



## NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution vs. Toronto FC  
Saturday, September 23, 2017

### New England Revolution Interim Head Coach Tom Soehn

#### ***On how the team responded to an emotional week:***

**Coach Soehn:** "You know what, it was a really emotional week for everybody. And I didn't think it could be topped, but it was topped tonight. Look, I'm really proud of the guys' effort. I thought, when I look at how they competed tonight and supported each other and played for each other and defended, that's what games are made of and teams are made of. Tonight, I saw that. We can't rest on it though. We got to turn around and do something we haven't done all year in Orlando. We're going to enjoy tonight, but we have to turn it around immediately and keep that kind of mentality going on the road. But overall, I couldn't be more excited about how they supported each other—the impact the subs made, all around, just a great team effort. Our defenders were laying everything on the line at the end. That's how you win games in this league."

#### ***On the team's response after conceding a goal within 5 minutes of taking the 1-0 lead:***

**Coach Soehn:** "We drew that up because we needed more emotion this week, so we figured we'd tie it up and come back late [laughing]. Credit to the guys because obviously it hurts when you give one up that quick, but they responded so that's all you can ever ask."

#### ***On what was asked of Lee Nguyen when he was brought in off the bench:***

**Coach Soehn:** "The game had opened up at that point. We knew if we could hold them tight, that they were going to open up because they send their backs high. At that point, you knew Lee [Nguyen] could make an impact and he made a huge impact tonight. You know, I give him a lot of credit for entering a game in difficult circumstances. He stepped right into that lead role and in the end, he's got a goal and an assist and that's the difference of the result. A lot of credit to him tonight."

#### ***On the message to the team before tonight's match:***

**Coach Soehn:** "There's still a lot of emotion, like something missing when we go in the locker room to celebrate a win and Jay [Heaps] is not here. We're still really tight as a staff, but pulling them together on the field and kind of living off that moment, which is a great moment. You look at a million jobs in the world. You don't get too many highs like that when you pull out a result like that, especially at the time where we needed it. We took that moment to reflect on it, to make sure we remember how good it felt so that we can replicate that. So, that's our mentality going for the next one. We came in. We'll celebrate it, but it's back to work on Monday."

#### ***On the interest of becoming the Revolution's permanent head coach:***

**Coach Soehn:** "Of course, but right now, we're living one game at a time. I told the guys that. For five games, we're going to enjoy ourselves and we're going to be the best team we can be and I'm going to focus on that team thing over and over again. Today, when we came together as a team, you saw how dangerous that can be. Again, a big obstacle on the road—that we haven't done that yet—but if we show up as a team, I like our chances."

#### ***On if there is an option to be the head coach for next season:***

**Coach Soehn:** "I'm worried about the next game and that's it. After that, we'll get through."

### New England Revolution Midfielder Lee Nguyen

#### ***On the response from the team in light of the changes to the coaching staff this week:***



**Lee Nguyen:** "It was a big boost. It's good to go take this win going forward. It wasn't easy to—it's the number one team in the league. They've shown the ability to go away from home and get big results. I think we did well for the most part to hold them to zero [goals] for a good 70, 80 minutes of the game. We got a great goal, they came back 1-1, and it showed great resilience from the guys to push for another win."

***On the head coaching change this week:***

**Lee Nguyen:** "Obviously it's a tough transition. You can never predict that. It came as a surprise, but we're all professionals. You see this stuff happening in this business so the guys—we had to come together and push through. Yeah, there's a chance to make the playoffs, but we're also playing for pride as well. We got five games left and we want to give ourselves the best chance every game."

***On reflecting on his time with team, having now scored 50 career goals:***

**Lee Nguyen:** "Yeah, I think it's not easy to get 50 goals, let alone 50 goals with one club so yeah, it's a big honor. I might reflect on it after the season. I feel like it's going to be something to look back on and be like, "Wow!" But this is the one where you got to take it and then move on because we got a quick turnaround on Wednesday, so I got to enjoy tonight, but then get ready again."

***On the team's response after Nicolas Hasler's equalizer:***

**Lee Nguyen:** "It just shows how resilient the guys are. We could have folded at any moment. That's a tough way to go out, two-way wins or two-way losses like that. We didn't give ourselves really much of a chance. Our heads could have gone down after that, but credit to the boys, we fought hard. We could have given up. They're the best team in the league right now. They've shown it home and away, so it was a great fight. We were able to keep it 0-0 for the most part, and then to be able to get the two goals at the end showed the great fight."

