



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 3 vs. D.C. United 2

Saturday, June 30, 2018

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On the halftime message and the response of the squad:

Coach Friedel: "I felt, up until we scored the first goal, we were the better team on the front foot and I think we were the ones creating the chances. We were the ones that had possession. After we scored the goal, [we] completely stopped playing. We gave them a little bit of confidence. They started playing through us, almost at will and we stopped moving when we had the ball. So, I really wasn't happy at halftime. We had to make some adjustments. Yes, some words were said, but nothing that's too different, that you wouldn't do when you just want to try to win. And, thankfully, we got the three points. I think it's a sign of a very good team, when you're not at your absolute best and you can get the three points."

On the importance of the Andrew Farrell run that led to the Penalty Kick:

Coach Friedel: "Yeah. We're forever telling Andrew [Farrell] to take people on. We're also telling him to go on the outside to get to the endline and he cut in again. This time, it worked in our favor. Andrew has been an essential part to the team. He's been getting better and better as each game goes along, great on and off the field. And we're very, very happy with his contribution, especially in the second half."

On what the halftime message was:

Coach Friedel: "There were a lot of different messages. Those messages stay within the team. I didn't think we were exceptionally good on the ball and needed to be better in the second half. I thought, the start of the second half, we were. And listen, D.C.[United]'s is a good team. I don't think you can realistically look at where they are in the table, with all the away games that they've had. And even their home games, they haven't had at a home stadium yet. They have some very good players. [Luciano] Acosta's very difficult to close down. He pops up in lots of different areas of the field. I think [Yamil] Asad's a very good player. [Darren] Mattocks is a handful. Steve [Birnbaum] was a handful. They have some very good players on the field. I mean, all in all, we'll take the three points and walk away happy, but we know that we have to improve in certain areas."

On the disappointment in the amount of set pieces the Revolution conceded:

Coach Friedel: "Yeah. One of the things we spoke about, was not conceding silly free kicks outside the box and also, communicating and concentrating on all set pieces, whether it be corner kicks, wide free kicks, or deliveries from central areas. So, we knew that they were gifted at that. So, of course, when you can see those chances, you're not going to be happy. I thought Matt Turner came up with an outstanding save in the first half on one of them. And Matt's been doing that regularly this year."

On the focus and development of Matt Turner distributing from the back:

Coach Friedel: "Ruben Garcia, our goalkeeping coach, has worked with all three goalkeepers, from day one, on the distribution and what we want from the goalkeepers. And Matt [Turner], again, he's another one, that's getting better and better at what we want to do. I think the last two games now, we've scored from counterattacks starting from him. The San Jose game, maybe. I think it did. And that's one of our weapons that we have, one of our strengths. People know how quick Cristian Penilla is going forward and Diego [Fagundez] and Juan [Agudelo] and Krisztián Németh and Teal [Bunbury] and the rest of the players that we have. So, Matt's starting to get the gist of that, yes."

New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury

On the message Head Coach Brad Friedel had for the team at halftime:



Bunbury: “I won’t really repeat all that went on at halftime, but he was upset—and I think rightfully so. I think we let D.C. dictate the tempo too much. We were strung out. We were trying to put pressure and they were finding a way through us, so the halftime talk was warranted but I think we came out in the second half and we took it to them. We were able to put pressure on them. We were able to get more compact and get on the same page. There was still a little bit of back and forth, but in the MLS, a lot of games are really close and we were able to get three points.”

On how difficult it was to break down D.C. United:

Bunbury: “I think we did a good job. I think we were able to switch the ball quite a bit. We were also able to get some 2-v-1s, get some crosses in there. We were able to get a penalty. We were able to open them up quite a bit. D.C. is a good team and they came in and they battled, but I think it was a lot of it is tough, competitive football.”

On what he saw on his goal in first-half stoppage time:

Bunbury: “It was actually, I think, Jalil [Anibaba] who played the ball. He was telling me to creep over, and he played a good ball. I think the center back misjudged it and I saw that it was going to go over our head. I was just hoping the keeper wasn’t coming out. He didn’t come out and I just wanted to slide past him. Pretty clear cut.”

On being one of the most efficient strikers in MLS in terms of shots on target this season:

Bunbury: “I don’t think there’s a big secret to it. I think it’s hard work. I think it’s guys putting you in good positions, just having confidence, having the knack for goal. I think for me, my style is trying to work hard for my teammates, for myself, and trying to put myself in the best position to score. I don’t think there’s a secret recipe to it. I think it’s just being attentive and trying to have a killer instinct.”

On playing for a head coach who has confidence in him:

Bunbury: “I think it’s great when a coach has confidence in you, when your teammates are pumping you up, and you want to work hard and prove to them, prove to yourself as well, and to your family, and all those things—I think it’s great. I think everybody’s had a great season. There’s a lot of guys on this team that have been putting the work in—and a lot of stuff media and fans don’t see—we’re putting that work in. We just try to make sure that we’re winning games on the weekend.”

