



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION MEDIA RELEASE

New England Revolution Training Report: August 28, 2018

All,

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

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
- [Midfielder Diego Fagundez](#)
- [Defender Brandon Bye](#)
- [Defender Michael Mancienne](#)

To request additional footage and interviews, or to RSVP for an upcoming match or training session, please contact the Revolution communications staff at media@revolutionsoccer.net.

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

On Saturday's game in Philadelphia:

Coach Friedel: "Morale would obviously be a bit low because of the results, but that doesn't take away from how hard they work and again, in almost all of the games, we should be the ones that are getting the points. It was another difficult loss, for sure, but we created a lot of chances. If you look at the stats, the link-up play between [Harris] Medunjanin, [Alejandro] Bedoya, and [Borek] Dockal was virtually non-existent with the work that our three midfielders, [Cristhian] Machado, [Luis] Caicedo, and [Wilfried] Zaha, did against them. [Harris] Medunjanin was very frustrated throughout the game. I think it was probably the lowest touch total he's ever had in a game, so defensively, it was fine. We limited them to only five or six chances and even the chances they created were our own doing from being a little sloppy from the ball. It wasn't a poor performance. I thought [Andre] Blake made a couple of really good saves and on another day they can go in. We have to take confidence and a little bit of solace from the fact that we put in another great effort. I do feel that we were the better team on the day, but we didn't come out with the points. I said we had 10 cup finals and boy, do we have nine left now and we need to get winning ways against Portland."

On preparing for Portland this weekend:

Coach Friedel: "It'll be important, and whether they play three in the back or four in the back, they do flood the midfield with quite a few players. They do change their system often, so we'll be watching them again tomorrow night to see what system they use, but also they're going to have to make a cross-country trip and they'll have their third game in seven days, so we'll have a look at a few things along those lines. They are a very good team, but also a streaky team. They went on that unbeaten run of 15 and now I think it's four losses on the bounce. Hopefully, they can do us a favor tomorrow night and then hopefully we can do ourselves a favor on the weekend."

On Michael Mancienne's adjustment to MLS:

Coach Friedel: "He didn't have much time to settle in, that's for sure, because we wanted to put him in the team right away, which we did. As each day goes on, it's going to be good for him. He's going to be a

player that's going to get used to the league, travel and weather – all of the above. He's a very good player, a very good pro and he'll take very little time getting used to it here."

On Teal Bunbury's status:

Coach Friedel: "Teal [Bunbury] should be fine. Fingers crossed we should see him on the training ground soon and as I said during the pre-match in Philadelphia, we hope to have him this weekend. He just had a slight irritation in his knee, which then gave him a little bit of pain in his hamstring. There was no tear, anything of that nature and we thought it would be prudent not to risk losing him for 4-6 weeks and rest him for the week."

[New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo](#)

On training in very hot temperatures this week:

Agudelo: "I thought it was really smart by the coaching staff to make training a bit earlier today and tomorrow, so hopefully that helps, and stay hydrated even after training."

On the challenges of facing Portland this weekend:

Agudelo: "Very talented players. [Diego] Valeri – MVP last year – he can definitely cause us some problems, but we're going to try to maintain him. I think their midfield is one of the strongest midfields in the league, so that's an area where we're going to have to shut them down."

On the importance of Saturday's match:

Agudelo: "It's every single game, it's not just this Saturday. I feel like now it's a time, like coach said, there's no time to make mistakes. We put ourselves in this situation and we can't make any mistakes if we want to make the playoffs."

On Michael Mancienne's experience:

Agudelo: "He's come in and already, since day one, set a leadership kind of role. The way he speaks before games, you can just tell he's been in some big games and we're all trying to absorb some of his level of maturity. With us, as a person off the field, he's awesome, so [we're] very happy to have him."

On Diego Chará and his similarities with Luis Caicedo:

Agudelo: "Yeah, I think he acts very similar to Luis Caicedo, and we train with Luis every single day so we're going to try to play around him. I know he tries to break out and put water on a lot of fires in the midfield and has a lot of stamina, but I think if we move the ball quickly, we're going to tire him out."

