



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 2 vs. Colorado Rapids 1
Saturday, March 10, 2018

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On Chris Tierney's game-winning goal:

Coach Friedel: "Chris Tierney is a wonderful striker of the ball. So, when it was on that side that favored a left footer, you're never fully confident that the ball is going to go in the back of the net, but you knew there would be a chance. It was great that Chris was on the field for that moment, no doubt."

On Tierney's performance coming on as an early substitution:

Coach Friedel: "Not easy at all for any player to have to come on early and we've had it two games in a row now. At least this time, we got to play with 11 men the whole game. I thought Chris [Tierney] did a wonderful job. Not easy playing against a five-back system. Both of their wing backs possess a lot of pace and I thought Chris dealt with that very, very good. And then, for most of the game with Christian Penilla, a lot of communication they had to do. And then on the other side, I thought Brandon [Bye] and Kelyn [Rowe] did a very, very good job and then Teal [Bunbury] at the end of the game with Brandon."

On Gabriel Soti's status after leaving the game with a head injury:

Coach Friedel: "Gabriel [Soti] is feeling a little bit groggy right now. He took a pretty nasty hit to the head, so we'll assess him. There's nothing really to report right now. I think tomorrow or the day after we'll have a better assessment."

On what it's like to start his coaching tenure with a home win:

Coach Friedel: "It's always good to win the three points, home or away. We were disappointed last week. We felt if we were 11 v 11 we had a very, very good chance to beat Philadelphia. So it was essential, especially with having a bye week next week, that we got the three points. Everyone's delighted, but we're going to forget this one now and we got to move on to NYCFC next."

On Matt Turner's success and how the team rallied around him after the PK save:

Coach Friedel: "That was a big moment. You need all players. They have the opportunity to be sort of the heroes at times in games. Matt [Turner] had the opportunity today with a very important penalty save. Matt had been very good from day one in preseason. I told him when I first took over the job he was coming in as the number three. And he ended up preseason as the number one. So, that's fair play to him. I told all the players it didn't matter what they did in the past. It matters what they do now in front of the new staff. Matt took his chance and he's performed very, very well. Delighted again that we got the three points. His penalty save was a big moment in that."

On his message and adjustments made at halftime:

Coach Friedel: "I told the players at halftime. We had only had really three entries into their box in the first half. I liked all of our defensive positioning, the shape, and the pressure. And I liked the fact that we were switching the point of attack. I wanted that to happen a little bit quicker and I wanted the players to be a little bit more aggressive and brave with the ball in the final third. Some other players like Kelyn Rowe and Diego Fagundez are very, very good in the attacking third. They should be able to exploit their talents. They'll never hear me or anyone on my staff yell at them for trying something in the attacking third because that's what they're good at and it's also what entertains the crowd. We did have those words at halftime. It didn't go unnoticed in the first half. Hopefully, it was a little bit more exciting. I know the ending most definitely was in the second half."



On the build up to Diego Fagundez's goal:

Coach Friedel: "The link-up play between Cristian [Penilla] and Diego [Fagundez] from really day one when they both walked in the doors has been very, very good. You can see little bursts of pace that Cristian Penilla has when he's in the attacking third. As we get more and more time together on the training ground and in games, you'll see that partnership develop very well throughout the season."

On his thought process in the final 25 minutes of the match:

Coach Friedel: "I've been involved as a coach and a player in many games. Emotions go up and down all the time. Obviously, we didn't want to concede the goal. I think when I watch the video, I'm pretty sure that they scored the goal against the run of play. It's one of those things that you have to deal with. But this team, from the moment that we took over the team in preseason, we went down a lot of times in preseason games. And even if you're in your own training games, the players have a lot of character and they always know how to fight back. They obviously played until the 92nd or 93rd minute today."

