



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New England Revolution Training Report: March 22, 2017

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Please see below to **access video, training b-roll, and transcripts** from post-training media availability on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, including quotes and footage from:

- **Head Coach Jay Heaps**
- **Forward Kei Kamara**
- **Midfielder Diego Fagundez**
- **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 what he takes away from the loss at FC Dallas:

Coach Heaps: “I thought defensively, we did some really good things. Our shape was good. Anything that they were getting was from either free kicks or corner kicks, but it wasn’t breakdowns. I thought our pressure was good, our lines were good, for 70 minutes. Then I thought we made just some, two plays that changed the entire course of the game.”

On how the partnership between Antonio Delamea and Benjamin Angoua is developing:

Coach Heaps: “Really good. Like I said, for 70 minutes, we limited their chances. We don’t just talk about the back line, we talk about where the forwards are pressuring, what angles they’re giving, how are they making it predictable for our back line. I thought for 70 minutes, Toni and Ben were able to read the game really well – and Chris [Tierney] and [Andrew] Farrell – because we were predictable. We were saying, hey, if you’re going to play it long, you’re going to play it here. I think at the 70th minute, we gave them two chances to be unpredictable and it put us in a little bit of trouble, and we didn’t clear the situation as well as we should have.”

On how Xavier Kouassi performed in his 80-minute MLS debut on Saturday at FC Dallas:

Coach Heaps: “I thought he put in an excellent shift. I thought the first half was near perfect from his positioning, breaking up plays, making it, for me, taking some of the pressure off of our center backs by winning second balls, by winning loose balls, so they can worry about the balls that may be dangerous in behind. But he was tired coming out of that game. He gave everything he had. It was probably five or 10 minutes longer than we had planned, but it was such a tight game, there was no real moment to get him out, because up to the 70th minute, I never felt like there was a ton of pressure on us. It was just a matter of a couple of missteps at the 70th minute.”

On using the home opener this weekend to get on the right track:

Coach Heaps: “We would have loved to have had a game in between [the first two away games] – we don’t control the schedule. Like any home game, any home opener, there’s pressure and there’s a good pressure. It’s not, ‘Oh my god, we’ve got to go.’ It’s like, okay, we want to perform well in front of our home crowd, we want our crowd to impact the game, we want to get them into the game, and we want to get three points. That’s the mindset, [to] take what we’ve done –there were moments in both games in Colorado and in Dallas that are positives, but we can be better. I think we all know that and Saturday is another chance to get better.”

On what he saw from Minnesota in their draw against Colorado:

Coach Heaps: “First, they made changes to the lineup. I thought their formation was a little bit more – it was the same formation, but it was a little bit more solid, a little bit more predictable. I thought they pressured in a good way. They did a nice job pressuring Colorado. I think for us, it’s really important that we focus on ourselves. They’ll have some more changes because of international duty, so we have to make some changes to our lineup, we have to make some changes to what we need to do better. We’re looking forward to the game, because I think both teams are willing to lay it all on the line.”

On potentially playing against Bobby Shuttleworth on Saturday:

Coach Heaps: “It’ll be certainly strange. Bobby left here on really good terms in the sense that nine years, like you said, he got his start here. Most of his career, [he] was coached by Remi Roy. Our coaching staff really liked Bobby. We’re excited to have him get the opportunity he’s getting in Minnesota and I think it’s something that he was really itching to get.”

New England Revolution Forward Kei Kamara

On what he can take from the game against Dallas:

Kamara: “Every game, there are definitely positives you can take from it. Our work rate in that game I thought was really good. Going into it, everybody was really, really committed to getting points from Dallas. Dallas is one of the best teams in this league, so we have to use that positivity from our work rate. We missed our week of being at home that’s gone by, but playing in Dallas has really put us into a place, again, to know things that we have to work on to compete against some of the good teams in this league.”

On the team’s chemistry still coming together early in the season:

Kamara: “Chemistry, obviously, you work through that during the preseason, but it doesn’t stop, because throughout the whole season, there’s going to be ups and downs. You build the chemistry from a lot of stuff. We’re still working on it and as a team that people look at us and that we have a really good offensive threat, but it hasn’t really shown as much recently in the two games that we’ve opened with, which means we’ve still got to work a little bit more on our chemistry and how we attack and how we do stuff.”

On looking for a win in the home opener on Saturday:

Kamara: “We’ve been really excited to play our first game at home. I think everyone in the league has played in their home stadium and it helps. We’re looking forward to that, to have that game here. [When] we’re going to play at home, there’s only one thing we’re going to go for, which is three points. You can’t get three points without goals. So, all of those things play a factor. We’re really looking forward to it.”

