



June 29, 2019

POSTGAME QUOTES: New England Revolution 2 vs. Houston Dynamo 1

New England Revolution Head Coach Bruce Arena

On coming from behind after entering halftime down a goal:

Arena: "I think I probably screwed them up in the first half a little bit. I don't think that formation they were comfortable enough in, and not bad, as much as it was more favorable for Houston to play against. We wanted to see [Justin] Rennicks up top with [Juan Fernando] Caicedo. So, we got that opportunity. I think the second half, switching our formation a little bit helped. But at the end of the day, it's still 11 against 11. I don't get entirely consumed with the discussion of formations. Of course, if the players know how to move and work together, any formation you play can work. But anyway, a much improved second half. I thought technically, in the first half, we were very, very poor and that had a lot to do with the energy that Houston brought to the game. I thought they did a great job getting after us in the first half, and they hit the wall a little bit physically in the last 30 minutes and it showed. And I thought we created some very good chances. Didn't finish a couple, but that was a good sign. It would have been disappointing not to walk off the field tonight with three points. Having said that, Houston had some chances, too, throughout the game – especially in the first half. That game could've gone either way. When you win these games, it's critically important, especially for a team like ourselves where we're positioned, obviously towards the bottom of the table. We have to win games and especially at home."

On the impact of the substitutions and the performance in the last 30 minutes of play:

Arena: "It was very good. Cristian [Penilla] was a handful. Teal [Bunbury] is such a smart player and can play effectively on both sides of the ball. He's a very good player and he can play a number of positions on the field. He just helps our team. He's a smart player. He's technically good. He's a great teammate, on and off the field. So, I'm really pleased with that. Cristian, we continue to work with him. I think, certainly, you bring him into a game with 30 minutes left, and you need a goal, he's a tough guy to deal with. I thought he did an outstanding job tonight and I would think, he would even say, that he probably could've gotten himself a goal because he did some outstanding stuff."

On the lineup changes, in particular, the addition of Antonio Delamea to the starting lineup:

Arena: "Again, I don't know fully his history this season. He had injuries and he was out awhile. And I know he hasn't played a whole lot, but he's been good in training. He's a very good professional and at some point we wanted to see him play. We wanted to make sure we could move him along in training. And since I've been here, he hasn't missed a training session. He's played well and at some point we were going to give him a chance. And I thought he did very well tonight."

On trying to bring more pace on the field with his second-half substitutions:

Arena: "Speed always is an issue. You can't coach speed. Basketball, let's say you can't coach a guy to be seven feet, either. Speed in sports is a critical factor, but speed isn't only physical speed. It's technical speed and mental speed. We have a bunch of guys that have physical speed. We got to improve the technical and mental speed on some of them to really be effective."

On the play of Justin Rennicks tonight:

Arena: "Good job. He's a hard worker. He has to get used to playing in games at the senior level, at this pace. His first touch has to get a little bit better, but he gave a good effort. He's a handful and we'll continue to see him throughout the season and, hopefully, he continues to move forward as a player."

On having so many games in a short time span and whether it is a continuation of an audition period for players:

Arena: "I'm not sure it's an audition period, but you're playing two games in a short period of time on this field, is very challenging. The guys that started both games this week are players we feel are pretty fit and could recover well enough to play tonight. And in most cases, you need another day. If we were playing on Sunday, perhaps we'd play a few more of the players that played on Wednesday. But the six substitutions were attributed to one, [Matt] Turner was suspended last game. And then, secondly, we wanted to look at some other players as well and we knew that if you can bring [Cristian] Penilla and [Teal] Bunbury into the game and you're in position to win a game, that's going to be a real positive for us. It worked out. It was important that we got that goal early in the second half."

On how tonight helps the Revolution going into Colorado on Thursday:

Arena: "It doesn't help us at all actually, but it's nice to have it. That'll be a whole different story. I saw them play for about 60 minutes last night against LAFC. They've played very well, as of late. It's going to be a difficult game and it's in altitude and all of that stuff. So, it goes on and on."

New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury

On the impact he and Cristian Penilla made as substitutes:

Bunbury: "It was a lot of work, first of all, from all the guys. From the first minute, it wasn't our prettiest game, but guys put the work in. Houston's a good team, they came out to play. You come into games and you want to make an impact, whether you're starting or coming off the bench and I think everybody did well -- guys who started, guys who came in. We had a few chances, all of us did. That [goal] for me is all [Cristian] Penilla's work. He took on two, three guys, dragged the keeper out with him, was able to chop it back and I had all the time in the world to just make sure I was getting it on target."

On if his perspective from the bench in the first half helped him once he entered the game:

Bunbury: "Yeah, I think so, but I also think that we were playing a 4-4-2 in the first half. I think we're a little more comfortable with the 4-2-3-1. Anytime you come in, you want to make an impact, whether it's defensively, offensively, you want to lift the spirits of the guys a little bit. That was my job to go in there and try to work my tail off and to try to win the game."

