



August 24, 2019

POSTGAME QUOTES: New England Revolution 2 vs. Chicago Fire 1

New England Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena

On his thoughts on the win:

Arena: "Oh, we scored more goals than they did. That's how we did it. It was a battle. I think they played real hard and they made the game difficult for us. With Teal [Bunbury] going out early in the game, we lost the presence of a real number nine. Although, [Cristian] Penilla came in and did a good job, but as the game went on, I think they were a little bit more dominant in the air, on second balls. We picked it up probably around the 60-minute mark, got a little bit better, and I think the contributions we got out of Penilla tonight and [Juan] Agudelo and Juan Fernando Caicedo was very helpful. And obviously, the goal by [Gustavo] Bou was another great goal."

On Gustavo Bou and his form:

Arena: "Well, he's an attacking player. He can score goals. He can create opportunities for his teammates and he's obviously very good in possession as well. He's a good partner with Carles [Gil]. He's simply, obviously a very good player."

On Bou scoring the game-winning goal with his left foot:

Arena: "That's his bad foot. You should see his good one. That was a heck of a goal. What can you say? Those kind of goals, it's all coaching, those kind of goals. You know?"

On the expectations for a player like Gustavo Bou in late-match situations:

Arena: "Well, that's why we put [Juan Fernando] Caicedo in. We wanted to let Gustavo [Bou] play a little bit underneath the striker. He was playing with his back to the goal for most of the second half and we needed to get him facing the goal a little bit more. He's a goal scorer. He's a winner. Give him credit."

On the problems in the middle third and whether or not there was frustration as a result:

Arena: "I don't think we were frustrated. Our passing was poor and Chicago did a good job getting in passing lanes and picking off balls, which made it difficult for us."

On his expectations for Chicago playing without Bastian Schweinsteiger and Aleksandar Katai:

Arena: "Down a bit? No. That's the game. You always, in situations where you're missing a player, for one reason or another, it's all part of it. It happens to every team. We saw their lineup. We thought they put a good team on the field. So, we expected a real hard game and certainly, as it got to the second half, I think they were pretty focused on trying to get a point and get out of here. And give them credit. I thought they did a good job."

On the performance of Wilfried Zaha:

Arena: "Good. We've been trying to get him to get into the penalty area a little bit more, so that was a great goal for us. And give them credit. I think the ball [Nicolas] Gaitán served for their goal on the set piece was an excellent ball. It was well timed and give them credit."

On the importance of starting off the back-to-back home matches with three points:

Arena: "Well, it's great to get the first three. And certainly next week is going to be real difficult because I think Toronto is among the best teams in our league, let alone in our conference. I think they're going to come in here in a situation like we are. You're in the thick of things and you want to get points, so I think it's going to be a tough game."

New England Revolution Forward Gustavo Bou

On what he was thinking as he shot the ball on the game-winning goal:

Bou: "It was definitely an exciting moment with a few minutes left. We knew we had to keep pushing to get the three points. It was a quick play, the ball rebounded, I was able to get it back and put it to my left foot, and I didn't think twice. Looked up, hit the ball, and fortunately for me, it went in. Really, the most important thing is that we were able to get the three points today, especially against a team that is fighting to get into a playoff spot just like we are."

On what it took to break down the Chicago defense:

Bou: "We knew from the beginning that it was going to be a game with a lot of friction. Their team defends very well. They stay back pretty tight. It was hard for us to penetrate through the middle of the field. Their defense was sitting way back. We knew it was going to take a special moment to break them down. In the first half, we got that goal from the open play. Then, they got lucky and scored on a set piece, but we knew when we got back in the second half, we just had to keep pushing. We knew it was going to take a special moment like that because of how well the other team was defending. They wanted to leave here with something, but lucky for us, we were able to stay calm, stay composed, and in that moment, I got the ball and managed to score. The most important thing is that we walked out of here with the three points."

On whether or not he has scored a lot of goals with his left foot:

Bou: "I don't score very often [with my left]. I've been told to shoot a lot with my left and that I have a great left foot. I don't do it often, but today, it worked out and I was able to score."

New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell

On the team's performance in the second half:

Farrell: "Yeah, I thought we came out all right in the second half. Chicago had a lot of the ball, but not that many chances – kind of balls over the top. But I think we did a good enough job to keep them [contained]. We just need to get a little bit quicker in our movements up top and be a little bit patient. Thankfully, we got some magic up top to score a goal like that, but I think it was good for the guys to stay in the whole time and not kind of get too frantic and get a little bit desperate. When you got guys like Gustavo [Bou] and Carles [Gil] and [Cristian] Penilla, Teal [Bunbury] Diego [Fagundez], all those guys that can make a play like that. That's why I'm glad they're on our team."

His reaction to Gustavo Bou's goal:

Farrell: "I was looking because you got [Cristian] Penilla a little bit on the left, so I thought he was going to slip it to me. I think he lost it and then he won it back right away, and I was like, oh, maybe he was going to slide it to Penilla. He took it and it looked like it was going straight to the keeper but it knuckles a little bit off to the left and he started running straight to the corner. Yeah, great goal and it was more he had the chance, lost it, then won it back and buried it."

On Bou delivering in a clutch moment:

Farrell: "That's why I think he's here. He's a guy that's a difference maker. Great job acquiring a guy with that talent. He's been doing a lot of scoring goals, assisting for us, and another big play in a game where maybe we didn't have a lot going at times. It's important to win these games at home that we have. That's a big win for us, especially after two ties to keep the momentum going."

On if he has ever seen Bou score a goal like that:

Farrell: "Not like that. I've never seen him knuckle it like that. From the first day he got here, he can strike a ball. I thought he was going to pass it but he's a goal scorer, so I'm happy he took his chances and buried it."

On coming out of the match with three points:

Farrell: "I think it huge, especially with the last two results. We need to win our home games and it's so tight right now that a tie at home isn't going to do you much good. It's good to win against another team that's right behind us. We got to keep this thing going. We got a big game coming up next week."

On how much the team discusses the playoff race:

Farrell: "It's something that I think – it's been a couple years [since] we've been around [a playoff spot] – something that we can chase. You taste it. It's right there. You can't necessarily control your destiny, but you can control your outcomes, you can win your games, you can be there. It's very tight. A tie isn't going to do us much good, especially at home, especially a team that's right below us. I want to play in the postseason. It's been a long time. At the same time, we still got seven games to get there."

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