



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New England Revolution Training Report: April 26, 2017

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Please see below to **access video, training b-roll, and transcripts** previewing this Saturday's away match against Seattle Sounders FC from post-training media availability on Tuesday, April 25, including quotes and footage from:

- **Head Coach Jay Heaps**
- **Midfielder Diego Fagundez**
- **Midfielder Kelyn Rowe**
- **Goalkeeper Cody Cropper**

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New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps

On the response he looks for from the team after the two-game week:

Coach Heaps: "Very important that we find a way to get points against Seattle. I think they're an excellent team, they had a very good game over the weekend. [CenturyLink Field is] always a difficult place to play, but that said, I feel like we had a strange week in the sense that we didn't get all the points we wanted at home, but we had some positives and some areas where we can get better."

On playing against Clint Dempsey and the Sounders' attacking options:

Coach Heaps: "Everyone knows Clint [Dempsey] well and he's always in the mix. Offensively, he creates so much for them and he's someone that can occupy two or three defenders at a time and that opens up space for [Nicolas] Lodeiro and [Jordan] Morris and a lot of their attacking options, whether it's [Harry] Shipp or [Will] Bruin in there. For me, Clint always finds a good spot on the field and he's dangerous every time he gets it."

On if it's important to draw from the team's experience in Portland earlier this season:

Coach Heaps: "Always important that, exactly, I think you've got to use your experiences. For us going to Portland, it was a good result in the sense that we acclimated well to a tough environment and we're going to need to do the same on Saturday."

On the recent consistency in Diego Fagundez's play:

Coach Heaps: "I think Diego has been great. I think Diego, his touch count is up, the way he is playing is up. He is energetic on both sides of the ball. I don't care if he scores a goal or creates the assist, I just want him creating goals. We talk about that all the time. For me, if Diego had two goals and 15 assists, that's just as good. I think, for me, he's creating a lot, he's getting chances. The other night, I think he

almost snuck one in by [D.C. United goalkeeper] Bill Hamid. Bill Hamid had a great save on the near post. But we've got to keep Diego playing the way he's playing, not pressing, just playing his game and still looking for the other options, because there are opportunities now where if he crosses it a little more, he'll have more opportunity to shoot."

On sending Zach Herivaux on loan to San Antonio FC:

Coach Heaps: "It was really important for us to have last year to acclimate and get his first experience as a professional with us and training with us every day. Knowing San Antonio and knowing the coaching staff there, getting him to a really good place that coaches are going to be able to help him get his game in live action. Last year, we thought about it at times, but felt like it was better for him to get games with us, get Open Cup games throughout the course of the season [rather than loan him out]. This year, he took a bad injury in preseason, so he didn't get any games in preseason, so this is a really good time for him to get some experience, get some games under his belt and we'll reassess after he gets a couple of games. We want to make sure that both sides are going to benefit from it. The fact that he's going to play games and that they want him to play games, not that he's just going to train and not play. But, the reality is, we expect him to play [Tuesday]. Whatever position he plays, Zach is in a phase of his career where he needs games and we just don't have enough games right now till the Open Cup season kind of starts to have him sitting on the bench or not getting enough games."

Note – Zach Herivaux made his USL debut for San Antonio FC following this interview on Tuesday, April 25. He started and played 90 minutes in a 3-2 win against Seattle Sounders 2.

New England Revolution Midfielder Diego Fagundez

On how the team will respond following two games last week:

Fagundez: "I think we're all going to be hungry. Two home games that we tied is not what we wanted. We wanted three points on both of those, but sometimes things don't go your way. But, you could see the team was fighting, we were creating chances, we were trying to get back in this game [against D.C. United] and trying to get the win. Right now, we all have to recover and make sure that we're all ready for Saturday's game against Seattle."

On how the team gets the attack to click on the road:

Fagundez: "We have to keep playing the same way we have. I think the attack five, attack four, three – whatever you want to call it – I think we're all clicking little-by-little every game that goes on. I think you can see more of that moving and more passing to each other, so that's what we need to do. When we have our chances, we need to finish chances with each other. We need to do that."

On if the team can learn lessons from its 1-1 draw in Portland on April 2:

Fagundez: "Our mindset has to be the same. We need to go out there and try to get points, whether it is one or it is three. We'll just make sure that we can go ahead early, or come back from the game. Anything that we get to do, just try to score goals, and if we can get a tie in there, we're all going to be happy, but we're trying to get a win."

