



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New England Revolution Training Report: April 5, 2017

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Please see below to **access video, training b-roll, and transcripts** previewing this Saturday's home match against the Houston Dynamo (2:00 p.m. ET, CSN New England) from post-training media availability on Tuesday, April 4, including quotes and footage from:

- **Head Coach Jay Heaps**
- **Forward Teal Bunbury**
- **Midfielder Kelyn Rowe**
- **Goalkeeper Cody Cropper**

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@revolutionssoccer.net.

New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps

On the team seeking a three-game unbeaten streak against Houston on Saturday:

Coach Heaps: "It's putting these games together. It's something we talk about all the time. If you do get that point on the road and you're able to solidify a good result and you have that opportunity to come home, you have to solidify it with three points."

On looking for more from the team's attacking group:

Coach Heaps: "I think there were moments in that game where, I think after watching it on film, there were some pretty good moments. I don't think that it was publicized all that much and in the flow of the game, I thought we had some good rhythm at times. I think we just need to be more lethal. For me, it's the final pass and the final ball. When we're on our game, it comes easy, but when it's not coming easy, that's when we have to manufacture it sometimes. We have to do a little bit of a better job when it's not going exactly how we want it to. Against Minnesota, the final ball was there. But when it's not there, how do we manufacture the right result?"

On Josh Smith's performance against Fanendo Adi in Portland on Sunday:

Coach Heaps: "I think it's really important that we drafted Josh [Smith] knowing that we wanted to have a big, strong center back to have in game situations. We put him in a tough environment and he really excelled. I think going forward it's going to be something that we use as a game plan and as a part of our tactical approach."

On how quickly Antonio Delamea has integrated into the team:

Coach Heaps: "You see him in training and the very first day at training, it felt like he had been here for years. When people are talking about it now, I'm already past him fitting in because he was doing it so quickly in preseason and we were so happy with how he fit into the group. He's a really important guy in

there. Not only that, he adapts real well with his teammates. He's a leader and he's only been here two or three months."

On matching up with a Houston side that is 3-1-0 to open the season:

Coach Heaps: "Very difficult. They're an excellent attacking team, they defend well, they hit you with a couple of different attackers, and of course their center forward [Erick Torres] is playing extremely well and scoring a lot of goals."

New England Revolution Forward Teal Bunbury

On building off of two positive results leading into Saturday's home match:

Bunbury: "I think our focus is getting three points at home. We want to make this a fortress and we want to win every game for our fans, for ourselves, to help us in the standings. We know Houston is a great team so it's going to be a good matchup, but we kind of are on a roll here. I think we're clicking. I think a point on the road in Portland is a huge, huge bonus for us and now we can just focus on ourselves coming home now and trying to finish Houston."

On his mindset entering the match as a substitute:

Bunbury: "It's just always being ready, being mentally prepared. Whenever I come in, I want to make sure I'm making a difference. Obviously, I want to start every game, I want to play every minute, but if that's not the case, then whenever the coach puts me in I'm going to try to capitalize on chances, I'm going to try to cause havoc, I'm going to try to make a difference whether it's offensively or defensively. It's just keeping my head – making sure I'm focused and ready to go when my name is called."

On delivering a key pass in the buildup to Lee Nguyen's 84th-minute equalizer in Portland:

Bunbury: "I think it's huge. I think it's huge for everybody's confidence, especially myself. It's good that you put the work in in training and the games are supposed to be fun. You want to go out there and you want to help your team win. If you can put yourself in positions to do that, I think it's very rewarding for myself and the other guys that work hard every day in training to try to win games, try to make big plays. It's rewarding and it's fun."

On preparing for a Dynamo team that has the second most goals in MLS:

Bunbury: "I think it's good that we are able to see how other teams play, but ultimately, it might be a cliché thing, but it's really about how we play, how we prepare for the game. We're going to know their tendencies, we're going to know their key players, but when we're at home, we love to attack. We love to possess the ball. I think our last game against Minnesota at home just proved that we could score a lot of goals and we can play. It's going to be a fun match."