On finding a way to win in the last 10-15 minutes:

Bunbury: "You could see the fight in everybody. Everybody wanted to win this game. The fans were unbelievable throughout the whole match. The last 10-15 minutes, I think we created a lot of chances and we didn't give up. I think that was huge for us, maybe in games past we might have maybe not gotten a lucky bounce and kind of put our heads down, but we kept fighting until the end and we were able to find the game winner."

On what goes through his head scoring a stoppage time winner:

Bunbury: "It's kind of crazy. I don't know, a lot goes through your head. You won the game, but it's the fight from everybody. The fans being out there, just another opportunity to help your team, no matter what it is. It's a great feeling, winning games. You train all week to have the opportunity to go out there and get three points. We were able to do that tonight. We'll enjoy this win, but we've got to move forward. Our next match is Colorado, so we'll prepare for them."

On the message Bruce Arena gave him before entering the game:

Bunbury: "He just said, "Go try to make a difference". That's what I tried to do."

New England Revolution Forward Justin Rennicks

On making his first MLS start:

Rennicks: "It was good. I had a bunch of nerves, but at the end of the day, it's just another game. I'm going out there and playing my game, so that's what I did."

On Coach Arena's instructions for him ahead this game:

Rennicks: "Making runs in behind, holding up the ball, all sorts of things. Just putting them under pressure. I think that's what we did, which is good."

On playing on the left wing in the second half:

Rennicks: "I've been in it a few times. It usually goes from left wing to center forward. I can play either."

On getting comfortable playing at this level:

Rennicks: "It all clicks in after practice. I mean, that's why we practice. You go out there, you play the game, and you're connecting the lines. You translate it from practice to the game. It's all making sense. You kind of just play along from there."

On areas he wants to improve on to stay in the rotation:

Rennicks: "There's a bunch of things I think I could have done better. It was my first game that I got to start in. It was hard going out there, but I think I should have done better in certain situations. I was happy with the result, obviously. Just all good all around."

New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez

On getting the three points after drawing the last two home games:

Fagundez: "It was very important. We knew from the beginning that we had to get three points, and I think we did well. It wasn't our best game, but at the end of the day when you walk away at home with three points, that means the job was well done. We need to keep moving forward, keep getting points, and when we have chances to get three, we have to make sure we keep doing that."

On getting his first assist of the season:

Fagundez: "It's huge. I feel like I haven't really done much, so today, it was nice to get an assist, something on the board. Hopefully, this is the start and I keep bringing more, maybe a goal or more assists, but I'm just going to keep doing what I've been doing and helping out the team as much as I can. When I go in there, do everything I can -- if things happen, they happen. At the end of the day, what matters is that we win games and we make it far."

On Antonio Delamea's goal and his performance tonight:

Fagundez: "It was a huge. I always bother him and tell him that he never puts his head on the ball, so finally today, I served one and he actually put it [in], so I was very happy for him. I think he wanted it and you can see he was hungry after, and made sure that he was a solid defender back there. It definitely gave him a boost. We want to keep seeing that from him."

New England Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea

On his injury recovery:

Delamea: "It's been pretty tough, especially with the demand that Brad [Friedel] had to leave. I just wasn't ready to play, but there was no one else and I had to play the game in Chicago, which turned out to be one of the worst games we ever played. After [the game], I kind of felt guilty that I was part of everything that happened to Brad [Friedel]. Bruce [Arena] came; he gave all of us huge confidence. He really made a team of us. Honestly, the last month, it was really a joy to come here training. I knew, every training, what I was working for: working to come back and to start playing like I played my first season. I hope this is a new start for me."

On his emotions after scoring his goal:

Delamea: "I just played today for my uncle; he passed away on Thursday. I'm just happy [because] I know he was there with me and that was for him. I wasn't thinking about anything else but him."

On the change of play after halftime:

Delamea: "We switched formations. First half, we tried the diamond, but we kind of struggled, especially on both flanks. I think this change of formation to 4-2-3-1 really changed the game. We were much more aggressive in the final third. We just scored at the right time."

On his thoughts during his scoring play:

Delamea: "Well, [Diego Fagundez] knows, I told him that I'd be there and that he just needed to give a good cross and I'll be there. He delivered a really, really good ball. I was in a duel with a defender, kind of came out as a winner. You know, thank God I scored. The team was the most important thing I was thinking about. This is a really important win for all of us."

