



## NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution vs. Chicago Fire  
Saturday, June 17, 2017

### New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps

#### ***On what the Revolution can take away from tonight's match:***

**Coach Heaps:** "Effort and energy was all there. I thought until the last whistle, we laid it all out on the line. I think our sharpness wasn't where it needs to be to break a team like Chicago down in terms of how they're set up. I thought if we'd had been a little sharper earlier in the game, it wouldn't have turned the way it did. I thought the goal came from a giveaway. Pretty much an easy goal to give them one and then they're very good defensively to get behind the ball. So, you're obviously burning a lot of energy and effort. I wish we were a little bit sharper, but at the end there, I thought there were two or three clear chances to score. Credit Chicago, I thought they came in and did a good job."

#### ***On making the switch to Juan Agudelo from Scott Caldwell:***

**Coach Heaps:** "I think for us, it was a tactical move. We had switched to our diamond formation and we wanted to get Lee [Nguyen] kind of at the point of the diamond and Juan [Agudelo] and Kei [Kamara] up top]. We knew they were going to go five in the back and see if we couldn't get two off of [Bastian] Schweinsteiger, [Joao] Meira, and [Johan] Kappelhof. I thought that there were chances there and unfortunately, we lacked a little bit of that final-third pass that against a good team, you have to have it."

#### ***On the Fire playing with Bastian Schweinsteiger as a third center back and if it delayed the attack:***

**Coach Heaps:** "No, actually, I thought it helped us. I thought the first two or three chances in the first half, we knew he was going to do it. We've seen the film on him. We actually wanted that to happen. We were prepared for that and that was when I thought we were at our best. Unfortunately, we just weren't sharp enough. I'm thinking about the Kelyn Rowe [chance] in the first half, where Kei [Kamara] had pulled off and that's a goal. I'm thinking second half, where we were able to get behind and the ball drops in and Lee [Nguyen] was there because they were clogged in the middle. A couple full chances we should've scored on."

#### ***On snapping the 11-game unbeaten streak at home, and how it effects the tactical side of things:***

**Coach Heaps:** "I didn't even know. I really don't. I knew we were undefeated this year up to this point. I didn't even know last year. [We're] disappointed that we didn't get at least a point in this game. I really believe we deserved a point in this game. The first half, the way we played, we probably didn't deserve it. It wasn't a 90-minute performance for us, but it certainly was a great second half for us. I thought we should've gotten a point out of it."

#### ***On how painful it is to have multiple opportunities to score at the end, only to come up short:***

**Coach Heaps:** "Painful. I think that guys are gutted in there because, like I said, the energy and the effort. There's not a guy that can walk in there right now, because they were trying to get the goal and that's what you love. It was an exciting last 20 minutes and we really went for it. Unfortunately, I've got to go back and look, but there was two or three half-penalty calls that I want to look at. A couple of chances, obviously, that we were in on with Gershon [Koffie] and Lee [Nguyen], where we felt like those were moments that we can take. But at the same time, a quick turnaround [this week]. We've just got to play Toronto on Friday night. We've just got to regroup and continue to get sharper. I thought that was the key tonight. We lacked the crispness that we normally have when we're playing at home. I think maybe the break had a little bit to do with it, but we've got to be better coming into a game, to start a game."

#### ***On the leadership of Antonio Delamea and the goal he scored tonight:***

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**Coach Heaps:** "I love [that] Toni [Antonio Delamea] went to the [Slovenia] national team. It was great for him. When we were trying to recruit him to come, one of the things was, would moving to MLS help him to stay in his national team's eyes? And would he, when he got the opportunity, perform? And I think he felt like the league here is really good. Obviously, his [national team] coach watched him, brought him in, but I think he felt really prepared going back there, which really made us feel really good about recruiting a guy like him and telling him, 'Hey, this is a good opportunity for you.' And then obviously, he wants to win. He's a gamer, you could tell. The guys were rallying around each other. I thought there was another goal in there. I really did. I felt like there was going to be one."