On Matt Turner’s distribution leading to scoring chances:

Bunbury: “His development has been unbelievable and we really do stress that in trainings, especially when we have guys with speed on this team. We try to catch teams sleeping. A lot of times when opponents are putting numbers forward, they’re not really thinking defensively and I think we try to exploit teams in that way. He’s being very decisive in where he’s playing his balls and it’s been a lot of fun.”

New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez

On starting the three-game home stand with a win:

Fagundez: “I think it’s huge. We’ve been talking about it. We have three home games and we want nine points out of it. If we lose any points, we’re going to be disappointed. Today was a tough game. I don’t think it was our best performance, but at the end of the day we got three points. Now we have to keep going and prepare for the next one.”

On getting the win despite a sub-optimal performance:

Fagundez: “I think that’s huge. Sometimes you don’t play the prettiest game, but you can win games and that’s what you want. At the end of the day, when our team is scoring goals and we’re playing great, then we know we can win these games. But when we’re playing bad, we can still fight and come up with the results. Today was one of those games that, it wasn’t our best play but we came out with the result, we won at home, and that’s what we wanted.”



On walking onto the field pregame with his daughter Maria:

Fagundez: "It was amazing, especially knowing that it was my 200th game and 150th start. So, it was a good way just to do it. I probably could've waited a couple more weeks—she's still little—but it was still a memory I'm going to have for a long time. Hopefully, a lot more games to come and hopefully she can come and next time she'll be walking."

On making his 200th MLS appearance and 150th start:

Fagundez: "It was another game for me. I wasn't really focusing on my 200th [appearance], 150th start. Numbers will come and go, records will be broken, and people can break them the next time. I just have to keep playing my best game. At the end of the day, people are going to notice you when you're playing well. Right now, I'm just trying to help out my team as much as possible, make sure we're winning games, and making it far."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On his diving save on a free kick in the first half:

Turner: "Sometimes it's hard to see the ball, you just hold your position, you wait, and you react the best you can. Guys like to hit free kicks a lot in training, so I've gotten a lot of practice on them this year. It's something I wanted to work on because I actually got scored on a lot in Richmond last year on free kicks, so it's been a point of emphasize for me and I was lucky enough to make the save and keep us in it."

On his distribution leading to scoring chances:

Turner: "We have a pretty dynamic front four guys. You can see that every time you give them some space, they run free and they look really dangerous. The more we can get them the ball in those open spaces, the better. I'm lucky enough that I'm able to do that a couple times by securing the crosses. I think overall I was pretty disappointed with how my distribution was, especially in the first half. Something to just keep improving on."

On the team's response in the second half:

Turner: "That's been the motto [for] us this year. We've just grinded games out and found a way to get points in tough times. This was one of our worst performances of the season and we still got three at home. Credit to the fans, credit to the guys, they kept us in it and kept us going and we were able to come out with three."

D.C. United Head Coach Ben Olsen

On both sides trading goals tonight:

Coach Olsen: "It's very frustrating. It's been a trend this season where we're in the game, we're able to get the lead consistently, but we've lost too many leads. It's something we're learning to deal with, but it's got to get better. It's got to get better quickly."

On generating adequate chances:

Coach Olsen: "I think we're a good team, I think we had chances, and that's not the issue. We score goals on the road for fun. It's the other part that has to get better. How we understand which moments are going to matter and get us the points. That has been a little bit of a struggle. We're a young team and there's a whole bunch of excuses. We're on the road for what seems like forever, but I'm running out of excuses. We've got to start getting some of these points that are out there. Otherwise, you don't get to your goals—and that's the postseason."

On things stacking up at the right time to turn things around:



Coach Olsen: “Every time I go into a game, I think we can win. Again, it’s not the end of the world. We lost a game in the MLS. The issue currently is how do we, when we do get a lead or get ourselves back into the game, how we manage that. It’s not up to snuff. I’m part of that solution, so I’ve got to work on myself as well.”

On if there are enough games left in the season to make the playoffs:

Coach Olsen: “We have 15 home games to produce a marker and a few away games in there sprinkled in there as well. So, there’s still a lot of games to be played. We have a few fewer than most teams because of the schedule, so there’s plenty of opportunity to rack up points. We won’t do that if we don’t solve this issue of being able to deal with leads. It’s me, it’s the players, everybody needs to take a little more responsibility on making sure they’re trying to get us to where we—and that’s finding ways to win games. Sometimes with young teams that’s a learned behavior. Wayne [Rooney], an experienced guy coming in, I’m sure will help with a little bit of that.”

On Wayne Rooney providing a spark to the team:

Coach Olsen: “Yes, it has and it will and I think we’ve got a job to do Wednesday, and that’s go to LA and bring home some points there. When we get back, the excitement of the new stadium and the excitement of Wayne’s [Rooney] arrival, that’s real. Whether that comes our way or not, the issues are still the issues. We’ve got to look at ourselves and solve those, because those will be the issues at home with or without Wayne [Rooney].”

