



New England Revolution Training Report: February 28, 2018

All,

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage and training b-roll from Tuesday's media availability previewing the Revolution's MLS season opener, Saturday, March 3 against the Philadelphia Union in Chester, Pa. (myTV38 – 7:00 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
- [Defender Gabriel Somi](#)

For additional footage or any specific interview requests, or if you would like to RSVP to an upcoming training session, please contact the Revolution communications staff at media@revolutionsoccer.net.

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

On getting into a rhythm at home ahead of the MLS season opener on Saturday:

Coach Friedel: "It's very nice. We were looking at the calendar, this is probably the most I'll be in one place for a three-week stretch that I have [had] in the last three years of my life, so it's good. We're going to get into a routine now, which is nice. Whenever the season starts, it's always an exciting time for any club and we're no exception to that. We just hopefully get all the players fit and focused for the task at hand, which is Philadelphia."

On how confident he is in the group he has entering the season:

Coach Friedel: "I like the group that I inherited in the first place, which I've said many times, and I like the pieces that we've added so far – each and every one of them. Obviously, they will contribute in different ways from Mark [Segbers] and Brandon [Bye] and Nico [Nicolas Samayoa], up to Wilfried [Zahibo], Gabriel [Somi], and Cristian Penilla. All the players that were on the squad before that are returning have been great and the application has been outstanding, so we're happy. Any player that we do bring in from here on out will hopefully be a boost and another added [level of] competition to places. I want to bring in at least two at every position that can play at the highest level, and that's what we're trying to strive for."

On how the new players have acclimated:

Coach Friedel: "Really good. That's the other part of the homework that we try to do, is we find out – the easy piece is to see if they're a good player, and then the more difficult piece is to dive into their personal life and their personalities a little more. We try to do the best we can with it. I think all three of them have adapted very, very well, and I think the three coming out of the draft have adapted themselves very, very well also, which is important. You never know when you're coming from a college scene how you're going to react into the professional game, and I think all three of them have done exceptionally well also."

On if the team is set up to have balance in attack:

Coach Friedel: "I hope so. It's another thing that we had mentioned in the opening press conference, that there [were] one or two players that were goal-heavy, which is great – you don't want the goal tallies to go down in that regard, but we wanted to add some more goals from different areas of the field. You always want your defenders, if possible, to pop up with a few goals on set pieces, which is nice that we've seen

that in preseason. And you just never know how the season is going to pan out, but yes, if we can get an accumulation of goals from many different people, that would be outstanding.”

On starting the season strong with a result away from home:

Coach Friedel: "A lot of times, playing on the road is your mindset. There's a lot of clubs that I've played at, you for some reason couldn't win at certain stadiums and you can't really make heads or tails of why. We're going to try to go into Philadelphia with a winning mentality that we've tried to promote during preseason. We're not going to change the way we're playing just because we're going on the road. We'll see what happens, but hopefully we'll instill a winning mentality on the road and at home. An impeccable home form and home record last year and hopefully we can build on that a little bit this year."

[New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo](#)

On his fitness and sharpness heading into the season opener:

Agudelo: "It's definitely come along, I felt great today in training. We were put through some tests of running and everything was feeling good."

On how the attack works differently in Coach Friedel's system:

Agudelo: "There's a lot of the same pieces, football is football in the attacking half. We [will] get a little bit sharper in some things, but with the amount of energy that we have once we have the ball, with our fitness levels so high, we're able to do a lot more things getting in behind defenses, still having that extra boost to translate into offense."

On playing in a high-press system:

Agudelo: "The press works and it actually works perfectly to what I just said – once we do gain the ball, we have that energy to go forward. The press works, because it feels like we're having something come out of the press offensively."

On what feels different about this season:

Agudelo: "It's more of a home feel in the locker room, more of a professional atmosphere, and it's only going to make us better. I'm really excited to see [what] this kind of change brings for the club."

On how the team will improve on its road form this season:

Agudelo: "Getting a win away from home the first game of the season would be huge for us. It took us until the last game of the season last year, so that's a very important part that we need to change this year. I'm actually glad that our first game is away from home, so we can get that kind of monkey off of our back."

[New England Revolution Defender Gabriel Somi](#)

On how he has settled into the group during preseason:

Somi: "It's been great, the group has welcomed me since day one and it's been an intense period, but we're starting to lighten the training right now and it's been a great month so far."

On if the style of play and system was what he expected when he joined the club:

Somi: "It's obviously a lot of new things to learn about the players and the staff, but I'm getting into it more and more and it feels good so far. We practice a lot with the high pressure and to press like a unit, and it's been better and better each game."

On if the learning process continues into the season:

Somi: "Of course, everything is brand new for most of the guys, so we keep learning day by day."

On how much he's looking forward to the season kicking off on Saturday:

Somi: "I'm really excited for it. I'm tired of this preseason, so I just want to play games now."

On his relationship with Cristian Penilla on the left side of the formation:

Somi: "It's been good, but it's a bit hard because his English isn't the best, but we keep learning each other and try to get some other players to translate. It gets better day by day."

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