



March 12, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: March 12, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from Tuesday's media availability previewing this Sunday's away match against Toronto FC (NBC Sports Boston – 7:30 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Forward Teal Bunbury](#)
- [Midfielder Scott Caldwell](#)
- [Defender Brandon Bye](#)

To request additional footage and interviews, or to RSVP for an upcoming match or training session, please contact the Revolution communications staff at media@revolutionsoccer.net.

[New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)

On his takeaways from Saturday's match against Columbus:

Coach Friedel: "Be a lot more aggressive going forward. The teams – both Dallas and Columbus – have not really hurt us with them offensively, with us defensively, at all. A very good ball in [to Gyasi Zardes]. Yes, we could've done a couple things on their first goal. Other than that, not a lot. Brad [Knighton] had one other save to make, and it was a similar story at the Dallas game. We're working hard defensively, and we'll keep getting better and better the more times we play with each other. Going forward, we have to have a lot more urgency, get in the other half a lot quicker in the transition, and then decide whether we want to go to goal or keep the ball from there. We have good enough players to do that. For some reason, especially in the first half, [we were] very passive at doing it. It's something that we'll try to address."

On the overall changes he is looking to implement:

Coach Friedel: "We worked hard in preseason. It's difficult to switch the light switch on and off when you're talking about where to press on the field. We're going to be an aggressive team no matter where we set our line of confrontation, and we knew even from last season, but we were trying to instill a culture at the club. We're going to have to some games press high, some games not, and you're going to have to play both systems. One thing that's going to stay true is you're going to have to be very aggressive, but then we're also going to have to be aggressive going forward, and we have the tools to do that in abundance and we have to do that a little bit better."

On how close Luis Caicedo is to full fitness:

Coach Friedel: "Close, close. We had a reserve game on Sunday and he came through very, very well. Hopefully we'll see him on the pitch soon."

On the status of Juan Fernando Caicedo:

Coach Friedel: "Hopefully, we'll see Juan Fernando [Caicedo] soon as well. We said day-to-day, he has been day-to-day. He's been doing a lot of fitness work. We were a little bit worried about a possible reaction to include him last weekend, so hopefully he's nearing the field very soon as well."

New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury

On his takeaways from Saturday's home opener:

Bunbury: "It's just to learn from some mistakes. Columbus was a good team and they finished a couple chances that they had – they didn't have many. I think there are still some positives we can take from the game. I think that's what we kind of have to do. It's disappointing, the home opener in front of our fans, and kind of letting them down. We can say that it's a long season and we still have many games, but we kind of have to start correcting some of those things that were kind of lingering from last year, so this week in training it's going to be important that we're all locked in, we understand the game plan, we're motivated, keeping our spirits up knowing that we're going to go on the road now and face a Toronto team that's really talented – but we're fully capable of getting three points there."

On adjusting to tactical changes this year:

Bunbury: "It's a little bit different. We have some new pieces in and kind of starting a different philosophy in terms of when we start our press – maybe not as high at times, but we're fully capable of changing that and putting teams under pressure if we need to. I think it's just getting an understanding. I think through preseason we were able to kind of lock that in a little bit better and I think we still need to just improve on that and I think it's something where it's game-to-game and everybody has to know, 'Hey, this team is showing something different,' so we might have to change our tactics in that aspect."

On rookies Justin Rennicks and Tajon Buchanan making their debuts on Saturday:

Bunbury: "I think it's huge – a huge congratulations to both of them. They've been working so hard this preseason and both of them getting the chance to step on the field for the first time, it's a great honor. I still remember mine way back when. They push other guys, you can tell that they're hungry; they both brought a little spark to the game, so that's a positive. Moving forward, they've got to continue to improve in training, keep pushing themselves, and there are a lot of things that we all as players need to work on, but really happy for both of them."

On facing Toronto FC this weekend:

Bunbury: "They had a bye and they might be a little bit rested. They have guys that can kind of change the game, but it's really going to be focusing on things we want to control. We know going into Toronto and playing in their stadium, it's kind of a hostile environment there, so we'll have to kind of quiet the crowd and make sure that we're putting pressure on them. They're playing at home, so we want to make sure that we're not letting the crowd get into the game in any way, sticking together as a unit, pumping each other up, and our goal is to go there and get three points."

New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell

On the overall takeaways from Saturday's match against Columbus:

Caldwell: "I think the first half was a little slow and not enough urgency on our part. We definitely picked it up in the second half, but we can't let that become a habit. A faster start is something to work on, along with some more details."

On the group's defensive outlook:

Caldwell: "I think we've done a good job of staying together in good shape and not allowing quality chances – not many of them, at least. That's something to build on, but we definitely have to keep a clean sheet."

On adjusting to tactical changes:

Caldwell: "I think we've done well with it on the defensive side of things, like we've said, but we're not creating enough, and we're not turning our defensive challenges and our defensive steps into anything on the attacking end. I think that's something we have to improve on and something that we'll continue to work out."

On his specific role on the field:

Caldwell: “The last year and a half, I’ve found myself a little bit higher up the field and it’s something that I see happening, but still we’re 11 guys defending, 11 guys attacking. We’re all working together and it’s something that we’ll continue to work on each week.”

On facing Toronto FC this Sunday:

Caldwell: “They’re a very talented team – they have been for years now. Last year was a down year for them, so I’m sure they’re ready to get after it this year and they’re going to be a challenging team any time you play them.”

New England Revolution Defender Brandon Bye

On his overall takeaways from Saturday’s result:

Bye: “Obviously, that’s not the result we wanted, but moving forward, it’s a long season and we just have to look forward to the next game and look to Toronto to get three points.”

On adjusting to tactical changes:

Bye: “It’s changed a little bit, but the philosophy is still the same. A little less of a press up front, but we’re looking to win the ball in the middle of the field and to attack. I don’t think it’s changed really that much from year to year, but obviously we didn’t execute on the weekend and we’re looking to do that this upcoming weekend.”

On the backline’s mentality for this upcoming weekend:

Bye: “To stay solid. I don’t think we played too poorly in the game [against Columbus]. They had the first goal and then the last goal. We were really just trying to up our pressure to find a goal and tie the game, but we’re just looking to start solid on the backline, prevent goals, obviously, and to look to get forward as much as possible.”

On rookies Justin Rennicks and Tajon Buchanan making their MLS debuts:

Bye: “It’s very important. Getting minutes gets you more comfortable. Any minutes that you can get, gets you more comfortable in whatever you’re doing. Those guys getting out there and just gelling with the team more and seeing the atmosphere that MLS is – it’s important for them.”

On facing Toronto FC this weekend:

Bye: “They’ll be ready to go. They’re coming off a bye week. They’ll be ready to go, knowing exactly who they’re playing, but we’ll be ready as well. I think this week is a little longer because it’s a Sunday game, but we’re ready to go, and we’ll get up there and hopefully get three points.”

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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

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