



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION MEDIA RELEASE

New England Revolution Training Report: April 11, 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 FC Dallas (NBC Sports Boston – 7:30 p.m. ET), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Brad Friedel](#)
- [Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)
- [Midfielder Scott Caldwell](#)
- [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@revolutionsoccer.net.

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

On what has been the key to the team's 3-1-1 start:

Coach Friedel: “Hard work. I think all the players have taken on the changes exceptionally well. They've all applied themselves exceptionally well. Now it's up to the players and us as a staff to stay focused and take – the old cliché – take every game one at a time, and as it comes. Dallas is going to be a very difficult opponent, as every opponent that we face will have some players that can hurt us. We're going to have to stay on our toes at all times. Once you win, lose or draw a game, you have to quickly forget about it and move on to the next.”

On if he feels there's been improvement from game to game:

Coach Friedel: “Absolutely, and yes it has been a process. We were just watching our first [preseason] game against New York Red Bull the other day with the staff, just to see the noticeable differences, and we're progressing. We're happy with where we're at right now, but there's still a lot more that we can accomplish and a lot more we can improve on. You know us as a staff a little bit by now; we're not going to rest until we get to where we want to get.”

On the team's defensive performances over the last few matches:

Coach Friedel: “Getting clean sheets is not just with a back four and a goalkeeper; it's a team-oriented scenario. But with the way that we want the team to play, we are going to be open at times, so you might concede a chance or two. We feel this is the best way for us to play and for us to create as many chances as possible. But it really does start with whoever's playing as the number nine up top, all the way back to whoever's starting in goal. Collectively, the team is doing a very, very good job of defending as a team, but defending – you have to work really hard in order to do it, especially in the manner that we want to defend. With most games, we'll be very high up the field.”

On Teal Bunbury's play:

Coach Friedel: “When we first took over the job, Teal was either a striker or a player that could play out on the wing. Tireless work rate, and when we got to see him for a fair few weeks, we thought his best position would be as a nine for us, especially in the games where we want to press. Not only can he

score goals, he does that work really, really well. You have to be able to press, but then when a team hits it long, get back into position to be in position for the second balls, and Teal's done a tremendous job at that."

On Wilfried Zaha's play:

Coach Friedel: "Wilfried's done a great job acclimatizing to the culture and also getting used to all the players, getting used to what MLS is. Wilfried's an outstanding player and it's good that he's starting to show that in MLS. He's going to get better and better. He's still a young player. He works very, very hard, and it's not surprising to us that he's doing well. In saying that, I think all the players we've signed are doing a very good job, so we're quite happy with that, but you can't rest on what happened in the last game or the last training session. You have to move forward to the next one."

On the challenges presented by FC Dallas:

Coach Friedel: "They possess a lot of players that can break quickly from midfield and get forward. They also possess a number nine in [Maximiliano] Urruti that works tirelessly. We can't be loose in our possession in the middle of midfield, because if [Mauro] Diaz gets the ball, he'll be able to release whoever plays, whether it's [Michael] Barrios or [Roland] Lamah or Urruti, or [Santiago] Mosquera plays next to [Carlos] Gruezo; you just don't know which team they'll put out there. They will, if you give them time on the ball, try to keep possession and get their fullbacks into the game. So again, it's going to be very important that we close them down, close them down quickly, play very robust defensively, and then when we get the ball, do what we're good at. We have a lot of players that are excellent on the ball, and we'll try to put as much pressure on Dallas as possible."

[New England Revolution Defender Jalil Anibaba](#)

On what has been the key to the team's strong start:

Anibaba: "Definitely hard work throughout the entire squad. Everybody works hard every day in training. Everybody puts their best foot forward to implore the game plan we're trying to set out for on the weekend. I think that's the main reason why we've gotten a couple results, but the thing about this league and the thing about having a good start is that you have to build on that. Any team can beat any team at any given moment. We look at that as a positive, but we also know that we really haven't done anything."

On carrying momentum moving forward:

Anibaba: "I think the defense is playing pretty well right now. There are things that we need to do better, of course, and I'm a firm believer in the fact that when the defense is playing well, everyone is playing good defense, from the frontline all the way back to the back four and onto the goalkeeper. I think it's just a matter of continuing what we're doing well and being real with ourselves about the things we don't do so well."

