



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION MEDIA RELEASE

New England Revolution Training Report: March 28, 2018

All,

Please [click here](#) to access interview footage and training b-roll from Tuesday's media availability previewing this Saturday's away match against the Houston Dynamo (myTV38 – 8:30 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Forward Juan Agudelo](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [Defender Andrew Farrell](#)
- [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 takeaways from last Saturday's draw against NYCFC:

Coach Friedel: "It's not every game we're going to have to press that high, obviously, nor will we. But we thought that was a good tactic and it paid off. We did everything in the first half except score the multiple goals that I think we deserved. I spoke to their staff after the game and they were very, very happy with the point, so I think that tells the tale."

On assessing the team's defensive performance against New York City:

Coach Friedel: "It wasn't too bad. We know that [Maxi] Moralez is very, very good on the ball. Attacks go through him. When you give him the ball in open space, which is what happened on the first goal, he's an outstanding player and he can find a lot of players. The way that [New York City FC Head Coach] Patrick Vieira – he's done an excellent job with his team – and the way they attack with pace even when they're missing a couple of players is very, very good. I think after watching the game, they had four chances to our multiple chances. There are more positives that we can take out of the game, but we only got a point and on now to Houston."

On the dynamic that Cristian Penilla's pace brings to the team:

Coach Friedel: "We knew when we signed him what we were getting. It takes players a little bit of time to adapt to the new culture, a new language, and new surroundings, but it hasn't taken him long at all. Outstanding player, very, very good with his right foot, and he's got an incredible burst of pace about him. I know a lot of teams in MLS when they come play us, they're going to have to scout him and they're going to try to stop him, but he's one of those players that I think you can scout multiple times and he's still very difficult to scout. We're expecting big things from Cristian [Penilla]."

On Luis Caicedo joining the squad:

Coach Friedel: "Really bubbly character, Luis [Caicedo]. He's come in and you can tell he's already started to try to pick up English long before he even got his visa to come here. He's full of energy. Very

impactful player. I know he's not tall in stature, but he's very strong, very good on the ball, and he's integrated himself very nicely from second one."

On the Houston Dynamo:

Coach Friedel: "Very good attacking, especially their front four with pace going forward. It was a pretty good preseason game when we watched the video back. They're a big, physical team, and it'll be another entertaining game. They're not going to press as quickly maybe as NYCFC would do up as high up the field, but in the midfield they do and they sure like to break. We're going to have to be at the top of our game, but again, really looking forward to it. I think we're in a real good position to take the points."

[New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo](#)

On his takeaways from Saturday's draw with New York City FC:

Agudelo: "I thought our effort was there, I thought we worked hard. Just had to finish a couple of chances and we would've been okay, but that's just the way some games go and we have to stay positive on to the next one."

On scoring after entering last Saturday's match as a second-half substitute:

Agudelo: "It was a good boost. I noticed the players that had been working their butts off during the game got an extra boost to try to keep the lead. Unfortunately, we weren't able to finish the job. It's very upsetting, because at home we're so strong and we always want to win at home. We just have to take the positives and understand it's just the way the sport is sometimes."

On competing for a starting spot every day in training:

Agudelo: "There's no time to rest at all. There's no time to think about taking a play off. Everyone is fighting for positions and it's very competitive in the training facility."

On Cristian Penilla's impact:

Agudelo: "Huge dynamic. You could tell how scared some defenders are of his acceleration, so they give him space. Like on the goal [in the 63rd minute against NYCFC], he was able to get space and cross the ball. If they're tight against him, he's able to use his pace to get in behind, so it's a good addition we have."

[New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)

On his positive takeaways from last Saturday's match against NYCFC:

Anibaba: "First and foremost, for me, I think it showed we can implement a game plan. That isn't typically how we've necessarily played in terms of pressing so high, but we worked on it throughout the week and I thought everybody executed their jobs to the T."

On limiting NYCFC's attack but still conceding twice:

Anibaba: "That's football sometimes. I think they had the majority of the ball, but I thought we had the majority of the ball in terms of being dangerous with it – having the ball in dangerous spots, picking them off high, and creating chances. They put two out of their three chances away, but that's football. I think it's just a matter of not being too critical on ourselves, but carrying what we didn't do so great into this week's training sessions."

On his first match back in Houston after playing for the Dynamo in 2016 and 2017:

Anibaba: "For me, it's business as usual first and foremost. We're concentrating on getting three points. We're working hard on trying to exploit what they don't do so well and being cognizant of what they do well. But in terms of going back to Houston and the city and seeing old faces, that's always good."

On evaluating this Houston Dynamo team:

Anibaba: "There's no secret that they can get out on the counter very, very quickly. They have speed, they have pace, they have a decent amount of guys who can score goals and hurt you, so that's

something we need to be aware of. But they have their vulnerabilities as well. We're just trying to focus on us to be honest."

On playing with the same mentality on the road:

Anibaba: "Like I kind of harped on earlier, I think we showed this past weekend that we can come out with different forms. We can be dangerous in different ways. On the road, I think that we can be dangerous. I think the key to MLS in general is being solid on the road. Most teams are pretty decent at home, if not good at home, but on the road is where the difference lies. Hopefully, we can hammer that in early in the season."

[New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell](#)

On how the press influenced the match against New York City FC:

Farrell: "I think the pressure was great. I think the front six guys created a lot of turnovers. Obviously, we didn't finish all the chances we could, which is unfortunate. But I think the guys up top and as a whole unit the first 45 minutes and then some of the second half, we did a good job of pressing and creating turnovers."

On the team's performance overall:

Farrell: "It was good at moments. Obviously, if you're not focused for 90 minutes, teams will get one or two chances and they'll put them away. Teams are good enough in this league to do that, so we've got to make sure that we can tighten that up, those few instances and then we'll be getting even better results. Obviously disappointed we didn't get the full three points, but we continue to move forward and work hard to get the three points against Houston."

On Jalil Anibaba's impact:

Farrell: "He's a great player. From the first day he came in the locker-room, he's a vocal leader. All the guys enjoy his presence in there. He's a great player and he's been in the league for a long, long time, so he has a lot of experience. He's a great guy to add to this team and [I'm] looking forward to playing alongside him."

On playing with the same mentality on the road:

Farrell: "We want to do the same thing we do at home – press teams, win the balls, and score close to their goal. Obviously, we want to keep every guy on the field, and I think we've gotten better at that the past couple weeks – just being disciplined and making smart fouls and being smart on certain plays – but Houston's a good team. We're looking forward to that matchup and excited for the challenge."

[New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner](#)

On the result against New York City FC:

Turner: "The draw was a disappointing result in the end for us, but the first 45 minutes we were super bright and we had tons of opportunities to score and put that game away realistically in 20 minutes. So we definitely take a lot of positives out on it and I think that's the first time this season that our press really showed what it can do to opponents."

On the defensive performance against New York City FC:

Turner: "We were really organized up front – in front of me. We had a plan going into the game and we just executed it really well, so we were locked in for 90 minutes and we were unfortunate and a little bit unlucky as well to concede two goals. I think we got a little tired towards the end, so as our fitness continues to grow, soon that's not going to be able to be an excuse. We're just looking to build every performance and hopefully get that elusive clean sheet."

On players competing for minutes and contributing in new roles, like Juan Agudelo:

Turner: "Every week no one knows who's playing. We go into every week of training [and] every single rep is very important -- I've said that before. So, everybody's ready to do the job on the weekend. All you

can do is when your name is called, whether it be before the game, at halftime or in the 60th minute, all you can do is your job.”

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