



October 1, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: October 1, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from this week's Revolution media availability previewing Sunday's regular season finale at Atlanta United FC (NECN – 4:00 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [Defender Antonio Delamea](#)
- [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 approaching Sunday's match at Atlanta with a playoff berth clinched:

Arena: "Go there, try to win the game. Nothing changes."

On what kind of test Sunday's match presents:

Arena: "It's a good test, because we get a game on the road – which we'll have in the playoffs – against a quality team, and perhaps we see them again, so I think it's a good opportunity for us."

On how potentially facing Atlanta in the first round of the playoffs factors into his preparation:

Arena: "No factor. We're going to go, play, and try to win."

On clinching a playoff berth on Sunday with the win vs. NYCFC:

Arena: "It's a nice achievement for our team. Certainly, we're proud of the performance in the second half of the season. Now, we've got to put that past us. It's over with. It's not the greatest thing in the world we accomplished. Now, we're down to games where it's one-and-done, so we've got to start focusing on that."

On the role veteran players can play at this juncture of a season:

Arena: "I haven't even thought about that. You guys are well ahead of me in these areas. We've been together for 33 games, this season, this team. They know what their team is about and their players are about – nobody has more responsibility than anybody else. They all need to be prepared to play. That's the goal. I don't even know the record of this team, how many players have been in the playoffs – it doesn't matter at this point. We have two pretty good players who haven't been in the playoffs, by the way, and I'm not worried about them at all, to be honest with you."

On playing on the road in the playoffs:

Arena: "I don't think they're nervous about playing on the road. Actually, it'll be an exciting venue for them on Sunday, so there's no fear of playing on the road. That's a great characteristic our team has."

Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba

On clinching a playoff spot with a clean sheet at home:

Anibaba: "It was really good. Obviously, making it into the playoffs has been an objective of ours since the beginning of the season, but going into the playoffs with good form is the most important thing. That's what we're focused on."

On his emotions when Gustavo Bou sealed the win vs. NYCFC on Sunday:

Anibaba: "Everybody was obviously happy. To cap off the game in that fashion is just the perfect icing on the cake. I thought it was a complete game from everybody and to finish it that way, it just couldn't have ended any better."

On qualifying for the playoffs after opening the season with a 2-8-2 record:

Anibaba: "I think it is a good way to sum things up at home. I think it does show the fruits of our efforts and hard work, but it's only put us in a position to do what we want to do. We're obviously aware of what's at stake moving forward, and that's going to be more important than anything we've done in the past so far."

On Sunday's matchup with Atlanta United FC:

Anibaba: "They're a high-power, high-intensity, attacking team. They're very aggressive with their attack and as far as a defensive standpoint is concerned, we're going to have to be very sharp, very attentive to detail, and make sure to limit our errors. It's going to be a very tough game and we're excited for the challenge."

On potentially facing Atlanta in the first round of the playoffs:

Anibaba: "We just take things one game at a time. Right now, our focus is on Atlanta to finish out the season well and strong. Going into the playoffs with good form is key, so if we can roll what we're doing in the regular season into the playoffs, that would be huge for us."

Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea

On clinching a playoff berth:

Delamea: "It's a great feeling to be finally in the playoffs. It's my third season now and for the first time to feel it, it's amazing. I'm even more happy for the whole group, because in May we were bottom of the league and then we made an amazing run. I just feel proud."

On reflecting on where the team was in May to now:

Delamea: "It's a great achievement from the whole group – the coaching staff, all the guys that are on the team – but we don't want to stop here. I can say all the teams will start from the same spot and if we play like we play this last part of the season, where we were a really tough team on the road, then you can count us as one of the contenders."

On the team's regular season away form becoming beneficial in the postseason:

Delamea: "We knew for a couple months now that even if we make it to the playoffs, we'd probably play all the games away. I think that was one of the reasons why we took every away game like a playoff game. I think we've been doing really good. Now, we just need to transfer it to playoffs. I think we will be a really tough team to play against and we're really, really optimistic."

