



May 21, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: May 21, 2019

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

- [Interim Head Coach Mike Lapper](#)
- [Forward Tajon Buchanan](#)
- [Midfielder DeJuan Jones](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [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@revolutionssoccer.net.

[New England Revolution Interim Head Coach Mike Lapper](#)

On giving the team two days off following Saturday's draw at Montreal:

Coach Lapper: "I thought it was imperative, and that's why we did it. Just to exhale. Now we've got a week to prepare for a very, very good D.C. United team that we fully expect to give us a true go. I need the guys to be fresh and be ready to give it their all and get three points at home."

On the team tightening up defensively:

Coach Lapper: "I think the guys took on board that they are responsible for some of the stuff that happened. I think, based on that, they just really gave a huge individual and team effort. That's the reason. I also alluded to the fact earlier that in the game of football, it's funny, because a couple bounces, a shot that's blocked compared to not blocked goes in, hits the post – you need a little bit of luck, as well, along the way. But for the most part, I thought the guys have been digging deep, fighting hard, battling individually and collectively, and hence the reason why we got the shutout."

On DeJuan Jones' performance at outside back in Montreal:

Coach Lapper: "The future's up to him, whether he embraces that position or not. I had a conversation with him probably about three, four weeks ago that I thought this might be his position of choice. Because he is dual-footed – he's left and right, he's comfortable on either one. This is something if he embraces, he can take it as far as he wants. We'll see. It's going to be a good week of training, good competition, and then on Friday or Saturday we'll make that decision."

On conceding possession and getting out on the counter attack:

Coach Lapper: "I think the team has responded well. We're comfortable. We're fine. I know the stats weren't as great, especially in the first half against Montreal. I think we only had something like 33 percent [of possession]. Second half was better at 44 percent, on the road, and creating chances. That's what I challenged the guys at halftime with, is, 'Listen, we can't defend for 90 minutes. We've got to play football.' They responded, came out and did so, and I thought we created some chances. A little bit unlucky not to finish one or two, but I'll take it and we'll build from here."

On the status of Michael Mancienne as he works through plantar fasciitis:

Coach Lapper: "It's been a rough go for him. Hopefully he's back at training this week and we incorporate him in the lineup against D.C., but again, I don't know – I'm not medical. It just seems like it's very painful. We'll see what he can do."

On Saturday's match vs. D.C. United:

Coach Lapper: "It's massive. It's massive. That's what I'm going to go talk to them about right now. They had their days off, they exhaled. Now it's time to get focused and really, this is a huge, huge game for this club and it's hopefully a turning point for our group."

New England Revolution Forward Tajon Buchanan

On getting two days off following Saturday's draw at Montreal:

Buchanan: "I think it was much needed. Getting two days off and being able to just recoup, regroup and then just rest up and get ready for this week and play a great opponent in D.C. United."

On securing an away point in Montreal:

Buchanan: "Montreal is a tough place to go into and try to get a result. We were hoping for the win and to keep moving forward, but coming away with a point was much needed and we're happy at the end of the day to come away with something."

On the attack continuing to generate scoring chances:

Buchanan: "We've been creating a lot of chances these past few games. We've been hurting teams with our runs in behind, getting shots off, and stuff like that, so we just have to have the confidence to keep doing what we've been doing, and hopefully we get more chances."

New England Revolution Midfielder DeJuan Jones

On enjoying a two-day break following Saturday's match:

Jones: "I think it was much needed. I actually got to go back home to Michigan for a couple days. I got to see my family, so that was really nice. Just everyone needed a little bit of a reset though, just so we could kind of get our heads together for an important game this weekend."

On playing outside back:

Jones: "Preseason, I started playing outside back for the first time in my career. Then, [Mike] Lapper talked to me a couple weeks ago about playing outside back, and obviously I'm here to do whatever I can for the team. Against Chelsea, to get some time, that was really nice and it gave my confidence a boost going into the weekend. He just said you could play winger, you could play outside back – just be ready. So, I just wanted to be ready and when they called my number, I was ready."

On instructions he got from the coaching staff entering Saturday's match in the 35th minute:

Jones: "Just basically to stop the crosses. Don't let them go down the left side or the right side, so whenever they get the ball close down quickly, block crosses, and when I can try to get forward."

On the team's improved defensive form:

Jones: "I think guys are just playing more free and having more fun, and just sticking together as a group more. I love the response that we've gotten after all those goals we conceded. We've done a lot better, so we're still going to continue that momentum."

New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba

On his takeaways from Saturday's shutout in Montreal:

Anibaba: "I thought it was a complete team effort. I thought everybody put a lot of physical and mental effort into the game. It's always tough in this league to go away from home and get a job done. I thought

everybody did what they needed to do and there's still some things we need to improve on, but overall, it's a step in the right direction for us."

On coming off a hectic stretch with five games in 15 days:

Anibaba: "It's been a hectic couple of weeks, but I think everybody has done a great job to keep focused on the task at hand. All the players, all the staff, support staff, everybody's done a great job to make this a seamless of a transition as possible. We're just looking to do our jobs individually and collectively keep the goals at mind."

On the importance of getting two days off to reset:

Anibaba: "Huge. We like to work hard. When you have some time off to rest, it really helps. This week, we know that it's going to be a tough week of training, and we're ready for the preparation. Today was a good day of training, and we'll follow it up through the rest of the week and hopefully be sharp and ready for Saturday."

On his expectations for Saturday's match vs. D.C. United:

Anibaba: "They played a tough game out there in Houston. They went up early and looked dangerous throughout the game. I know how tough those games are in Houston. I thought they looked good so it's going to be a tough game here. They're going to come in and they're going to play well, they're going to play good football, so we just have to be up for the task. I think our last home game was a good performance from us, so we're ready to get back out in front of our home crowd again and hopefully give them what they've been patiently waiting for throughout the season."

On Saturday's match marking the team's last home match until June 26:

Anibaba: "It's always huge whenever you have the opportunity to play at home, especially with what I was talking about earlier. In this league, home games are paramount. You need to capitalize on them. I feel like we're starting to get that dialed in a little bit better now. With the break coming up, it's very important for us to leave a good taste in our mouth and in our fans' mouths before a bit of a break here."

[New England Revolution Defender Brandon Bye](#)

On the team conceding only one goal over its last two games:

Bye: "A little simplified. I think we came together as a team and said that we need to stop conceding, obviously, and keep moving forward. I thought our last couple performances – it's not just the backline and the goalie, it's everybody working up the field. Me playing right back is so much easier when Juan [Agudelo] is helping me and tracking back and helping with defending, so it's attributed to everybody, not just the backline or the goalie. [It] really helps."

On conceding a majority of possession:

Bye: "When we can press off goal kicks and other situation where we lose the ball quick, we can press, we like to do that, but when they have solid possession, we're okay sitting back. Their possession isn't really hurting us. It's in their half or it's up the field, so it's not really a worry to us. But, yeah, it's okay, and obviously in the last couple games it's worked to our advantage."

On giving DeJuan Jones advice on playing outside back after making the same transition:

Bye: "A couple tricks and tips, but other than that, he's doing him. He's playing well and he's got confidence, so let him do what he does best and roll with it."

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