going to be playing in that position."

New England Forward Teal Bunbury

On whether or not the team created enough chances in tonight's match:

Bunbury: "Yeah, I think we did. LAFC -- a great team. I think they just had a little bit more composure in the final third. I think we were missing on opportunities, myself included. I think our final pass was off; I think we just didn't handle the ball too well. We have ourselves to blame, but I'm still proud of how we played. We created a bunch of chances, but it stinks. Losing at home, being shut out at home; disappointing."

On Los Angeles FC's defense:

Bunbury: "I think they have a great defense, but I think it was mainly ourselves kind of shooting ourselves in the foot, to be honest. I don't think it was too much of what they were doing—no disrespect to them—but I just think we were just a little bit errant on our passing; not as clinical. That killer instinct wasn't there, maybe we were holding on to it a little bit too long to find that perfect ball, and I think that hurt us."

On why the killer instinct wasn't there:

Bunbury: "I'm not sure. I don't know how to answer that one."

On his takeaways from tonight's match:

Bunbury: "That we still have a lot of stuff to improve on; that those things we can improve on are things that are easy to control in training. It's not like we weren't creating chances. I think we had enough to put them away, we just had to get some on target. I think it's still continuing to work hard together and not put our heads down. We're still in great position, we have everything to play for, so we have to keep our heads up and work together."

On whether or not he believes in the team's level of contention:

Bunbury: "Yeah, of course. I think that we've shown that we're able to play, to win, and to get good results. I don't think one game is a make-it-or-break-it game for us. It's disappointing because nobody likes to lose and I think we've all had this good run, so we've been feeling good. Sometimes, you need a loss like this to kind of go back and get things in order and make sure we're right mentally."

On Lee Nguyen's reception:

Bunbury: "It's tough with fans sometimes. I think he did a great service for this club and this organization, he's a great player, and I think he's enjoying himself in L.A."

On learning lessons from tonight's game:

Bunbury: "I think it's coming at a good time. It's never fun to lose, but we can take a lot from it and I think Coach Arena is going to have some talking points this upcoming week."

New England Defender Andrew Farrell

On whether or not the team has learned what it's made of:

Farrell: "I think so. Obviously, [we're] disappointed with the result. We wanted to keep the streak going and we wanted to win at home in front of a great crowd. We learned a lesson against a team like LAFC: if you make a couple of mistakes, you're going to go down, but at the end of the day I think we had a chance to score and we were in the game for most of it. We've got to be better with the ball. We're disappointed because if we played our best we could've had a different result, but you make mistakes against a team like this, they're going to make you pay."

On making a goal line save:

Farrell: “We lost the ball in the middle and they’re so quick with those through balls. [Carlos] Vela’s really quick. It doesn’t look like it but he’s really quick. I tried to get him off the push and [Matt] Turner made a great save and it kind of hit off me. [Matt] Turner’s been saving us all year and I just want to make a play. Luckily, I could make it and I think for the most part, obviously, at the end they had more chances. We were down a man and they’re a great team, so it’s a good lesson and it was fun being out there. We had a great crowd and I think that’s good for us to keep learning these lessons with ten games left.”

On feeling the crowd’s energy and making the final pass:

Farrell: “Yeah, I think it helped us. Obviously, going down early was tough, but with the play from the guys up top, if we were just [better with] the final pass, I think we could’ve been a little bit better here or there in getting it to those guys. We could’ve gotten it to them a little bit faster so they could do their stuff they’ve been doing, but yeah, it was fun being out there in front of a great crowd.”

LAFC Head Coach Bob Bradley

On recording a clean sheet:

Bradley: “Yeah, we talked about the fact that we had started to allow a few more chances in every game and started to give up some goals. We had to kind of refocus ourselves. That was one of the messages after the last game and I think that’s important for the group.”

On trying to keep more control in the second half:

Bradley: “Yes, we talked about the way the midfield had to stay connected more; the way they had to look around then move a yard or two to always be available. I think there were times in the first half where we’d make one pass then the midfielder who played the pass would not move a little bit to be available for a pass a little bit later. So, I think the midfield started to get more confidence, get control. That flips when we’re in good position defensively, when balls turnover and we’re able to also pressure them in that high middle part of the field, so I think that was important at halftime.”

On Diego Rossi’s recent scoring surge:

Bradley: “He does the same thing. I mean, Diego [Rossi] is a dangerous attacker; his speed, his ability to time runs. I think the understanding of the rest of the team to find him in certain situations—Jordan [Harvey] gave him a really good pass, and look, when we have the ball and connect passes, then teams try to squeeze us hard. We have to be able to threaten behind, and so the timing and the movement for the first goal was very good.”

On Latif Blessing’s goal:

Bradley: “Yeah, it was a great goal. It was a great team goal and then Latif [Blessing] had the composure to finish it off in a fantastic way. We get excited when there’s a team goal where the quality of the passes and the understanding are all at the top level. So, for us that was a special goal.”