On if he feels like his first goal of the season is coming:

Fagundez: "It's one of those things that I've always said if I can get a goal, my confidence boosts. But, right now, I think I'm playing well. I just have to keep doing what I've been doing. I have to keep driving on players and trying to take one-on-one with them, but of course I like creating chances for other players, so if I can keep doing this and they keep finishing, I'll be happy with what I'm doing."

New England Revolution Midfielder Kelyn Rowe

On how the team regroups and moves forward from a two-game week:

Rowe: "I think we take positives out of this. We go back and watch film. It's obviously a long week for us whether we're at home or away. We enjoyed being home for these last two games, it does give us a little boost. I thought you saw a good comeback, a good fight from the guys, especially in the second half of

this last game [against D.C.]. Going forward to Seattle, it's going to be another tough, tough road battle. We've got to get our legs back this week and be ready to fight."

On if there is a different approach to the attack when on the road:

Rowe: "You may approach it a little different, catch them on the counter, but I think we do so well at breaking off our good defense that we can take that at home and we can take it on the road. Can we connect those final balls that sometimes haven't been – you saw it at home this week, a couple of times we couldn't connect and put the ball in the back of the net. I think once we do, once we get a couple of guys really going, it's going to be fun to watch. Home or away, it's going to be good."

On how the team can draw from the experience of a 1-1 tie at Portland on April 2:

Rowe: "It's going to be a tough battle. This obviously is a very good team in Seattle. They just put a good performance in against LA, a 3-0 win. We have to be smart about how we go about the game. It's not going to be in our hands the whole time. They're at home, they're more comfortable. I think [it's] very similar to Portland, it's going to be a battle and it's going to be one that's going to be a 90-minute battle, rather than a 45- to 70-minute battle. We have to make sure we make correct subs and the subs that do come in, come in and bring life, because it's going to be a hard game."

On returning to his home state of Washington to play in front of family and friends:

Rowe: "Selfishly, I love going back there. I know it's a long trip for a lot of the guys, but for me, it's a time to see family and see friends. I'm excited because my sister is going to be in town with [my nephew] Brighton, so I get to see him as much as possible. Uncle Kelyn is going to get a lot of nephew time. It's just fun playing in front of kids who are playing for my old club, Crossfire. They get to come watch and seeing my old coaches, it's a nice reunion."

On hosting Courageous Kid, Garen, and his family in Seattle on Saturday as part of Kelyn's NEGU (Never, Ever Give Up) Crew:

Rowe: "It's going to be great and I'm excited for the [reception from] fans from Seattle – you hear all these great fans that are from Seattle and Portland. For NEGU Crews, lately it's been [at home with] the Revolution, but I'm excited to have those fans come together and see what really happens out here on the East Coast and how great we actually are."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper

On looking for a response after a pair of draws at home last week:

Cropper: "I think last week was a long one with three games in a very short span of time. So, I think for us this week, it's just about the recovery process and obviously preparing correctly for Seattle this coming weekend, just taking everything that we know, obviously, about their individual players and what we learn from film over the next couple of days and really using that in our game plan."

On what he expects to see from Seattle's attacking weapons:

Cropper: "It never really changes in the sense of knowing specific players. I think you know the likes of Clint Dempsey. I know Jordan [Morris] personally. There are traits and habits that you know, but at the end of the day, it's a situational game. We just have to be able to adapt as a team to each situation and continue to play our game like we have done the last eight or nine games and hope that we can get the result that we need."

On if there are lessons to be gained from the team's 1-1 draw at Portland on April 2:

Cropper: "I think that's a huge point for us that we've collected so far this season. We need to continue to go out and perform like that – perform how we did against Portland each and every game. If we do that, I think we're unstoppable and we can really show this league what this team is made of."

On working with different back line combinations in front of him:

Cropper: "I think as a defensive unit, we do enough work to where – on a biweekly basis as the team changes – that it doesn't really affect us. I think we've handled that very well so far and I don't think that's going to change. Obviously, the back line and the midfield and the goalkeeper position can change at the

snap of a finger based on what Jay [Heaps] and Remi [Roy] and Tommy [Soehn] and Carlos [Llamosa] want. At the end of the day, I think we, as a unit, have to be good enough to deal with that and I think so far we have been."

On if he feels he's settling into the starting role:

Cropper: "I think that I've handled it well. Obviously, it's a little different than what I'm used to. Consistent game time is helping me hone in on what I know that I'm best at and helping me show the league and the [United States] Men's National Team and whoever else is watching what I can do. I think that with more games, I'm only going to get better, but at the end of the day it's about what's right here and right now and focusing on what we as a New England Revolution team need to accomplish this season."

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