On Rooney’s leadership role:

Coach Olsen: “I’ve had plenty of chats with Wayne. I think he’ll help in a bunch of different categories—on the field, in the locker room, obviously in the community. From a club standpoint, outside of the field, he checks a lot of boxes.”

D.C. United Midfielder Ian Harkes

On not getting any points in a close game:

Harkes: “I think it’s tough. We are disappointed with ourselves, because we think that was a team we could have gotten three points from. We started a little bit slow, and got back into it twice only to come down again. Unfortunately, the last call I thought was a little questionable, but we fought our way back, but we should have done better with it.”

On if there has been an increase in energy from the team following the Rooney signing:

Harkes: “Yeah, of course. I think we all want to play hard every game, regardless of a new signing, but it’s going to be huge to play with [him]. Everyone is looking forward to that, but we’ve got to get these next points on the road before we get back to playing with him and opening our new field.”

On how much of a grind the early part of the season has been:

Harkes: “It has been tough. We’re trying to pick up points here and there when we can, but we talked about it in there at halftime. There were just too many moments where we are just letting ourselves down and we’ve got to change that. We need to look at the film and look at each other, and hold each other accountable and make sure that doesn’t happen moving forward now that we have our home stretch of games.”

On if the addition of Wayne Rooney is the boost that D.C. United needs right now:

Harkes: “Yeah, for sure. I think to get back home and get the crowd behind us, have him come in and definitely bolster the team is going to be huge for us. The next couple of weeks are going to be big and hopefully we can grab points and get back on track.”

On if it will be surreal to play with someone like Rooney:



Harkes: “It definitely is going to take a little bit to get used to. But, we’re all soccer players, we are all professional soccer players, so hopefully he’s going to come in and be ready to work and so are we, so it’s going to be fun.”

On if Rooney will take the offense to a new level:

Harkes: “He’s going to bring that finishing touch and a little bit of that game-changing mentality that we need right now. We have been creating goals this year, and we’ve been setting it up, but to bring in a guy like that definitely can’t hurt you, so it’s going to be fun.”

D.C. United Defender Steve Birnbaum

On D.C. United’s performance:

Birnbaum: “Frustrating. I think the struggles continued a little bit for us. I thought we did well to fight back and tie it up and then we give up a PK. I’ll have to look at the PK and see if – I don’t know what it looked like, but they obviously controlled the game for the most part and stayed in our half. So, I think it was tough for us to get out, but once we did we had some good opportunities and obviously we scored two goals away, so we’ve got to do better defensively to not let three goals in and I think they’re easy fixes, to be honest. I think if we look back at the film, we’re going to see that we can’t give up that goal before half. I think that was a real bad one to give up for us. We came out well in the second half, but it just wasn’t enough tonight.”

On what the message was at halftime:

Birnbaum: “The message at halftime was that it’s not good enough. We came out with a little more energy, obviously, we sat back a little bit, but we had some counter attacks that I thought were productive, and guys worked defensively. We got the goal that we needed to tie it up and maybe we could’ve pushed for a third, but they got the third and that’s the way the game went.”

On if there’s a sense of excitement with the Wayne Rooney signing two days ago:

Birnbaum: “Yeah, I think so. I think right now though, we’re still focused on the road trip. We’ve got another four days, five days on the road. So, our focus right now is on LA, but obviously in the back of our minds, we’re ready to get back to our stadium and open that thing up and we need to start winning.”

On if the Rooney signing and opening the new stadium is going to help the team get over the hump:

Birnbaum: “You don’t know how it’s going to play out, but we’re excited to have him. We’re excited for a new stadium, we want to get the wins there. We want to make the playoffs this year, that’s our first goal. If we do that we’ll have a chance at whatever, but, we’ve got to start winning and hopefully this stadium opening and Wayne [Rooney] coming will give us some momentum to do that.”

On if the stadium and Rooney will help get the team back into contention:

Birnbaum: “I think you’ve seen in this league that you can go on a string of runs and then all of a sudden you’re above the red line. We’re not necessarily waiting for our backs to be up against the wall and have to win every game to make the playoffs, because that’s not what you want, that’s absurd. We know we’ve left a lot of points out there, which hurts a little bit for us. So, just getting home and making sure we rack up wins in front of our home fans would be big for us.”

On if adding a veteran like Rooney to a younger team will make a major difference:

Birnbaum: “He’s an all-time player, having him on our team is awesome. You know, I’m excited to get him in the lineup and have him play and get him out there training and get to know him a little bit and know his tendencies. We’re just excited to have him come here and he wants to win, that’s his main goal. I’ve already met with him and he said he wanted to win. That was the first thing he said, so I’m excited to get him here and hopefully we can get the wins he’s looking for.”