On Sunday's matchup with Atlanta United FC:

Delamea: "It's going to be a great test for us. The coach already pointed that it's going to be like a playoff game. We might have to travel again down there for our first playoff game, so it's just going to be for us like a big test to see how ready we are, what we need to improve and it's always nice for us soccer players to play in front of a big crowd, in front of a big place. It just gives this extra momentum to the game and we [are] just looking forward."

On if potentially playing Atlanta in the playoffs affects Sunday's game:

Delamea: “I don’t think so. Maybe we just make a couple shifts inside the team to make it more fresh. The winning mentality has to be there. We go down there to win a game like we do every other week.”

On Matt Turner:

Delamea: “Matt [Turner]’s been amazing. You can say he was probably the most [consistent] player besides Carles [Gil] this year. He saved us a couple times. It’s true. We just appreciate his hard work. At the end of the day, he’s one of the most humble guys in the team – always positive. We spoke every day. We need to keep the strong mentality that we’ve been building the second part of the season. I just feel like we are connected as a team more than ever, which is really inspiring.”

Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell

On looking forward to Atlanta after celebrating the playoff berth on Sunday:

Farrell: “We talked about it today. Coach [Arena] talked about how happy he was for us, and how the effort that we put in throughout this whole being down and then kind of coming back up and fighting, and getting this last playoff spot, feels really good. But now it’s time to focus on the next game. We’ve got one more game to prepare and we might face Atlanta again, so just kind of get ready for that mode, and being on the road there, and kind of feeling how the environment is in that playoff aspect. We’re really happy and excited to be in it, but now we want to focus on winning the next game – the regular season game – and then getting ready for the playoffs.”

On if making the playoffs feels different after missing out the last three years:

Farrell: “Yeah, definitely. Obviously, the past three years have been tough. When you’re sitting at home, you see people competing – it’s always frustrating. The past years have been very frustrating. Being able to be in the dance is fun. You get to compete. Especially with the new format, anything can happen. We’re focused on this next regular season game, but we’re excited for these playoffs. You can kind of feel it around here that we’re excited to be a part of it.”

On approaching Sunday’s game:

Farrell: “I think just prepare for Atlanta. We don’t know exactly who we’re going to play – Atlanta or Philly. But go in there and just focus on if we were to play Atlanta again two weeks from then, just how the field plays, the environment, the facilities – just kind of get used to that. It is a weird one, because you don’t want to show all your cards the first time, but we’re just going to go in and try to win the game. That’s what Coach [Arena] was saying. We want to win the game and go on from there.”

On the team’s strong away form in the regular season:

Farrell: “Yeah, it’s been great. I think that’s something that’s turned our season around, was getting results on the road. The guys, whether we’d go down or up and have to hold onto a lead or hold on for a draw, I think that mentality has been something that’s helped us get this playoff spot. I think it’s important, especially in this format. Going on the road, when you’ve got guys who can change the game like Gustavo [Bou] and Carles [Gil], and then guys who can save a shot like [Matt] Turner, you’re always going to have a chance. So we’re excited to be in the dance and no matter who we play, we know our fans are going to support us, and we’re going to be ready to go.”

On Matt Turner’s ability to keep the team in games and save results:

Farrell: “It’s huge. The regular season is a little bit different, but once it comes to the playoffs, when you have one game, you need your keeper to make two, three key saves. Because obviously if you go down in a game, or if you go up and then you have to have a big save to keep you in the lead, in a 90-minute game, that’s all it could [take] to advance you to the next round. So as much as you don’t think goalkeepers can win you games, Turner has won us a lot of games this year.”

-end-

MEDIA RESOURCES

[Media Website](#) | [2019 Schedule](#) | [Roster](#) | [Photos/Video](#)
[YouTube](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [SoundCloud](#) | [Broadcast](#)

Social: NERevolution | #NERevs

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

#NERevs

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION | ONE PATRIOT PLACE | FOXBOROUGH, MASS. 02035