On the feelings surrounding beating Bruce Arena’s team:

Bradley: “No, Bruce and I are long past that stuff. No, what we’ve talked about is that New England has played very well lately, so we knew coming in that it would be a very difficult game. They’re an athletic team. I think in this last stretch, you can see how well [Carlos] Gil has played, how well [Gustavo] Bou has played. So, I think his top players have raised the bar a little bit, and as a group, for me, they’ve been in a really good run. So, we knew it was going to be a tough game all around.”

On beating a team on an unbeaten streak:

Bradley: “Look, this is an away game in a tough place to play. You all know how I feel about that field, okay? You know, it’s not made for our football, plain and simple. So, the number of times where the ball gets stuck, there’s collisions. The one play where Carlos [Vela] was dribbling in the box and then literally, the ball, the rubber, everything sprang. So, to come here and still have a good mentality, because we tell the team that, look, there’s going to be moments where the ball is going to be bouncing around, try to play

on the ground when we can, try to play our football, and if something gets a little bit away, you've got to have the mentality to just keep going. So, I thought that was really good."

On being a second-year team:

Bradley: "No, look, you guys watch football. You should be able to and determine, based upon what you see: what the football looks like, how different players play. Is there fluidity? Is there tempo? Is there control? Is there transition? I mean, look, every team has different qualities. So, no. This other kind of talk of expansion or second year, whatever, is just a waste of time. I think the football discussion in our country sometimes needs to just be more about football. More about what happens on the field and what the games look like and less of the other talking points."

LAFc Midfielder Lee Nguyen

On his first game in New England since his trade to LAFc:

Nguyen: "It was great to be back. Thank you to the Revs and the media team for making that nice little montage in warm ups. That was great to see. It was a lot of history, a lot of great things, good times when I was here. It was great to see all the fans here celebrating it, and it brought back a lot of good memories."

On getting booed when he entered the match as a substitute:

Nguyen: "This is my first time back since I left for LAFc. You never know how the fans are going to react. I think it was a tell that after the game, everybody was amazing and thankful, and it was great to see that. That thing warms my heart. It was a great welcome back, for sure."

On if he reflects on his tenure with the Revolution fondly:

Nguyen: "Yeah, absolutely. You all know, the way we kind of departed on terms, it was a situation that obviously wasn't the way I wanted it to happen. But it happened and both sides had to move on. There was no bad blood between me and the teammates, the staff. It was just a thing that, I needed a change of scenery, a new challenge. I think I landed in a great spot. A little bit warmer [laughs]. Coming back and getting the welcome that I did, it just goes to show that I had a great time here and there's a lot of fond memories that got brought back because of that."

On saluting the Revolution supporters after the game:

Nguyen: "It was great to see after the game they still wanted me to come over there and say what's up. There's a lot of history that happened here with my time, and there's a lot of great times. To see that they embraced me after the game like that meant a lot. It goes to show I have love back here, and I love that."

On if he still keeps tabs on how the Revs are doing:

Nguyen: "I always wish well with the guys on the Revs, because I have a lot of great friends on this team. It's always great to see them do well, but at the same time, I wish LAFc all the best. If we have to meet [each other] in the finals, then, hey, so be it."

LAFc Goalkeeper Tyler Miller

On keeping a clean sheet:

Miller: "It's been a big focus for us, and now that one of the reasons we've been so successful this year is our potent offense and how well they've been doing, and how solid our defense has been. I think we lost that a little bit, but I think tonight was a good game for us to really step up. It really was a team effort in keeping it zero tonight."

On the shutout helping his confidence:

Miller: "Throughout the entire season, you're going to play 34 games and it's a long, long season. You're going to go in ebbs and flows, but we knew we wanted to get back on track and tonight was a big opportunity for us to do that."

On snapping New England's unbeaten streak:

Miller: "First, we knew that they had been performing really well in the last 10, 11 games, so we knew it was going to be a tough task. I think that early on they had a lot of control of the game, but I think that our team responded well, getting that first goal. The way that we started the second half I thought was tremendous and being able to maintain the solid defense, then knowing that that second goal would come which would ultimately allow us to have a lot more control of the game."

On how he plays games with early leads:

Miller: "No, for me I want our team to play the same way whether we're winning or losing, because that's how we know we're performing our best. When we score, it's just an important time to remind the guys, hey, keep going, keep playing our style. Don't change anything because what we do is a difficult style of play, but when we do it properly, we're successful with it."

On returning from Gold Cup with the U.S. Men's National Team:

Miller: "It's a lot of mentally refocusing. For me, six weeks without a game, yes, it's difficult, but it's part of the process of getting called to the national team. That's something I have to learn as a pro to deal with and make sure that I come back hopefully next time in a better form. I knew what I was capable of doing and I had done in the first half of the season, but I try to just focus on where and when in the current moment and keep fighting and working hard because I know who I am, what I'm capable of doing. I knew that eventually it would come around and I just had to keep working hard and put my head down and do it."

-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 Kliensky, 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