



*Postgame interview transcripts from Head Coach Jay Heaps, forward Kei Kamara, and midfielder Kelyn Rowe are available below.*

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## **POSTGAME RECAP: Revolution Win Preseason Meeting with New York Red Bulls, 2-0**

*Another Kamara header finds the net; Wright scores first professional goal*

CASA GRANDE, Ariz. – With a 2-0 victory over the New York Red Bulls at Casa Grande Sports World on Friday, the New England Revolution are now 1-0-1 in the 2017 preseason. Goalkeepers Brad Knighton and Bobby Shuttleworth combined for the shutout, while forwards Kei Kamara and Brian Wright provided the scoring for New England.

The Revolution first found the back of the net in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute when Kamara netted a goal for the second straight game, this time off a corner kick from Lee Nguyen. Nguyen's service found Kamara inside the six-yard box and the forward headed it into the upper left corner to give the Revolution a 1-0 lead. Brad Knighton preserved the lead in the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute with a leaping save, deflecting away a shot from close range.

In the second half, both sides had quality chances, but it was rookie Brian Wright who scored for New England in the game's final minutes. Teal Bunbury sent a low cross into the box, where Wright stepped in front of his defender to notch his first professional goal since being drafted 20<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2017 MLS SuperDraft.

The Revolution will resume training in Casa Grande, Ariz. and then travel to Tucson for a meeting with Sporting Kansas City on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at Kino Veterans Stadium. The club will return to Foxborough on Feb. 8 before traveling back to Tucson on Feb. 13 for the second leg of the preseason, which will feature Desert Diamond Cup games against Real Salt Lake (Feb. 15), the Colorado Rapids (Feb. 18), Sporting Kansas City (Feb. 22) and an opponent to be determined (Feb. 25).

### **Scoring Summary:**

NE – 25' Kei Kamara (Lee Nguyen)  
NE – 88' Brian Wright (Teal Bunbury)

**New England Revolution (1<sup>st</sup> Half):** Brad Knighton; Tyler Turner, Joshua Smith, Jeremie Sabaly, Otis Earle; Scott Caldwell; Daigo Kobayashi (Zachary Herivaux 31'), Kelyn Rowe, Diego Fagundez; Lee Nguyen, Kei Kamara.

**New England Revolution (2<sup>nd</sup> Half):** Bobby Shuttleworth; Andrew Farrell, Antonio Mlinar Delamea, Jeremie Sabaly (Joshua Smith 48'; Donnie Smith 50'), Chris Tierney; Scott Caldwell (Emmanuel Appiah 56'); Kelyn Rowe (Napo Matsoso 56'), Zachary Herivaux, Diego Fagundez (Tristan Bowen 56'); Teal Bunbury, Brian Wright.

## **POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS**

## **New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps**

### **On the 2-0 win against the Red Bulls:**

**Coach Heaps:** “I felt like we had good performances in both halves. Some things were better in the first half, some things were better in the second half, but overall, really pleased with the individual performance and I think they put together what we were asking them to do defensively. A couple let-downs here and there, but [an] overall good performance.”

### **On having several players return after halftime for extended minutes:**

**Coach Heaps:** “It was important. There are certain guys that are pushing and we wanted to get them in with both groups and kind of see if they can connect and make both groups as fluid as possible, so that’s why guys like Scotty [Caldwell] and Kelyn [Rowe] and Diego [Fagundez] were with both groups. We felt like those guys also could push their fitness. Good to get that, but overall blended two halves, two different teams and that’s a good step, again, as we did on Tuesday and again today.”

### **On Kei Kamara scoring a second preseason goal:**

**Coach Heaps:** “I think it’s important that he gets confident scoring goals. He’s scored them in different ways – the other day was out of the run of play, this one was off a set piece. Very good for him to feel the group, score different ways, but I really like what he’s bringing. The goals are going to come if he plays the way he’s playing. He’s great on the ball right now, he’s working hard defensively, he’s creating things from his defensive pressure, and that’s key for us.”

