



June 6, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: June 6, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from Tuesday's media availability previewing next Tuesday's U.S. Open Cup Fourth Round match at the New York Red Bulls (ESPN+ -- 7:30 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
- [Midfielder Diego Fagundez](#)
- [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 Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)

On the importance of the team playing with joy:

Arena: "That they're enjoying themselves? Yeah, I think we should realize the fact that we're very lucky people. I could care less how much you're getting paid – this is a pretty good way to make a living, and you might as well enjoy it. We know we have to compete and there's pressure and all of that, but you should be coming out to work every day pretty pleased. At the end of the day you don't have an article written – it takes a little bit of thinking. We've got good lives, so we might as well enjoy it and smile once in a while."

On Juan Agudelo playing in central midfield:

Arena: "He's a good player. He's experienced. He's got good physical tools, good technical tools, and there's no reason why we can't ask more of him. I've had him at different times with the national team and when he was at Chivas USA I used to talk to him a lot, so I've known him over the years, and I think he's always been a player that you can get more out of, so we're going to push him real hard and try to make him the best player we can make."

On Justin Rennicks' game-winning goal for the United States at the U-20 World Cup:

Arena: "First of all, I saw the goal, I saw the highlight. I've seen, certainly, better individual goals, but that's a huge goal. That's as big a goal as you're going to score in those kinds of competitions. A lot of credit to him. [Technical Director] Curt Onalfo has worked with him, so Curt knows him pretty well, so it's good to see that we have a young player that hopefully can move up to [make an impact with] the first team at some point."

[New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo](#)

On the team playing with joy:

Agudelo: "We definitely showed enjoyment. I think joy comes out of having the ball, and it was one of the games where I felt as though, as players, we felt the most comfortable with the ball with options. Confidence was big."

On playing in central midfield against LA on Sunday:

Agudelo: "I played close to that [number eight] role, but this is the first game ever that I've actually played defensive a bit more in the midfield. I enjoyed it. As the game went on, as I got more touches on the ball, confidence kept rising, and I felt more comfortable."

On his initial reaction when he learned he was going to be playing as a number eight:

Agudelo: "Initial reaction was Bruce [Arena] may be on to something here. I believe in him. I have played it in my youth days and I've done pretty well there, but overall I'm just happy that we were able to get the three points and that I survived that position."

On contributing defensively:

Agudelo: "It was natural. There were times where I did want to get into some tackles and wanted to use my body, and it felt good."

On Justin Rennicks' game-winning goal at the U-20 World Cup:

Agudelo: "It was awesome. I watched the whole game, saw him come in, put a shift in, put an effort in, and [when the] right back took a shot, there was a rebound, and he came out of nowhere with his speed. I didn't even see him on the TV screen until the ball was in the back of the net. That's how fast he is. Really happy for him. I know how much it meant for him. I sent him a message after."

New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez

On Sunday's win against the LA Galaxy:

Fagundez: "I think the win was definitely perfect. It was good timing for us. We all wanted to get three points before this break, and that's exactly what we did. We went out there, we fought, we played our style of play, and with this squad we can beat any team. We just have to keep moving forward, keep working hard, and now we get a little bit of a break and have to get ready for Open Cup as well. Everybody needs to step up, so it's huge. Everybody needs to get these batteries back charged and keep going."

On how the team's attacking approach has changed:

Fagundez: "I think you could see it out there. Everybody's just working for each other and we're making space for each other. Bruce [Arena], the first thing he said to us, is make sure you get behind their backs, and I thought we did that pretty well. Maybe we could have done it a little better, but at the end of the day, we've been creating so many chances. The game could have been different. It could have been 4-2, 3-5, it doesn't matter. But at the end of the day, as long as we got three points, we were happy."

On the team picking up its first away win of the season:

Fagundez: "It gives us our confidence. I think the first away game that we won is huge, especially against a team that has a lot of good talent and has been doing well. We went out there and we fought, competed, and made sure that we told them who we are and that it doesn't matter what the numbers say in the standings. We still have a good squad and we can play against anyone."

On expectations under Bruce Arena over the Gold Cup break:

Fagundez: "I think he wants to get the team together and make sure that we're getting along and that we're a team. It's going to be a nice break for us, but at the end of the day, we still have to focus on Open Cup because it's right around the corner, so we can't take too much time off or for ourselves. We all need to be prepared and after Open Cup, hopefully we can get a couple days to relax, enjoy our families, and come back to work."

On next Tuesday's Open Cup match against the New York Red Bulls:

Fagundez: "Every time we play against New York, it's a rivalry. It's going to be a good game. It's going to be a battle. Whoever wants it more is going to win. I think we're all ready for that. There might be new faces that step on the field for us and everybody needs to be prepared. At the end of the day, we need to go out there and make sure we're fighting and try to qualify for the next round."

On Justin Rennicks' game-winning goal at the U-20 World Cup:

Fagundez: "I think it's huge for him. I think it's very important to get a goal under his belt and of course he needs his confidence to get a little boost up, I think we're all trying to get goals here, including myself, and sometimes it doesn't happen the way you want it to be, but at the end of the day once you get one, more will come, then your confidence just keeps boosting."

On Juan Agudelo playing in central midfield:

Fagundez: "I think Juan did well – defensively, attacking. He did the role well and now he can get more wide so he can blow around guys. I think, little by little, every game he's going to get better at it. With Bruce, I think we're going to learn a lot of new things and when they happen you need to be prepared for it."

[New England Revolution Defender Brandon Bye](#)

On Sunday's win against LA Galaxy:

Bye: "For sure a big win. A win away is always big – getting three points on the road. Long travel, tough environment to play in. It was a big deal for us and we were happy to get the win."

On getting a win in Bruce Arena's first game as head coach:

Bye: "It gives us confidence. He implemented some things last week and we took that on board, then we went out there and played, and we got the result."

On expectations and objectives during the Gold Cup break:

Bye: "To get more comfortable as a team, I think. Taking time to figure out exactly what he wants and what we're able to do on the field and then go out there and execute."

On next Tuesday's U.S. Open Cup game against the New York Red Bulls:

Bye: "It's a familiar team that we're able to play and it will be a good game. They're obviously a good team, and we're going to go out there and try to get three points and try to move on. Open Cup is different dynamic, but we'll go out there and try to win the game."

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