



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 2 vs. New York City FC 2
Saturday, March 24, 2018

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On the chances created by the high press and the missed opportunities:

Coach Friedel: “Yeah, in watching a lot of NYCFC play, we knew that [they] were going to try to play it out of the back at all times. Patrick Vieira has done a wonderful job with his team over the years that he’s been the head coach, instilling that philosophy. I also know that from the players that we have, we would cause them and be able to cause them, a lot of problems. The only disappointment was we were only one goal to the good. I thought we should’ve been up maybe three or four goals at halftime. Goalkeeper made a couple of good saves, hit the post, missed a couple of chances, but there were a lot of positives to take out of the performance.”

On the second goal conceded by the Revolution:

Coach Friedel: “I haven’t watched the goal back, so I’m going to take this a little bit from memory, but I think even on their first goal, we had opportunities to stop the play. We had done a really good job for most parts of the game, limiting [Maximiliano] Moralez’s touches on the ball. Most every attack goes through him. I felt in the second half, he got a few too many touches on the ball, but it’s also difficult. It’s hard work to press for 90 minutes and we’re probably 70 to 80-percent of the fitness level we want to get our players, because we’ve just taken over, and it is a style that we want to impose, but Moralez is also very clever and he tries to get into little pockets. So, as far as what went on defensively, I’ll have to watch it, so I can answer more accurately for you.”

On the buildup that led to the Revolution second goal:

Coach Friedel: “I thought that was a tremendous goal. Juan [Agudelo] has been working really hard. It’s never easy when you’re a player of Juan’s capabilities, and you’re not finding yourself starting in games. We have a lot of competition for places in the squad, a lot of good players. Juan will see his fair share of minutes at the club, there’s no doubt, and he’ll start his fair share of games, there’s no doubt. But when you do put substitutes on in a game, you want to see a difference and a positive difference and I thought he was very good. The cross from Cristian Penilla is something that we see every single day in training. And the play, we knew that we were going to be able to have some possession and some joy on the wide sides, both for Andrew Farrell and for Gabriel Somi to go forward, and for whichever one was on that side, and it paid off. It was a good cross and a very good header.”

On the progression of the team, with regards to the new style of play:

Coach Friedel: “The players are fit. We went through a preseason. But for the style of play that we want, because we want the players to be able to press for ninety minutes, but we also want to be able to keep possession of the ball when we have it. When you play the best teams, not only in MLS, but even if you go outside, and if you want to get into CONCACAF Champions League and whatnot, and play against the better teams in Mexico, you’re going to have to do both sides. So, that’s just our gauge. I’m not saying that for anything else. That’s just where we want to get and the players work tremendously hard and they’re doing a great job at adapting to our system. I think, if we had eleven men in the Philadelphia game, we’d be sitting here with a couple more points and I do feel like we had two points dropped today.”

On the thought process of bringing on Brandon Bye:

Coach Friedel: “Well, we were looking at tired legs, but we were also looking on this right hand side. I thought their left back and left midfielder, would have a very difficult time with Brandon Bye’s pace, which they did. Brandon is new to the professional game, but he possesses a lot of physical qualities and at that



time of the game, we thought that that was a good thing to do. We didn't get an opportunity to get it on before the goal, but when he came on, I thought he did a good job."

On the play of Cristian Penilla:

Coach Friedel: "All the players, when you're pressing, including the back four, because it's not easy to be brave and stay high right on the halfway line, for fear that maybe a ball could get knocked over the top, and they possess players with a lot of pace. I thought Cristian Penilla and anyone else, worked tirelessly up there. Diego Fagundez and Teal Bunbury and Juan [Agudelo] when he was on, and Kelyn [Rowe] and Cristian, they all worked incredibly hard and it's not easy work to do, but it created a lot of chances for us."

New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez

On his overall thoughts on today's game:

Fagundez: "It's a tough one to take. We were up 2-1 with 15 minutes left. We just need to be smarter and make sure that we're finishing every chance, but I think in the first half we should have just finished them a lot earlier and then nothing would have happened in the second half."

