



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New England Revolution Training Report: April 21, 2017

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Please see below to **access video, training b-roll, and transcripts** previewing this Saturday's home match against D.C. United from post-training media availability on Thursday, April 20, including quotes and footage from:

- **Head Coach Jay Heaps**
- **Midfielder Lee Nguyen**
- **Defender Antonio Delamea**
- **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 mental challenge of playing three games in eight days:

Coach Heaps: "Usually, every game has a mental aspect to it, but when you're putting three games in [eight] days, you have to be a little of mind over matter. Get through some tough stretches that we've been in in these last two games and, physically, be able to get through it. You have to push your mind over matter."

On rotating the lineup during this week:

Coach Heaps: "I thought we blended the lineup well last night. I actually thought our best football came in the first half, but we were a little disappointed in the second half. We wanted a little bit more spark from some of the guys and we didn't get it. So, we have to reset and be ready for Saturday."

On his assessment of the attack after being held scoreless in the last two matches:

Coach Heaps: "Of course, in terms of the negative side of it, we don't have the goal to show for it. But I thought our performance on Wednesday, offensively, was there. We just need the final ball and someone taking the initiative to take a shot instead of pass. We were just knocking on the door. A couple of great saves from the 'keeper [San Jose's David Bingham]. Completely different contrast from Saturday to Wednesday."

On the approach for Saturday's match against D.C. United:

Coach Heaps: "Obviously, it's a huge game for us, for both teams. We just have to look to put the game on our terms when we can. [We] know that they've got the ability to score goals as well, so we have to make sure it's a complete game start to finish, front to back."

On the rivalry between New England and D.C., two original MLS clubs:

Coach Heaps: "I think there's still some of that. You have a lot of people that still have those ties. [Revolution Assistant Coach] Tommy Soehn was the head coach there and the assistant coach when they won their last championship. [D.C. United Head Coach] Ben Olsen played for that team. Benny and I played against each other many a games. You've got players or people that have been a part of all sides of those types of games you're talking about. Those things don't go away."

New England Revolution Midfielder Lee Nguyen

On the mental component of getting through three matches in eight days:

Nguyen: "You've got to be mentally prepared for this three-game stretch. As we have it, the great thing is that two of them are at home, so that's a huge plus for us. Going into the final stretch here, we need to get three points."

On the frustration of not being able to score in the past two matches:

Nguyen: "The most important thing is, we're creating chances. I think that final touch, it was inches away. I think as long as we're creating those chances, we know we got enough quality guys that eventually, we're going to find the back of the net. If we weren't creating chances, I would be more worried about that."

On the team's approach against D.C. United on Saturday:

Nguyen: "We're going to come in with the same mindset as we did last night against San Jose. We've got to be more patient whenever we're moving the ball east to west and try to find our moments to break through the lines, because they are very sound defensively and they will try to hit you on the counter, so we've got to be mindful of that, not leave ourselves too exposed for that. But at the same time, we need to be patient to find those breaks in the lines."

On the importance of getting all three points in the next match after a home draw:

Nguyen: "We know it's huge. We had a shutout last night, so we want to keep that going. Anytime we keep it at zeros, that gives us a chance to win going down to the end there. First off, we have to stay sound defensively and we know that when we do get our chances, which we will, we're going to have to put them away."

New England Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea

On the importance of finishing off this week with a win on Saturday:

Delamea: "Honestly, we expected more from these two games, but in Chicago we [played] without one player early in the game so we were unable to bring a better result. Yesterday, it was a very equal game. Maybe we can score, maybe they can score. I think it was a fair result, but now it's up to us. We need to regenerate fast and think about D.C. United. It's a very important game for us to bring back confidence and to finally score. We haven't scored now for two games. I think it's time to win this game."

On Cody Cropper's performance on Wednesday night:

Delamea: "Cody [Cropper] was magnificent yesterday. He saved us maybe two, three times with incredible saves. With that kind of saves, he gave confidence to the whole team. It's good to have him in the back."

New England Revolution Defender Chris Tierney

On the mental component of getting through three matches in eight days:

Tierney: "We've got to keep our spirits high, good attitude in training, and just focus on taking the points that we can take. We obviously didn't take full points in the first game of two at home, so [it] puts even that much more pressure on us to get three on Saturday."

On if there's a heightened importance in getting all three points in the next match after a home draw:

Tierney: "I think so. We always talk about, we feel like we should take three points any time we play at home and we didn't our last outing. Like you said, especially against an Eastern Conference team, three points is huge at home. We did a lot of good things on Wednesday night, just couldn't find the goal. So hopefully, we'll get that scoring touch. I think if we do, we should be able to take care of business."

On the progress of the team defensively:

Tierney: "I don't think it's a backline thing, it's a whole team thing. It's a mentality that everyone defends and everyone digs in when we don't have the ball, and I think we've done a pretty good job of that at home. Hopefully that continues no matter what our personnel choices are. I think it's a team mentality and that will hopefully continue on."

On how to approach a D.C. United team that played New England tough last season:

Tierney: "They're always really well organized and we expect the same. Especially when we've played at home in games in the last few years with them, they've really been difficult to break down. We're going to have to make sure that when our chances do arise, that we take them and hopefully continue to defend well against the counterattack, which I'm sure they'll be trying to hit us on. We'll have to be at our best to get three points, but I think we saw some glimpses on Wednesday that if we continue our attacking play, that we'll have good chances to score and win the game."

On the play of goalkeeper Cody Cropper:

Tierney: "I think he's been great for us. What you really want from your goalkeeper, especially at home, is making that one or two big saves that keeps you in the game and keeps it at a zero. Even though we did dominate play last night, on a different night, if Cody hadn't come up with those saves, we might've lost the game and taken no points. He does a lot for us and he starts play out of the back as well, which is important for us at home, to keep the ball and build all the way up the field. Yeah, really happy with how he's been playing."

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