



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION MEDIA RELEASE

New England Revolution Training Report: May 16, 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 Columbus Crew SC (NBC Sports Boston – 7:30 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Midfielder Scott Caldwell](#)
- [Midfielder Kelyn Rowe](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [Defender Chris Tierney](#)

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 shaking up the starting lineup against Toronto and intensifying training sessions:

Coach Friedel: “I thought we got a really good reaction from the players that didn't start in the game that had been starting some games. We're going to have some interesting decisions to make come this weekend, but all the decisions that we make are all for the one common goal – to get three points. I've said it many, many times – we've got a lot of very talented players here that are working really hard, and that's what you want. You want that competition for places.”

On Diego Fagundez serving a one-game suspension for yellow card accumulation:

Coach Friedel: “We have a lot of options, to be honest with you. We have Kelyn [Rowe], we have Zach [Herivaux], we also have another midfield trio of Wilfried [Zahibo], Luis [Caicedo], and Scott Caldwell. We can play numerous players in the 10 position. [Cristian] Penilla can even play as a 10. There's a lot of options and that's a good thing with the squad that we have. We have a lot of players that can fill in for other players and we have a lot of players that, once they do get a chance, they can keep places. That's a good thing to have.”

On playing Zachary Herivaux in an advanced midfield role:

Coach Friedel: “We put him in the game a little bit higher up the field because we still wanted to get pressure as much as we could to their center backs. And also when Michael Bradley pushed into the midfield, [we wanted to get Zach] onto Michael Bradley. That was the reason that we put Zach in. Zach can play as a six, eight, or as a 10 depending on the system that you're playing in. It's very good to have versatile players like that in your team.”

On facing Columbus for the second time in a month:

Coach Friedel: “In watching lots of [Crew SC Head Coach] Gregg's [Berhalter] teams, I don't think they're going to change too much, and I don't think we're going to change a lot, so I think it'll probably be another exciting game if truth be told. Gregg's done a great job, as I think I said before we played them the first time. I'm sure they're going to send the fullbacks high and they're going to try to create overloads

and they're going to try to create a lot of chances, and we're going to do the same on the opposite side of the field. Again, I'm sure it's going to be a very, very competitive game – two teams that are going to go out to try to win the game, not to go try to get a draw. Hopefully the fans come out and they'll get entertainment, but with that said, we hope that is with us with the three points.”

On Juan Agudelo's injury status:

Coach Friedel: “Juan [Agudelo] is good. He's coming along nicely, hasn't had any setbacks – knock on wood – to his recovery. I don't know if he'll be ready for this weekend, but if he's not ready for this weekend, then hopefully next.”

[New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell](#)

On competing for a spot in the starting lineup week in and week out:

Caldwell: “I think everyone, ever since preseason, the competition amongst ourselves in training has been great. So, I think it shows when the lineup did get switched around a bit. Everyone was ready to play, everyone was ready to go, and everyone responded really well. It's only going to be make it better throughout training. Competition is going to continue, and that's good for everyone.”

On Zachary Herivaux's work on the training field:

Caldwell: “He gives it his all every day. His minutes were deserved and he did a great job with them. It's good to see that and hopefully it only encourages guys to continue to work hard – see that you'll get the opportunity and do the most with it.”

On facing Columbus for the second time in a month:

Caldwell: “I think both teams, now they're a little bit more familiar with each other. We've seen Columbus in this style of play for a while and they really like to spread you out and put use to the whole field. Their system is good when they're on the ball, but we can really hope to find them when they're up high and there are holes, they'll be left exposed. We know that, but there'll be more film from the games in between and we'll be able to use that and they'll be able to use the film on us. There'll be some changes, I'm sure, but you'll see a lot of similarities.”

On Crew SC midfielder Federico Higuain:

Caldwell: “[Federico] Higuain is a special player. He makes them tick a bit in the offensive third and he's a threat. You've got to prevent him from turning, prevent him from getting that open space, and getting a shot on goal. He's a very good player.”

[New England Revolution Midfielder Kelyn Rowe](#)

On bouncing back from the loss to Montreal with a win vs. Toronto:

Rowe: “Obviously, it wasn't our best half coming off of the second half in Montreal, not something we want to see again, but the fact that we were able to get back on track and come out in the first 20 minutes and score two goals, and obviously what we've been harping on is that press. That's how we got both goals.”

On Cristian Penilla's performance:

Rowe: “He's a good player. He's showed it not even just this season but in preseason when we first played, we saw spurts of it and we're going, 'Wow, this guy's really good on the ball.' [He's] very intelligent as a soccer player and you can kind of see the way his mind works as he gets on the ball. He's able to slow the ball down when he wants to, and he can also go at pace as you can see, so he's a very talented player. We want to get him on the ball as much as possible.”

