



April 9, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: April 9, 2019

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

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Midfielder Scott Caldwell](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [Defender Andrew Farrell](#)
- [Goalkeeper Cody Cropper](#)

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

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

On Saturday's loss to Columbus Crew SC:

Coach Friedel: "After watching the game, we would've liked [Columbus goalkeeper] Zack Steffen to work a little bit more, but we're also away from home, and I thought even a man down we controlled the ball for large periods of that time. Again, I can't fault the effort of the players – we did some really good things. I thought they had a difficult time playing, and I thought Scott [Caldwell] and Carles [Gil] got on the ball and made some pretty nice combinations, as well. I know speaking to Columbus' staff and their team, they knew they were in a game, and it's a shame that we had to lose the way that we did, but we also have to look at how we defended, as well. It's not just the fact that it was offside - we'll learn from that. But the effort the last couple games has been outstanding. If you work like that, you'll come out on the right side a lot."

On building attacking chemistry as the season goes on:

Coach Friedel: "It's really important that everyone starts playing a lot of minutes together. Not just Juan Fernando Caicedo, but also the more that Teal [Bunbury] and Juan [Agudelo] play with Carles [Gil] and Scotty [Caldwell], and Wil Zahibo's got a goal in him, Luis Caicedo has a goal in him, [Cristian] Penilla, Diego [Fagundez]. We do have a lot of players who can score goals, we just have to have that one game where everything starts clicking and then have confidence from there."

On maximizing points from the team's upcoming three straight home games:

Coach Friedel: "It's important that we pick up maximum points. If we do that, then we'll be in a very healthy position with regards to the league standings, and again, hopefully we can grab confidence from it and carry on through the rest of the season."

On Atlanta United FC this season after winning MLS Cup in 2018:

Coach Friedel: "There are some differences. I've watched a lot of their games. They've been very unlucky in games. They've been creating chances, and of course they don't have Miguel Almiron, so that

was a big piece of their attacking puzzle. But they've got some very good players and we're going to have to be at the top of our game to be able to beat them."

On Antonio Delamea's status:

Coach Friedel: "We'll have to see. He was out on the field a little bit today. We'll see if there's any reaction in how he feels, but we have a good enough squad to cope no matter what is thrown at us."

On Edgar Castillo's status:

Coach Friedel: "He was out on the field, as well. He got stepped on and then tried to pull away, and had a slight calf issue. Hopefully he'll be in the reckoning this weekend. If not, for sure come the Red Bull game."

New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell

On the team's recent performances:

Caldwell: "I definitely think the last two performances have been a step up from the rest of the season. I think that's a good sign, but it definitely still means there's more to come with the results. We have to continue doing that."

On what the team will look to improve:

Caldwell: "I think we have to be a little bit better at everything, but especially getting into the attack and creating chances. That's no secret. We didn't create enough, really. There were several good chances, but if we're creating more, then I think the result's different."

On maximizing points from the team's upcoming three straight home games:

Caldwell: "It's really, really important. You can't say much more other than it's an essential stretch of the season. Being home in front of our fans, three games in a row, we need to take maximum points."

On if last week's loss adds motivation heading into Saturday's match vs. Atlanta United FC:

Caldwell: "Any team, like ourselves, where we think we need to get and deserve more points, you're going to come in with a chip on your shoulder. Especially a team like that – like you said, they were a top team last year and they're very talented, so it's going to be a tough battle this weekend, but we're expecting to do well in front of our fans."

On combining with Carles Gil in the midfield:

Caldwell: "I just have to read off him. He's such a talented player. If he wants to get the ball deep, then I'll move into the attack. If he wants to join the attack, then I'll give coverage on both sides of the ball. We just have to play off each other. He's done great for us and we have to continue to keep getting better as a team."

On adjusting to a new back line with Michael Mancienne suspended:

Caldwell: "I just think communication's going to have to be important, like it is every game. The last few weeks, that's been very, very good. Even with Michael [Mancienne] out, I know whoever steps in there will do a great job."

New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba

On Saturday's loss and how the game may have changed if his early shot on goal had went in:

Anibaba: "If is a big two-letter word, but I thought [Zack] Steffen did a great job to keep it out. I connected well with it, but he did better than I did to keep it out. As far as the game was concerned, I thought we put a good performance together, but the fact of the matter is that we walked away with zero points and there are still things that we need to improve on."

