



September 27, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: September 27, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from this week's Revolution media availability previewing Sunday's regular season home finale against New York City FC (NBC Sports Boston – 5:00 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [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@revolutionsoccer.net.

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

On the team's energy level going into Sunday:

Arena: "We're not going to lack any energy, come Sunday. Our team is ready to go. We've done a good job in getting them through the week, and I think by kickoff on Sunday, we'll be ready to play a good 90 minutes."

On rotating the squad for Wednesday night's match at Portland:

Arena: "Hopefully, it helps. We're going to find out Sunday. You can prepare all you want, but you never know. Hopefully, we step on the field and play well."

On having the opportunity to clinch a berth in the Audi 2019 MLS Cup Playoffs on Sunday:

Arena: "My guess is that we would prefer to take care of business this Sunday, rather than go to Atlanta and have to get a result. So, certainly, there will be pressure on us. New York City FC needs to get a result as well, so it will be a challenging game for both teams."

On what he expects to see from Eastern Conference leaders NYCFC:

Arena: "We know their style of play. They're going to be a little bit different, having lost some players to suspension and injury, but that's the case basically in every game in this league; it never changes. We're going to prepare our team, not worry too much about them, and as I said, try to give a great effort and get three points."

[Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo](#)

On whether or not the result against Portland will energize the team this weekend:

Agudelo: "Yes. The guys had each other's backs; definitely had my back. I felt I was the reason they scored their first goal, and my teammates were there for the team and me, personally. So, going forward, it felt like a win, for sure. It was a tough team to play against, a tough place to play, travel cross-country, and to come out with a point is pretty good."

On if the comeback in Portland encapsulates the team's season:

Agudelo: "Yeah, this team kind of doesn't stop fighting, you know? Until the last minute. I don't know, I think it was eight minutes left to score two goals on a team that's up 2-0, that's going to sit back and defend; it was pretty special for us to come out with something out of that game."

On Sunday's matchup with NYCFC with an opportunity to clinch a postseason berth:

Agudelo: "It's a big opportunity. A good team. I mean, their record shows it, but we're looking forward to playing this game on Sunday in our home field and we're going to get after it. Just get those three points that we've been looking for the past couple of weeks."

On the team's level of hunger with regards to qualifying for the playoffs:

Agudelo: "Yeah, to be honest, it's almost like you forget how it is to be on that stage. It's a stage where games just feel different, more focused, understanding what's at stake. As a professional, those are the games you want to play in."

On what he takes away from the last meeting with NYCFC on Sept. 7:

Agudelo: "Very talented team, attacking-wise. Counterattacking team, but they can also keep the ball. Overall, all-around, defensively, midfield strong with [Alexander] Ring. Attacking-wise, they score a lot of goals. [Maxi] Moralez has a lot of assists this year. It's going to be a tough team to deal with, but I'm confident with our group of guys. We're going to have a lot of fresh guys."

Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba

On if the result against Portland will energize the team this weekend:

Anibaba: "Yeah, absolutely. That was a wild game. We obviously fought to the dying minutes of the match to pull something out and salvage it. We'll take the point and we'll move forward."

On if the team's resiliency shone through in Portland:

Anibaba: "It definitely did. Everything that's been thrown at us this season, we haven't wavered or hid from any challenges. We've also obviously shown that we're a fighting group, and [Wednesday] night was indicative of that. We're obviously trying to take that into the next match and the next one after that and then the playoffs."

On Sunday's matchup with NYCFC with an opportunity to clinch a spot in the Audi 2019 MLS Cup Playoffs:

Anibaba: "We're all really excited. Obviously, any time we play in front of our home crowd it's something we look forward to, but with these types of stakes, we couldn't be happier."

On a win being enough to clinch a playoff berth this weekend:

Anibaba: "I think any time you play at home in MLS you feel that you should get three points; you should walk away with three points. Obviously, we know what's at stake. Three points is at a premium for us, but like I said, any time we step on our home field, we feel like three points is something that we should walk away with and the same is true for Sunday."

On facing NYCFC this weekend:

Anibaba: "They're the number one team in the East right now. They're dangerous, they're scoring a lot of goals. They're playing good football, but like I said, we're confident at home. The last time we played them, it was similar to the game that we just played [in Portland], to be honest, so we're ready for anything that the game will throw at us and we're confident about our chances."

Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell

On if the result against Portland will energize the team this weekend:

Farrell: "I think so, I think just how the game went. Obviously, I thought we were super dominant in the first half and unfortunate to not get a goal maybe here or there. Second half, we kind of had a little bit of moments where we kind of dropped off, but kept fighting back and getting that positive result on the road, especially

being down 2-0 in the 87th minute. I think it does. Especially with having guys who haven't played a lot of minutes this year step up and play, really have big performances, and then having the guys come off the bench and contribute to the team. I think it'll give us a little bit of energy, especially since it's a home game coming up against New York City FC."

On if the comeback in Portland encapsulates the team's season:

Farrell: "Obviously, the second half of the season, or the second part of the season under the new coaching staff, you can see the fight that the guys have and how no matter what the scoreline is, we're always going to be able to fight at the end of the game. I think that's something that Bruce [Arena] has tried to implement, that no matter what the score is, just try to keep on believing and fighting until the last minute, because you never know what could happen. Like this game [in Portland], you never know what could happen. Obviously, take care of business and got the point on the road, and obviously hoping to get three this weekend."

On Sunday's regular season home finale against NYCFC:

Farrell: "It's going to be fun. Obviously, a great team coming in, New York City FC, who've already clinched their spot. But obviously, at home in front of our fans, I think they're going to be really excited for this one, and their support's been great all year. I don't doubt that it'll change. But, we're excited to be in front of our fans and hopefully clinch a playoff spot at home."

On potentially clinching playoff berth this weekend:

Farrell: "I think there's urgency to get it wrapped up on Sunday, but also do it our own way and not have to look at results, but just make sure we take care of our points and get the job done. We're looking forward to that. I think the guys are excited. We rested some of our guys and some guys stepped up last night, so we'll have a full team of guys ready to go."

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COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

Communications Staff		Media@revolutionsoccer.net
Kaitlin Gangl Alden, Communications Director	(508) 549-0496	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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