On what he saw when NYCFC's Ismael Tajouri equalized:

Fagundez: "I didn't really see it much. I remember we were defending and I was trying to tell [Matt] Turner to come down because we were running, but there was a lot of space. When [Gabriel] Somi got the ball and he was trying to play me, I had somebody already on my back, and then they went the other way. It's just unlucky, but we need to be smart in those situations."

On the effectiveness of the high press in the first half:

Fagundez: "The first 45 [minutes], I don't know. I think we knew that we needed to put in work, and I think you saw from everybody. We were putting in the work and we were getting our chances, but we need to be a lot better on them—make sure that we're finishing them. Myself, I know it's frustrating when you miss a couple inside the 18, so we need to be better on that."

On sustaining the same amount of pressure in the second half as they did in the first half:

Fagundez: "It's very hard. You can't do it for 90 minutes, so the first 45, I think we were just buzzing and everybody was going for it. In the second half, it's a little harder when you're already getting tired. They kept passing it back to [Sean] Johnson, so now we're chasing a little bit, and we didn't really want that, but at the end of the day, overall, we need to be better but we have to move on now and go to the next one."

On NYCFC coming out strong in the second half:

Fagundez: "I think they definitely went over what we were doing. They had to figure a way to work around our press. At some points they did a good job, and at some points they didn't, but for us, it was just hard when they spread out and now our forwards – me and Teal [Bunbury] – we had to get so wide. When we won the ball, now we were so wide that it's kind of hard to play with each other in that moment."

New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell

On what he saw on NYCFC's second goal:

Caldwell: "I'd have to re-watch it again, but I feel like we did a good job most of the game, getting pressure in the midfield, we weren't able to in the transition. When we gave it away, we weren't able to get tight and so he was able to get a good slip pass in."



On Cristian Penilla's play:

Caldwell: "Cristian's [Penilla] been a really, really good player. His attitude's been awesome from the get go and he's performed on the field so far. And I know he has even more to show you guys, so, he's definitely been a bright spot and he's done very well."

On what NYFC's game plan was and how it affected you today:

Caldwell: "We wanted to press them and win the ball up high on the field so we could get opportunities close to goal, and I think we did that very well in the first half. We just got to put away a few more chances, and the game's different, but, ultimately higher up the field just pressing."

On how hard it is to sustain pressure for 90 minutes:

Caldwell: "I think we did a pretty good job. There were definitely a few moments in the second half we didn't do a good enough job, obviously. But, I think it's something that we work on in training and all the guys are ready and able and willing to do it when the time comes."

On how a larger lead would've impacted the game plan for the second half:

Caldwell: "It's huge whenever you get the opportunities, we got to put them away. It's something that we should be able to do for 90 minutes and we did for a lot of the game but not, obviously, a few moments here and there, we weren't good enough."

On what to take from the match prior to next week Houston:

Caldwell: "It's exactly what we're going to have to do. We're going to have to watch, see what we did right, see what we did wrong, see what [the] coaches feel we can do this week in Houston and work on it in practice and be ready to go."

New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell

On what New York City FC did well in the second half:

Farrell: "I think they got more confident on the ball. They kept playing no matter what, no matter how many times they turned the ball over, they kept coming back and if you don't get the pressure exactly right, one time they can break, and on the first goal you can tell they knew how to do that, so that was unfortunate. I think the boys played well. The guys up front put in a good shift and we had a lot of chances, so we're going to work on finishing the chances we have and locking it up in the back."

On what he saw on the second goal by Ismael Tajouri:

Farrell: "We played a ball in and I forgot who got it in the middle, maybe [Yangel] Herrera got it. We're in tight on him, he got some space, and he split the ball between me and Jalil [Anibaba], I think it was inside on me, and I thought Jalil [Anibaba] was going to be there. I think he thought I was going to get it. He spun and he got it off the feet really quick, but obviously unfortunately. It's like a bang-bang play—got in and they scored. I think we still got enough chances to win the game. I think we'll be disappointed by that."

