



New England Revolution Training Report: May 9, 2018

All,

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage and training b-roll from Tuesday's media availability previewing this Saturday's home match against Toronto FC (NBC Sports Boston – 7:30 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Forward Teal Bunbury](#)
- [Forward Krisztián Németh](#)
- [Defender Andrew Farrell](#)
- [Goalkeeper Matt Turner](#)

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.

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

On takeaways from last Saturday's match in Montreal:

Coach Friedel: "Away from home, the first half, a couple of details didn't go our way, but we were in complete control of the game. Even speaking with most people that watched the game, they couldn't believe the scoreline at the end of it. We made a poor mistake and we let it affect us when we came out in the second half, so what I said after the game was pretty much what I thought. Very uncharacteristic of our team to do that, because we haven't really seen that, even in preseason, but sometimes it's best to go through those little adverse situations and then you can come out the backside of [them] and learn more from it. I did like the fact that we didn't give up. We were fighting back. If there's a few more minutes in the game, we probably get the third, and then who knows what happens. But that didn't happen, and you have to give a lot of credit to Rémi Garde and his team. They were up against it with four losses in a row, and they got three points. Now, it's up to us to get a very good result and a very good team performance against Toronto."

On the importance of learning lessons from difficult matches:

Coach Friedel: "Over the last couple days, we've had a lot of conversations with the players. It's not so much an accountability – it's just being honest with yourself, honest with your performance, being able to speak openly with your teammates, being able to communicate on and off the field. You're going to go through bumps in the road in seasons, and you've just said it in your question – we are a team in its infancy, but what's really important is that we don't have another one of those episodes straightaway, that we continue on the path with a lot of the good performances we have had, think of things in a positive nature, and hopefully get the three points this weekend."

On the status of Juan Agudelo:

Coach Friedel: "It is really early. We're hoping it's not too serious. Obviously, it was a hamstring injury. He is going to have a couple of further tests, so I don't really have a timeframe, but I'm hoping it's on the couple of weeks as opposed to over the month, but we'll have to wait and see on that."

On the club's depth at forward:

Coach Friedel: "We have a lot of very good players. You saw we brought Kelyn Rowe and Krisztián Németh off the bench. We have players that can fill in when there's injuries. I think more to the point is when players do get injured, it's probably more difficult for them to fight their way back into the team. We never want to have one injury, of course, but when we do, we have a very good squad to be able to cope with it. It always amuses me a little bit when people say that you have a certain amount of salary players on the bench. Well, MLS is growing with their budgets, growing with the quality of players that we can have, and this is what we want in this country. We want to have very good squads all through MLS. You're going to have excellent international players that are on the bench sometimes, but you're going to need those players throughout the season, and we have that."

On the challenges presented by Toronto FC:

Coach Friedel: "They're a very versatile team, which they're showing right now because they've been plagued with a lot of injuries. We'll have to see which ones of those players may or may not be fit for our game. I don't know what kind of a hand they'll show on Wednesday night, as opposed to playing our game with it being on turf, as well, because I know a few of those injuries are soft-tissue injuries. But they're a very good team no matter who they play, especially at moving the ball. Whether they play [Sebastian] Giovinco as a false nine, so to speak, and [Victor] Vazquez they can move all over the field. [Jonathan] Osorio is very good. Any other two they play in midfield, they all have good movement, but so do we, and we can press teams very well. We got off of it for about 20, 25 minutes against Montreal. Other than that, our pressing ability in high and middle and deep situations has been very good, and we can spring our attacks very quickly, so they're going to have their hands full against our attack, as well."

[New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury](#)

On takeaways from last Saturday's match in Montreal:

Bunbury: "The first half we kind of controlled the game a little bit more. We created some chances. There weren't any crazy, clear-cut chances for us, but Montreal stuck in it. They got a goal at the end of the first half. I think we just came out flat in the second half and Montreal was able to take advantage of that. I think there was a little window of maybe 15 to 20 minutes where we took our foot off the gas and maybe weren't locked in as much. I think it's just a mindset. I think now, moving forward, we just have to stick together as a team and make sure in the weeks leading up to a game that we're just mentally prepared and we're sticking together."

On the importance of rebounding from losses:

Bunbury: "It's huge. Coach [Brad Friedel] harps on it – of not losing two games in a row – especially not losing games at home. It's going to be a big test. Toronto is a great team, an Eastern Conference team, and these games mean a lot. Getting three points at home is our mindset every game and I think that we're going to be up for the challenge."

On Wilfried Zaha's performance in Montreal:

Bunbury: "He's been great all year. Unfortunately, even having two goals – if they came a little bit sooner maybe we would have had a chance to stay in that game. But credit to him, he stuck with it, was opportunistic, in great spots on those set pieces. [The team benefitted from] two great goals from him, great services as well. We're going to [need] all of that coming up this weekend against Toronto."

On Saturday's matchup with Toronto FC:

Bunbury: "They're a great team. Toronto has great players. [Sebastian] Giovinco is probably one of the best players in the league and we'll just have to be mindful of him. They had a great run in the [CONCACAF] Champions league, so they know how to get results. They have a captain in Michael Bradley who's been around, so we're just going to have to stick to our game plan – that's working for each other, that's creating our chances. Our style of play at home is we're going to press them, we're going to push the game, and go for the win."