On Houston's last match in New England, which was delayed by lightning for several hours:

Bunbury: "I think that's the craziest [game I've experienced in MLS]. I feel like every Open Cup game there's always something crazy with delays, but that was something that I've never experienced before. Having to wait in the locker room and then, 'Oh no, 30 minutes,' and, 'Oh no, there was another lightning strike,' or whatever. That was something I've never experienced and this is my eighth season now in the League. That was crazy and I'm hoping – and I'm sure – that it won't happen again."

New England Revolution Midfielder Kelyn Rowe

On building off the draw on the road in Portland:

Rowe: "I think we just put the games together. We scored a lot of goals against Minnesota at home. We want to make sure we do that again. I thought our attack was great. And then you see just a hard-fought battle in Portland to get that point, we didn't stop. It was not until the [84th] minute that we got that goal [from Lee Nguyen], so it's a positive going in that we can hold the team down to 1-0. And it was a great strike from [Diego] Valeri, of course, but I thought the team played well all 90 minutes, and that's what we need."

On carrying that momentum forward:

Rowe: “Like I said, let’s put the two games together. [Against] Minnesota, [a] ton of offense, ton of goal – can we find that space at home. Portland was a good team, they broke up a lot of plays in the midfield, so we’re hoping that we can create more going through the midfield and create some of those quick attacks.”

On the task ahead against Houston:

Rowe: “Like Portland, they won a bunch of games at the beginning and then had their first loss and they were hungry. For us to battle back and get a tie, I think that’s a huge thing. It’s going to be the same thing this weekend, it’s going to be a battle, because Houston is, like you said, on that high coming in here, so we need to make sure we can buckle down and prepare for a fight.”

On Houston being an attacking team:

Rowe: “I think that works in our favor. If a team is going to come in and take some risks, there are going to be a lot of open spots. You’ve seen us at home, we score a ton of goals and we find those gaps. If we can do that, if they do take those risks, if we can find those gaps and finish our chances, I think it’s going to be a good game.”

On the rain delayed match at Gillette Stadium against Houston in 2015:

Rowe: “That was a very long night for all of us. I think we came in multiple times and had to wait and wait and wait. As a player, that’s hard to do. You wait all day for the game, that’s hard to do, and then you have to wait during the game and that’s even worse. That was a big mental challenge and we came out on the positive side of that and I think that was a huge take on how that team was. I think this team is stronger. So, I’m hoping that doesn’t happen, but mentally, it’s going to be a battle and we’re ready for it.”

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper

On building off of last Saturday’s performance against Minnesota:

Cropper: “Obviously, like you said, that point at Portland is huge. Not a lot of teams go there and get anything, let alone a point. We just take that momentum, take the momentum from the Minnesota game and the Portland game and just take it into training this week and obviously focus on the things that we have been doing the last couple of weeks. I think that Houston is a great opportunity for us to go out in front of a home crowd again and get some more points.”

On being able to play sound defensively in a tough matchup:

Cropper: “Obviously [Portland is] a tough place to go. Their attacking four is probably one of the best in the League, obviously up there with Dallas in my opinion. I think at times it was scrappy, but there are going to be games like that. You just have to get in there and it’s a dogfight. We’ve got to keep going. I think we got through the 90 minutes pretty solidly and were effective defensively, and that was huge for us. We can take that defensive performance, hopefully, into this weekend versus Houston and get a win.”

On dealing with a player that is in form such as Erick “Cubo” Torres:

Cropper: “You never really know when a player is going to shoot, you never really know when a player is going to pass the ball off, or when they’re going to find the half inch of space to take the shot. I think that for me, it’s staying in touch with my back four, every once in a while getting a touch on the ball. Obviously the way that we play, trying to play out of the back and for me, organizing my defense is what keeps me tuned in and we can only hope that we can shut them down further up the field and it doesn’t get to me. But at the same time, I have to be tuned in and we as a goalkeeping unit always have to always be tuned in regardless of who it is to stop players like [Erick] Torres, and stop players like [Diego] Valeri and [Fanendo] Adi and players across the League of that nature.”

On if he has been impressed with how Antonio Delamea has transitioned to MLS:

Cropper: “Absolutely. I think that he has fallen into place very well. In all honesty, I think all of our center backs have dealt with the scenarios that we have been put in very well. Obviously, we do a lot of work as a back four, as a triangle of goalkeepers and center backs. That’s only going to continue to get better with the more work that we do, it’s obviously just going to keep chemistry going and keep chemistry building.”

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