### **New England Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea**

#### **On tonight's game against the Chicago Fire:**

**Delamea:** "We are very disappointed now, but we need to talk about what happened for the first 70 minutes. We couldn't make simple passes, we couldn't make pressure. We couldn't do anything right. I don't know what was wrong with us. Then when we were two goals behind, we started to come back, but it was too late. That's football. If you're not in the whole game with your head in the game, these things punish you. Like you see, out there we couldn't score at the end. I think we need to find where the biggest problem was in ourselves. That's the main reason why we lost the game."

#### **On the team's difficulty getting going early in the game:**

**Delamea:** "Honestly, I saw these problems for 70 minutes before we scored this goal. I don't know. We looked tired. We weren't as quick when we took the ball as we were against Toronto. So, we couldn't make many chances for 70 minutes. I don't know where the problem is. I understand some players were tired because of the national call-ups, but I think we need a good conversation in the locker room, look each other in the eye, and solve what was wrong."

#### **On the team's sharpness:**

**Delamea:** "We just weren't us. Like I said, we weren't sharp enough. On the other side, when we took the ball, we couldn't make simple passes or we couldn't stop the ball. Every time we had the chance to make a counter attack, in the first or second pass we lost the ball. We made too many technical mistakes. I think that was one of the reasons we couldn't press them more and create more chances, especially in the first 70 minutes. When you are two goals behind, it's sometimes too late to start playing. Like you see, football sometimes gives [to] you, sometimes takes. This time, we lost and like I said, I think we can get a great lesson from this game and try to forget this game as soon as possible and start thinking about Toronto."

#### **On if he thought there was another goal coming after he scored in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute:**

**Delamea:** "Yeah, we tried to push ourselves until the end. I don't know, everything we shot, they blocked. I know this is football, because we weren't 70 minutes in the game. At the end, it didn't reward us. I think we need to take a good lesson out of this game and start to think about Toronto."

### **New England Revolution Midfielder Lee Nguyen**

#### **On whether he thinks the two weeks off affected the team's sharpness:**

**Nguyen:** "I wouldn't say that. Just unlucky, that first goal. It bounces anywhere but there. Then, that second goal was unfortunate, because we know we're trying to push to tie the game, and then obviously after that, we had to change formations and go a little more attack-minded. We got the goal back towards the end there, gave us a little belief, and man, we had so many chances, and that's going to hurt tonight. Don't know if I'm going to be able to sleep tonight. We gave up three, four sitters there. That's going to hurt, but we know that this game could have turned the other way for us."

#### **On how the team adjusted throughout the match:**



**Nguyen:** "We added Teal [Bunbury] in, we got a little pace, and then going three in the back, getting more men in the midfield, it helped change the way we pushed forward. It was a tough matchup for them and it created a lot of chances for us. I wish we had those chances back. Those were really good chances, so we've got to look at the positives for getting those chances and going forward. If we play like that from the get go, it's going to be tough."

***On if the team can take positives away from tonight's performance and late offensive flurry:***

**Nguyen:** "Absolutely. We kind of got shocked there in the first half. I think that first goal kind of woke us up, but once we were two down, we knew we had to go all out to try to get one back. Half of that, you saw the team mindset changed and the way we played, the way we pushed forward. We've got to play like that from the beginning, because we create so many chances. Knowing that, that's a positive thing to take."

**New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper**

***On Chicago's first goal that followed his initial save:***

**Cropper:** "Yeah, absolutely. It's just very unlucky that it kind of lands right at his feet after the initial save, but that's obviously something that I can take away and obviously work on, next time kind of hope that I either push it out of bounds or it doesn't land at his feet."

***On the defense and how the team appeared to start off slowly:***

**Cropper:** "I think that we played well at times, but I think that we as a group need to come out and be stronger off the bat, a lot more switched on, and I think that that's obviously something that we can [take] away from the game and improve upon for the next game."

