



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 2 vs. Chicago Fire 2
Saturday, September 22, 2018

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On tonight's match:

Coach Friedel: "Chicago came to kill the clock—to waste time. At most parts of the game, their players were within 35 yards of their own goal. Once we saw that developing in the first half, about halfway through, we had already started [going] about making changes, if we could even wait, in fact, until halftime to do it. It was completely different from how they had played at home and on the road previously. Part of that might just be with the turf—they know we're a pressing team and things of that nature, but that's what they did. The changes at halftime had to do with putting players on that could unlock a defense. Kelyn [Rowe]—he's not a normal left back, but he really wasn't a left back, he was a left winger and we changed to a 4-4-2. They played with four in the back—they've been playing with three in the back a lot. They played with four [in the back] against Orlando and we felt that putting Juan [Agudelo] up and having he and Teal [Bunbury] alongside [Johan] Kappelhof and [Bastian] Schweinsteiger would cause them problems and it did. I thought Guillermo [Hauche] did a very good job when he came on. As you can probably see, [he's] not 90 minutes match fit and we'll be looking to get him up to speed as quick as possible."

On generating chances in the final third:

Coach Friedel: "We created a lot of chances. Teal [Bunbury] had some good chances, Juan Agudelo had some good chances. That, I wasn't disappointed in at all. Sometimes, the strikers score the goals, sometimes they don't. The final touch into the net is the all-important one. I think, again, we have ourselves to blame. It was two poor goals that we conceded in a game that a team didn't really come out to attack. I think that's where we lost the game. We scored two goals, we created many chances and we conceded two poor goals. I think we can take a lot of positives, I'd say pretty much every game. Almost every single game, with the exception of Montreal away, we could have or should have won. That even goes for the D.C. game where we were poor in the first half, but Diego [Fagundez] had a great chance to bring it back 1-1 and goals change games—you never know what happens. We're going to keep fighting and I still hold the belief that we will make the playoffs."

On Chicago's strategy:

Coach Friedel: "I think teams know that they can't really tire us out—I think that's a well-known fact through the league. I don't think that would be anyone's tactic. We were open at times in the second half for the sole fact that we wanted three points at home—that's why. If we had scored the third goal and we were the ones that would have gone up 2-1 in the lead, you would've seen a different formation on the field and a different approach to the game. With what we needed to do to try to get the three points, I had no problem with playing a little bit open, in that regard. I don't think they really tried to counter so much with numbers—it was with two or three players, most of the time."

On his belief in making the playoffs:

Coach Friedel: "In every single game, we have the opportunity to win the game. In every single game, we're creating a lot of chances or enough changes to win games. Montreal—we have a game less than them and we play them in the last game of the season. D.C. United will have to keep winning out and I'm sure, as the way MLS works, teams stumble in groups of games. Philadelphia, I think, is still there to be caught with who they have left to play. They play at both the New Yorks, they have Columbus, Sporting Kansas City and they have Minnesota. There are no easy games in this league. While we have points on the board, while we're still in the hunt, this is something that we're going to believe—that we can make the playoffs."



On the end of the game:

Coach Friedel: “The additional time, realistically—and I’ll have to go back and watch the game—it seemed like it should’ve been a lot more than five minutes. It should have been like eight or nine minutes. I’ve said this a few times, and I know refereeing is difficult, but I don’t think he had a really good game from start to finish. He annoyed me and he annoyed Paunovic, as well. It’s difficult when even the referees and the fourth are getting little things like throw-ins wrong and stuff like that. It’s just that when you’re in an important part of the season, the emotions take over. I don’t know what transpired with [Bastian] Schweinsteiger—getting a concussion or not getting a concussion—but when he went down, we on the bench tried to signal to Scotty [Caldwell] to stop. It was really hard to try to get him to. The benches were yelling at us and I think there’s going to be mixed feelings on it—whether he should’ve stopped or whether he shouldn’t have stopped. I have not watched the replay, as I’m sitting here talking to you on it. With that said, I just thought five minutes was a small amount of time to be added on and there was just two minutes alone for one of the injuries early in the second half, so you’ll have to ask the referee about that.”

On Isaac Angking:

Coach Friedel: “A coach’s decision. Isaac [Angking] had a really big three weeks before this and hadn’t played a lot of games. He has some issues, medically, that we still have to deal with and he’s going to come in and out and we’re going to manage him the best that we can. Isaac is going to have a tremendous career for us and you’ll see him very, very soon. This was sort of protecting him on the health and well-being side of things and it’s just going to have to be that way for the next few months.”

New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell

On how the game unfolded:

Caldwell: “We say this too much, but I think we played well and created a lot of chances, but it’s not good enough in the final thirds. We need to keep a shutout in that game. We knew they were sitting back. We let in two goals and really created a lot more chances. We also have to finish more chances. It came down to our plays throughout the field. I think we played well enough to win and we didn’t win, and we keep saying that, so that’s not good enough.”

On what was missing during the last 10-15 minutes:

Caldwell: “I don’t know what was missing. Like I said, we created, we didn’t finish. We all have to do better. I have to square the pass earlier or take it myself. We all just have to take accountability in our own chances, and I have to be better and we all have to be better to finish those chances.”

On Bastian Schweinsteiger’s injury and the play that followed:

Caldwell: “I’m playing to the whistle. It’s already happened to us where we had that play in Philly, and I really hope he’s alright. I hope everything is fine, but I’m going to play until the ref stops the game, and the ref didn’t so I kept going, but I have to be better on that play. We have to score that if given that opportunity.”

