



## NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution 3 vs. Philadelphia Union 0

Saturday, July 29, 2017

### New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps

#### ***On the preparation this week and how it translated into success tonight:***

**Coach Heaps:** “Well, I stood a week ago here, before you, saying that we needed to make sure we put together a full 90 minutes and it started from making sure defensively we were more sound – and I thought tonight that showed. We had a really good week of training. Guys worked tirelessly this week to really hone in on that pressure, cover balance, and make sure that we’re getting pressure to the ball, but also having good passing lanes cut out and then having the rest of the line be good. Offensively, I thought, if we could defend really well, we were going to get opportunities going forward. And that happened, but the key for me tonight was the zero [goals from Philadelphia] and I don’t think there was a ton of really clear chances and that’s the key.”

#### ***On the offensive production the last two matches:***

**Coach Heaps:** “I think there’s good movement. I think when our spacing is really good and I thought Teal [Bunbury] did a great job tonight of doing both, of opening up some of the passing lanes – and he ended up being a little bit higher than Kei [Kamara] is. That gives Kei a little bit of space underneath. We dropped Lee [Nguyen] in a little bit deeper, but for me, the offensive stuff will come. There’s no question in my mind, we have players that can play. But we can never take plays off defensively right now. I was proud of our attacking players who we’re calling upon to defend, and Kei is one of those, and Teal and Lee. Tonight, we really dug into them to defend. I think when they’re playing like that and they get the opportunity to attack, they’re even better because they know that this is a good opportunity to go forward.”

#### ***On the service by Andrew Farrell tonight and the work he’s put in with assistant coach Tom Soehn:***

**Coach Heaps:** “I want to credit Tommy Soehn 100 percent on that, for continuing to get Andrew [Farrell] to get into those positions and to get his head up and pick out runners and make good passing. That was something that Tommy and I, we talked a lot about, was how to approach Andrew to continue to work on it. And Tommy’s found the right way of connecting with him. I’m thrilled because I think Andrew’s a player that can get forward and do that more often than he’s done. The last few games really show that.”

#### ***On what is making Kei Kamara successful right now:***

**Coach Heaps:** “Look, I think Kei [Kamara] is putting his head down and working and understanding that we’re trying to get him service, trying to do things to make our entire team better. But, in that meantime, he’s working. He worked really hard tonight. I thought tonight he did all the little things – clearance off the line, huge play [in the 69<sup>th</sup> minute]. That’s one of the biggest plays of the game. And then how he held the ball up, I thought he did a really good job holding the ball up and at least battling with their center backs. For me, Kei carries a heavy burden. I think there’s a lot of scrutiny on Kei. I thought, in terms of how he went about his business tonight, I thought he handled it really well.”

#### ***On if Kei Kamara speaking out last week has self-motivated him:***

**Coach Heaps:** “I wish I knew that or how to do that. It’s probably a good question and I wish I knew the answer to it. That’s kind of where I’m at. I don’t know if that motivates him or puts him in a position, but tonight he was awesome. So, whether it was that, or, I really thought he had a good week in training as well, so I think that was important. Kei [Kamara] is quiet. He keeps to himself. And I got to be honest with you, I didn’t even know any of those comments came out last week until Sunday or Monday. Because I don’t read any of your stuff, guys, I’m sorry. Especially yours [Brian O’Connell]. I never read it, ever. I know better. Ever. No, you can put that in the quotes. And you can put the website that I’ll never read. In



saying that, that stuff happens, but we have a really good locker room. I've been around and I've been in locker rooms where if someone kind of spoke out – and I don't know what he meant by what he said all the way – but if that came in our locker room years ago, there would've been a bigger deal. Our guys put their heads down and went to work and Kei the same way. So, it wasn't even an issue at all this week. I thought we had our best training of the entire year this week.”

***On why the team met in the middle of the pitch postgame rather than the locker room:***

**Coach Heaps:** “There's autograph ally. There's you guys pulling people away. I wanted to get everyone on the field to really spend a moment to say, 'starting from postgame last week, to taking care of their bodies, to having a training session on Tuesday that I thought was one of our best training sessions of the year and continue to build on that for the week and to come together and have that culmination on the field. I wanted them to realize that the work this week paid off. And the fact that we stepped on the field and did what we needed to do. They need to feel that moment again. And for me, hopefully it's a defining moment for our season.”

***On Xavier Kouassi's status:***

**Coach Heaps:** “Coming along. He trained this week in some parts, but not all the way. And I think tonight we just didn't want to put him in a position to have any setbacks. I think he'll start training full on Tuesday.”

