



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 0 vs. Columbus Crew SC 1

Saturday, May 19, 2018

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On how he felt the team implemented the change in formation and how it impacted the game:

Coach Friedel: “I thought in the first half, defensively, the system paid dividends. With the ball, we weren’t as good. That’s why we made the change at halftime, brought Wilfred [Zahibo] in, put a little bit higher up the field then. We wanted to control the game with the ball, which I thought we did in the second half. I don’t think you’ll ever see a Columbus team hit as many long balls in a game. I think Zack Steffen very rarely tried to pass out of the back. By creating one-v-ones with our wingback and their fullbacks—they put [Milton] Valenzuela really high and they put [Harrison] Afful very high on the right hand side, and in the first game [on April 21], it created a lot of overloads for our players and some tenuous moments with our midfielders, so I thought that worked out very well. I didn’t feel in danger at all on losing the game and then we conceded a very sloppy goal on a set piece. That can be something we only have ourselves to blame, but I thought the players adapted themselves very, very well to the system. I thought the effort they put in the game was really good.

On the rationale behind doing a 3-5-2 formation:

Coach Friedel: “A system—a number system—is not a change. It’s a change of numbers, it’s not a change of philosophy. We’re a high-pressing team. We press high. I think a lot of you guys get caught up in a number system. Our philosophy did not change one bit, as you saw in the game. I thought it was a better formation to put out, so we could match up more one-v-one against the players out on the field. The message to the players was no different than it always is. In the first half, I did want us to be a little bit better on the ball, and in the second half, I thought we were. There was no change, so to speak, other than numbers.”

On Chris Tierney’s performance:

Coach Friedel: “All the players are making it difficult to change players. I’ve said it many, many times. The training is very competitive. Chris [Tierney] got his opportunity against Toronto [on May 12]. I thought he played very well. I thought that through the week, he trained well and he deserved to start. I don’t think Chris has ever played wingback before for a 90-minute game, so to speak. I think maybe at times, he said he has when they’ve been losing or something and switched to three in the back for a few minutes, but never through 90 minutes. I thought he played very, very well.”

On how the game might have changed if Diego Fagundez had played tonight:

Coach Friedel: “I thought with the formation that we put, Diego [Fagundez] would have gone in either where Cristian Penilla was, and we would have found another position possibly for Cristian Penilla. I’m not sure if Kelyn [Rowe] would have necessarily been out of the lineup. I think anytime you miss Diego Fagundez, you’re missing a very good player. But I’ve said many times, we have other players that can fill in. I think those players performed well tonight. We lost on a set piece and a penalty decision that didn’t go our way.”

On the referee’s call not to review a penalty on Brian Wright late in the second half:

Coach Friedel: “I watched it. It was a penalty. They say the same thing every game, that they’re reviewing it. I think if you ask all the coaches around the league, every single one of us are for video review unequivocally, but we’re all right now very confused about what gets reviewed and what does not get reviewed, and we don’t know if they’re actually reviewing it or not when they say it. Maybe they’re just saying it so we walk away. I think most people that were watching that could see that that was a penalty. I don’t know why Brian Wright would fall down in that situation if it wasn’t. It is frustrating when things like



that happen and I'm sure [PRO General Manager] Howard Webb will get to through all the kinks in video review. Again I'll say, we are all for video review, but every coach I've spoken to now that we've played, we're all very confused with what gets reviewed and what does not get reviewed, why it gets reviewed, and why it doesn't get reviewed."

On whether changing the number formation makes it more difficult to use the high press:

Coach Friedel: "No, it would have been, as you saw against Columbus about halfway through the first half, we dropped off completely because playing with a 4-2-3-1, they were finding holes through the midfield every time Zack Steffen got the ball. With three central defenders and two wingbacks, they didn't play out [of the back] hardly once. Zack Steffen—count the amount of times he played long balls. I do not think he will ever hit that many long balls in a game for the remainder of the season."

On whether Antonio Delamea's injury limited what he wanted to do in the second half:

Coach Friedel: "Of course it could have. As it turned out, after Claude [Dielna] came on, we were performing well so there was no need to make any change at that time. Once we conceded the goal, we immediately made the change and we wanted to put a little bit more physical presence up front because I figured then we were going to be throwing balls up front, which is what we did, which is why Brian [Wright] came on."

