



October 16, 2019

New England Revolution Training Report: October 16, 2019

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage from Wednesday's Revolution media availability previewing Saturday's Audi 2019 MLS Cup Playoffs Round One match at Atlanta United FC (NBC Sports Boston / 98.5 The Sports Hub / Univision – 1:00 p.m. ET), including soundbytes from:

- [Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [2019 MLS Newcomer of the Year Carles Gil \(Spanish with English Interpreter\)](#)
- [Forward Gustavo Bou \(Spanish with English Interpreter\)](#)
- [Forward Teal Bunbury](#)
- Atlanta United FC players available in English and Spanish

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 & Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)

On what he loves most about coaching in the Audi MLS Cup Playoffs:

Arena: "Just the competition. The chance to show what your team is about and can they be successful in a big game."

On Carles Gil being voted the 2019 MLS Newcomer of the Year:

Arena: "He's a playmaker in a day and age where there are very few of them. It's not that common. To have a player with that kind of quality on your team is great. He's an excellent passer and he can score goals. He's still our leading goal scorer, and he's a well-rounded player. He can defend, which often you don't see that out of players that play the kind of role he plays. So, he's well rounded. Obviously, his specialty is setting up goal-scoring opportunities. He's an excellent passer, as I said can score goals, and he's a good teammate. He's good to have on the field for 90 minutes. He's extremely fit and durable. I don't have those stats, but I imagine he's played in most of the games this year. He's played in 34 games this year? That's pretty good, because he's got a bullseye on his back as well. That's pretty remarkable."

On using the fact that many pundits favor Atlanta as motivation for Saturday:

Arena: "We haven't even talked about anything like that. I don't think our players are well aware of what the so-called talking heads are predicting. Who cares? We have to go out and play the game."

On the Revolution's strong away form this season:

Arena: "I think we travel well. I think we played in some good venues against good teams, so the team is focused on that. It's the same case this weekend. I don't think they'll be intimidated by the environment as much as they'll be excited and looking forward to the challenge. I think going on the road has been something we've enjoyed."

On Edgar Castillo's status for Saturday:

Arena: "I don't know. I haven't made that decision yet. He's trained a little bit, but if he's available, he's very limited in what he can offer us."

On which Revolution players surprised him this season:

Arena: "I think all the players are very competitive here, which is a good sign. They're good teammates. Have I been surprised with anything? I'm really not sure of that. I've seen these players through the years, most of them. I'm not surprised. Probably, our new international players, it's been interesting getting to know them. I'd say I've been pleasantly surprised by, obviously, Carles [Gil] and Gustavo [Bou]. But I'd say [Wilfried] Zahibo as well has been a surprise for me. I'd say [Cristian] Penilla has been a surprise, especially of late, where he's played very well. I think our goalkeeper, Matt [Turner], has surprised me. And then we have, typical of this league, some young, promising American players – young by our standards, maybe not young around the world – in Brandon [Bye] and DeJuan [Jones], for example. I think we have good, experienced league players in Teal Bunbury and Diego Fagundez and Andrew Farrell. It's all been nice to see how all those players demonstrate their qualities each and every day, and how they fit in as a team. That's probably the biggest surprise for me, is how wanting they've been to be a team, to be a successful team. That's been pleasant."

On asking players to step out of their comfort zones:

Arena: "That's what you have to do. You've got to adapt to what you have as a coach. Guys have been very cooperative and fit into roles that sometimes are not their typical roles and maybe not even that pleasing to them. But they've done whatever is necessary to help the team. That's probably the most pleasant surprise I've had, is to see how cooperative these players have been."

On the first time he noticed Carles Gil's quality:

Arena: "My first game with the team was in LA [on June 2] and he was pretty good that day. It was pretty obvious that he was an outstanding player. The thing about Carles is he's consistently good every game. Players have a tendency to be a little bit up and down, and Carles has played at an extremely high level each and every game. I knew from game one he was pretty good. He's such a good teammate as well. But each and every game he's been clearly one of our top players."

On Carles Gil's contributions beyond goals and assists:

Arena: "He keeps the ball. He's a very good possession player as well. He does whatever the game asks of him. If that means he has to track a player back into the defensive third, he does that. You very rarely see that with players of Carles' caliber. He's got a great mentality to be a team player as well as being an extremely talented player."

On the two-week break between the regular season finale and Saturday's playoff opener:

Arena: "For our team, I think it's been a plus. I think we needed a little bit of a break. I'm trying to think if I can recall us having a break since I've been here, because when I came in we had some league games and then we played [in the U.S.] Open Cup. I think we've been going all the way through. I think it's nice to have had a little bit of a break. They had the weekend off, which is probably a first for these guys in a long time. I think, overall, it's been good, because I do think we've been challenged throughout the second half of the season. To be able to step away from it a little bit, get a little bit refreshed, and then be ready to come and give it your best effort both mentally and physically, I think the break has been good."

On Carles Gil's leadership:

Arena: "He's definitely not a rah-rah player. He'll talk to players at the right times, but he's not one of those demanding, commanding type of guys. The way he plays, it says an awful lot."

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