New England Revolution Midfielder Kelyn Rowe

On tonight’s match:

Rowe: “Obviously, we wanted the three points. We had chances to get the three points, unfortunately they didn’t go in. That’s something we’ve got to fix, because it’s coming down to the wire. But positives, we created a lot of chances, I mean a lot, we had a lot of chances to score, especially towards the end which means we were fighting, fighting, fighting. I take that as a positive and going into next [week] thinking we can get another result.”



On what Coach Friedel told him before moving him from right wing to left back at the half:

Rowe: “To get forward. We saw we could get some chances up there and we did. I had a lot of space on the ball when I got it. We knew that [Cristian] Penilla could go line, he could go inside, and we play well together. We combined a few times, we got the ball in the box just like he [Coach Friedel] asked and we got forward and created chances from that left side.”

On if he was playing more of a left wingback position:

Rowe: “I knew I had to get back on defense, but I had cover from Michael Mancienne, I had cover from Scott Caldwell, Luis Caicedo – I had cover anytime I could. I did almost play like a left wing, but I also had to play off [Cristian] Penilla, so if he was wide, I was inside and vice versa. Maybe I overlapped a few times, but we definitely got forward a lot.”

On the team’s ball movement in the second half:

Rowe: “I think the first half, we moved the ball alright, but it was in spots going backwards, going sideways. We kept the ball well, it was fine, but we never had any penetrating runs, penetrating passes. A few here there, but nothing too dangerous. I think we were a little more creative, a little more demanding of the ball, and made some better runs. You just saw the energy pop up. I thought we did really well and we went side to side still, but it was a little more aggressive.”

New England Revolution Defender Michael Mancienne

On the result:

Mancienne: “Disappointing to be honest, for us, because we dominated so much of the game. We had so many chances and their goals came from two mistakes. I made a mistake. Brandon [Bye] made a mistake in the first half. That’s just bread-and-butter stuff from me. I’m devastated with myself, really angry with myself because that’s bread-and-butter from me. Normally I should clear that. Maybe it was the turf [and] it skipped up in between my legs, but it’s no excuse. Anyway, we should have won. We had so many chances, but we just got to keep positive and keep on going now.”

On how the Fire’s second goal unfolded:

Mancienne: “I was aware of where I was. I knew [the attacker] was behind me, so I had to do something. [The ball] just skipped up in between my legs and I couldn’t sort my feet out because I was running back towards goal. I am angry with myself. Should’ve done better.”

On how he felt physically following the travel back from England for the birth of his child:

Mancienne: “I felt fine. I had a good week of training. The first couple of days were a little bit hard for me but I felt normal going into the game. I didn’t feel tired. I felt fresh, I felt good, and I felt ready to go.”

On when the team became more effective with its possession:

Mancienne: “Second half. We [were] all over them and to be honest, when you’re all over a team like that, you have to take your chances. We could’ve won that game, 6-2, do you know what I mean? If you take your chances, you put a team like that in the ground. That’s unfortunately what we couldn’t do on the day. If we keep creating chances like that, we’re going to score.”

On if he has ever been in a situation like this, fighting for a playoff spot:

Mancienne: “I’ve been in so many games like this. I’ve played in a lot of pressure games where you need points to either stay up or go up [for promotion]. You [have] to remain positive. The team [has] to keep the good vibes going. We’re still unbeaten in the last four or five games, whatever it is. We just got to keep that going. We know that we’re creating chances and if we stop the mistakes, that’s two-nil today.”

Chicago Fire Head Coach Veljko Paunovic



On tonight's match:

Coach Paunovic: "Unsatisfied with the point, completely satisfied with the team play and the performance so far. Our team, our boys did a fantastic game. In the difficult moments also, we were capable of coming back. I think that the team improved a lot since the last couple of months. I'm happy with the spirit that we have right now. The character is right. We'll fight the remaining five games with the spirit that we have right now."

Chicago Fire Forward Aleksander Katai

On scoring the first goal:

Katai: "It's a nice goal, but I think it's most important in a game like this to win. To keep it 2-1, to not concede the goals, and that's it."

On the positives to take away from getting a point on the road:

Katai: "Yeah, it's a positive, but I think we deserve more from this game and I think we should go home with the three points."

Chicago Fire Midfielder Raheem Edwards

On setting up the pass that led to New England's own goal:

Edwards: "I remember Al [Aleksandar] Katai did a great solo run and I know I was on the left side. I was fairly bit open. I wanted the ball out wide but I saw that their full-back was out wide with me, too, so I made a darting run in and Katai played a good ball through. I just wanted to play across the goal to either Niko [Nemanja Nikolic] or Djordje [Mihailovic] and whatever happened, happened and got an own-goal from it."

On the positives to take away from getting a point on the road:

Edwards: "The fight. The fight of the team was good. Obviously, we wanted to win, but it's not good enough to get a draw. We need points to try to make the playoff push, but the fight was great, so we can take that towards the next five games."

On adjustments that were made at halftime:

Edwards: "I think it was more of the same. Obviously, being up 2-1, we wanted to protect the lead. But unfortunately, it's the way the game goes—sometimes you can't protect it, sometimes you can. So, both teams pushed for it, both teams went for it. It was an all-out slugfest in the end. Yeah, it was more of the same."

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