***On the team's home unbeaten run ending tonight and whether it's something the team thinks about before the start of a match:***

**Cropper** "No, I don't think that's been mentioned all season. I think that we've just gone out and really performed at home and now we look to bounce back against Toronto away and then our next game at Philadelphia and then back here for New York at home."

**Chicago Fire Head Coach Veljko Paunovic**

***On winning an away game:***

**Coach Paunovic:** "It was very hard, very difficult, and that's why it's even bigger. We won in front of a great team. They pushed very hard, they really pushed the game and tried to win, but I think the spirit that we had prevailed at the end. It's not only that we only defended, but also in some moments, even though that we controlled the ball, we were good and still trying to create some opportunities. That's maybe something that we missed in the second half, by the end to have another opportunity and push them longer in their half. But in the end, I think combination of these two things, controlling the game and when it's tough and when we struggle, having the spirit like the guys had today -- that's the main thing."

***On ending the Revolution's 11-game unbeaten streak at home:***

**Coach Paunovic:** "For me, I can talk about the games since I'm here, and these games were last year. I think we played four times, three times -- actually yeah three times, two times in the league and once in Open Cup, so we lost all the games. What I can say is we have a different team, this is not the Chicago Fire from the past. We improved, we worked in our offseason, we built our team. We have a great locker room, great spirit, we have fantastic players and guys, champions and winners who want to win and that's the difference this year."

***On Luis Solignac clicking in every game:***



**Coach Paunovic:** "Luis [Solignac] is the player that we brought last year, because we saw qualities in him and that he can do what he's doing right now, playing and performing at this level where he scores goals, where he helps to score, and also helps the team when we're struggling [and] we have to defend. So that's the complete profile that we look for [in] all the players in every position, and he's fulfilling that, so he's one of the guys, together with the other guys, that we have this year who deserve to be here."

***On if Bastian Schweinsteiger is where he wants him to be or if there's room to improve:***

**Coach Paunovic:** "I think it's both. He's there where we want him to be. I think he's doing great. I think since a long time ago, his adjustment to the league and to the change that he had is done. It's completed and now he's just helping the team win, enjoying playing great soccer and also helping the guys around him to get better and be better."

**Chicago Fire Midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger**

***On American fans embracing you even in Gillette:***

**Schweinsteiger:** "It's great, the support, not only for me, also for our team, it's great. I appreciate that a lot. It was a great atmosphere. Obviously, when you win the match, you enjoy it a lot, much more. It's nice to see when you see also like Bayern Munich jersey, national team, or Man United. Hope they will change or swap their jerseys to Chicago Fire jerseys, that would be great."

***On the pressure the Revolution put on:***

**Schweinsteiger:** "That's normal, both teams are actually doing that, pressing high or try to press high. It depends how much confidence you have, you know, to play out or sometimes also to play a long ball. You have some ideas to play against teams who play are pressing high, so I don't mind. Actually, some people like it when they press high so we can find the ball in the gaps. As you can see on the first goal, saw those two passes, we created the chance, so that's alright."

**Chicago Fire Midfielder Matt Polster**

***On giving the Revolution their first home loss of the 2017 season:***

**Polster:** "I think our main thing was to play our own game plan and that was just to keep the ball. That's where we're best at – keep possession, move it side to side. I think that's how the goal came. We work it around the back, we created overloads, and then Nika [Nemanja Nikolić] made a good run to the line. We exploited good spaces on the field and I think that's how we won the game tonight."

***On teammate Luis Solignac's play tonight :***

**Polster:** "I think Luch [Luis Solignac] has a lot of good qualities. He's good on the ball, he can hold up play, he makes good runs from behind, he creates space for Nika [Nemanja Nikolić]. I think they make a really good tandem right now that creates, like I said, those spaces. Luch has been on fire, obviously, like you said. He's created some chances, gotten some goals, and I think it's only up for him as long as he keeps playing at this level."

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