



July 1, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: July 1, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from Monday's media availability previewing Thursday's match at the Colorado Rapids (NBC Sports Boston – 9:00 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
- [Defender Edgar Castillo](#)
- [Goalkeeper Matt Turner](#)

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 team finding a way to win on Saturday night:

Arena: "It was great to see, certainly. We had to come out of halftime and position ourselves to try to get three points, and that early goal was important, and the way the team fought at the end of the game and created chances to try to win the game was excellent. Certainly, the play at the end with [Cristian] Penilla and Teal [Bunbury] was outstanding and we're real happy to get three points."

On coming into this week with a fresh group:

Arena: "It helps a lot, because with the Open Cup games, the month of June is supposed to be somewhat of a break, but it's not a break for a lot of teams. We had a lot of guys pushed. We played two 120-minute games in the Open Cup and a couple of league games, so some guys were pushed to their limits. To give some guys a break on Saturday was important, and then we go to Colorado with the altitude; being fresh is going to be critically important."

On preparing for the altitude in Colorado:

Arena: "In our situation, you can't. Typically, you'd have altitude training, or you come in real late. The best thing we can do is have players that are rested, hydrated, and mentally ready to go."

On facing a Rapids team that has been in good form in recent weeks:

Arena: "It's a good example of this league. You win three games in this league, and you're the best team in the league for those two weeks. It hasn't changed a whole lot, and we're hopeful we can be consistent in the month of July and position ourselves to be in the playoff hunt."

On bringing in Dave van den Bergh and completing the coaching staff:

Arena: "It's good. We've been taxed a little bit. Now, Curt Onalfo can move a little bit more towards his technical role. Our coaching staff's in place. We know each other, and we're going to be able to prepare the team properly, as well as evaluate our players, which is going to be important, too, as we close out the second half of the season and look to the future, as well."

On Tim Howard's career:

Arena: "Fabulous. His career abroad, his career domestically, his career internationally, is second to none. He's an outstanding person and I'm hopeful I don't see him again. At 41, he should be in a rocking chair. It's great to see he's done so well. He got a clean sheet against the best team in the league last week. He's going to be tough to beat. I'm real happy for Tim's success, and we certainly wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo

On Saturday's win over Houston:

Agudelo: "It was a battle the whole game. We weren't good enough in the first half, but for us to come together collectively and put it all together in the second half and show the team who we really are, is a good thing going forward."

On closing out Saturday's game with three points:

Arena: "It was very satisfying. I thought everybody worked as hard as they could in their specific individual positions. Things got a lot tighter in the second half and everybody felt more comfortable."

On Teal Bunbury's contributions:

Agudelo: "By now, he's an experienced player. He was always going to be ready to come onto the field. We always knew we had very quality players who would be dangerous coming into the game and they did come in and they made a difference. Teal [Bunbury] was there always to clean plays up and he was there in that play and it was huge for us. Those three points were huge for us."

On playing in a central midfield role:

Agudelo: "Again, I was more comfortable than I thought I would feel. I felt like I wanted the ball a lot more, I felt comfortable, and was playing a lot of passes out, so it was positive."

On playing in high altitude this Thursday in Colorado:

Agudelo: "Well, I mean we don't have an altitude chamber over here, but we just have to go there a bit early, like we are flying tomorrow, and train and get the lungs ready for that game."

On the mentality in the locker room:

Agudelo: "It's really positive, from the 11 players to everybody on the bench and the reserves, so it's very positive. Everybody is optimistic and it just feels way more like a team."

New England Revolution Defender Edgar Castillo

On the team claiming three points on Saturday night against Houston:

Castillo: "It's very important for us to get those three points at home, and we build momentum going into Colorado and getting a good result there, too."

On facing his former club in Colorado:

Castillo: "I have love for Colorado. I had a great time being there for a year. Now, I'm on this side and I have to give it my all here, representing the Revolution."

On whether or not there has been trash talk with his former teammates this week:

Castillo: "No, no, no. I've got a couple of boys there; Timmy [Howard], Jack Price. It's going to be a good game, and I'm looking forward to going back."

On Colorado's turnaround in recent weeks:

Castillo: "It's good for Conor [Casey] and the group. They've worked very hard. That's good for them, but now it's for us now going there and getting three points."

On Conor Casey:

Castillo: "He's a great guy. He's a calm guy. That's what you need in the locker room, like we have it here. A lot of things changed here, so we feel much better. That's how it is. That's how they get all the results they've been having."

On whether or not the altitude is a factor on Thursday:

Castillo: "It is. It's a factor, but I don't think it's a big factor. We have to have a very good game, know when we can go forward and not, and get three points."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On Saturday's win:

Turner: "It was nice to be on the winning side of one of those for once. A late, late winner at home, especially in front of a good crowd, so it's something that you can build off of. We know that it's just one win and there's a lot of stuff that we need to do to be where we want to be above the playoff line."

On closing out the game on Saturday night:

Turner: "That's the goal every game -- you want to win. Ideally, you're not in those situations. You want to put away early chances and see games off a little more comfortably, but to know that it's in the back pocket and to be able to rely on that experience now is massive."

On the impact Teal Bunbury and Cristian Penilla made off the bench:

Turner: "He [Teal Bunbury] came off the bench and made an instant impact. Both of those guys, they did a really, really good job. They created a flurry of chances and you want a guy like Teal and [Cristian] Penilla on the ball in those moments, because you trust them to rip it in the net."

On the team's mentality and vibe in the locker room:

Turner: "Unbeaten in six is great, but still a long way to go; still below the playoff line, so guys are hungry. We know we still have a lot to achieve and a long way to go and to get ourselves out of the hole we dug ourselves."

On his relationship with fellow goalkeeper Brad Knighton:

Turner: "Brad [Knighton] and I have a tremendous mutual respect for each other, so whoever goes out there on game day, we both know that we can do the job. Saturday was a good night for me, Brad [Knighton] played well on Wednesday, so you can only really do what's presented to you as a goalkeeper, so game-to-game it can really vary. We'll see going forward. All I can do is put my best foot forward every day in training and when I get my chances on the field, and I know Brad [Knighton] is going to do the same. The chips will fall where they may."

On dealing with altitude in Colorado this Thursday:

Turner: "I think just hydration is important -- little things. Taking care of the body and a lot of guys have played there before and played at altitude before, so there are experienced guys, and guys that haven't been out there can talk to guys who have been there and we'll just get ready. We'll get there a day early and do some training and get used to it."

On Colorado's recent change in form:

Turner: "They're really dangerous on set pieces and restarts. They have a guy up top [Kei Kamara] who we're pretty familiar with, so he can be dangerous with balls in the air, and they're playing with a lot of confidence as well and they're playing at home. Anytime you go on the road, it's a challenge, but it will be interesting to see how it all turns out on Thursday night."

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COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

Communications Staff

Kaitlin Gangl Alden, Communications Director	(508) 549-0496	Media@revolutionsoccer.net KaitlinGA@revolutionsoccer.net
Adam Klionsky, Communications Manager	(508) 455-7551	AdamK@revolutionsoccer.net
Scott Altman, Communications Coordinator	(508) 549-0533	ScottA@revolutionsoccer.net
Nick Sobel, Communications Coordinator	(508) 404-0248	NicholasS@revolutionsoccer.net

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