



May 28, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: May 28, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from Tuesday's media availability previewing this Sunday's away match against LA Galaxy (NBC Sports Boston – 10:30 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Forward Teal Bunbury](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [Defender Andrew Farrell](#)
- [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 Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)

On how important the last week-plus has been getting acclimated to the club:

Arena: "It was important. I'm about one percent of the way there in this project. It's a lot to learn, a lot of things to evaluate. I've patiently tried to get a better feel for things here. I'm getting there, but it's going to take some time."

On if it was important to take that time to get adjusted before taking over day-to-day head coaching duties:

Arena: "Obviously, things turned over real quick when the change was made, and it was important that I had an opportunity to evaluate the situation properly. I thought [Interim Head Coach] Mike [Lapper] was doing a real good job, which he has done, and that made it a lot easier for me to step in today."

On his early objectives for the team:

Arena: "Give them a couple things to think about, but at the same time, not screw them up. That's the biggest concern, that I can confuse them, give them maybe a little bit too much information. So go slowly in the process. And I need to, one, put a name to every face here, which still I have not accomplished yet, and then two, understand each player's strengths and weaknesses, and thirdly, piece them together the right way to give us a chance to be successful."

On if he feels the team can improve upon its current position in the table:

Arena: "They can get better, yeah. They can only do that by being a better team, so we have to work on that process, and that process is both on and off the field."

On if he is coaching on Sunday against LA Galaxy:

Arena: "I'm always coaching. Coaches always coach. In the last year and a half, I've been the best NBA coach, NFL coach, baseball coach, and hockey coach. I'm like you guys. You know how smart you get when you're not actually doing it every day and you can sit in the press box or in front of a television? You become a genius. The only thing I've failed to do is get on social media and really be a critic, but I'll get

there one day. Will I be on the field [on Sunday]? I don't know yet. If I think I'm going to be a distraction to the team, I won't do it."

On evaluating the team's recent games:

Arena: "I've looked at them. I understand what was going on. I think a lot of credit [goes] to the coaching staff and Mike Lapper in particular, and the players. Over the last two weeks, they've done a very good job."

On how he assesses what's been happening within the team before his arrival:

Arena: "I've said this a million times – you never know a team unless you got inside it. It's hard for me to even assess what happened before this. Now I'm here, now I have a better understanding what's going on every day, so that's what I'm evaluating."

New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury

On the first training session with Bruce Arena:

Bunbury: "I think it was great. It's always a little, you don't know what to expect, obviously. We all know who Bruce Arena is, his pedigree, his experience, his knowledge of the game, and all those things, but it's fun to get out there and have him sharing tidbits and getting us ready. His focus already is on the LA game, and he's a really positive guy and I think he's going to get the most out of everybody."

On if there is increased competition among the players with a new coach at the helm:

Bunbury: "I've been in this league a while now and played for a few coaches and there's always competition, no matter what. If you've had a coach for 10 years, if you've had a coach for a year, a fresh new coach – I think a lot of guys are going to be obviously fighting for spots, showcasing what they can do, but I think the big thing is the emphasis on the team, and us all trying to get the best out of each other, knowing that we're all going to play an integral role [during] this remainder of the season."

On facing LA Galaxy on Sunday:

Bunbury: "Zlatan [Ibrahimović] is the big name and they have [Jonathan] dos Santos. They have a lot of top players, but I think we're going to try to focus on ourselves. We know we can match up with any team and our focus is getting three points."

On the upcoming break in league play in June:

Bunbury: "I think it's going to be huge. I think a lot of people talk about recharging the batteries, rest, and things like that, but it's going to be a focal point for us in terms of getting a better understanding of what Coach Arena wants from us and learning from that. I think it's a perfect timing for us as a unit to get focused in on that."

On if there is optimism around the locker room regarding the rest of the season:

Bunbury: "I think we're all very optimistic. I think as players we want to play for a coach that obviously wants us to win and has a huge pedigree and has gotten the job done on every stage of the sport, so we're really excited and we think things definitely can turn around."

New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba

On getting back to work after two days off:

Anibaba: "It was a good two days off, and then it was a really good short, sharp session. A lot of tactical work, a lot of understanding what's required of us, and it was a good session."

On how critical the team's recent defensive improvement has been:

Anibaba: "One hundred percent. That's first and foremost, to be solid defensively. We made a commitment to ourselves to make sure that we shored that up. And it's not a goalkeeper thing, it's not necessarily just a backline thing, or a defensive midfielder thing – it's the whole team, and I thought everybody's done a great job to zero in on that as of late, and we're looking to even get a little bit better there."

On the benefit of having all three Revolution goalkeepers see minutes this season:

Anibaba: "It's good. It's good to have goalkeepers with in-season experience. You don't have that very often, so whoever's going to be between the sticks this weekend will do a great job, I'm sure of it."

On the keys to success in Los Angeles:

Anibaba: "I think we just play our game. If everybody's focused on what they need to do individually and collectively, I think we'll be fine."

New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell

On the team's first training session with Bruce Arena:

Farrell: "It was good. It was intense. It was short and sharp, and just getting some of the things he wants to incorporate into the team. He's kind of getting used to us as players. He's been watching the past few games and incorporating what he wants to add to things going forward."

On the team's mindset with regards to Arena's arrival:

Farrell: "I think he wants to grow with us as the season goes on, and implement what he has in the path for this team. We're glad that he's here and that we can move forward and obviously look to the game this weekend with LA."

On whether or not Arena's arrival adds to competition on the training field:

Farrell: "I hope that everybody is always competing every time we're out here, no matter who the coach is. Definitely with a new coach, it gives an opportunity for everyone to show well and hopefully vie for open starting spots."

On facing the LA Galaxy this weekend:

Farrell: "They're going to be good. It's a different team with Zlatan [Ibrahimović] on there and he's coming back from suspension, so we're going to watch some tape and see how they do, but a great team and they're really good at home, so it's going to be a fun matchup."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Brad Knighton

On the team's first training session with Bruce Arena:

Knighton: "It was great. There was a relaxed feeling around the guys. I think everyone was eager to get out and show Bruce [Arena] what they were capable of. But when it comes down to it, it's about X's and O's, and how he wants us to play, and I think for a lot of the guys it was nice to see taking a tactical approach day one instead of rushing into other things."

On the team's mindset with regards to Arena's arrival:

Knighton: "Yeah, it's great. He came in and spoke to us as a group, his expectations, and what he liked about our group and what we've done these last few games, and things that we need to do to move forward to become a better team. That starts with being in the locker room and building a group within what we have already. He put the foundation down for that, and we're looking to put the foundation, like I said, on the field here today."

On tightening up defensively:

Knighton: "It's good. It shows we're a resilient group. Obviously, the results before that hadn't warranted that, hadn't shown that. But we've come together as a group the last month and have been very sound defensively. Like I said the other night, our focus has been on defensive shape and we're going to continue to do that going into LA this weekend."

On having a group of goalkeepers that is always prepared to play:

Knighton: "It's obviously not ideal the way Matt [Turner] went out of the game, but it's something that we deal with as a group. Bruce [Arena] is going to decide who's going to play on the weekend, and we go

from there. Like I said, collectively as a group, as a goalkeeping union or us as a team, we're going to stick together and build around this team, and hopefully get the results going."

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