On what the team will focus on improving this week:

Anibaba: "I think being a little bit more aggressive in the attacking half, being a little bit more aggressive in the defensive half, as well. Even though they only got the one goal, there were a few chances that we

could've been better on defensively. Just overall continuing to play as a group, play as a unit, and to fight for each other."

On playing three straight games at home:

Anibaba: "It's huge, it's huge. Obviously in this league, home games are paramount with so much parity. So we're looking to do well with these three games at home. We'll take them one game at a time, and right now the main focus is Atlanta."

On Atlanta's form thus far in 2019:

Anibaba: "I don't think their recent form is indicative to them as a team at all. I think we're very aware of that. I think the whole league is aware of that. It's just a matter of taking the game as it comes, but like I said, home games are paramount and we feel when we're at home, we can beat any team. It's just a matter of actually proving it when we get out there."

On how the back line will adjust with Michael Mancienne suspended:

Anibaba: "I think it's hard work throughout training, hard work throughout preseason that we fall back on. There are a lot of things that we do off the field that pulls us together, as well. Just being around each other every day, in and out of the locker room, helps a lot with these types of transitions. It's our job to make them seamless and it's everybody's job to be ready and step on the field and push the momentum of the team forward."

[New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell](#)

On Saturday's loss to Columbus Crew SC:

Farrell: "Obviously, disappointed with the result. I thought the boys showed well, put in a good effort, had some chances to tie the game up, and yeah, we've got to move forward. We've got [three] home games coming up against really good teams, so we've just got to keep the effort going, finish our chances, keep a shutout, and then we'll probably get three points."

On different players seeing opportunities impacting competition in training:

Farrell: "It's been good. Since the beginning of preseason, I think coaches have told people that spots are going to be open, so you've got to battle for those and it's been good in practice. Getting a lot of young guys opportunities and they're pushing the veteran guys for those spots, and it makes everybody better at the end of the day, and that's what we want to do."

On Atlanta United FC:

Farrell: "They're probably going to be well rested, I'm sure. Obviously without having a win this season they're really excited to hopefully get the first win. I know we were when we hadn't won, and [they're] a tough team. A really good, experienced team, good attacking players from front to back. They have a really good team, so it's going to be a good challenge for us. They're going to be up for it, so we need to step up and be ready for it."

[New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper](#)

On his takeaways from Saturday's loss to Columbus:

Cropper: "The work rate and the focus that we had on the details of the game. I think that we went out there and executed everything that we needed to, and we were unlucky to walk away [without] at least a point."

On how the defense will adjust in the absence of Michael Mancienne:

Cropper: "Obviously, we have a lot of players that can fill in at not only center back, but right back or left back. I think that obviously the coaching staff will make the decision on who needs to play back there, but overall, I think going into the weekend, it's going to be a different back four than what we've seen throughout this season, but it will work. I know that all the guys obviously have a good relationship and obviously whoever ends up playing in any of the three or four positions back there, or even in defensive midfield or goalkeeper, we make it work, and I think that we'll be a cohesive unit back there."

On different players seeing opportunities impacting competition in training:

Cropper: "It's made it a lot more intense. Obviously, we know coming in here every day that we're fighting for a starting position. Obviously, the competition is there because everybody wants to play, everybody wants to start, everybody wants to get on the field as a sub, so I think that at the end of it, it's just a competitive mindset and we take it day by day."

On the opportunity ahead with three straight home games:

Cropper: "'I think it's huge. Obviously, like I said, we were unlucky enough to not get a point in Columbus, so with a three-home-game stretch, we really need to take some points here with these three games, and I think obviously, like you said, it starts with Atlanta. I think that we're catching them at the right time and hopefully we and go out there and get a win."

On Atlanta United FC:

Cropper: "'Obviously they'll be fresh coming off of a bye week. I think that we can definitely expose some of their weakness. We obviously have a very talented group of players and we've been playing well the last two or three games so I think that just going out there, doing what we need to do, focusing on us, playing our game, is going to be huge."

On Saturday's match:

Cropper: "'I think it's going to be a scrap. I think it's going to be a grind for 90 minutes. Whether it's us coming out and playing our game, and making them play our game I think is what we have to focus on, but at the end of the day, all 11 players or 12 or 13, 14 players who get on the field are going to have to fight together."

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