On playing three of the team's next four games at home:

Rowe: “Anytime you get to play [Eastern Conference] teams, at home especially, you want to get wins. These are big games especially going in. It doesn't matter what time of year it is – beginning of the year, middle of the year, end of the year – these games are huge and they're big, because then towards the

end of the season, you get to hopefully not have to push for a playoff spot, and you're already in a good spot."

On the challenges presented by Columbus:

Rowe: "I've obviously played Columbus a few times in my career, but we look at the game that we had, we may tweak a few things here and there. We know how they play. They're very stubborn in the way they play. They want to play out as much as they can and sometimes to a fault, and hopefully we can take advantage of that. We obviously want to do the same in the sense we want to play the way we are. We're at home so we want to press a little bit. We just want to make sure our fans come out and see a good game."

On competing for a spot in the starting lineup week in and week out:

Rowe: "There's been shakeups in training at least for the whole year. [Coach Friedel] pushes us every day. Not just for a playing spot, but for a spot in the 18, for anything like that, so I think this coaching staff has done a very good job and the guys have risen to the challenges. You can see with the starts that we had and the success we had with those starts, so each week is going to be tough. But yeah, this week especially, guys are really getting out there trying to get their spots back."

[New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)

On bouncing back from the loss to Montreal with a win vs. Toronto:

Anibaba: "I think it's huge to be able to bounce back. Any time you come away from an unfortunate result, you want to get back on the field as quickly as possible and put the past behind us. I think that's what we did."

On Cristian Penilla's performance:

Anibaba: "He's been awesome. Obviously, he's a threat any time he gets the ball. I think teams have started to form their defensive schemes around him, which is great because we also have other weapons. Any time he can free up players or free up himself, we're in an advantageous situation."

On playing three of the team's next four games at home:

Anibaba: "Going into the summer, we want to be as strong as possible. My experience in the league has taught me that summer form is one of the most crucial times of the year. If you can hammer out good results at home and then you know pull some things off on the road, you're normally in a good shape heading into the crucial moments of the fall. We're looking forward to the summer and, obviously, our home games are very important to us."

On the challenges presented by Columbus:

Anibaba: "[Gyasi] Zardes is on fire. We're going to have our hands full with him as any team has had their hands full with him as of late. I think that the most important thing is that we're at home. We're coming off a good result. It was a hard fought game between the two of us over in Columbus, so both clubs are going to looking to set the scoresheet right."

On competing for a spot in the starting lineup week in and week out:

Anibaba: "I've said it from day one, that it's all about mutual respect throughout the group. I think everybody has shown that throughout the training sessions. Everybody has worked hard. If guys are working hard and training, that's what we've always, always done. That's our job. Our job is to work as hard as we can in training and then execute the game plan over the weekend, so I don't see anything different this week."

[New England Revolution Defender Chris Tierney](#)

On playing a full 90 minutes vs. Toronto FC:

Tierney: "It felt good. First and foremost, we won, so that's always the goal. I think it shows that we have a lot of guys who are capable of playing. Whether you're seeing minutes or not, you've got to be ready to work 90 minutes and we've all been working really hard in training this year. It's a really heavy load in

training and also in practice matches that we're playing, so I felt as prepared as though I'd been playing all year."

On competing for a spot in the starting lineup week in and week out:

Tierney: "I think guys have been on their toes all year. You go into game day not knowing whether you're in the 11, so you just have to be ready to go. If you're not, you're going to look pretty bad on game day. Everyone's been ready all year to play, and that'll continue."

On the challenges presented by Columbus:

Tierney: "They have two really good fullbacks in [Harrison] Afful and [Milton] Valenzuela that like you said, they play almost as wingers, so it's a unique challenge. But, they take risks in doing that. We have plenty of guys who can really hurt you on the counter, as we've shown all year. If that's the game that they want to play, I don't think we mind having guys with the pace of Teal [Bunbury] and Luis [Caicedo] and [Cristian] Penilla on the counterattack. Those are guys they're going to have to deal with."

On Crew SC midfielder Federico Higuain:

Tierney: "He's on that level of player in terms of quality. He's as good as it comes in terms of his touch and his vision and where he positions himself on the field. He's not all-and-all pace like Giovinco is, in terms of he's not a guy who's necessarily going to run by you one-on-one, but I think he's the best in the league in terms of finding the gaps in front of the back four. He's a great finisher, he can pick a pass, so he's a really tough guy to play against. We have to be aware of him at all times, that's for sure."

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