



March 26, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: March 26, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from Tuesday's media availability previewing this Saturday's home match against Minnesota United FC (NBC Sports Boston – 2:00 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Midfielder DeJuan Jones](#)
- [Defender Michael Mancienne](#)
- [Goalkeeper Brad Knighton](#)

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 rallying the team for Saturday's match vs. Minnesota United FC:

Coach Friedel: "There's no getting away from the fact that the work rate from a few players was simply not there in the first half [against FC Cincinnati]. So, we had to address it. It's never nice meetings. We just got finished with that. It's there to see on the video. You can't get away from that fact. So, now, after we've pointed it out -- like with any game, there's also positives in the game. It's not like we didn't have chances. The second half was far better than the first, but those sound more like excuses made up. We're losing games in the first half of games. Now that we've said our piece as a staff, now we have to look forward in a positive way to Minnesota."

On drawing on the team's stronger second-half showings:

Coach Friedel: "The confidence is something that we have to get back in the players to be able to do for 90 minutes. There's no doubt. The players all know here that are with us, whatever we say, it's not personal. We're just trying to improve the group collectively. I stand by the fact that we have good players. I stand by the fact that once we put it together for 90 minutes, we will be getting results. I hope that starts on Saturday, but there were also some very worrying signs with some work issues in the first half on Sunday."

On the importance of getting points with four of the next five games at home:

Coach Friedel: "It's important to win every game, to be honest with you. You can't lose too many games. I said it in the press conference after the game -- the good news is we're having this at the beginning of the season and not the end of the season. We have changed approach a little bit hoping that our players will be far more fresh come the midway point and on through the end of the season. We're still hoping that's going to be the case, but that doesn't take away from the fact that we should be working very hard right now in games and getting points. So, yes, the games coming up are very important, and I'd be lying to you if I said they weren't."

On injury updates on Isaac Angking and Tajon Buchanan:

Coach Friedel: "Isaac [Angking] is having an operation this afternoon on his knee. Tajon [Buchanan] looks to be okay. We've gotten the go ahead for him to resume full."

On Justin Rennick's status:

Coach Friedel: "He has a Grade 1 strain on his hamstring. Usually – I'm not a doctor – but those are two-to-four weeks. It just happened on a sprint."

New England Revolution Defender Michael Mancienne

On rallying the team heading into Saturday's match:

Mancienne: "Just got to pick everyone up. Obviously, we're on a bit of a low at the minute. It's never nice losing games. Everyone wants to win. It's a part of being a sportsman. You want to win everything that you do. It's tough at the moment, but just got to pick the boys up. We've just got to focus on the next game, because we can't change the past at the moment."

On ensuring there's pressure on players to succeed:

Mancienne: "No one wants to lose games and we don't want to keep losing games consecutively. We need to win. We need points on the board. At the beginning of the season, we talked about – obviously, we want to be in the playoffs. That's where we want to be. We want to be winning stuff. That's the whole point of being in this game. You want to win. We've just got to make sure that we're focused and ready to go."

On improving the team's first-half performances:

Mancienne: "It's massively important. We can't wait to go a goal down before we realize, 'Oh, we need to start playing now.' We need to come out from the first whistle and make sure that we're on it."

On preparing for Minnesota and forward Darwin Quintero:

Mancienne: "There just needs to be communication. Communication between everyone on the pitch to make peoples' jobs easier. That's the most important thing."

On the effect one win can have:

Mancienne: "It can change everything. One win can turn a whole season around. You can go on a little run after one win, and confidence comes back, confidence is high. You can go on a string of games and win a lot of games. One win is vital."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Brad Knighton

On the approach to this week of training:

Knighton: "Find the positives. We just reviewed the film. There's a lot of stuff that we can correct, and the good thing is we have a home game coming up here in a couple days. For us, it's to come together as a group, rectify the situation, and make it better the next time out."

On maintaining intensity for a full 90 minutes:

Knighton: "If we can put a complete game together, it'd be fantastic. You saw glimpses and pieces of it throughout the season so far. The performance in Toronto, the result didn't yield itself to a win, but the performance, as a whole, I thought was great from the group. We're looking to build from that. But if we can rectify some of the mistakes that we had in the game moving forward, I think we'll be all right."

On assessing the team's defensive performance so far:

Knighton: "Looking back over the goals that we've conceded, it's difficult to take because some of them are self-inflicted. From a positive [standpoint], there's things that we can correct to make that better and to keep a clean sheet. First and foremost, that's the goal this week, is to keep a clean sheet here at home."

On preparing for an attack-minded Minnesota team led by Darwin Quintero:

Knighton: "He [Darwin Quintero] is a fantastic player. We played against him in preseason down in Orlando, and we saw glimpses of what they were looking to do in the season. So, we'll try and pull some

things from that game that we had seen and see how they've done throughout their results so far this season. But the game plan, like I said, comes down to us and how we take it to an opponent here at home."

On the effect one win can have on the group:

Knighton: "I think it can jumpstart us on a good run. But ultimately, you've got to get that first win under your belt and let the chips fall where they may. Hopefully, it's here at home this weekend and we start the ball rolling here going quickly."

New England Revolution Midfielder DeJuan Jones

On making his professional debut on Sunday:

Jones: "It was an awesome opportunity. I've been working for this since I started playing soccer when I was five. To finally get out there on the field in front of all those fans – to get out there and play was an unreal feeling."

On if he's had an opportunity to let it sink in:

Jones: "It's really awesome. I'm getting a lot of feedback from my family and friends back in Michigan. They've just been congratulating me. It's really cool, and I'm hoping I continue to get out there on the pitch."

On if he had any friends or family at the match:

Jones: "My father came out this weekend and he had a couple of buddies that live here, so it was pretty cool for him to be here for my debut. My family, my mom back home, my sisters, a ton of my friends, my college teammates were all watching the game, so it was pretty cool."

On building off his debut:

Jones: "You want to get the debut out of the way, so now it's like, all right, I'm a player, not just a rookie who hasn't got in yet. Just looking to have a good week at practice and continue to get more minutes."

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