



July 16, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: July 16, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from this week's media availability previewing Wednesday's home match against Vancouver Whitecaps FC (NBC Sports Boston – 7:00 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Forward Gustavo Bou](#)
- [Forward Teal Bunbury](#)
- [Defender Michael Mancienne](#)
- [Goalkeeper Matt Turner](#)

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[New England Revolution Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)

On if he anticipates rotating the lineup with two games this week:

Arena: "Yeah, I think so. We'll get through the first game first and then make decisions after that, but I anticipate some changes for the game against Vancouver."

On the focus on improving set-piece defending:

Arena: "Well I think at the end of a game, we're 86 minutes in, it's 90 degrees, we traveled the day of the game, maybe guys are a little – well, not maybe, they're a little tired both mentally and physically. But to be a good team and be a good player, you have to fight through all of that and deal with the closing minutes of each half better. I think, again, another lesson for us to learn from."

On being tied for the best defensive record over the last eight games:

Arena: "Yeah, I think for the most part we've done a good job. Perhaps we've given away four points or so. Maybe you could even argue six points. But for the most part, defensively, we've played well, but that's probably a combination of things. We've had some good goalkeeping and our backline has played well, but collectively, we've played well when our opponents are in possession."

On how important it is to get Gustavo Bou integrated on the field:

Arena: "I think it's important. We brought him here to play, not to sit in the stands, so hopefully we can get him on the field Wednesday."

On Gustavo Bou's fitness level:

Arena: "He looks fine. He was in preseason with Tijuana, so he's had a lot of physical work. He hasn't played much, so we need to get him on the field and get him going."

On how to approach Vancouver Whitecaps FC:

Arena: "No different than any team. We have to get on the field and win this game on Wednesday. We're simply going to go out and do what we've been doing, and hopefully a little bit better and a little bit more consistent over 90 minutes."

New England Revolution Forward Gustavo Bou

Quotes translated from Spanish through an interpreter.

On what he can bring to the Revolution:

Bou: "There are a few things I bring here. I'm very pleased with what I've seen from the team. I can see there's a strong team here and I'm happy to be a part of this project. I'm very eager to get the season going and I want to get on the field and help the team as much as I can."

On the type of player he is and what skills he brings:

Bou: "I'm a player that likes to move between spaces up front and a player that likes to be in constant contact with the ball, either making runs or helping fit balls through for the runs. Obviously, they brought me here to score a lot of goals from the goals I've been scoring in Mexico and I hope to continue doing that here, but it's not all about the goals. I'm here to help other teammates score and if it's not with [my] goals, I'm very happy to give an assist for another teammate to score, so that's what I hope to bring here."

On the role he will play on the team:

Bou: "When I spoke with Bruce [Arena], he talked to me a little bit about his game tactics and what he's planning to implement in the coming weeks. He told me that he's seen a lot of me in Mexico, and wants to try to use me in the same position on the left to be able to link up with the midfielders and other forwards."

On what attracted him to the Revolution and playing with fellow Spanish-speakers:

Bou: "When Bruce [Arena] originally spoke with me, he talked about the specific project he's trying to build here. He's trying to put together a very competitive team, even now in the middle of the season. He told me he really wanted me to be a part of this project. I feel excited coming here and it's a new challenge. In terms of language, it does help that there are other Spanish-speaking players on the team, but like I said, soccer is really a universal language and out there on the field, we're speaking through soccer. It does help and makes that transition easier, coming to a new league. In terms of MLS, I have a lot of friends and colleagues I played with before who have played here before with other teams and have told me great things about the league. Clearly, MLS is a league that is growing every year and that's really one of the main reasons why I came here."

On potentially debuting tomorrow against Vancouver:

Bou: "Honestly, I was more anxious prior to the transfer being completed last week. Right now, I'm not really anxious and I'm happy to be here. The players have welcomed me with open arms and honestly, I'm just really looking forward to getting my first few minutes on the field and helping the team as much as I can. That's the reason they brought me here."

On what was going through his mind during the transfer process:

Bou: "The last few weeks ahead of the announcement, I was feeling a bit anxious. The transfer was about 90 percent done, but I traveled to Boston and there were still some minor details that hadn't been figured out between the two clubs. Naturally, as a player, you want to get the feeling that things are going to be sorted out and you want to feel calm. I'm just happy that it happened, happy to be here, and am looking forward to getting my playing time started."

On getting to know his new teammates:

Bou: "It was not surprising to come into the locker room and be welcomed the way I was. They talked to me a lot about the players over here and the fact there were a lot of Spanish-speaking players was helpful and made me feel at ease coming in. When you find players who speak the same language, it certainly helps you relax after the first few days since it can be hectic moving to a new country, city, and league. I'm not surprised at all and I'm happy to be a part of this team."

New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury

On preparing for Wednesday's match vs. Vancouver:

Bunbury: "It's a quick turnaround, so it's about being fresh for the game on Wednesday. We know Vancouver just came off of a tough loss at home. They're going to be traveling out here, but we know that they're going to come ready to play. It's a big dog fight for us trying to get above that playoff line, and for them as well in the Western Conference, so it's going to be a great matchup."