### **On playing Kelyn Rowe in a central midfield position:**

**Coach Heaps:** “We wanted to give it a little different look today, pushing Lee [Nugyen] a little bit higher, pushing Kelyn [Rowe] into that role. We just feel that there’s really good fluidity between Diego [Fagundez] and even when Juan [Agudelo] does it, Lee and Kelyn, that they can really interchange and create difficult matchups for the opposing team. That’s what we really want to continue to do, so today we started Kelyn there and I think he brings a little bit more of a vertical presence in there and he becomes almost a third striker, because he’s looking to run behind. He’s not just a playmaking number 10, he’s definitely a penetrator. That’s really good when you’re playing against certain teams and can really offset a defense.”

## **New England Revolution Forward Kei Kamara**

### **On scoring two goals with his head in two games:**

**Kamara:** “It’s not me, it’s the bun. I just keep knocking it off the bun. Preseason is really about just working on stuff, working on stuff and team building, team bonding, and really try to find a style of play and how you’re going to go into the season. But when you play games again, it’s about winning the games. It doesn’t matter if it’s a friendly game or not, it’s about winning. You can’t win games without goals, so I’m happy to be at the end of those crosses, which were really [two good] crosses – the end of last game from Donnie [Smith] and the other one today from Lee [Nguyen].”

### **On being more comfortable on the field with his teammates in his second season with New England:**

**Kamara:** “It’s just a connection. Last year I joined the team a bit late, but as the season went on I started connecting more with the guys and obviously it’s good now that we’re connecting and building and them knowing where my strengths are. But at the same time, I can kick a ball with my foot, too, and score, so I don’t mind that.”

**On the importance of the team preserving the clean sheet:**

**Kamara:** “That’s the main focus, really. I know you look at the team and you’ve seen a few additional defenders and all that, but it doesn’t just start with them. It starts with us. As a striker, we defend well, starting, it makes it easier for the guys in the back. It’s really been a lot of focus on defending in practice and even in the game, because when we do have the ball, we know how to attack. That makes it a little bit easier. But the focus has really been on defending and if we want to make it far this season, we have to defend together.”

**New England Revolution Midfielder Kelyn Rowe****On the takeaways from the second preseason game:**

**Rowe:** “It’s obviously about getting guys minutes, getting guys used to each other, and get back to playing again, but it’s always nice to get a win, whether it’s preseason or the actual season. So we’re obviously happy to get [a] 2-0 [win].”

**On playing more minutes and getting fitness back to season form:**

**Rowe:** “It’s nice. When you’re out there, it feels really good. I was just talking to Scotty Caldwell, who just played, as well, the 60 minutes. We felt really good, felt like we could go more, but then when you’re done you can feel those tired legs. But like I said, it’s good to have it and I think we’re going to push a couple more guys as we keep going on.”

**On playing in a central midfield position:**

**Rowe:** “That number 10 role has a little bit more freedom to go kind of create the game, find the game as much as you can. When you’ve got guys like Kei [Kamara] and Lee [Nguyen] up top, which I had today, it was easy to find. Those guys are going to find the ball and if you can find runs off them, you’re going to find it a bunch, because they’re going to create crowds. Kei’s going to bring two defenders, Lee’s going to bring two defenders, and if I can find that gap, it could make it an easy goal.”

**On Kei Kamara scoring in a second straight preseason game:**

**Rowe:** “He’s pretty good. He scores the soccer goals. He’s obviously gotten a lot more comfortable with us. Two goals in two games; we’re hoping that transfers over into the season, because obviously this is just about getting guys minutes and things, but he’s obviously a very good player and we’re hoping he continues his run.”

**On how the team is progressing so far during the preseason:**

**Rowe:** “Like I said, it’s gradual, but we’re getting guys minutes, we’re getting back to fitness. We’re not trying to kill each other yet, because we do have another two or three weeks left in this preseason before the games really start. We’re gradually moving forward and just having some fun.”

For up-to-the-minute information on the Revolution, visit the team’s official web site at [RevolutionSoccer.net](http://RevolutionSoccer.net), or join the conversation and interact with fans on any of the team’s social platforms.

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