On Wilfried Zaha:

Anibaba: "I think he's [Zaha's] just scratching the tip of the surface right now. I think he has a lot more to give, which is amazing to even think about. He's shown very well obviously in the first couple matches so far. I was happy for him to get his first MLS goal. It's always good to get [one] under your belt early in the season. Like I said, I think he has a lot more to give and that's amazing to even consider."

On the challenges presented by FC Dallas:

Anibaba: "Everybody knows Dallas can get out and run, and hurt you on the flanks. When they get guys like [Michael] Barrios isolated, you know, [Maximiliano] Urruti's a guy that you always have to be aware of. They're a team in this league that's always dangerous no matter what form they're in, no matter what time of the season it is, they're always dangerous. They always make it a hard match and that's not going to be any different this weekend."

On how he has seen the team come together both on and off the field:

Anibaba: "I think preseason was huge for us. Obviously, whenever you have a new staff, you have a number of new guys like myself. Preseason is a very important time. I think it was a time where, obviously, we were all trying to figure out how we all fit into the puzzle. I thought everybody just put their

heads down and worked, and that's all you can really do in preseason, and I thought that so far it's paid off. But, like I said, we have so much more to do."

[New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell](#)

On carrying momentum moving forward:

Caldwell: "Keep doing what we have been doing: working hard in training, making sure we're preparing for the games, and physically being ready for the games. We have to continue to have all 11 guys working behind the ball, working effortlessly defensively, and then turning those chances that we have into good attacks."

On what has been the key to the team's strong start:

Caldwell: "I'd say we just worked extremely hard in preseason and worked together throughout the beginning part of the season. We're all in it together and we know that if one guy isn't working with the guy next to him, then it's not going to work, so everyone has to be in it together. But it's still so early in the season. We have had a little bit of success, but there's been a lot of negatives that we can work on and continue to improve and that's something we have to do this weekend against Dallas."

On Wilfried Zahibo:

Caldwell: "He's [Zahibo's] been excellent. You saw just the last game, a great ball into Teal [Bunbury], a couple others that he could have picked up assists on and then the goal to really round out his night. But overall, Wilfred's been great and we're happy to have him, and he continues to work hard and help the team."

On the challenges presented by FC Dallas:

Caldwell: "I know they [Dallas] have a lot of pace throughout the whole team. We're going to watch them throughout the week, but they have a lot of good, talented individual players and they really like to bottle up the midfield, so we're really going to have to work around that and just continue to do our thing and continue to improve week to week."

On how he has seen the team come together both on and off the field:

Caldwell: "We have a lot of talented players, a lot of hardworking individuals, [and] everyone's worked together. I've said it over and over, but we've really worked together on the field and it's something that is not easy to do, but it's become easy, because everyone is willing to put in the effort and wants to do it all together. So it's gone great so far, but we still have a lot of work to do."

[New England Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner](#)

On the key to the team's strong start:

Turner: "I think I'd say the biggest thing is just that we believe in what we're doing. We know that every game is going to be a lot of hard work and we've come prepared for every single game so far, and plan to continue to do so."

On the team's improvement from the first week of the regular season:

Turner: "The more we train with each other, the more familiar we get. [Cristian] Penilla and Diego [Fagundez] can really blossom in their relationship together, because they're just getting more and more comfortable with each other. That runs for every guy from me up to the top. It's been good and we're trying to improve every single week."

On submitting consecutive clean sheets:

Turner: "We just are committed to defending and committed to our defensive shape, and it's been really good the past two games. Obviously, we went up against 10 men and it was difficult for us in Houston to still get the clean sheet, but against Montreal it was a different challenge. It was a little easier for us because we kept the ball better. It's kind of both ends of the spectrum in two weeks, and now we want to get one 11-v-11; 11-v-10 is great, but if we have to finish a game 11-v-11, that's the next check mark."

On Wilfried Zaha's impact:

Turner: "He's always giving the guys an option to play with out of the back. He's done a really good job linking our back four to the rest of the team. If he's calling for the ball, you want to give it to him, because he can handle it and handle the pressure, and he helps. He just links well from the back to the front. Also, he's committed to defending. He wins tackles and helps us and can bail us out of a couple tough spots."

On getting accustomed to playing regularly in MLS:

Turner: "I know I played a lot [for USL's Richmond Kickers], but it's definitely different. It's a different kind of spotlight. Just trusting in what you're doing from the beginning of preseason to now, and learning from every single game and not making the same mistakes twice "

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