New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell

On Chris Tierney's defending and his role on the club:

Caldwell: "Chris [Tierney] has been a been a mainstay for so long, and that just proves how hard he works and how much he's willing to give for the team and tonight, it was no different. He was excellent on both sides of the ball. To be able to come back like that, that extended the game a little bit longer. He's a true professional and he proves it every time he steps on the field. He did a very good job."

On how tonight's switch in formation impacted the midfield's ability to create chances:

Caldwell: "I'm sure the coaches learned from the last game we played them, and we worked on it all week, so we were ready for it. I think we were a little sloppy a little bit on ball, but in terms of the formation, being prepared to face this Columbus team, we were ready and I thought it worked well. We just [have] to be better in those moments."

On how tonight's conditions played a role in the game:

Caldwell: "I wouldn't say it was a big factor. Both teams faced the same conditions, so it's tough to put anything on that. It was sloppy. We didn't keep it as much as we should have and could have, but it also helped us force some turnovers in their end as well, so it's the same for both teams. It's something that both teams realize and they try to prepare for that."

On what factors led to sloppier than normal play:

Caldwell: "It could be a variety of reasons. I can't pinpoint it right now this soon after the game, but I think it was still good enough. We were able to switch the field plenty of times and create chances. Just on both sides of the ball, that moment here and there when we have to be sharper, it wasn't there."

New England Revolution Defender Brandon Bye

On the team's tactical philosophy going into tonight's match:

Bye: "In the first game in Columbus [, I think their outside backs got a lot of the ball and were a pretty vital role in the game. We wanted to counter that with our style of play today. I thought we did it well enough, but obviously we're looking to win and we didn't get that done today."



On the team not being clinical in critical moments:

Bye: "We created some good, decent chances, but I'd say overall it was obviously not good enough."

On the instructions he received from the coaching staff:

Bye: "Really stay tight to their outside back and just work up and down the field. Bring pace to the game and my work ethic. So, with that, just work and try to get up and down the field as much as possible."

On regrouping ahead of next weekend's match at Vancouver:

Bye: "We'll definitely watch some film on the game, recuperate, and then get back to work on Monday."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On tonight's result:

Turner: "Disappointed we lost at home. We don't like doing that once, especially not twice in a season. It was a kind of ugly game and ugly weather, ugly night, and little details – a set piece; you hate to lose on that. It felt like a game that was going to come down to [that], we had a couple chances on our set pieces. We'll kick ourselves for the lack of – we weren't switched on for every single moment of the game."

On how the formation change looked from his vantage point:

Turner: "We thought it would match up well against them. They put their wingers pretty high. I thought we did a really good job of it. We worked hard on it during training this week and we were ready for it. It's a lot of movement from our center backs and a lot of up and down. You saw Farrell and Jalil high up the field sometimes and that's kind of the way it has to be in that system. It's a lot of hard work and I thought we put in the work. That lack of concentration for the one moment cost us three points."

On what the team's mindset needs to be heading into the next few games:

Turner: "Luckily, two of those [next] three are at home. Like we always harp on, we can't lose two in a row, so we'll go to Vancouver fully expecting a good result and then focus on the week, take it one game at a time. That's all we can do."

Columbus Crew SC Head Coach Gregg Berhalter

On what the win means:

Coach Berhalter: "I think it's important. We know their strengths, we know that they create a lot of goal scoring opportunities off pressing teams in their half. So our game plan was to avoid that and play in their half, and I think for the most part we did a good job of executing that. We didn't give them any opportunities off of pressing, and then they had to create by themselves. I think we did a good job, our defense in limiting that creation part of it."

On if the press is predictable:

Coach Berhalter: "Listen, you know how many goals they've scored on the press? People say that to us that we were predictable years ago. The fact is, that it's a clear identity where Brad [Friedel] has installed in his group, I think they play with a ton of commitment. They made it really hard for us today. If you move the press into midfield, so okay, they couldn't high press, but they still made it very difficult for us to move the ball around and create goal scoring opportunities."

On how New England's 3-5-2 formation influenced tonight's match:

Coach Berhalter: "So, they played a 3-5-2, or 5-3-2, whatever you want to call it, and what it did was it created man versus man in the central midfield and when we tried to counter act that with moving the fullback inside pushing one winger wide, trying to hold their back five back and create space in midfield. We had some success in that. I think when you look at the positions Harrison [Afful] got the ball in, there



was some success in that. But overall, I think they did a good job. They executed a game plan that they came up with within a week and made it difficult for us.”

