



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION MEDIA RELEASE

## New England Revolution Training Report: May 2, 2018

All,

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage and training b-roll from Tuesday's media availability previewing this Saturday's away match against the Montreal Impact (NBC Sports Boston – 1:00 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
  - [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
  - [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
  - [Defender Gabriel Somi](#)
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- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
  - [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
  - [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
  - [Defender Gabriel Somi](#)

To request additional footage and interviews, or to RSVP for an upcoming match or training session, please contact the Revolution communications staff at [media@revolutionssoccer.net](mailto:media@revolutionssoccer.net).

### [New England Revolution Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)

#### ***On grinding out a win against Sporting KC and finding different ways to win games:***

**Coach Friedel:** "Really important. Sporting Kansas City is a really good team, as everyone knows. [Kansas City head coach] Peter Vermes has done an outstanding job. In looking at the stats after the game, limiting them to 15 final-third entry passes all game long when they were leading MLS in that is down to the way that we defended. We defended very well, in a block. Not only that, we exposed them on the transition many, many times, and we can possess the ball in very dangerous areas also. Very pleased with the mentality the team showed in the game, and again, I'm going to reiterate, it's not easy to beat good teams like Peter Vermes' teams."

#### ***On getting results early in the season as the team continues to develop and establish an identity:***

**Coach Friedel:** "We are a team in its infancy as I've stated many times, but we also are in an industry where we need to win. So, you have to try to balance the two. It's just been really nice that the players have applied themselves as they have from day one. Our numbers on the physical fitness side of things are improving game-by-game, our stats overall on where we want to get certain players on the ball in dangerous positions on the field are improving game-by-game. Hopefully, we'll have a couple more additions come the summer that will make the squad even stronger and more competition for places. It's really time now for all the players and staff to just focus on the one-game-at-a-time scenario and just keep trying to improve as each day goes by."

#### ***On Saturday's matchup with Montreal and containing Ignacio Piatti:***

**Coach Friedel:** "The plan when we played them last time was that [Ignacio] Piatti was going to play, so that's how we worked in training. We hadn't heard anything about a possible absence from him, so we'll

take a similar structure that we did to try to stop him. At the same time, we want to try to win every single game we play. It'll be the same scenario for us in that mold. [Saphir] Taider is a very, very good player in the middle of midfield. It doesn't just stop there. I know they've lost four in a row, but they are a dangerous team. They're not a team that is – in a lot of bulk minutes in the games that they have lost, they haven't been the second best team. It won't be an easy game, and it's going to be away from home. They're going to try to stop their losing streak, so to speak, we're going to want to try to remain unbeaten in ours, so it should be another entertaining game.”

***On the team's improvement defensively from last season:***

**Coach Friedel:** “I think a lot of fans and pundits focus on a back four and goalkeeper only when you're conceding goals. I think that's a perception of things. In mine and my staff's opinion, it is a defending-as-a-team scenario. Yes, we press high in a lot of games. Some games we'll sit in a lower block, but that still means that when the ball goes into certain areas that we're going to press, and we're going to press hard. You can't defend nowadays, in modern soccer, with one or two or three luxury players that don't do it. It's not the way the game has evolved, and that goes up to the very, very top of the tree. Again, I'll go back to the application of the players in training. Defending is hard work. It is a mentality and it's not the easy side of the game. It's not the flair side of the game. It's not the game that gets written about. It's not the game that people go and really take focus on, but it is a part of the game that's needed. Right now, we're still working out kinks in how we do things, but as I said earlier, the application of the players, the hard work that they've put in, and the numbers that they're putting with regards to their fitness levels, is starting to become pretty impressive. The exciting thing for us is there's still a long way to go in that department.”

***On Wilfried Zahibo:***

**Coach Friedel:** “I think Wilfried [Zahibo], when we signed him, we did our work and we were hoping that he would be a very good player for us. We thought he would be and it's turning out that he is. That's why we signed him. Other peoples' opinions of why we sign players is irrelevant, with all due respect. He's another player who's come in and really immersed himself in the culture here on and off the field. He comes out and applies himself every single day in training, tries to improve like the rest of the team, and he's very, very important. As is Luis Caicedo, as is Scottie Caldwell, as will be Zach Herivaux in the middle of midfield. I'm sure Zach at some stage this season will get his opportunity. He's training ever so well and looks really good, and we're lucky that we have a very strong, competitive squad. Will, we hope that he'll keep adding to his tally of very good games for the club, all in the hope that this team does one thing and that's win games.”