***On what Tom Soehn said to him when he entered the match:***

**Lee Nguyen:** "He just said, 'The game's opening up. This is a game that you're going to enjoy yourself so have fun.'"

**New England Revolution Forward Kei Kamara**

***On the team's response tonight after this week's events:***

**Kei Kamara:** "It's tough for anyone. A lot of credit to Jay [Heaps] for how long he's been here as a player and as a coach, so it's very emotional to see somebody like that go. It's a decision that the people on top of us made, nothing that we can control. But as players, most of the guys here he's had to deal, or bring somebody in, or kept most of these players on this team for many years, so it's kind of tough. We knew that going into this game, it wasn't just about a game, it was about everything. It's really tough sometimes, too, because when that happens and then you go and win the next game and it looks bad on the coach that left. We were focused and we knew there's five games left. All we can control for us is win games and tonight was an emotional performance and a good way to get three points."

***On if there's a sense of guilt when a coach gets fired:***

**Kei Kamara:** "Maybe a little bit of it. Everybody has to be responsible for it. He's one man that puts this team out there, but we're 11 players—or what is it, 15 players or so—that get to play here and there, so we're kind of to be held responsible for most of the things that happen. But sometimes change happens, too, so we have to live by it. A lot of players in here have to put their hands up. I've made mistakes, I've missed a goal that I could have scored that would have kept him around and stuff like that, but we move on. We move on and Tommy [Soehn] was part of that staff, so he has the same goal to win games and, today, that's what he preached to us—to go out there and really be focused and do it for each other. It's nobody else, but do it for each other so we can finish these five games very strong."



***On his game-winning goal tonight:***

**Kei Kamara:** “They say Kei can jump, so put it up in the air and I was able to get it. I always wait for that, I always say the same thing, but it was good. Chris [Tierney] recognized at that point in the game what we can do is just put it in the box and I just got lucky—right place at the right time again.”

***On Toronto’s equalizing goal:***

**Kei Kamara:** “That was tough. As players, after you score one, you have to be ready for the next five minutes and we fell asleep right there for just a little bit and we paid for it. It was a good way to bounce back even though it’s not something we can learn from. At the same time, we were able to come back and get all three points, so that’s good for us.”

**New England Revolution Defender Chris Tierney**

***On winning tonight’s match following a difficult week:***

**Chris Tierney:** “It would have been easy for us to deflate with everything that has happened, but credit to the boys. I think the energy was great tonight, so good response, good win.”

***On if any preparation was different with a new coach in charge:***

**Chris Tierney:** “Well it was different because Jay [Heaps] wasn’t here, so there’s a few tweaks that we made but we had plenty of motivation, plenty of things to play for these days. Our attitude was good and I think that got us through the game.”

***On coming into the locker room without Jay Heaps being here:***

**Chris Tierney:** “Speaking personally about Jay [Heaps], which I’ve done all week, he’s done a lot for a lot of the guys in this locker room. He’s been a big part of this club, so it’s a difficult time for us. We obviously as players feel responsible, but we wanted to give a response tonight that was worthy of the situation and I think we did that.”

***On Lee Nguyen’s scoring his 50<sup>th</sup> goal tonight and what he means to the team:***

**Chris Tierney:** “He’s a fantastic player, there’s no two ways about it. I think if we were playing in a bigger market in this league, I think he’d be up there in All Star and MVP voting. He’s that important and quality of a player, so to see him continue to play so well is great for us.”

**Toronto FC Head Coach Greg Vanney**

***On the last 2 goals scored by the Revolution:***

**Coach Vanney:** “The first one, as I recall, was maybe a quick set piece that was taken. They swung the ball to the opposite side and they were able to get a runner coming out. I think it was Lee Nguyen, correct me if I’m wrong, and he just kind of broke out of our midfield and we didn’t account for that number and that run and as he got on the end of the ball, I think it deflected off of Drew [Moor] which kind of wrong-footed Clint [Irwin] and snuck under his leg. Then, the second goal is a set piece. All in all, I could tell some of the guys were a little bit tired, the guys who’d been running long in the week. We were also trying to limit a couple of guys like Victor [Vazquez] to a certain number of minutes [after] A, coming back from illness, but B, more importantly, just exposure to the turf for a long period of time. Right before taking him out we tried to put a second forward on to see if we could utilize Vic with a second forward for about 10 or 15 minutes, see if we could get that one chance or get a goal. That was it, in the end it came down to a few plays that changed the game. All in all, I thought we had a pretty good possession, we moved them around quite a bit. I thought we defended well. Especially with the amount of minutes the guys who were out there today had to play this week, and in the end the results come down to making a few plays and we didn’t make them in the end. A point would’ve been probably okay for today and we should’ve just locked it down in the end.”



***On if playing three games in eight days contributed to the loss:***

**Coach Vanney:** “Yeah, I think a lot of guys stepped into roles they haven’t played a lot that did a valiant job. I thought Beita [Beitashour] and J-Mo [Morrow] playing in the two center back roles with Drew [Moor], I thought they did a really good job. We were heavily undersized on the day which maybe caught us a little bit on the last corner kick. I thought everybody did a nice job in terms of stepping in for what some guys had been in different roles. A guy like Raheem [Edwards] hasn’t played a boatload of minutes but I thought he came on and today. I thought he had a pretty solid game and so, like I said, we’ve been working through the roster a little bit this week and trying to get some guys ready for the final stretch—guys who haven’t played a lot. Obviously, we were a little bit short handed today. I thought we could play good soccer with the group we had and that we might be able to keep possession and move them around and create some chances of which we had a few for sure early on.”

