



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 2 vs. Orlando City SC 0

Saturday, October 13, 2018

New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel

On the performance of the team:

Coach Friedel: “Professional performance. I think the effort was outstanding, as it’s been most all the season. It was a shame we didn’t score early on. I would say, other than like the last 10 minutes of the first half, I thought we tried to keep the tempo as high as possible. Orlando was trying to slow it down, no doubt, and I think we created a lot of opportunities. In the second half, I was really pleased with the players we took on board to move the ball quicker. More dynamic runs, especially from Kelyn [Rowe] and Brandon [Bye], caused a lot of problems for their wing backs, and then when they went back to a back four, their fullbacks. We had something like 38 crosses in the game, [64] percent of the ball, lots of shots. But what I was pleased with, was that we kept our concentration levels up and we were the ones that were dictating the tempo of play, and it’s not always easy to do that against a team that really wants to kill the game.”

On whether or not having three defensive midfielders helped to control the tempo:

Coach Friedel: “I don’t consider – when we play this type of a system – Scotty [Caldwell] and Luis [Caicedo] defensive because we were asking them to break the lines and go forward, to be honest. And against Orlando, when we played them away from home, we created a lot of problems when Orlando had the ball, by the energy that Scotty and Luis had high up the field and then they were able to help in the attack. So, in this system, we worked really hard this week at making sure Scotty and Luis were not defensive midfielders, so to speak. I take on board, that probably more of a natural position, especially for Luis, would be just that, but that wasn’t the plan today and I thought Luis did very well. And you probably noticed, the last couple of months, Luis is starting to break the lines going forward, more and more. It’s just something that we’re trying to get him to do more and more.”

On the clean sheet and the defensive work:

Coach Friedel: “They obviously were missing a few players, and Dom Dwyer is an obvious handful, but I thought the concentration was really good by the players. I thought Michael [Mancienne] and Jalil [Anibaba] kept their line really well. Again, we wanted to press them and make them play the longer balls and [Josue] Colman’s not very big in stature. [Chris] Mueller’s not bad in the air, but he’s not going to beat any of our back four that was playing, on a regular basis. So, I was quite happy with doing that. We also, in a game like this at home, we’ve said it many times – left back is not really Kelyn Rowe’s main position. Not really where we want to be deploying him, but he becomes a left winger at home when teams sit back, and it really helps us out.”

On the buildup tonight and how it seemed patient and unforced and whether or not it was a purposeful effort to make changes after a summer ‘rough patch’:

Coach Friedel: “The rough patch in the summer? There’s so many games we played well and now people call it a rough patch and it was results-wise, without a doubt. There’s some games that we did that really well. Results speak for themselves, I can’t argue with that. But yeah, it’s an evolution of what we’re trying to do. We want to be very aggressive without the ball. That’s there for everyone to see. But with the ball, we want to be calm and composed and creative as well. It is an evolution. Where we’re at, they’ll be quite a few changes in the offseason, a lot of exciting changes that’ll happen in the offseason. You’re going to see some things and a lot of news that comes out with New England over the next couple of months, that people will start to sit back and realize. We’ve basically started our preseason tonight and that’s what I told the players. And everyone’s going to be fighting for their spots and the players that are with us are going to have to be very good and mentally and physically tough. And the one’s that aren’t, I



wish them well when they're not with us. And the ones we bring in are going to be excited to play here. So, hopefully we have some great things to come for the club."

On Cristian Penilla's season:

Coach Friedel: "It's always nice as a coach when you get some players that have some, what I would call, uncoachable traits. Cristian Penilla is a player that could probably openly tell you, 'I'm going to go to the right', and it's still hard to stop him because he's so quick. You have players around the world, where you know what they're going to do, and you still have a difficult time stopping him. So, he is a dynamic player. He is very good going forward and he'll be an asset with this club, for hopefully a long time to come. A difficult player [to play against]. A little bit of an unknown when he came to the league. So, it helped at the beginning part of the season and then when people got to know him a little bit, there was a couple of games where he was stopped. But then he figured out how to go by them again, so I don't know how many goals that is on the season, maybe 12. You guys would know. And that's a really good haul for a player that plays on the wing."

New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez

On the performance tonight and what clicked, despite no longer having a chance at a playoff spot:

Fagundez: "Before the game, I think everybody mentally prepared that we needed to win no matter [what], and then we were going to just hope that everything went our way. But at the end of the day, when we found out that it wasn't really the miracle that was supposed to happen, we still went out there. We wanted to perform and we wanted to make sure that we gave our fans three points today, played for ourselves, and make sure that everybody knew that we have a good team. We just struggled a little bit, but at the end of the day, like today, you see it out there—how fun it is between us and what we can do."

On what he saw from the offense tonight:

Fagundez: "The first half, we had a lot of chances. We just weren't really scoring, and it's one of those things. We came out at halftime and we knew that we needed one. As soon as you get one, it was going to open up. I think in the second half, we went out there and we definitely gave it to them and won a great goal by Cristian Penilla—corner kick deflected, comes back, and slides it back post, so that opens it up for us—and then we just kept going and we knew that another one would happen and I got lucky to be in the right spot with a great cross by him and I got to finish it."