[New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez](#)

On the team's overall mentality:

Fagundez: "We're still not out of it and we need to know that. Now, there are nine more games left and we know that every game is going to be a final for us. I wouldn't say it's the best scenario, but for us, if we can get this stretch going and get momentum going, then we can get into the playoffs with a little momentum and that's how we want our team to go. It's not the best situation right now, but with this team I know we can definitely do it, and it's possible."

On the team's attack over the last few games:

Fagundez: "I think we're creating a lot of chances. I think keepers are just making big saves. Now we just have to be smarter and try to beat them. I think in the Philly game we had so many chances that [Andre] Blake did a good job making sure he was protecting his goal. It was unlucky for us. I think any other game maybe the ball goes in and it's a different story. We just have to keep going, keep trying to make plays happen, keep trying to score goals and making sure that we're defensively solid. At the end of the day when you're playing games, things are going to change up and go our way."

On working around a player like Diego Chará:

Fagundez: "We're going to have to do everything we can to make sure we stop him, but at the end of the day, he's a good player. He's going to make sure that he stops every play where he's there, but one

player can't stop all of us. So, we have to make sure that we're playing our game, and when we get our chances to score, make sure that we finish them."

On the intensity and energy the team hopes to bring Saturday:

Fagundez: "I think if we bring all our energy, show them that we want this more than them, they're going to drop. We have to make sure that we go out there and we fight. We know that both of us need the points, so this game's going to be huge for both of us. We're kind of in the same situation right now, so it's going to be a tough one, but at the end of the day, when we're home and we play well, I think we can definitely win this game."

[New England Revolution Defender Brandon Bye](#)

On the team's mentality this week:

Bye: "We're looking at [games] like cup finals. We've talked about that a lot, and just the fact that our season is on the line. We need wins, so this weekend we're searching for one."

On Michael Mancienne:

Bye: "He's played both games at left center back right next to me, and I've felt like he's done well. He's competed in there and he's getting used to the league and getting used to the game. Obviously, he's a good player. We look forward to keeping moving forward as a team with him."

On the strengths of Portland:

Bye: "They have a couple of good attacking players that are really good on the ball and pose threats. We'll look to shut them down, and then do things on the attacking end where we can capitalize and score goals."

On settling in at left back after a few games of experience:

Bye: "It's a position on the field, and you know, we just go out there and try to win. Left back is interesting. It's a little different being on the left side than the right side. I've played a lot of games on the right side, but being on the left side, it's not too big of a difference. I have Michael [Mancienne] on the inside of me as the left centerback. He helps direct me and tell me where to go and whatnot, and I have [Cristian] Penilla in front of me. Playing is playing, honestly, that's what it is. We just look to keep moving forward."

[New England Revolution Defender Michael Mancienne](#)

On if he has adjusted to the heat:

Mancienne: "Not at all, still getting used to the heat. Obviously, I'm better than I was in the first week, but it's meant to be a really hot one today, so that's why we're training a little bit earlier. I'm still adjusting to the heat."

On adjusting to the new time zone:

Mancienne: "I'm slowly getting there now. I'm starting to go to bed at a normal kind of time – like 10ish. I was going to bed at like 6:00 p.m. when I first got over here, so I'm adjusting now. It's getting easier."

On adapting to a new team and league:

Mancienne: "The changing room is a good group of boys. Everyone's made me feel really welcomed, so it's been really easy to settle in. With the league, one thing I have noticed, obviously training in this kind of weather, everyone is super fit. That's going to be a big positive for me, as well, because that's going to help me get fitter quicker anyway, especially when it gets a little bit cooler over here, I'll be good to go. It's been a good experience so far."

On learning his new teammates' tendencies:

Mancienne: "Of course it's different, especially when you haven't played with someone before. Most defensive partnerships, they've played together for years and they know each other's game inside-out. That'll come with time, anyway. I know that'll come with time. The most important thing for us is picking up

as many points as we can now. Every game is a cup final for us and obviously we want to be in the playoffs.”

On bringing something different to the team:

Mancienne: “I hope I bring a freshness. Obviously, it is a difficult period at the minute, but it happens to every team in football. You go through a difficult period – it’s just breaking that period and getting out of it. Once you pick up the first win, you can go on a run, so hopefully that can happen for us.”

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