***On Luis Caicedo:***

**Coach Friedel:** “Luis [Caicedo] is small in stature. He's got to be one of the strongest players in this league. There's not many people that can muscle him off the ball, there's not many people that can run him down. On the play – you should go back and have a look at it – where he outran [Yohan] Croizet from about 70 yards to get into the box and was nearly taken down for a penalty. Just have a look, and that's what [Luis brings]. He disheartens players that he plays against, because they just see how fit and quick he is. He's also very good on the ball and he's another one that is immersing himself in our culture very, very well. Wants to do well. Great, bubbly character, with an engine that just doesn't stop. He's been another very, very good addition to the club, to the team, to the area, and I'm sure he'll continue to impress the fans each and every time he plays.”

**[New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo](#)**

***On grinding out a 1-0 win against Sporting Kansas City last weekend:***

**Agudelo:** “We've been known [to be] a team [that] kind of fights through and perseveres and [tries] to come back from a game, but last Saturday we were able to hold down the fort and defend as a unit, which was what I thought stood out. From the top to the bottom, we all helped our goalkeeper achieve a shutout.”

***On how clear every player's role is entering a match:***

**Agudelo:** "It's been clear since preseason how we've wanted to play and the type of style that we wanted to play. Going into the game, everyone is confident in knowing that we're already a couple games into the season, we already know what to do and we're out there just to finish the job."

***On objectives for the attacking group as the season progresses:***

**Agudelo:** "Just to clean up a little bit in the attacking half, to maybe be a little bit more patient, play that extra pass, and sometimes to just shoot the ball more. I think we have a lot of unselfish guys and guys with good shots, so sometimes a rebound's a goal also."

***On getting results as the team establishes itself under a new coaching staff:***

**Agudelo:** "It's been clear on how we wanted to play and on the process of moving forward and getting points. Achieving the goal of getting into the playoffs is the most important thing, so that's just what we're going to try to do every single day."

**[New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)**

***On finding different ways to win games:***

**Anibaba:** "It's very, very, very important. I think what's helped us a lot early on in the season is we've had to figure out how to get results in multiple ways, like you said. On the road, coming back, grinding them out, staying ahead, and killing games off. Last weekend's game was just a matter of doing what we needed to do to get the result."

***On securing results as the team establishes itself under a new coaching staff:***

**Anibaba:** "I think to just be very realistic about what we've done and understand that there's always room to improve. After losses, we're critical, but we don't freak out too much. After good results, we aren't too into ourselves and too into what we've done in the past. It's kind of like, okay, we assess and move forward."

***On how clear every player's role is entering a match:***

**Anibaba:** "Very, very clear, and that makes everybody's job easy. Also, too, if guys aren't clear, there's that level of comfort to ask – whether it's throughout the squad or even the coaches. That obviously helps, but it's very important to know exactly what's asked of everybody and I think everybody knows exactly what they need to do."

***On Luis Caicedo:***

**Anibaba:** "I love him. I love him. From day one, he's shown that he's willing to work hard he's willing to do the dirty work. Not only that, he provides quality on the ball. He gets himself in dangerous spots. He's been a huge asset for us. I love him. He's great to play behind and I'm happy that he's with the squad."

***On facing Montreal this weekend for second time in the last month:***

**Anibaba:** "It's going to be a completely different game. Obviously, we're playing at their place, so that changes things. We're expecting to finish out the match 11-v-11, so it's going to be a [more] complete test than it was here. We're excited for it, we're ready for it, and we've started off this week of training on the right foot."

**[New England Revolution Defender Gabriel Soti](#)**

***On his takeaways from last weekend's win against Sporting Kansas City:***

**Soti:** "We had to bounce back from our loss against Dallas and it was an important point against Columbus. Then, we know we're strong at home, so we just dig in and put in a lot of work. It was a tough opponent, a very good team, but I think we played very well and we got the three points."

***On registering three clean sheets through eight games:***

**Soti:** "The whole team defends really well. It starts up at the top with Teal [Bunbury] back to the goalkeeper with Matt [Turner], that's been brilliant. We put in a lot of work during the weekends and it gives a result against the team we play."

**On the team building chemistry on and off the field:**

**Somi:** “Yeah we’ve been working our butts off so much since preseason, so I’m happy to see that it gets the result.”

**On facing Montreal for the second time in a month:**

**Somi:** “It was a special game against Montreal. We were a man up pretty early, but now it’s history. Now, it’s a new game and every game has its own [importance]. It’s a new game, so we just have to prepare ourselves like any other game.”

**On how clear every player’s role is entering a match:**

**Somi:** “We get very clear [instructions from the coaching staff] during training how we should play, every movement, the kind of spaces we want to use, and defend of course. It’s very clear from the coaching staff and we have excellent scouting. We know exactly what kind of spaces that opponent might want to use and we close them and [find] the spaces we want to get to.”

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