***On when he wants to determine his lineup for the playoffs:***

**Coach Vanney:** “My hope is by next weekend we’ll have a vast majority of guys back in and we’ll have these final few games to play together again and get it going. That’s our goal. This week it was three games, a lot of travel, going to the west coast, back, home game mid-week, then coming here on the turf. We had to be wise about some of the guys, and our hope is and our expectation is we’ll have the vast majority of the guys back into the mix come Monday, Tuesday, preparing for the game against the Red Bulls.”

***On which players might not be available to play in upcoming games:***

**Coach Vanney:** “Most everyone that I can think of should be in consideration for next weekend. I don’t know if Nick Hagglund is right there yet. I think Benoit Cheyrou is about ready. He’s been in training sessions, so when I say vast majority, I mean just about everybody. I don’t know. We’ll see how next week goes.”

***On if he's content with the team's performance tonight:***

**Coach Vanney:** “Yeah, I wasn’t displeased at all. I thought the guys gave a great effort. I thought a lot of guys stepped into sort of new roles. I thought we moved the ball. I thought we did what we would do. Do our best to keep possession of the ball, make it difficult for them so that we could minimize the amount of crosses and service and things like they could get to their big forwards. I thought we did a pretty good job of that. I thought we might be able to get a few more chances, but I think in some of the possession and the way we dropped out of higher positions to move the ball around in possession, that sometimes when we got into the final third we didn’t have enough numbers up there. By and large, I wasn’t displeased with the performance. It came down to a few plays at the end of the game where maybe a little bit of fatigue or whatever sets in and we don’t react quickly enough and we lose a point out of it, but by and large, I’m not upset with anybody.”

***On who the team's first-choice goalkeeper is going forward:***

**Coach Vanney:** “Alex [Bono] is the number one. Our purpose for a long time was to use this game for Clint [Irwin] to get a performance to make sure that he was ready down the stretch. If we should need him at some point that he’s ready to go and he showed tonight that a solid game and he’ll be ready if he’s called upon. But, Alex right now is our number one.”

**Toronto FC Midfielder Michael Bradley**

***On the team's performance in the loss:***

**Michael Bradley:** “By and large, I thought it was all right. Obviously, missing a few guys coming here, playing on the turf, you know it’s never going to be a perfect day, but I still thought the mentality was good. We put a lot into it. Weird ending to the game in all ways, so frustrating to walk out of here with nothing.”

***On conceding the game-winning goal in the 87<sup>th</sup> minute:***



**Michael Bradley:** "I'm not sure anybody was playing out of position. We have flexibility, we have guys who can play in a lot of different spots and play in a lot of different spots well, so we felt good about the team that was out on the field. No doubt we were missing a few guys, but that has not fazed us one bit all year. We certainly won't use that as an excuse. Should've found a way to come away with at least a point."

***On recovering from Wednesday's loss to Montreal:***

**Michael Bradley:** "I thought the mentality was good. I thought there were a lot of good things. In two games now, we've given away some flukey goals, so obviously there are parts to that that we'll look at and feel we can tighten up ourselves. But having said that, that's also unfortunately part of the season that you can go through a little stretch where you give up some strange goals. We'll find the right way to keep going and know that, just as we said when things were going along in a good way, we have a good team. Nothing in that regard has changed. We'll use the week in the right way now and make sure we get ready for a big game at home."

***On knowing the team could've clinched the Supporters' Shield with a win:***

**Michael Bradley:** "Yeah, we knew what the score of [the] New York City [vs. Houston match] was. There was motivation to try to win the game tonight and win the supporters' Shield today, but we don't lose the game for lack of trying, for lack of trying to win. We talked about responding in a big way after a disappointing night on Wednesday. I thought in a lot of ways we did that and, like I said, strange ending to the game, but we just got to find the right ways to keep going."

**Toronto FC Defender Nicolas Hasler**

***On the first back-to-back losses of the season:***

**Nicolas Hasler:** "Of course we are in a good standing, but we can do better, of course. We are disappointed today, but I think tomorrow we have to forget everything and look forward and try the best at home against New York."

***On how the team is feeling physically after three games in eight days:***

**Nicolas Hasler:** "Of course, but we can change our player[s] and still have a good team, so this is no excuse for me. It's important that we forget this game and look forward to the New York Red Bull game and make the best there."

***On if it will be nice to have a full week before the next match:***

**Nicolas Hasler:** "I like it to go quick on the field after a loss, but at the end, it is the schedule. I'm looking forward to the home game and what's positive is that we can make it clearer at home."

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