[New England Revolution Forward Krisztián Németh](#)

On how it felt to get an extended run on the field against Montreal:

Németh: “I tried to give my best. Of course, after a long time, it was not easy. But, physically, I think I feel good. In the game, I have some slow thinking that I have to improve, but overall I was happy to be on the field again.”

On if quicker thinking on the field will come with more playing time:

Németh: “I think more time on the pitch is going to improve that, of course. Also in the training, I work hard to get better at those kind of things. We will see.”

On takeaways from last Saturday's match in Montreal:

Németh: “I think the first half, we played okay, and then after the first goal we, a little bit, opened ourselves and they gave us a hard time with counterattacks. We cannot lose the ball easy in a very dangerous area where we [lost it], so we have to be careful and learn about that. I think the effort we put always in the games is good, so if we improve those kinds of things, we're going to win those kinds of games, for sure.”

On how playing on the wing suits him in the team's current system:

Németh: “I can play like a winger, I can play a number nine. These four positions in the front, I can play all that. Wherever I have to be, I'm going to give my best.”

On the team's ability to respond after losses this season:

Németh: “I just saw today [in] the training, the guys gave everything. I think especially against Toronto, of course, it's a good club, great players, so we have to give everything. Otherwise, we cannot win that game.”

[New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell](#)

On takeaways from last Saturday's match in Montreal:

Farrell: “I think in the first half, we had some chances, we created some things and pressed well in some instances. But all in all, the mistake before the half kind of killed us and then obviously we kind of dropped our level in the second half. But obviously, we know we're a good team and we know we should be beating teams that we've played against and beaten. Disappointed about the result, but in soccer you've got another game coming up, so you can't dwell on it too much, and get ready for this game at home.”

On the team's ability to respond after losses this season:

Farrell: “You could kind of see it in the last dying minutes of that game. The guys were fighting back to get back in the game. But, you know, we like to harp on not having two losses in a row, so obviously when we come back home we like to get three points at home. We like to get three points whenever we can, but three points at home has kind of been our motto for the past couple years, and so we're excited to get a game against a good team coming in, against Toronto, on Saturday.”

On Wilfried Zaha's play:

Farrell: “You can see the fight that he has, and obviously getting those two goals was huge so and we kind of had the momentum there. We just wonder if we hadn't dropped our level for 20 minutes there in the second half, we probably would have gotten a better result, but you can tell the resiliency that comes from the head coach down to all the players.”

On the challenges presented by Toronto FC:

Farrell: “I think they're one of the better teams, you know, most talented teams in the league. They've had CONCACAF [Champions League] and a lot of games, so we'll see what kind of lineup they have – they have a midweek game. They're a good team. It's a good matchup. They've got really good players, guys who can change the game. Obviously, we're confident that we can beat any team, especially at home, so it doesn't matter who we're playing against. I think we always have a good chance of winning.”

On avoiding losing streaks and cleaning up mistakes:

Farrell: “In whatever you do, you’re always going to make mistakes. You’ve just got to move on with it and not staying too low on yourself or getting too high when you know we’re on a good winning streak. You’ve just got to stay balanced. I think the coaching staff has done a good job with that. When you look at the mistakes we’ve made, it’s just small details here and there that we’ve just got to make the right plays. It’s not necessarily anybody’s a bad player or anything like that, it’s just little mental mistakes we have to clear up and it’s good that it’s still kind of early in the season. Obviously, we want to be sharper, but little mistakes here can cost you the game as you can tell, and obviously we’re going to keep working on that in practice and get ready for Saturday.”

[New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner](#)

On takeaways from last Saturday's match in Montreal:

Turner: “You want to say that you take all the positives from games, but you also really have to look at the negatives and make sure they don’t happen again. Sometimes, you take a couple steps backward to go forward, and hopefully that’s the last time you’ll see a 20-, 25-minute spell like that.”

On analyzing the team's performance in Montreal:

Turner: “We were giving the ball away in horrible areas and we weren’t prepared to deal with those turnovers when they happened. There’s a lot of things to look at from those 25 minutes. At the end of it, we ended up clawing two goals back and I think that just kind of told ourselves that, dang, we really missed out on an opportunity there, because we knew we were going to be fitter and we were going to have a chance in the second half to score some goals. If we just could’ve snapped ourselves out of it after even 2-0, we would’ve had a chance to at least salvage a point from the game.”

On how the team has developed its resiliency:

Turner: “I think just every day coming here. We’re really competitive in training and we’re always wanting to win and we’re holding each other accountable. Those traits all translate to a good team and we’ll put it right on Saturday.”

On Saturday's matchup with Toronto FC:

Turner: “I’ve definitely watched a lot of Toronto this year because of their time in the [CONCACAF] Champions League, and now they’re playing a little bit of catchup. Their current standing in the table doesn’t tell the truth of the team that they are. They’ve got some really dangerous pieces. They obviously have [Sebastian] Giovinco, who’s just a huge threat always, and we’ll have to know where he is at all times, unlike what we did with [Ignacio] Piatti over the weekend.”

On looking to bounce back with a win at home:

Turner: “Brad [Friedel] always says that good teams don’t lose two games in a row, so we’re happy to be playing at home and we’re looking forward to setting the record straight.”

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