



August 27, 2019

## **New England Revolution Training Report: August 27, 2019**

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

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Forward Gustavo Bou](#)
- [Midfielder Diego Fagundez](#)
- [Midfielder Carles Gil](#)
- [Defender Antonio Delamea](#)

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](mailto:media@revolutionssoccer.net).

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

***On whether or not he wants the team to be aware of standings and other teams' performances:***

**Arena:** "We want them to be aware of those things, yes."

***On what to expect from Toronto FC this weekend:***

**Arena:** "Well, they have very good players in important positions on the field, such as [Jozy] Altidore and [Michael] Bradley, and [Omar] Gonzalez—[Alejandro] Pozuelo, as well. They have key players down the middle of the field."

***On a healthy Antonio Delamea becoming an option this weekend:***

**Arena:** "Just another option. We've been a little thin for a while in our backline, so it's good to get another player back."

***On Teal Bunbury's injury status:***

**Arena:** "He's doing okay. He moved around a little bit today."

***On Cristian Penilla's ability to play the striker role:***

**Arena:** "Well, he can, because he did do that. It's obviously not a natural position for him, but he did fine when called upon."

***On Edgar Castillo's injury status:***

**Arena:** "Edgar's [Castillo] dealing with a rib injury from the Red Bull game. He'll be out for a while."

***On the chemistry between Gustavo Bou and Carles Gil:***

**Arena:** "I think good players have ways of adjusting quickly to each other. I've seen that in the past with many teams that I've had. It's pretty natural. Good players have a lot in common. They have similar thoughts and ideas on the game, so it makes it a lot easier when they step on the field and play together, although they haven't been together that long."

***On whether or not the duo of Bou and Gil can be compared to another duo he has coached:***

**Arena:** "Not really, because I've never had two kinds of players in those positions. I've usually had a number nine and a number 10, and I wouldn't call Gustavo [Bou] a number nine at all. He's in between a nine and a 10. I don't know, is that a nine-and-a-half?"

***On Gustavo Bou's variety of goals:***

**Arena:** "It's good. He's a confident guy and he can score goals in a variety of ways, as does Carles [Gil]. So, I think they're two very good attacking players."

***On Bou's chemistry with the rest of the team:***

**Arena:** "It's been good. Typically in these situations, the language is a barrier. In our case, it certainly is not, because the majority of our players are bilingual and they've accepted him and they communicate quite easily, so it's been a good fit so far."

**Revolution Forward Gustavo Bou**

*\*Quotes translated from Spanish through an interpreter.\**

***On the key to his recent scoring form:***

**Bou:** "It definitely requires me to be concentrated a full 90 minutes of the game. I understand I came towards the later part of the season [now] with seven games left. I have to be on my toes every minute of the game. Saturday, the ball was loose, I was able to grab it back, I was able to score, but that's what it takes. You have to be on your toes the full 90 minutes of the game. We are so close in the playoff race with other teams, with a few points behind, and that's what it's going to require for us to be concentrated for the remaining six, seven games that we have left."

***On his relationships with his teammates:***

**Bou:** "Like you said, [the] locker room welcomed me with open arms. I think that was a key for getting a lot of confidence to come into a new locker room. I didn't really know any of the players, but I've integrated well into the group. I've added great value over the last few games. That's what I hope to do and thankfully I'm doing it. I'm also very happy now. My family is here. The first couple of weeks, I was here alone, and now that my family is here, I'm feeling a lot better now. I'm integrating better into the city. New league, new culture, so yeah, I'm happy over the last two months."

***On facing Toronto FC this weekend:***

**Bou:** "With [Toronto] a point behind, it's an extremely crucial game for us. It has the mentality we have toward [every game], but honestly, every game from now on is like a final for us and that's the mindset we have. That's the mindset that the team is working with. We know every game from now on, every point is going to be crucial. We're hoping this Saturday, with the support of our fans at home, we can go out and get away with the three points."

***On the group's mentality and confidence regarding the playoffs:***

**Bou:** "Yeah, I see the team is well prepared. The team's mentality is great. We've had a good run of games over the last few months. We know every game from now on is going to be important. We know we are ready. We're confident. We're not thinking seven games ahead. We're thinking just the next game, and our mentality is to go out and win the next game."

**Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez**

***On the birth of his son and second child:***

**Fagundez:** "It's awesome. I'm very excited. We're adding to our family, so looking forward to what it's going to bring. It's been tough, but at the end of the day, I think we've been doing a well enough job that we can say that we put both of them to sleep, so we're happy with that."

***On his daughter's reaction to her new sibling:***

**Fagundez:** "Maria's been awesome. She wants to grab him all the time. She wants to hold him. We have to be careful with her because she wants to be a little rough with him, so we keep an eye on her, but she's so happy that he's here. We're excited to see what's to come."

***On Saturday's win against Chicago:***

**Fagundez:** "I think we all know that everyone needs to be ready no matter what. It's unfortunate that Teal [Bunbury] went down early. I think he was smart to come out and not try to force it to get it worse. At the end of the day, everybody needs to be prepared and Cristian [Penilla] was. He was ready to go in and he went in and did well in the game. At the end of the day, when [Gustavo] Bou scores a goal like that to win the game, it feels great for us."