On the center back pairing for today's match:

Coach Friedel: "Because of the two red cards against Philadelphia, we decided that evening after the Philadelphia game that we were going to slot in Brandon [Bye], and put Andrew [Farrell] and Jalil [Anibaba] with Gabriel [Somi] on the left hand side. We worked all week in training doing it. At no time, was I or anyone on the staff, or anyone on the team, fazed by having to do it. I thought Andrew and Jalil performed very, very well today. Dominique Badji is excellent in the air. [Jack] McBean is also formidable in the air and they don't stop working. Colorado played a lot of direct balls and I thought the two of them played very, very well."

On whether or not Matt Turner has locked up the starting goalkeeper spot:

Coach Friedel: "Every position is always still fluid. The way that my staff and I work is that you have to perform each and every day. The shirt is right now Matt's [Turner] to lose, but Brad [Knighton] and Cody [Cropper] are both excellent goalkeepers and they're going to try to put as much pressure on Matt as possible. That's what makes you better. When you have a lot of competition for places, you find out exactly what the players are made of when they can go through a few adverse situations and then come out the other side. Right now, Matt Turner's the number one goalkeeper, but that can change any time there's a loss of form, an illness, or injury, and someone takes their chance. That's just professional soccer."

New England Revolution Defender Chris Tierney

On the negotiation ahead of the free kick and what he saw once he lined up over it:

Tierney: "[Laughs] It was a tough negotiation, but seniority wins out in the end there, I guess. But it was on my side. It's angled for a left-footer there and I just figured, knowing it was last kick of the game, I'm getting it on target. I'm not putting this thing over. I'm going to make him make a save if nothing else and we got a lucky balance, which we deserved."

On what it does for the confidence of the group getting a win in Brad Friedel's first home game:

Tierney: "Getting three points under your belt early in the season is so important. We've established a really good home record here over the last few years, and Brad [Friedel] has emphasized that that's something that we want to continue. We want to make teams feel uncomfortable when they come here, and I thought on the whole, we deserved to win today. It was a pretty solid performance considering the conditions."

On how he felt he added to the defensive pressure on the Rapids:

Tierney: "Yeah, that's part of the plan. Brad [Friedel] is making sure that we're all ready to play. We don't know the team until we come in on game day this year, so that's something that's kept all of us on edge, preparing as though we're going to be starters. I prepared all week as though I'm going to play—as all the



guys on the roster did. We all know our jobs and we all just go out there and execute and have confidence that we can all come out and play at a high level."

On what he's seen from Matt Turner throughout his time with the New England Revolution:

Tierney: "Matt [Turner] is a surprise to people in the soccer community outside of this building, but in this building, it's no surprise to us that he's gotten a shot and that he's performing as well as he has in these first two games. Credit to him, he's performed really well and had a great attitude throughout his time here. It's exciting to see a guy like that get a chance. It's always cool to see young players that really put their time in and work hard in training and get a chance to play—and Matt falls under that category. So, we're excited for him, and we hope that he continues to perform at a high level. That was a huge save he made for us today. Helped us get the three points."

On the message from Brad Friedel at halftime:

Tierney: "It was difficult in the first half. I thought we controlled the ball pretty well, but we didn't penetrate into their penalty area enough, which is basically what Brad [Friedel] said at halftime. We had good control of the ball, but we weren't putting them under pressure, so we decided to up the pressure in terms of trying to whip balls into the box, make them defend deeper and deeper in the conditions. Just create some chaos in and around their penalty area, try to win free kicks, try to win the penalty. It worked for us in the second half. It was just about energy and grinding it out today with the conditions. It was tough."

New England Revolution Midfielder Kelyn Rowe

On the kind of fight he saw from the team up until the last second of the game:

Rowe: "I think it's what we installed in preseason. It's what we installed throughout the whole season thus far. You saw even when we got down to ten men, nine men, against Philly, we were fighting the whole time. It's something we take for pride. It obviously worked out for us at the end, and Chris [Tierney] put together a wonderful free kick that I think if it wasn't getting touched, it was still going in. We're happy with guys who stepped up. Obviously, two center backs that went down wasn't what we drew up on against Philly, but I thought Jalil [Anibaba] and [Andrew] Farrell, and Brandon Bye coming in as well—then you had [Gabriel] Somi go down in the first 20 minutes, so Chris [Tierney] coming in and doing a great job. You got to out and be soccer players, and these guys did a really good job of it."