Houston Dynamo Head Coach Wilmer Cabrera

On tonight's match overall:

Cabrera: "Yeah, we started off well. We started off organized with a good shape, moving the ball, and with more possession in the first half. The personality we showed; good character to play even against New England. We scored a good goal. Second half, we knew that they were coming after to try to tie the game. Then, in the set pieces, they tied the game. The last 15 minutes, we ran out of gas and sadly we couldn't hold the tie and they scored in the last minute—the 90th minute. Just disappointed for all of us because the effort was there, but we have to be able to hold 90 minutes or 95 and we didn't do it. We are now leaving disappointed with three games straight losing away. We need to just try to bring our whole roster back to see if after this situation we can get together and organize ourselves."

On the team's chances early on and scoring an early goal:

Cabrera: "It was important. It was important, but again, the message was 'we need to play the whole game.' The last 10-15 minutes we ran out of gas; we didn't do the right things. The free kicks, we started kicking the ball instead of playing. We took the wrong decisions and you cannot take wrong decisions because the other team is going to have the ball and we gave the ball to them instead of us keeping the ball and keeping possession. When you are tired and you stop playing, then you know that's what happens. Sadly, the goal was not good for us. They went through too easy in the box, no one was marked, and they turned loose. So anyways, we need to move on and we need to bring our players [back]."

On the play of Darwin Ceren and Romell Quioto:

Cabrera: "Yes, it's good. It's good to have Darwin [Ceren] and Romell [Quioto] back, but we need everyone. We need everyone back because, in the end, they played well, those two. Juan David [Cabezas] played well but, we need everyone. We need everyone playing well; we need the whole eleven guys playing well. Even the subs, when they come into the game, they need to help us because at the end, we lost today."

On having a full roster back for the next game:

Cabrera: "It is important for us to bring the whole roster [back] because we've been dealing with this situation and it's not good for us. We're not that good to have the luxury to play this type of game without the first team. Even with the first team, the starting players it's going to be difficult. Without them, it's even more complicated."

Houston Dynamo Defender DaMarcus Beasley

On what it's like to play against and with Bruce Arena:

Beasley: "I think he's beat me every time I've played against him. Every time I play against him, he seems to win. I think I've drawn a couple times against Bruce [Arena], but he's definitely got the upper hand on me as far as going against him. Tactically, they changed some things today, made it a little bit difficult with how they played today from how they usually play. So, it gave us a challenge, but yeah, that's Bruce, he's a smart coach and he knows what he's doing. It was great to play for him. Obviously, I've known him since I was 17-years-old. He's grown as a coach, as people do. He'll tell you himself, he's a lot better of a coach than he was back then. But yeah, he's still the same Bruce. We had a good conversation this morning. We had a lot of laughs, had a lot of memories that we talked about. We spoke about a lot of different things, but yeah, it was good to catch up. It's always a pleasure seeing Bruce. He's one of the guys that basically started my career, especially with the national team with Bob [Bradley], but Bruce was the guy to pull the plug and say, 'Okay, let's get him on the national team.' He's definitely a guy that I owe a lot to in my career, so all I can say is thank you."

On what it was like playing for Bruce Arena:

Beasley: "Obviously, when you get older you pick up different things. When you're younger, you listen and that, but you don't really comprehend what he's actually saying, you just want to go and play. You don't really think about different things, you just want to play soccer and go out there and kick the ball around. There's things that he does as a coach that I've enjoyed, that I'll take with me throughout my career and whatever I decide to do after I stop playing. But, playing for Bruce is fun, it's a very relaxed environment, but obviously he knows how to get the most out of his players and that's what I like about him. Not many coaches can do that and I think that's a very good trait that he has. He's good at getting the most out of his players that he has. For me, he's hands down one of the best coaches, not just in America, just one of the best coaches, period. Like I said, for me, I owe a lot to Bruce with my career."

On playing at home on Wednesday night:

Beasley: "Basically, we throw this week in the trash. It was not good enough from our standpoint, nowhere near good enough. Eight goals [conceded] in three games is not going to win you any games, it's not going to get you any results. So, this whole week has been trash and I put that lightly. It wasn't good enough, but at the same time you have to stay positive. In this league, it's tough, every team goes through a bad patch and we got to stick together to get out of it. I know it's cliché to say this and that and we'll be better next game, this and that. For us, we've got to go back to the drawing board and put the hard work back on the field, so we'll start I'm sure on Monday and get our mind right. Get all the players back that have been on international duty and injured. We can't keep having these performances that we've been having. Yeah, we play hard, but we haven't used our brain much in these three games. You'll never hear a team say that the Dynamo stopped running or stopped working hard, because we're a hard-working team, but we forget our brain sometimes and that cost us in these three games."

Houston Dynamo Midfielder Darwin Cerén

On what happened on the goal:

Cerén: "I saw Romell [Quioto] when he took the corner and I tried to go to the far post, but somebody flicked the ball and I'll be there to try to shoot and it's a good goal. I'm excited because every time when you have the chance to score, it's amazing and motivation for me and then it really feels good. I think we need to be more ready in the second half."

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