



March 8, 2017

New England Revolution Training Report: March 7, 2017

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Please see below to **access video and view transcripts** from post-training media availability on Tuesday, March 7, including quotes and footage from:

- **Head Coach Jay Heaps**
- **Forward Juan Agudelo**
- **Forward Kei Kamara**
- **Defender Chris Tierney**

For video, audio, and b-roll, 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@revolutionsoccer.net.

New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps

On the mindset of the team ahead of the home opener:

Coach Heaps: "[It's] critical that we get things right for Saturday. We have enough to learn from this past match, we went over the film today, and use it as a learning experience for Saturday."

On the importance of maximizing home opportunities when trying to get off to a fast start:

Coach Heaps: "It's one of the objectives that we always have as a team, but the reality is the teams that do well in MLS are the teams winning at home."

On how he anticipates the home opener to differ from the season opener:

Coach Heaps: "I want us to find our flow a little bit more. I think that teams are going to try to disrupt it, but we just can't allow teams to disrupt it to the point where we never get a rhythm. I'd like to find that rhythm, I'd like us to find the urgency that we can play at. When we're at our highest level, our urgency is fast, our movement is better, and it's something that we need to make sure that we continue to fight for during a game. If it's not there, [we've] got to find a way to get it there."

On the progress of Lee Nguyen:

Coach Heaps: "Pretty good. I think right now, unfortunately, it was painful for him in the match, but [he is getting] a couple days of rehab, and we'll see. But right now, it's day-to-day, but we'll see as the week goes on."

On the importance of having attacking players that create flexibility in the case of injury:

Coach Heaps: "I think it's important that we're versatile enough. When Lee [Nguyen] went out, it was a very easy transition to put Juan [Agudelo] a little higher, but also bring Daigo [Kobayashi] in and have Kelyn [Rowe] and Daigo kind of co-lead that attacking midfield position. I think what's important is that we

continue no matter what the situation was, to have that front five continue to move even when it's tight and the space isn't there, we have to find moments in the game to create space and create movement."

On the challenge Orlando City SC presents:

Coach Heaps: "They've added toughness, they've added leadership, so obviously they're going to have a good road mentality. It's a team that for me, in that very first game, opened that [new] stadium, and showed a lot of emotion and a lot of character. For us, we're going to have to show our emotion and our character in our home opener."

New England Revolution Forward Juan Agudelo

On rebounding from last weekend's loss in Colorado:

Agudelo: "Just have a short memory. Look forward to the next game. I'm very excited because it's our first home game."

On the importance of securing points at home this season:

Agudelo: "It's huge. With this League, you see a lot teams that are able to pick up a lot of points at home. If we can handle it at home, we can easily win the Supporters' Shield. I think it's a very tough for other teams to come and play, because our fans are so excited."

On the flexibility afforded to the team with its depth of attacking players:

Agudelo: "We have like four, five, six strikers that can come in and step on the field and put in that shift and that work. It's going to be a battle this week for whoever comes and steps into that position. I think a couple of players are excited to have that chance early on in the season."

On the team's playing style adjusting for a home match:

Agudelo: "I think we'll feel more comfortable. We'll have more of the ball. I think our fluidity will just show a bit more. I know today the turf field was just flying and I thought we were just playing some good balls. I think we're going to be a lot more comfortable."

On the challenge presented by Orlando City SC:

Agudelo: "They're coached by a great coach and we know the style that they like to play, so just going to try to manage it this week. See video and see what we can work on to come up with the win this weekend."

New England Revolution Forward Kei Kamara

On the mindset of the team ahead of the home opener:

Kamara: "The mindset, like you just said, home opener. That's what it means to us. Just like the last game, that's what it meant to Colorado. We're at home, it's a new season, and we're going to open in front of our fans and we know what that means."

On how different he expects the home opener to be compared to last week:

Kamara: "The pressure is on us when we come home this Saturday, because it's early in the season, but it's time for us to get a win, it's time for us to get three points. ... For us, it's a lot of focus, but it's a lot of the mindset of making this our home turf and the most difficult place for any team to come get points."

On the impact of scoring the first goal:

Kamara: "First goal is everything. The game in Colorado, it was tough, but at the same time it was a goal that for us, you know we should roll our sleeves up after we knew the foul wasn't a foul and the cross is coming in and all that, but you know the first goal really takes everything away. For us now coming home, again, we have to get that first goal. Then again, if we're down a goal, it doesn't mean we stop playing. But, we have to put Colorado's game behind us and really look forward to this game on Saturday, and that's the energy in the locker room right now, really. People came in and just looking forward to the game on Saturday."

On if he is looking forward to the cold weather on Saturday:

Kamara: “I don’t think it’s going to be cold enough. Again, that’s going to be our advantage when [Orlando City] comes here. It’s going to be cold, the field is in our advantage. People in Boston, they love the cold. They come out to support the teams when it’s the cold weather, so I can’t wait.”

New England Revolution Defender Chris Tierney

On the team’s mindset heading into Saturday’s home opener:

Tierney: “The mindset is all about three points. We’ve got to win our home games this year. It’s a big emphasis for us. Things obviously didn’t go as planned in Colorado, but I think there’s a few good things that we can take from the game and use going forward and hopefully take three points this weekend.”

On dictating the tempo of the match at home:

Tierney: “That’s definitely our plan. We have to control the pace of the game. We have to keep them honest in terms of making them turn around and face their own goal. I think we have to do a better job of using our width, getting balls into the box, getting good service in. If we do those things and create enough chances, I think we have the quality to score on them.”

On the importance of securing points at home early in the season:

Tierney: “It’s very important. The point in the season is irrelevant. We always want to win games at home. We expect to take three points every time we play in front of our fans. That’s no different this time of year than it is in September, October. We’re going to expect to win the game. We always do when we play at home. If we bring the right attitude, we should get a win.”

On the impact cold weather can have on a match:

Tierney: “I don’t think it’s going to play too much of a factor in the game. Those are things you think about before the game, but once it kicks off, you’re just playing a soccer game regardless of temperature or whatever other conditions. I think wind is probably the biggest factor and will be in the game, so hopefully it’s conditions where we can get the ball down and pass. Whatever the conditions are, we’re not going to use it as an excuse. We’re going to expect to win the game no matter what.”

On preparing for Orlando City SC:

Tierney: “We’ll do our homework as we always do. You have to be prepared. You certainly can’t ignore the opposition. We have to study the film like we always do. We have to pay attention to the players and the weapons that they have, which is many. Like I always say, if we prepare and worry about ourselves, then the result should take care of itself.”

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