**New England Revolution Forward Kei Kamara**

***On getting so much elevation on his first goal:***

**Kei Kamara:** “It's those new [New Balance] Furons 3.0 and they got something else in them. I've never seen myself jump that high, so I've got to say thanks to New Balance for that one. It worked. Hopefully I keep doing that.”

***On whether he's ever scored a goal like that in his career in a game or in training:***

**Kei Kamara:** “Yeah, at practice a lot. Obviously, there are no cameras at training. You score most of your most beautiful goals at training, so that's where that happens. It was a good cross. I've got to say it was a good cross from Kelyn [Rowe]. It was right, it was a good cross.”

***On if getting good service makes the difference:***

**Kei Kamara:** “Yeah, two goals not from only from me – the last goal from Juan [Agudelo], it's another great cross from Scottie [Caldwell] looking up. We made eye contact even though his mishit a little bit, but guess what – another big striker is in the box and waiting to finish it, so it's great.”

***On the similarities between this game and the last against LA on July 22:***

**Kei Kamara:** “We didn't let in any goals tonight. That was the focus going in. Defensively, stay focused everyone and if we can defend, I mean, Philly has really put up some goals against us and we just wanted to defend. We weren't worried about going forward and scoring goals because we knew we get our chances it's going to happen. We just wanted to defend tonight and we did that.”

***On the carryover from the offense from that last game to tonight:***

**Kei Kamara:** “Again, it sounds like an echo, but this team has such a powerful offense, so many guys that can score goals at any time of the game. So, that's really not too much to worry about when it comes to the guys anyone that's on the field is going to score goals. The focus of this week was, defensively, we've got to all play together and it's really good tonight to really finish the game with that score line.”

***On his comments from last week and mindset after tonight's game:***

**Kei Kamara:** “It's funny you ask me that question. It looks like I shouldn't answer questions because when someone asked me that question last week, I answered it. Ives [Galarcep] wasn't happy because



he said I answered a question and it took away from the team's success. Obviously, our team just had a win today – three points – so if I answer a question like that, he'll write something else saying I'm taking away from the team's success, so I'm just going to keep it that way.”

### **New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo**

#### ***On how the week has transpired for him, all the way up to him scoring a goal:***

**Juan Agudelo:** “A lot of stuff happened this week, and I'm just happy to be back and trying to help the team move up in the standings. [I'm] extremely happy about the three points. I thought it was very important for us to get the three points. We got a couple away games and everyone knows our record away, hopefully we can turn that around.”

#### ***On Jay's instruction to him going into the field, coming off the bench:***

**Juan Agudelo:** “Just tactical instructions: ‘Come in, play the ten. We need some legs in the midfield. Hopefully you can break up some plays and hold the ball for us,’ and that's what I tried to do.”

#### ***On what he's feeling physically after an emotional night on Wednesday, a long flight on Thursday, and then getting one session in on Friday:***

**Juan Agudelo:** “Physically, I felt ready. I felt extremely anxious to get onto the field and help out the team finish it out. I wanted to be the guy that came in and defensively worked his butt off to get the three points.”

### **New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell**

#### ***On getting two assists after having worked with Coach Tom Soehn:***

**Andrew Farrell:** “Yeah, been working out with Coach Soehn. The outside backs and the forwards, they've been making those runs all year, and we just want to make sure we can find the ball and get them the goal, so the past couple of weeks, we've been working on that more. Those guys, Teal [Bunbury] last week, Kei [Kamara] this week finished the chances, so that's huge for us.”

#### ***On his celebration the second week in a row:***

**Andrew Farrell:** “Yeah, just feels good. Feels good to—that's something I've struggled with in my history, but just working on that this week, the past couple of weeks, to finally come to fruition, it feels really good.”

#### ***On what's been the biggest piece of advice Coach Tom Soehn has given him as he's worked on those crosses:***

**Andrew Farrell:** “You know, look through my reads, like a quarterback does. Find the near post, the back post, and then the pull back. Both times, I looked for the pull back, because if the defender is committed, he's going to commit to Kei [Kamara], and the pull backs on last week to Teal [Bunbury], and this week Kei [Kamara] pulled back, and they put the ball in the net, so it felt good to get that one.”

### **Philadelphia Union Head Coach Jim Curtin**

#### ***On the difference between beating New England last week at home to tonight's game:***

**Coach Curtin:** “Playing on the road in our league is very difficult, you know home field advantage goes a long way. You have the crowd behind you, you have usually a lot more of the ball in your home stadium and create chances. That's been the story for us, I know that's been the story for New England as well, we're all kind of in and around each other taking points off each other fighting for a playoff spot and if we want to make the playoffs and I'm sure New England is in the same boat, you are going to have to find ways to get results on the road even though it is statistically a very tough league to do so in, but you have



to find ways to be good on restarts, to do a good job of maybe stealing a goal, and getting out of games with at least a point if not three.”