On whether or not he felt there was more patience with creating chances tonight:

Fagundez: "I think our midfield definitely did a good job creating the tempo of the game, and how fast we wanted to go, and when it was a good time to relax and make sure that we were getting the right passes together—so it was an overall good game by everybody. Everybody stepped in and performed, but it's kind of a sad one that it's over right now. But we still have two more games, so we just have to make sure that we keep building from this and keep getting better and make sure that if we can get six points out of these two, at least we can get our fans happy and ourselves [happy]."

On the overall impact that Cristian Penilla has had on the team this year:

Fagundez: "I think [we knew] Cristian Penilla, since day one when he came, was going to be a different player, and he comes in here and works hard in training, and when he has those chances in the game, he finishes them. We try to get him the ball as much as possible and when he gets the ball, he does magic and then you just have to somehow be in the box; deflection—anything can happen. I think he likes the way we play because he gets open a lot and he can take people one-on-one, so he's a great person to have on your team. If you're playing against him, now that's a different story—but we're glad that he's here, and hopefully we can keep him here for a while."



New England Revolution Midfielder Kelyn Rowe

On putting in a complete performance following the playoff elimination news:

Rowe: “Unfortunately, we’ve felt this before. We put ourselves in a tough spot, we needed help and we didn’t get it. It’s one of those [where] you’re playing for a contract, you’re playing for a little bit of pride. We know we haven’t done well in the past and we want to make sure that our homestand still stays on a positive note and give something to the fans to look forward to next season. We’re not going to sit here and die the next two games. It’s one of those you’re just going to play for pride.”

On coming out strong in the second half with two quick goals:

Rowe: “We were playing well in the first half. We just needed to finish our chances – that final ball, that final finish – and you saw it in the second half. I think we’ve harped on it all year really. Today you saw a little bit of confidence, I guess a weight off your shoulders a little bit. These guys put the final ball together and I thought Diego [Fagundez] and [Cristian] Penilla did well to do so.”

On playing left back against an opponent that sits back:

Rowe: “It gives you a little more time and space on the ball. You can get forward and not have a guy behind me always making me stay [back] a little bit. So I have a little more time to get forward, get on the ball, [Cristian] Penilla and I can then work some one-two’s.”

On winning for the fans:

Rowe: “Hopefully it keeps [the fans] motivated. It hasn’t been our best year, best three years really. We want to give as much as we can. We’re going to come out and play as hard as we can no matter the result or the reason for playing. So we’re hoping they stay and please believe in us in the next year.”

New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba

On the pregame message following the elimination news:

Anibaba: “We have everything to play for within the locker room. We have everything to prove to ourselves, to the staff and more importantly our fans that have pride in our craft. We take pride in what we do. That’s the main reason why we’re all here, so regardless of exterior factors, we’re going to put everything we have out on the field until the season is done.”

On the halftime message and strong second half start:

Anibaba: “To just keep at it. Keep the tempo high and to finish the game strong—finish the game like we started the game. I think that’s been a problem of ours throughout the season. We’ve played parts of games well and parts of games not so well. Tonight, we played a complete match.”

On keeping a clean sheet:

Anibaba: “I thought the guys in front of us made our lives easy tonight. We were sharp on the ball—we were relentless. We kept attacking. We were pretty good in possession tonight, so that always makes our lives easy. As far as cleaning up what we need to clean up in the back, we’re always willing to put the work in on the defensive end. Tonight, it was more about being better on the ball.”

On having Wilfred Zahibo, Scott Caldwell, and Luis Caicedo in front of the defense:

Anibaba: “It’s huge. Obviously, we’ve seen from [Luis] Caicedo all year that he’s willing to die on the field—same with Scotty [Caldwell], same with Wilfred [Zahibo]. It’s great to have guys in front of us that will do the dirty work, but more importantly and on the flip side, when they get the ball they can hurt other teams and they can keep the ball for us as well.”



Orlando City SC Head Coach James O'Connor

On his overall thoughts on the game:

O'Connor: "I think, obviously in the first half, we defended not too bad—frustrated them. Pass completion was low and I think we were hopeful that we were going to go out and get more from the attack—pass the ball with more accuracy. I think our passing accuracy was 64 or 66 percent. When you've got passing accuracy that low it becomes very difficult to impact a game going forward. When you are passing like that, you have to defend. We did a decent enough job in the first half. In the second half—really poor start to the second half. A giveaway, two very poor goals, then [we] were chasing the game two nil down."

On preparation for the final two home games:

O'Connor: "We need to get back. We need to rest. See which players are available for the game against Columbus. It'll be nice to play at home in front of our supporters, but we need to go, we need to try to finish the season, and try to give a level of performance that the supporters deserve."

Orlando City SC Goalkeeper Adam Grinwis

On his overall emotions tonight:

Grinwis: "It's tricky. It's kind of mixed emotions. Obviously, I came into this match hoping to get a result. I thought we dug deep in the first half, defensively. We were able to get out of the half nil-nil. You just hope to come in and build off that, and unfortunately, we conceded early. I tried to do my best to keep the team in it and get a result. Unfortunately, we fell a bit short tonight."

On preparing for a quick turnaround against Seattle on Wednesday:

Grinwis: "You've got to have a short memory, and get past this quickly. We've got to think about it tonight, let it sink in and learn from it, and move on. We got two matches at home. I want to make our fans proud—they deserve it. We have been working hard this year, and though the results haven't shown it, the fans do deserve more and we want to come out there and give it our best."

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