On playing the ball from the back against the press:

Coach Berhalter: “I think there were times, we certainly didn't want them to come into the game early through our mistakes. So, the idea was in the beginning of the game, we're going to play in their end, play in their half, and not let them get set up with their press, and I think that was somewhat successful. But, in the end, we wanted to put the ball down and start playing, and we did that to some effect. I think we could've been a little sharper tonight, though.”

On what has been clicking for Crew SC in their recent stretch:

Coach Berhalter: “I don't know, to us it's one game at a time. So, I'll look at this game and analyze it, same way we did last week and same way we'll do next week. For us, it's about continuing to progress as a team, continuing to execute our style of play, and can we keep improving.”

On the team's defensive effort over the last few matches:

Coach Berhalter: “I think in particular in these last games, when we needed to, Zack [Steffen] stepped up. Guys didn't play error free, there were errors, but when we made a mistake, Zack was there for us. I think some games we've played really good defense, really good team defense, but in other games, the offense lead the way. So, it's been a mix in these last five games, that's why I'm not comfortable grouping them. I would say that we'll look at this game and analyze it and then move on to Kansas City.”

On Lalas Abubakar's performance:

Coach Berhalter: “What I like most about Lalas, is immediately after the game, he came to me and said, 'I didn't play great.' Here's a guy that scored a game-winning goal, is on top of the world, the team wins, and he's immediately thinking 'Hey, I need to improve, I need to get better.' And that's what I love about Lalas. He knows he didn't have the best night, he knows it wasn't as clean winning duels as he would've liked, but in the end, he scored the game-winning goal, we got three points on the road and we had a shutout. I think he has a lot to be proud of, and I think the acknowledgment that there's still work to do is excellent.”

Columbus Crew SC Midfielder Will Trapp

On securing a result for the sixth straight match:

Trapp: “I think we have done a nice job of competing in every game and limiting their chances. I think we've just done a good job communicating through a lot of things and that solves a lot of the issues that we've had in the past. You need guys to come up with big moments and make tackles and make saves, and I think we're doing a good job of that.”

On what the team learned from the first game against the Revolution:

Trapp: “I think we knew that defensively they like to press, of course. They like to come after us. It's a little different away from home how you're going to address that. For 90 minutes, they tried to press us each and every time. I thought we did a good job managing those expectations as well as when they do win the ball, their offensive transition and trying to limit chances with them moving forward. I thought we did a nice job with that as well.”

On if New England's 3-5-2 formation caused any trouble:

Trapp: “I wouldn't say [that it did]. I thought we did a nice job dealing with how they were pressing us. With Scotty [Caldwell] standing on me, or Kelyn [Rowe] standing on me at the beginning, and then I think [Wilfried] Zahibo at the end, then finding our midfielders that were rotating so we could find a lot of options and win second balls.”



On the importance of getting three points against another playoff contender:

Trapp: "It's huge. It's just more separation for us, right? We just keep moving up the board and that's important for us. The more you can separate yourself from that bottom line and from the teams in the Eastern Conference, it's good for us."

Columbus Crew SC Defender L alas Abubakar

On what he saw on his goal:

Abubakar: "We always practice this stuff, so this was like practice. It wasn't a surprise to any of us, because we just have to make the run, because that's what we do every single time at practice. We just need to execute and we did that on the field."

On if the turnover he committed earlier inspired him to score:

Abubakar: "Anytime you make a mistake, you've just got to pick yourself up and keep going, because you don't know in the next minute what's going to happen. When that happened, I just kept going and everyone was like, 'Let's go.' So we just kept going, and fortunately, the goal came."

On the team's recent defensive success and string of shutouts:

Abubakar: "I think it's a group effort. We play together, we fight for each other. That is what has got us here. It's a team effort, we just fight together. We know they are a dangerous team, so we've just got to stick together and fight for each other."

On if he is more comfortable in his second year:

Abubakar: "I came in last year – I came in and I learned a lot, and I'm still learning. It's a long process, so I just have to keep taking it one game at a time and keep learning. The more you play the more you learn. I keep learning every single game."

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