On if it is tough to scout and face players who are new to MLS such as Tajouri:

Farrell: "I think we knew a little bit about him. He had a goal last game. He's a good player. I think we know that the players that they bring in are going to be really good. For the most part, for the first half, I think we had him in wraps. They kept switching sides with [Jesús] Medina, but we did alright. They've got good players, we have great players as well. It's just unfortunate we dropped [two] points."



New York City FC Head Coach Patrick Vieira

On the squad's performance today:

Coach Vieira: "It was a tough game for us. Today, we showed a lot of character. Sometimes you show a different aspect of the game and today we managed to get back twice from behind. We showed a lot of determination, a lot character, and this is something positive I picked up from the game."

On New England's high press:

Coach Vieira: "I think this is a part of my responsibility as well. I think at times, especially the first 25 minutes, they were pressing us really high and with a pace that they have up front that was closing us down and making it really difficult and we tried to force it. The players, they were doing what I was asking them to do. There was a better option because I think we could've gone a little bit more direct, especially in the first 20 minutes. I think we were putting ourselves, especially the first 20 minutes, we put ourselves in a difficult situation."

On adjusting to Juan Agudelo entering the match:

Coach Vieira: "I think when you look at the goal that he scored, I think the cross, the header, everything was perfect. We went through a difficult period during the game. I think some of the period we should have managed better, but overall I was happy with the way we were playing and we were defending. You get a time where there's not a need to change a player."

On the attacking group's performance in the first half:

Coach Vieira: "I think we didn't take risk enough to play forward. I think we played in the first half, especially in the first 20 minutes, I think we played a little bit too safe. We spend too much time in our own half and that was a problem in the first half. I think we didn't find the space to find Yangel [Herrera] or Maxi [Moralez], where at times they were by themselves. We didn't manage to break their first line and this is why we struggled to play. We were putting ourselves into danger. And this is something we need to adjust, because when we are going to face teams who close down like that, we have to have a certain plan to maybe go a little bit more direct. But, listen, we are going to learn from that. We are going work and try to improve. Taking one point, knowing the last two years this was a really difficult place to come for, I am really pleased going back to New York with the point."

New York City FC Forward Ismael Tajouri

On getting a draw in New England:

Tajouri: "We know that in New England, it will be a very hard game. All week we knew that. It was a very hard game, but important for us to take a point home."

On his quick adjustment to Major League Soccer:

Tajouri: "For me, it has been good. I am very happy to net three goals, but I have to keep going. I am very happy with the team here and it was important for us to get this point. Of course, I am very happy to score the two goals. I thought the team played very well."

On what has been key to his individual success:

Tajouri: "I was excited when I came over to New York. It was interesting and very exciting. We have a great head coach [Patrick Vieira]. When I came here I said I wanted to make the next stage, because I believe with Patrick I can do it."

On coming from behind twice:

Tajouri: "You can see we have a big mentality. It is not easy to come back and win in New England. We knew that before, but we were able to come back twice. It is very big-time for us to do that. It shows how good we are, and now can focus on the next game."



New York City FC Goalkeeper Sean Johnson

On his performance today:

Johnson: “I do what I can to help the team. I’ll go back and analyze the tape later but for me, just doing what I can to contribute to the group. Just trying to keep everybody organized, keep everybody going. It was a tough game. It took a lot of energy out of the guys, so keeping everybody alert. We can be happy as a group, as a collective today. The individual focus is kind of shifted away from today, because without the group effort today we wouldn’t have come out with points. Everybody needed to be on top of their game and in the right mindset.”

On Ismael Tajouri’s start to his MLS career:

Johnson: “Unbelievable talent, unbelievable talent. I think we’re just scratching the surface of what he has, his potential as a player. He works really hard every single day, all of the guys notice that and it shows when he goes out on the field and he’s producing at the moment, which is huge for us. We need different guys to step up, it’s a long season and he’s been a really important part of why we are where we are right now.”

On relying on the team’s depth early on in the season:

Johnson: “That’s been the name of the game for us, is depth. That’s been the word that pretty much sums our team up this season. We’ve had a lot of guys step up in important moments and this is just another one where we had guys contribute today and it wasn’t easy at all, but we have the right mentality across the board.”

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