



July 30, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: July 30, 2019

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

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
- [Midfielder Carles Gil](#)
- [Defender Andrew Farrell](#)

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 Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)

On facing Los Angeles FC this weekend:

Arena: "Well, it's always fun to go against the top team in the league and see where you are as a team. We've come a long way in two months, but this is probably the most severe test we've had and it's going to tell us a lot about our team as we move forward."

On facing a team where his son, Kenny Arena, is an assistant coach:

Arena: "It's fun. I'm not sure I've ever coached against my son, actually, so this will be interesting. If a fight breaks out, I'm going to take him."

On the atmosphere around the team and if they are having more fun:

Arena: "I don't know if that's the word: 'fun.' We don't have ice cream and cake every day, and balloons in the locker room. But, enjoy what you do for a living. That's basically – we're only playing a game. It's not life and death. I've personally been around people over the last couple of weeks that have suffered a lot of personal tragedies, and when you look at what I do for a living and think that losing a game is the end of the world, it's almost comical to me. Winning is fun, and it's important. Everybody goes out every day and every game to try to be as good as you can be. At the end of the day, most people judge you on wins and losses."

On Carles Gil's leadership qualities:

Arena: "I think he works hard. He's a very positive guy, and obviously he plays very well, so when you blend those things together, that's good leadership."

On Cristian Penilla:

Arena: "He's done well. I think he had a tough time the first month with me and the new coaching staff, and he's responded quite well, as of late. I think he kind of – the expression we used is 'the light came on.' I think he's played very well."

On if he thought back in 1996 that he would be coaching against Bob Bradley in MLS in 2019:

Arena: "It'd be hard [to imagine], because I'd tell you that I'm not sure in year one if we thought this league would ever be around. Every year it grew in years, I would've thought it was less likely of it being around today. Then it got a shot in the arm, and I'd have to say because of the 2002 World Cup. It really was an impetus to get the league really moving forward. So certainly in 1996, I would not have thought that we'd be around today talking about this game."

On LAFC's strengths:

Arena: "They're a very good passing team. They're very attack-oriented. When they lose the ball, they get after it. Bob's [Bradley] a big fan of Barcelona, so they try to – however they can, to a certain degree – look at the qualities of the Barcelona team and try to employ that, in relative terms, for LAFC. They're an attack-oriented team. When they lose the ball, they try to win it back in their attacking half of the field."

[New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo](#)

On coming back from his minor injury:

Agudelo: "I feel good. I feel recovered. I took care of whatever I had going on, and now I'm ready to be back."

On the team's 11-game unbeaten streak:

Agudelo: "Not really looking at the record. I'm really excited to see how we compete against the number one team in the league, so just to see how we face up against a team like that. It's going to be similar to a playoff team, so I'm looking to see what are our limit is."

On facing Los Angeles FC this weekend:

Agudelo: "They're dangerous almost everywhere on the field. That's why they're top of the table right now. We're a hot team right now, and it's going to be a good battle. Hopefully, a lot of fans come out and support us, because we're going to need it. It's going to be like a playoff game."

On facing former teammate Lee Nguyen this weekend:

Agudelo: "I was one of the closest guys to Lee [Nguyen] when he was here. We put it down on the calendar. Excited to see him play on a different side of things at Gillette Stadium, and looking forward to kicking him a little bit."

On playing nearly three months without a loss:

Agudelo: "It's a lot of fun. Team morale, happiness off of the field -- it definitely boosts it, but we've experienced a lot of losses, and we know how bad that feeling is. In a way, I would have rather done bad at the beginning of the season than at the end. I've always said that every year, the team that's hottest going into the playoffs is the team that usually goes furthest, so I'm glad that we had this run and we've just got to keep going."

[New England Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil](#)

Quotes translated from Spanish through an interpreter.

On learning English:

Gil: "It's getting better, little by little. I'm starting to understand things a little bit better. It's obviously a bit of a process, but I'm feeling much more comfortable about it."

On whether or not his time with Aston Villa helped his English:

Gil: "Yeah, that's definitely a part of it. Now, I can understand the things on the field a lot more clearly from my teammates and coaches, and little by little, it's improving and I'm learning more."

On if he believes he should be an MLS All-Star this Wednesday in Orlando:

Gil: "It's not that important to me. I think in the end, the most important thing to me is the team here and continuing the rhythm we've had over the last three months. Obviously, we want to put in a fight over the next three months and try to qualify for the playoffs."

On adjusting to the physicality of MLS:

Gil: "I think overall I've adapted well. It's obviously different every game with the different teams you're playing, but it's a very physical league and it's a very fast-paced league. But again, little by little I'm definitely adjusting to the physicality."

On what goes through his mind when he's on the ball:

Gil: "I just try to find the players that are playing up top and I think with my passes, I try to create danger."

On facing Los Angeles FC this weekend:

Gil: "We know it's going to be a very tough game. They're the best team in the league and they're having a really good season. They're really dangerous up front and we're just going to have to do our best to play against that. It should be a great game."

On the challenges associated with facing LAFC:

Gil: "I haven't seen very much of them, but we all know that they're dangerous up front and they have some very talented players. We'll have to be careful with them."

[New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell](#)

On facing Los Angeles FC this weekend:

Farrell: "It's going to be a big test for this team; defensively, offensively, everything – all facets of the game. It's the best team in the league coming into our place, so it's a big challenge, but I think the guys are getting ready for it."

On playing against former teammate Lee Nguyen this Saturday evening:

Farrell: "It'll be good. They have four guys in the All-Star Game [on Wednesday], so we don't know who they're going to bring and stuff like that. But, it's going to be good to see him. Obviously, last year we played them away and we tied, 1-1, but he's a good player, so it's going to be tough to deal with their offense."

On if he thinks Carles Gil should be an MLS All-Star:

Farrell: "I think so. He's on my All-Star team. He's played great throughout the season, throughout the ups and downs of how our team has been doing. He's such an important player for us, and for the league, also. So yeah, he's an All-Star. I hope he keeps on getting that treatment and keeps on doing what he's been doing for us."

On Cristian Penilla's resurgence:

Farrell "It's been great. Obviously, going against him in practice, I'm out of breath right now. But, it's tough. We've got so many guys who are stepping up with even limited minutes – [Cristian] Penilla, Diego [Fagundez], Teal's [Bunbury] been great, Gustavo Bou, and [Carles] Gil, and Juan [Agudelo]. I could just keep going on and on. Everybody's been great up top. You've just got to keep those guys going, keep the momentum going, and keep shoring stuff up in the back and working on what we can do to get better."

On what an unbeaten streak does for the team's mentality:

Farrell: "I think it's easier to be in a good mental state when you're doing really well and winning, but I think the togetherness of the team has showed throughout even the tough times. Even before we were on this run, I think we kept it super tight and super together. We knew if anybody could get us out of it, it was the guys who were here in the locker room. Obviously, we've got Gustavo [Bou] who's helped us out the last three games, but it's the same guys that were here before. It's important that we keep staying together and keep having that chip on our shoulder. We know how it feels to be on the other end of a run like what we've been doing, so it's important to keep things in check and keep going."

On how it feels to remain unbeaten since May 8:

Farrell: "It feels good. The guys up top have been scoring goals every game, so as a defense we've just got to make sure we shore it up, and give them the passes that they can [use] and create their opportunities. When you go into a game knowing that you're most likely going to score with the guys that

we have, the firepower, it's awesome just knowing that you have that one-goal insurance kind of thing. But, this weekend is a different story – top team in the league coming. It's a big challenge. We're excited for it."

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