



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION MEDIA RELEASE

New England Revolution Training Report: June 27, 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 D.C. United (NBC Sports Boston – 7:30 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Forward Teal Bunbury](#)
- [Midfielder Diego Fagundez](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [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 the importance of having a short break ahead of the second half of the season:

Coach Friedel: "It was pretty good how it panned out, because we had six games in 19 days, of which we had to travel to Vancouver, out to San Jose and another away game at Chicago, so it was important. You know that we've been working the players very hard, so I think it was good that they got to spend some time with their friends and family and not see the coaching staff, and then come back in and start working very hard. I think the break coincided at a perfect time for us, and then we were able to just sit back and watch a little bit of the World Cup and watch some MLS games as we had a bye week, but in between all that we have been working extremely hard getting ready for D.C."

On what the team was able to accomplish with the extra time:

Coach Friedel: "All encompassing, to be honest with you. We were able to get some people some well-needed rest. We were able to push a few people that needed some pushing that haven't gotten as many minutes. We were able to set up a match on Saturday to get some other players some minutes, and then work on some things that we wanted to work on, and also work on things associated with D.C. United. I think 17 days is what we had to prepare and we'll use every bit of every training session that we can to do just that and prepare for D.C."

On the challenges presented by D.C. United:

Coach Friedel: "Playing all the away games, they're – again, it's another team I don't think you can really look at their point total and their record to see exactly how they perform on a match-by-match basis. [They are a] very good counterattacking team. They have players in [Darren] Mattocks and [Paul] Arriola and [Luciano] Acosta and [Yamil] Asad that can go forward very quickly. You saw the very good of them and the very not-so-good in a sort of way with the game against Toronto. In saying that, Toronto's an outstanding team going forward. But the first half and the second half were two entirely different things, so you have to be prepared for everything. One thing's for certain, they're not going to be an easy matchup at all, and we're going to have to be completely focused if we want to get the three points."

On having each of the next three matches at home:

Coach Friedel: "Right now, just looking at the one game in front of us. I think it's important that we have this home game after all the road games, but I'm not looking at the other games beyond that. D.C. United, as we just spoke about, has some very, very good players, and we're going to have to focus on that. We can't look at the rest of the schedule just yet."

On Diego Fagundez approaching 200 MLS appearances and 150 starts, and if he'd like to see that become the norm for other young players:

Coach Friedel: "Of course. What I'm used to, anyway, is when a player is 20, 21, they've had at least 100 games under their belt. That's the norm. I know in this country it hasn't been. That's something that I think every club in MLS is changing. How many appearances does [Diego] have? 199? He better train well this week if he wants to get his 200th (*laughs*). That's great. Diego's an incredible personality around the place. He's a very, very good player, working incredibly hard and those numbers are tremendous for any player at that age, but it is something that we'd like to be more of a norm and not sort of a special case."

On Isaac Angking's progress:

Coach Friedel: "It's good to see him out of the building, because he's starting to become a little bit of a pain (*laughs*). I think he's going a little stir crazy. He's starting to move a little bit. Hopefully, he has no reaction to anything and if he doesn't, hopefully we'll see him join the group fairly soon. That'll be like a new signing to us. We're expecting big things from him to come in as an 18-year-old from the Academy, with the talent that he has. Due to some unfortunate circumstances he's not been with us so far, but we hope to see him back soon."

[New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury](#)

On the importance of being able to have a break ahead of the second half of the season:

Bunbury: "It's really important throughout a season to have breaks, to be able to kind of get refocused, kind of get some time to yourself, kind of away from the game for a little bit, so it keeps you a little bit hungry and wanting more. I think those days off were really beneficial for the group, especially if guys were getting a little fatigued or having little injuries here or there, and also just for the mindset, knowing that hey, when we get back, we'll all be pretty fresh and be able to get after it."

On what the team was able to work on during training in the bye week:

Bunbury: "During those days we were still focusing on D.C., our upcoming match, even though we had many days to prepare, and I think that's good that you kind of have some to also have a little bit of fun, but also push yourself knowing you're not going to have a game on the weekend. I think it was a little bit more intense of a training week with also some emphasis focusing on D.C."

On how to come out of the break sharp:

Bunbury: "I think it's everybody's motivation factors, knowing that we're only midway through the season, so we have a lot of games left. Pushing each other, kind of working hard. We also were able to have an inter-squad scrimmage and those are always high-spirited and very competitive, so I think that kind of just brings the best out of everybody. A lot of these guys know that these seasons are long, you can't have any mental lapses, and I think everyone's been preparing in the right way."

