



September 19, 2018

New England Revolution Training Report: September 19, 2018

All,

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

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Forward Brian Wright](#)
- [Midfielder Scott Caldwell](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)

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 taking four points from the team's last two games, both on the road:

Coach Friedel: "It's done a lot for the [team's] belief. It's just a shame we didn't get that win way back when we deserved [to win] a lot of the games. Orlando, LA, we've spoken about all the games – Minnesota, etc., etc. We're a team that fights. There's no doubt about that. The character in the locker room is good. To show the resolve we did against NYCFC, I thought we were the better team. I watched the game many times against LAFC. [We] created many chances. It's a shame the goal we conceded is of our own doing – nothing that they created. There's a lot of positives we can take into the last six games. I really like the Montreal result against Philadelphia, because it brings Philadelphia right into the mix. And Philadelphia has three really hard games ahead of them. So, this is more than likely going to come down to that last game against Montreal. But in saying that, we can't look too far ahead. We have to stay firmly focused on the next game, which is Chicago."

On conceding only four goals over the team's last three games:

Coach Friedel: "We've seen improvement, but it should be zero goals [allowed] in the last three games. I and my staff are perfectionists. We're going to try to always strive for that, which is what we should do, and the players are going to strive for that as well. When we do make mistakes, we'll rebound from it, no doubt, because of the character we do have in the changing room. Now, we're really looking forward to the Chicago game with a couple of decent performances under our belts."

On creating ample chances but not capitalizing:

Coach Friedel: "All season we've had chances. We created enough chances against LAFC to score four goals. Orlando, probably enough chances to score eight goals. LA [Galaxy] with 10 men, enough chances to score four or five goals. The good news is we're creating the chances and one of these days they're going to fall, and they're going to fall in bunches. Hopefully, that's on Saturday."

On Saturday's matchup with the Chicago Fire:

Coach Friedel: “They have very good players. They got that early goal against Orlando [last weekend], which seemed to deflate Orlando. It was also in a difficult run of games. They just took advantage of it. We’re going to have to be at the top of our game, we’re going to have to play high tempo, we’re going to have to get in their faces when we don’t have the ball. And when we have the ball, we’re going to need to attack like we’ve been doing most of the season and creating these chances. We have a very good thing in our team when we do have our counters and quick attacks. We’re very difficult to stop from getting the chances. And then, I think we’ll have opportunities against Chicago to keep the ball when we need to manage the game as well. All things that we need to continue to grow on as time goes by. I’ve said this many times to my staff, it’s in its infancy with the club. There’s a lot of things that we work on every day. When you get lots of time, more time, with the players, you get better and better at what it is you’re trying to accomplish.”

On Guillermo Hauché awaiting his International Transfer Certificate:

Coach Friedel: “He can stay here [while the paperwork is pending]. We’re hoping day to day that his paperwork comes through. Fingers crossed that it’ll be in time for this weekend.”

On Hauché’s potential impact:

Coach Friedel: “He’s a goal scorer and a goal creator. He has a very good attitude about the game. He works on both sides of the ball. He also adds another dimension to scoring goals, whether it be with his final pass, whether it be with his cross, or his strike himself. He’ll be a welcome addition to an already good squad.”

[New England Revolution Forward Brian Wright](#)

On gaining confidence over the last few games:

Wright: “Obviously, we went through that stretch of games where we were struggling to pick up a win, so to be able to pick up a win and a tie on the road is pretty good, especially in this league. Like I said before, we’re hoping to pick up some results as we finish out this stretch of the season and hopefully just catch fire and hopefully it brings us into the playoffs.”

On making back-to-back starts:

Wright: “The first game – first start you get – a bit nervous, but after you get your second start, it’s kind of out of the way and you’re kind of more confident in yourself, so you believe you can do this and that on the field. To be honest, to get a second start in a row, it felt pretty good, but it felt good to get a result. Obviously, we wish we could’ve gotten a win, but coming up this weekend, [we’re] hoping to pick up three points at home.”

On creating chances:

Wright: “Chances are coming; we’ve just got to be a little bit more clinical in the final third, whether it’s the final pass or just people taking their chances. But definitely, we need to start putting in a few more goals.”

On facing Chicago this weekend:

Wright: “We [had] a good record at home last year and this year, so we’re hoping to have the fans there behind us and to pick up a huge result at home this weekend.”

[New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell](#)

On putting a run together with the remaining games:

Caldwell: “It’s been very important. Going through a tough stretch is difficult for everyone and you start to question that a little bit – your belief – and we have confidence back. We’re good to go for these last six games, knowing that we can beat anyone and we’re looking forward to starting it this week at home.”

On making defensive improvements:

Caldwell: “I think we’ve been, for the most part, eliminating mistakes. Also, if someone gets beat, the next guy is there to back him up, so nothing’s compounding and it’s definitely been better in that sense. We’ve made some timely tackles and that’s helped as well.”

On facing Chicago this weekend:

Caldwell: “They’re coming off of a big win [against Orlando]. They’re going to be flying. We need to start strong, because we need to eliminate that confidence early. They have nothing to lose, so we need to win. It could be an entertaining game.”

On reestablishing a winning mentality at home:

Caldwell: “It’s huge. Not just for the next six games, but being at home, we need to show the fans that we love when they come out here and they’ve been doing a great job all season, so we need to win to prove to them that it is our home, and we’re really looking forward to playing in front of them.”

On the constant movement of Bastian Schweinsteiger’s position:

Caldwell: “There are definitely differences. They’ve been switching around their lineup a bit the whole year. It’s something that we’ll look at this week in detail and see the different options and possibilities, but most importantly, we just have to get a win any way possible.”

[New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)

On the last two results’ effect on the group’s belief:

Anibaba: “I don’t think belief ever wavered with us. It was just a matter of working hard throughout every moment of the season, and that’s what we’re doing now. The last two games have gone decently well for us and we’re just trying to build on it.”

On defensive improvements:

Anibaba: “I think we’ve been better on set pieces, I think we’ve been better keeping the ball through the run of play. Defensively, I think we’re just a little bit more confident and that’s helping in the minor details of the game.”

On playing in low-scoring battles:

Anibaba: “I think it’s just what’s been happening in the last couple of games for us. I think at this point in time in the season, you can see any type of results. If you look across the league, there have been some high-scoring games; there have been some low-scoring games, like ours. At this point of the season, everybody’s putting every single thing they have into every game and we don’t expect anything different for the rest of our games.”

On facing Chicago this weekend:

Anibaba: “They’re coming off of a big result at home for them. Chicago’s a team that has always been dangerous and we had a good game out there with them earlier in the season, so it’ll be a hard game, but we’re ready for it.”

On reestablishing a winning identity at home:

Anibaba: “All of our games are important— home, away, however they come. Every single game, we’re looking to get three points, and this weekend we’re focused on Chicago and that’s really all we can do at this point in time.”

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