On improving on set piece defending:

Bunbury: "I think communication is one of the biggest things, making sure that we're all on the same page. The lapses are usually coming when we're maybe a little tired, maybe later in games, so making sure that we're all on the same page, communicating and kind of having a little bit more mental toughness towards the end of a game is going to be important."

On Gustavo Bou getting on the training field:

Bunbury: "It was great. It's still early obviously, but to see his touches on the ball, he already seems comfortable. He's going to be a special player."

On how Bou is fitting into the team off the field:

Bunbury: "He seems like a fun guy. Obviously he doesn't know any English, so I'm trying to get my Spanish going with him, but he's definitely a little jokester and I think he fit right in."

New England Revolution Defender Michael Mancienne

On returning to full training after a long battle with plantar fasciitis:

Mancienne: "To be honest, it feels amazing just to be back amongst the boys, back with the team training, being able to move without pain, being able to walk without pain, run without pain. You don't realize how much you appreciate, how much I appreciate being fully fit, 100 percent fit, and being able to do everything I could normally do before I was injured. It was a frustrating process, but all of the physio staff that work here, all the sports trainers, they've done miracles for me. They worked really hard with me and I'm really grateful and thankful to them."

On not being able to train with his teammates for several weeks:

Mancienne: "It was hard. Honestly, it was really hard. Especially stuck in there in our changing room where there's no windows. I can't see outside. I just felt like a bit of a prisoner. To be fair, you stay in there too long, you feel like you're going crazy. You just want to get outside and train. That's my profession, that's what I was born to do. Being stuck inside was really frustrating for me."

On how long he had been battling the injury:

Mancienne: "To be honest -- if I'm being brutally honest -- it was pretty much toward the start of the season. That's when it started coming on, and it just gradually got so bad that I couldn't run, I couldn't do anything."

On his current fitness level:

Mancienne: "I feel good. I do feel fit. Like I said before, I've been working really hard with the sports trainers -- with Matty [Assistant Athletic Trainer Matt Kirkpatrick], [Head Athletic Trainer] Evan [Allen], and [Director of Sports Performance] Jarryd [Phillips], as well -- and [Athletic Training Associate] Harry [Hall]. I worked really hard with them, and I feel good. Obviously, doing that kind of training by yourself and then training with the boys is a different kind of fitness. I still need to get a little bit of sharpness, I think, but on the whole, I feel great."

On wanting to prove his abilities for the new coaching staff:

Mancienne: "Yeah, I've been desperate. The injury came at such a bad time for me obviously with the change of staff. When a new manager comes in, you want to be on the training field showing him what you can do and fighting for your place in the team. That's what I'm going to do."

On the impact he's seen Bruce Arena have on the team:

Mancienne: "I think he's given all the boys confidence – the confidence that I think was lacking at the start of the season. He knew we had a great squad of players, which we do. We have a great squad of players and we're showing it at the moment. We just didn't have that confidence on the field, and I think he's given us that, and that's why the results have been going our way."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On looking to improve on set-piece defending:

Turner: "Colorado, Houston, and now the D.C. game, we've conceded on set pieces in three straight games. It's just attention to detail late in games, late in halves, communication with each other and organizing. A lot of that comes from me, so I need to take more responsibility in those moments, and get my team sorted when they're tired and running around, when I have a little more of a fresh mind, so I need to be better, and we all can look in the mirror and improve."

On conceding only eight goals in the last eight games:

Turner: "That's a huge credit to a guy like Andrew Farrell. He's come in [to a] change of position and he's done really, really well. He's really helped organize and lock it down. His athleticism goes on show every single time he steps on the field, so he's done really, really well. And then just overall attention to detail from the whole group, and the commitment to defending, and knowing what it takes. After we got that first win against San Jose, I think everybody was kind of like, 'Okay, that's that hard work that you need and that's what it feels like, and that's the reward.' Three points is the reward, and then we went and got a clean sheet in Montreal. So we've just been building on that, week in and week out, and try to keep improving. We've only had two clean sheets this entire season. So yeah, we have a good defensive record, but we need more clean sheets."

On Gustavo Bou:

Turner: "He's a big personality. He's really fit in well with the guys already, and you see his quality on the pitch. He's a guy that wants to be in front of goal, he wants to score, and just bringing an intensity to the game that's going to help us."

On Vancouver Whitecaps FC:

Turner: "Absolutely. That's a team that's going to come out here, they lost at home, so they're going to right the ship on the road the best they can. They play on turf at home, so they're not going to be too out of their element even though they're on the East Coast. They're really organized. They've been really sound defensively all year, so we're going to have to be sharp in the final third if we want to break them down, then, take care of business at home as usual. Then, we go to Cincinnati on Sunday, a team that's kind of found form recently, and hopefully we can keep our form."

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