On having three consecutive upcoming matches at home:

Bunbury: "It's huge. I think our last 10 [of 15] games or something is going to be on the road, so it's going to be pretty tough. So these next few games at home are going to be crucial for us. In our mind, we could go toe-to-toe with any team, and getting three points in each isn't a tall task for us. We're going to start off with D.C., but our mindset is to win all these games at home."

On the challenges presented by D.C. United:

Bunbury: "It's strange, because they have some key players who can offset teams, and it's tough having to play a lot of games on the road initially. They're probably going to be excited that they're going to be

able to play at home here coming up soon, so we just have to be aware of that. But as much as we're going to be ready for them, we've got to focus on ourselves and making sure we're in the right frame of mind and we're working out everything that maybe we were a little disappointed in on the road in our previous games, so I think we'll be ready to go."

[New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez](#)

On the importance of being able to have a break ahead of the second half of the season:

Fagundez: "I think it's huge. We said it from the beginning, it's going to be a long season, a lot of minutes played, so our legs definitely need rest. When we have a moment like this, we have to be smart, make sure that we're taking time off, being smart with it, making sure that we're not just overusing it while we have time off. I think we all went back, saw our family, hung out with them and made sure that when we came back, we were still sharp."

On how he feels about where the team is at the halfway point of the season:

Fagundez: "I think so far, halfway through the season, we feel good. We probably should've been feeling better, because we let some points slip away from us. At the end of the day, it's like a new start, a new season basically. It's the second part. Saturday's a huge game – we have to start off the season again well. We just have to go out there and make sure that we're playing our game. We're at home, so when we're at home, we have to make sure that we're winning games."

On having three consecutive upcoming matches at home:

Fagundez: "It's going to be huge, because when you sleep at home, I feel like we're all rested a little better. When we're here, we have to be smart and make sure we're prepared correctly and when we're training, make sure we're paying attention to the game plan. But when we go out there, everybody needs to know what to do and work hard and make sure that we stick together. At the end of the day, we need to get those three points."

On approaching the milestones of 200 MLS appearances and 150 starts:

Fagundez: "It's a huge opportunity for me, especially coming in as a young player, playing games, and getting the eye of the coaches to allow me to play these games. But it's another game for me. I know it's my 200th, but it's another game that's important no matter what number it is. I just have to keep going, keep playing my style, and try to help out the team as much as possible. At the end of the day, records and stuff will happen, so if I can do those along the way, I'll be happy for it."

[New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)

On the importance of being able to have a break ahead of the second half of the season:

Anibaba: "Yeah, we feel great, energized. We've had a lot of time to kind of work out some of the kinks on the training pitch and we're ready to get back after it."

On having three consecutive upcoming matches at home:

Anibaba: "Obviously, home is where we're comfortable. It's where we've been pretty good as of late. But like I said, more than anything, we're just excited to get back after it and get games underneath our belt again."

On the challenges presented by D.C. United:

Anibaba: "Like I said, home is where we're comfortable. We feel against any team we have the opportunity to get three points, but they're a team that has dangerous pieces and we have to be aware of what they can do. But I think if we play our game, we'll be in a good position."

On Diego Fagundez approaching the milestones of 200 MLS appearances and 150 starts:

Anibaba: "We've been in the league for about the same amount of time, and I think he may even have a year or half a year on me, which is crazy to think about. He's been doing great things ever since he was a teenager, so the sky is the limit for him, obviously. He's a huge piece for us and he's been in great form as of late, but to be fair, he's been in great form the whole season."

[New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner](#)

On the importance of being able to have a break ahead of the second half of the season:

Turner: “[We’re] just ready to get back out there. We’ve been watching a lot of World Cup games, watching MLS games over the weekend. I think the guys are eager to get back out there. We feel like we feel like we left some stuff to be done leaving San Jose, so we look forward getting out in front of our fans at home and getting three points.”

On having three consecutive upcoming matches at home:

Turner: “It’s huge. We expect to get nine [points] out of those three games and that’s what we’re going to aim to do, and anything less will be a little bit of a disappointment or a let off. And we know that it’s coming to a critical time in the season. Teams are starting to find their form, so we’ve got to continue to rise up the table.”

On the challenges presented by D.C. United:

Turner: “They cause teams a lot of problems. They scored four goals up in Toronto a couple weeks ago and they just got some quick guys up top and balls from wide, some big bodies on set pieces that they’ve caused us problems in the past. We’ll look at the film and hopefully get back to the clean sheets.”

On Diego Fagundez approaching the milestones of 200 MLS appearances and 150 starts:

Turner: “This is my third season with Diego and he’s kind of matured from one of the kids to even though he’s still young, he’s a veteran presence in the locker room because of how much experience he has. He deserves those milestones and I’m sure he’ll double that or triple it.”

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