On if today's match sets the tone as the first home game under Brad Friedel:

Rowe: "I think you saw it. I thought we were good on the ball. We had a good amount of possession. We still need to work on creating a little more chances, but the chances we created, we tried to put towards goal. Look, we got two goals at home, and we got our first win, so I think there's a lot of positives to take from it, and we'll obviously look back this week and with the weekend off, we've got a lot that we can do, and we'll look forward to New York."

On how important it was open the home slate with an emotional win:

Rowe: "I think just for us, it's about getting on a winning streak. We need to know what this feels like again. Obviously, we've been very good at home. I think that's something that we're going to continue. We enjoy playing here, let's just say that. You can see the excitement with everyone, with Matt Turner's save on the pen, and the amount of saves he made today, with the goal from Chris [Tierney], and the goal from Diego [Fagundez]. You see the fans and how excited we are to play here. It's just a different level."

On the emotional boost Matt Turner's save was:

Rowe: "I think Matt [Turner] was the most excited for it. He was a kid in a candy store. It was great. He made a great save, and he kept us in this game."



On how he felt overall about the offense:

Rowe: “I think it’s something we can work on. It’s still the beginning of the season. We still got to get used to each other, where people want the ball, the runs we make and things of that sort, but I thought the possession was good today. I thought our spacing was good in some parts, but you also got to factor in, this wind is not easy to play in. You expect the ball to be on your left, and all the sudden, it’s on your right as it gets to you. It’s not the most ideal, but look, two shots on goal and two goals—that’s pretty good.”

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On moment of the penalty kick save:

Turner: “You don’t really have a lot to lose as a goalkeeper in those situations, so you just kind of play loose and you play free, and you hope that you can make the save. No one really expects you to make the save, and when you do it’s a huge moment for your team, and obviously you want to make the save really badly, because you know it can be a huge turning point emotionally in the game.”

On comments from his teammates after the save:

Turner: “Just, ‘Here we go.’ I don’t want to get too specific, because I don’t think it’s good for cameras. Everyone was happy for me. Obviously, it was a big moment in the game. We were up, saving a [penalty], keep it 1-0, gives us something to play for more as the game goes along. Everyone’s just excited in those moments.”

On what he saw from the backline:

Turner: “[Gabriel] Soma went down, then we had Chris [Tierney], who is a seasoned veteran. He fit in seamlessly, had a really good game, and obviously the crucial goal at the end. Everyone on our team can do this job, I think everyone communicated really well and that was the biggest thing, and they were all motivated to get the three points.”

On Chris Tierney’s goal:

Turner: “We can talk about the moment of the penalty save, and this and that, but I still think I made a mistake on the goal they scored. I was disappointed and if the game had ended on one-one, I would have been really disappointed, so I was just hoping that my veteran guy, Chris [Tierney], he could pick me up there, and every day in training when he does those free kicks he’s really good so. He put it in the back of the net, and it was just instant relief and we were happy to get the three points especially for the fans who came out and sang their hearts out today.”

On what he saw on the Rapids’ goal:

Turner: “The ball held up in the wind a little bit. I hesitated, I thought that I could get out to it. I was a little deep, so maybe I don’t come next time, or maybe I make the decision in a split second and go and trust my gut. You know it’s something to learn from and take forward in the future.”