On what challenges Minnesota presents:

Kamara: “That’s the thing about the league, you can say some teams are really good teams in this league, but there are points to be grabbed every week. We can’t underestimate Minnesota because of their first two games of the season. We look at their last game against Colorado, [in] which they put up two goals. We went to Colorado, we didn’t come out of there with a point, but they came out of there with a point, so we have to respect them coming in. At the same point, we have to make sure they know what kind of team we are.”

On possibly facing Bobby Shuttleworth in goal for Minnesota:

Kamara: “Playing against your friends is usually not easy, or playing against old teammates, because you kind of know each other’s strengths and weaknesses a little bit. The one thing I know is all the goalkeepers I’ve played with, I never try to show them everything that I can do. So, definitely going to have some little things here and there for Bobby, but he’s going to be sharp. That’s the one thing we have to know, because he respects us a lot.”

New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez

On what he can take away from the loss at FC Dallas:

Fagundez: “We definitely worked hard for 70 minutes. [The result] wasn’t what we all wanted. I think we can take a lot of positives from there, because the team worked hard. We got stuff done, we just didn’t finish out the game the way we wanted.”

On if he expects to be more on the front foot at home this weekend:

Fagundez: “Yeah, I think when we play at home, it’s a different style of play that we play. For some reason, we play a lot better at home and we want to see that. I think all of us are excited to be home for the first time and show these fans that these two away games were tough, and now we’re ready to play. We’re going to show them a result.”

On the team continuing to build the attacking chemistry:

Fagundez: “We’re still trying to get that chemistry going. It’s tough when the results aren’t going your way and you’re not getting a lot of chances, but we just need to keep focused, keep our head up high, and when we get our chances, we need to finish them. Whoever is playing up top or in the attacking positions, we just have to be focused and be ready and when we get our chances to shine, we need to bury them and make sure that those games don’t go past the 70th minute.”

On the importance of avoiding streaks of games without taking away points:

Fagundez: “It’s huge. No one wants to lose in those streaks. We’re at home and we want to make this a hard place to play, so we’re going to give it all we have and perform and make sure that we score goals and make sure that these fans leave happy here.”

On playing against Bobby Shuttleworth:

Fagundez: “Bobby is Bobby. He was a great teammate all those years that he played here – I was here since I was 15 or 16 – so it’s huge. He knows the way we play and what we can do, so it’s going to be tough. It’s going to be a good competition and now we have to be smarter and make sure that we finish every chance we have against them. He’s going to make good saves against us. We can’t get mad and we have to just keep going forward. The most important thing is getting three points at home and making sure that we get a good run going.”

New England Revolution Defender Chris Tierney

On what the team can take away from the FC Dallas match:

Tierney: “Definitely wasn’t the result that we wanted, but I think we brought the right attitude to the game. We all worked hard and had the right approach mentally. I think if we do that for the rest of the year, then we’ll get good results.”

On the importance of Benjamin Angoua, Antonio Delamea, and Xavier Kouassi getting more time on the field together:

Tierney: “It’s been good and I think it’s continuing to get better. I think you can see the quality that Kouassi has. He looked sharp. He broke up plays and he kept the ball moving, so I think as he continues to get comfortable and his fitness back, you’ll see him be a big part of our team. The other two are fitting in well as expected – all good things. I don’t think we are going to get too down on the first two results. We’re going to continue to work towards what we believe and the way we play, and I think the results will come.”

On if there is a heightened urgency for three points this weekend:

Tierney: “I think so. It’s something we talked about as one of our goals, [avoiding] putting together consecutive streaks of not picking up a point. But, just a general principle regardless of what happened or results before home games, we always expect to win the games at home. This one’s no different. Against a Minnesota team that is new to the league and still trying to find their feet, we feel like these are the games that we have to win, so that’s our approach.”

On the challenges of playing against expansion side Minnesota that secured its first point last week:

Tierney: “That will give them confidence. If you look at the first two results of the year, they conceded a bunch of goals. They’ve obviously made a point to shore things up and try to get points on the road. I expect it to be no different when they come here. I think you’ll see a team, their main objective will be to try to keep us out and to defend and try to hit us on the counterattack. We have to make sure that we bring our ‘A’ game offensively, but also that we’re buttoned up to prevent any cheap goals on the counterattack.”

On playing against close friend Bobby Shuttleworth:

Tierney: “It will be great to see Bobby, of course. He’s a good friend of mine. Once the whistle blows, Bobby will be the first one to tell you that we’re not going to pay any mind to each other whatsoever. It will be great to see him before and after the game, but other than that, it’s business as usual.”

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