***On the connection between Gustavo Bou and Carles Gil:***

**Fagundez:** "I think you see them two and you think that they've been playing [together] for years, but they've only been playing for a couple of games now and they've been doing well. Now, we just have to keep going forward and keep winning these games. It's going to be tough, but at the end of the day, with the squad that we have in the locker room, we can definitely win every game. So, we have to be prepared and keep going, keep working hard, and make sure we're winning games."

***On what he takes away from Bou and Gil:***

**Fagundez:** "I think we all know what they can do and what they bring to the table, so we just have to play around them. Soccer is a game that you can't control what people do. It's instant, so you just have to be in the moment at the right time and make positions that you think are going to happen. Sometimes, you do the right thing. Sometimes you do the wrong thing. That's what's great about this game. It's not set play. No one controls exactly what you do. They can tell you things that can happen, but not [things] that aren't going to happen."

***On playing at home against Toronto FC this weekend:***

**Fagundez:** "It's huge. We're playing at home, so that's important for us, but at the end of the day, it leads to the point that we want to take the lead. You win these games, you take the lead, and you feel a little bit more comfortable. Right now, it's so tight that anything can happen. You lose a game, you go down. You win a game, you go up, so we have to make sure that these home games -- these last [seven] games that we have -- are very important to us. It all starts Saturday. If we win Saturday, we're up there, and I think we're going to be feeling a little bit better. It's going to be a tough game and they're going to come here and do everything they can to win this game, but we can definitely win this."

***On the challenges that Toronto FC present:***

**Fagundez:** "The challenge is that they want to make playoffs. It doesn't matter that they're away. They're going to come here and try to get points. We have to make sure that we don't allow them [to]. We have to keep playing our style of play and make sure that we're scoring goals, and then defensively be strong. We do that and there shouldn't be an issue why we shouldn't win."

***On the chances of the team making the playoffs:***

**Fagundez:** "I think if you asked me at the beginning of the year, we all wanted to make it, but we didn't know what could happen. But now, you can feel that everybody is excited. We're almost there. You look at the points and it's tough because everybody's so tight, but at the end of day, we just have to do our job. If we do our job and win our home games, and then we go away and make sure we get results, then we know we can make the playoffs."

**[Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil](#)**

*\*Quotes translated from Spanish through an interpreter.\**

***On Saturday's win against Chicago:***

**Gil:** "It was clear that Chicago really did a good job of covering all of our key players. It was hard to break them down on the outside. We did manage to score our first goal like that, but they really sat back in the second half. Towards the end of the game, it definitely was a special play by [Gustavo] Bou. He managed to score the goal, and I think it did require something like that to break them down."

***On players stepping up in the midst of injuries:***

**Gil:** "It's important to have certainly more than your 11, 12 starting roster, right? We want all of the players, as you've seen in the last games. Every player that maybe's not used to playing a lot of minutes has stepped onto the field, taken over a position from an injured player, and has done remarkably well. It's unfortunate that we've been experiencing injuries over the last few months, but it just tells you that our roster is ready to compete and everyone is ready to step up when needed."

***On playing with the playoffs on the line:***

**Gil:** "It certainly is an exciting playoff race. There are a lot of teams who are there kind of with the same points. It's good that over the last three months, we've been able to change the negative situation we had initially. We're on a good streak of games right now. We're getting a lot of points. But, we're still going to keep working hard over the last seven games we have. I know that if we make it into the playoffs, our team is definitely capable of reaching as far as we can."

***On facing Toronto FC this weekend:***

**Gil:** "Toronto is definitely a key game. They're a point behind us. We can't slip up. We've got to come out and play hard. We've got to come out to win. If we get that, I know we'll be a few points ahead of them, so that's what we're training for today and then we're going to come out to try to win that game."

***On Gustavo Bou:***

**Gil:** "We're definitely happy to have him. He's an extraordinary player. He definitely brings a different dimension to our attacking front. He's scoring a lot of goals for us, giving us a lot of points. Certainly if he was here since the beginning of the year, I can see him being a player that can score more than 20 goals in a season because he's proven it over the last few games. We're delighted to have him in the team. He's a great player, very talented."

**[Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea](#)**

***On coming back from a hamstring injury:***

**Delamea:** "I feel good. I think I should be available this week for selection, so I think it's important to be back for this last stretch, because we are really looking forward to making the playoffs. I'm just happy to be back and help the team."

***On the specifics of his injury:***

**Delamea:** "I had a strain on my hamstring, so it was about three, four weeks. I'm back. I'm happy, like I said, to be back, to be able to help. That's most important right now."

***On the excitement surrounding the team's playoff hopes:***

**Delamea:** "We're just taking it game by game. We don't really think about what's going to happen in seven games, we just want to win every game. Right now, our thoughts are just Toronto, and we'll do everything we can to win, especially at home. It's going to be really important to win those home games, and then away, just play smart and get a few points, also."

***On facing Jozy Altidore this weekend:***

**Delamea:** "Jozy [Altidore] is a top player in this league. He's really hard to cover, especially like you said, he's a big guy, also quick, good technically, so he's really going to be a challenge for our center backs, and also, too, for our fullbacks to help with covering to deal with this guy. If we [play] like we've played the last couple of games, I think we've really improved in all defensive aspects. We just need to keep working and keep doing it."

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