Colorado Rapids Head Coach Anthony Hudson

On his thoughts on the match:

Coach Hudson: “I think when you lose a game in the last kick like that we’re of course—myself, the players—we’re all incredibly disappointed. It’s probably the worst possible way to lose at the end. But, look, overall this is an incredibly tough place to come. We know last year they had a great home record and [it’s positive] for us to get back in the game in difficult conditions, difficult scenario, back in the game, score a great goal, and play well. We didn’t really look under pressure for the most part of the game. There was a lot to build on there. I was proud of the players.”

On some of the positives to take away from the game:



Coach Hudson: "I think if you look at it overall, we probably created more chances than the opposition. Which, coming away from home is a good thing and not only created chances but, you know, good chances. Tommy [Smith] has a good header in the first half. Obviously the penalty, you know, there's one or two other half chances. We've created some good stuff, which on the road is very difficult, especially at a place like this. And again, I thought at times we controlled the game, we looked organized, we looked like we played together as a team. But, psychologically, I think to come back, to come back in the game from a goal down and especially to respond from missing a penalty, I think the team showed a huge amount of character. Look, I'm proud of the players for the way they responded today and the performance."

On what he saw on the goal scored by Niki Jackson on one of his first touches as a professional:

Coach Hudson: "It's a great moment for him. We're incredibly proud of him. He's come in in preseason sort of out of nowhere and he's impressed all of us. He's got a huge amount of energy. He's going to be a good player and, look, it's a great moment for him. So, he's a young kid, he's got a lot of development in him, but he did well today."

On what the preparations will be heading into the home opener against Sporting KC:

Coach Hudson: "We just got to keep working. I think we had eight new players on the pitch that have never played and are new to the league and the team. So, we just have to keep working, but I think we showed enough today away from home enough signs that we're on the right track. The team is moving in the right direction and we're getting stronger. We're 10 seconds away from getting a massive point on the road and we've also missed a penalty and we've had some really good chances. We had a great chance from Tommy Smith. So, we just got to build on it and we got to learn from this."

Colorado Rapids Forward Niki Jackson

On making his professional debut:

Jackson: "As always, you want to be prepared. When you're on an 18-man roster, your time can come at any point. So for me, I knew at some point with Jackie [Jack McBean] being knocked up a little bit that I might get a chance to get in. Mentally, you have to be focused the whole game. Throughout the whole game I was ready, just waiting for them to call my name and get out there and get ready to go."

On scoring the equalizer in the 66th minute:

Jackson: "I saw the defender and he was kind of ball watching, so I kind of pulled off to the left side of him so I was out of his view. [Johan] Blomberg just played a perfect ball to me and I just got to it."

On scoring the 900th goal in Rapids history:

Jackson: "It's awesome. My debut in the MLS, getting my first goal—unfortunately we came out with a loss. But still, it was a great moment for me and my career with my first goal in the MLS. It's definitely something I'm not going to forget."

On what he and the team can take from this loss:

Jackson: "A lot of good things came out of today. As a team, we played well. We were aggressive, but we just got to be able to close out games a little bit better and work a little bit harder at the end of the games and just stay focused at the end."

Colorado Rapids Midfielder Johan Blomberg

On his assist on Niki Jackson's goal:

Blomberg: "Yeah, I got the ball pretty far out from the box and I saw Niki waving at me towards the back post and yeah, it was a good ball. He did amazing to get first to the ball and put it in."



On his MLS debut with the Rapids:

Blomberg: "Of course disappointing because of the result. We had [it] 1-1 and I think after we missed a penalty, we played pretty well and [got] back into the game and we lose when there is like 10 seconds to go, so it's very disappointing."

On his comfort level with his new environment:

Blomberg: "It feels good. I think, maybe we didn't have the best game today, but still in the second half I think we played pretty well, and as I said, we [got] back into the game, which shows good character from the players. So I think we are a good team and today we will just learn from the mistakes and do better next time."

On his communication level with teammates:

Blomberg: "We have some really good players on our team, so it's pretty easy to play with them and they're pretty clear where they want the ball, so I just try to put them in good situations."

~~###~~