



March 1, 2017

New England Revolution Training Report: Feb. 28, 2017

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Please see below to **access video and view transcripts** from post-training media availability on Tuesday, Feb. 28, including quotes and footage from:

- **Head Coach Jay Heaps**
- **Forward Juan Agudelo**
- **Midfielder Lee Nguyen**

For video and audio, please visit the [MLS Soundbytes Page](#) and navigate to the "Soundbytes Previewing MLS Games" folder. If you have any questions or requests, or if you would like to RSVP to an upcoming game or training session, please contact the Revolution communications staff at media@revolutionssoccer.net.

New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps

On how the defense is shaping up with the additions of Benjamin Angoua and Antonio Delamea:

Heaps: "It was critical this offseason that we added some players that were going to impact our team right away. The signing of Ben [Angoua] and Toni [Delamea] has been really good. We feel that they complement each other well. Now, it's getting up to speed with our league, because I think they've shown in preseason they have all the right tools, but now it's a matter of putting it all together."

On the team playing four of its first seven matches on the road:

Heaps: "It's always difficult, but it's a mindset. It's been the norm here for the last five or six years that it's going to be difficult, make sure we weather the storm, make sure we find moments in the game to play the way we know how to play, and make sure that we don't give up anything defensively."

On getting the team back into the playoffs:

Heaps: "There's no question that we feel that last year was a disappointment. For me, we talk about end of the year runs and things like that, but for me the reality is we have to focus one game at a time. Have our micro-goals within the season, but the reality is, starting the season, it's difficult because we have a tough schedule, but we have to put together [with] the mindset that we can go on the road and find results."

On how Xavier Kouassi has progressed during preseason:

Heaps: "[When you are] coming back from a big injury and making sure that when you're doing that, you're going to have ups and downs within it. I thought he had a really good preseason in getting up to speed and getting his fitness back, but also getting his playing strength back. He's coming along. We'll see over the next three, four, five weeks to see really when he takes his full shape."

On the challenges posed by the Colorado Rapids:

Heaps: “First and foremost, they’re a very similar team that they were last year. They were a couple points away from winning Supporters’ Shield last year. Undefeated at home. They know who they are and they know each other well and they have a good system. Pablo [Mastroeni] does a great job of organizing, so they’re a hard team to break down. If you overexpose or try to do too much, they can counter and hurt you. The reality is we have to go in there with a mindset of understanding what we’re all about.”

New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo

On his readiness for the season after participating in the USMNT’s January Camp:

Agudelo: “I’m extremely ready. Coming into the locker room realizing that the season is just about to start is very exciting. Being with the guys and the coaching staff, everybody is really excited for this first game.”

On practicing without his facial protection mask today:

Agudelo: “When it gets a little bit physical I should put it on, but today I just wanted to see how I felt without the mask – if it made any difference in my playing style. I don’t know. We’ll see.”

On if the mask inhibits his effectiveness on the field at all:

Agudelo: “Just the breathing part and the vision on the middle area of the nose, but we’re actually going to fix that today and I should actually put it back on since I scored three goals [in the Desert Diamond Cup].”

On playing below Kei Kamara and Lee Nguyen in preseason:

Agudelo: “I’m willing to do the work defensively in that position. It takes a lot of work there. Definitely love when the forwards help a bit and definitely love that position, because I feel like I’m a bit more part of the game. I get mentally more into the game. Getting more touches into the ball. Again, me, Kei [Kamara], Lee [Nguyen], we alternate, so it’s not always that I’m there defensively, but again, I’m willing to do the work there.”

New England Revolution Midfielder Lee Nguyen

On the excitement with the season opener approaching this week:

Nguyen: “We got two camps out of the way, so glad to be back home now. Only a couple of days until that first kickoff. Everyone is excited and I think we’re all ready.”

On the importance of getting points on the road early in the season:

Nguyen: “It’s obviously very important. You can see from past experiences, especially last year from when we missed out [on the playoffs] by one point, that’s crucial. Especially those points away from home if we can get those. Coming into this first game against Colorado, it’s going to be big to maximize our points.”

On visiting a Colorado Rapids team that was dominant at home last season:

Nguyen: “We’re going to watch some film later this week on them. At the same time, we’re going to have to focus on us. I know that if we stick to our game plan and do what we do best, that gives us the best odds to win.”

On translating the team’s preseason match vs. Colorado to the regular season:

Nguyen: “It [was] preseason and it was a mixture of starters versus the reserves. You can take not too much out of it, but at the same time, you do see these familiar faces in preseason. Most of the guys we played last year, so it’ll be the same-looking team for the most part. We know that they were in the playoffs. They were one or two [points] from the Supporters’ Shield race. This is a strong team, so we’re going to look to do our best when we get to Colorado.”

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