***On playing on a grass field instead of turf:***

**Coach Curtin:** “Yeah, the turf is a factor, it's usually something that would probably favor them because they are used to it. The grass held up okay, I guess you could say there was some seams out there and there was some crazy bounces, and some of it was tearing up in some spots, but you know overall we just didn't do enough with the ball. You know, we've been playing fairly well in terms of possession in recent weeks and it kind of got away from us this week, except for the 30 minute stretch maybe in the second half where we were sharp with the ball and got some chances out of it. But, again we are a team that, if we were not all on the same page defensively, really urgent to close the ball down and make it difficult on our opponents, games start to open up and you could see when New England opens you up, they have some quality players that can punish you.”

***On 69<sup>th</sup> minute headed clearance from Kei Kamara:***

**Coach Curtin:** “Yeah, for sure. The margins are very slim in this league. You know that's a play, Kei [Kamara] makes the goal he scored with his foot probably 10 feet off the ground and then he heads one off the post that was actually in, so it's difficult. Fafa [Picault] had another little half chance that deflects and Cropper makes the save. So, you know we push the game at that stage, almost had an opportunity to get it to 1-1 but again, if we are going to be a team that pushes to get in the playoffs we have to find ways to get results on the road.”

***On the progress of Jack Elliott:***

**Coach Curtin:** “Yeah, for me, I think he's been the Rookie of The Year. You know I think he's played at that level and I thought he was excellent again tonight. [He] pulled a couple balls off the line and was one of our guys that really had a good day. So again, happy with his development, his growth, he's showing that he more than belongs in this league. He's left a mark on each and every game that he plays and he does great against top strikers in our league so again happy with him, and [he] continues to get better each and every week.”

***On where the Union goes from here:***

**Coach Curtin:** “Yeah we have, it's been a lot of Saturday, Wednesday, Saturdays in the recent weeks, so now we'll have a little bit of time to rest and recover, but we have a tough Dallas team coming in next weekend. So, we'll actually have a full weekend to prepare which is good, but yeah we have to turn around quick and get results down the stretch.”

**Philadelphia Union Forward Fabrice-Jean "Fafa" Picault**

***On playing tonight after missing some time with a hamstring injury:***

**Fafa Picault:** “It felt good. I was a bit nervous with it at first, but I tested it out already yesterday and it felt good. I got 30 minutes out there tonight or something like that. Sprinted on it a bit a few times and it felt pretty good, so take these two days of rest and it's nice to have everybody back. Just get ready for the next two home games and be healthy. ”

***On the message from Coach Jim Curtin when he was subbed in during the second half:***

**Fafa Picault:** “Just to get in there and make a difference. Go at them and just go at their backs as I usually do. That was my aim and tried to do that.”

***On using the team's upcoming two home games to get back on track:***

**Fafa Picault:** “Definitely. These two home games are going to be crucial. It's important that we get three points out of both of them. Maximize the points and make sure we play confident, stay healthy, and it's



nice, like I said before, to have everybody back in the group for the most part. Just look to build off of it at home and then get ready for the next away game after that.”

### **Philadelphia Union Defender Jack Elliott**

#### ***On what they saw from New England:***

**Jack Elliott:** “I thought we did well to deal with them for 80 minutes and obviously, the last half an hour we were pushing for a goal and the game really opened up to an end-to-end, kind of, track meet. In the end, we created a few chances in the second half and if we took one earlier, it would’ve been a different game.”

#### ***On what he saw on his goal line clearance against Diego Fagundez:***

**Jack Elliott:** “Just always, always stay in on the play and not give up on it. I thought it was just going to get finished off, but he [Diego Fagundez] took a touch and gave me the chance to get back in and block it.”

#### ***On Jim Curtin telling the media that he is having a Rookie-of-the-Year caliber season:***

**Jack Elliott:** “Obviously, it’s nice to hear that kind of praise from the coach. That doesn’t really change anything. I’ve still got to keep performing every week. Nothing is decided and to be of that caliber, you have to perform all the way through the season and that’s what I’m trying to do.”

#### ***On having a full week before the team's next match:***

**Jack Elliott:** “It’ll be good to have a bit more than three days in between a game and that obviously helps to get legs back. And as you saw when the game opened up, I think our midweek game and then having four games in 12 days started to show towards the end of the game.”

**###**