



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New England Revolution Training Report: May 10, 2017

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Please see below to **access video, training b-roll, and transcripts** previewing this Saturday's home match against Real Salt Lake, including quotes and footage from:

- **Head Coach Jay Heaps**
- **Midfielder Scott Caldwell**
- **Defender Andrew Farrell**
- **Goalkeeper Cody Cropper**

For video, audio, and b-roll, please visit the [MLS Soundbytes Page](#). 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 coming into this weekend's match against Real Salt Lake:

Coach Heaps: "Real important that we focus on Salt Lake, that we take the good with the bad from the weekend, and be ready for a good Salt Lake team on Saturday."

On the focus in these next few games:

Coach Heaps: "We've been good going forward, numbers have been dangerous. I feel like we were a little unlucky to not get one in Columbus, but defensively, we're just a little bit weak, a little bit soft, giving up soft goals. That's something that we've been – for me quite frankly – since the D.C. game, we've had three games in a row where soft goals against are going to hurt you, and they've cost us a lot of points."

On matching up with current RSL head coach and former Red Bulls head coach Mike Petke:

Coach Heaps: "Knowing the group, they're a senior group. They're a good group of players. I think Mike [Petke] is getting his feel into the group and definitely changing the team in his identity. They come in, they play hard, they play physical, they work hard, so we're going to be ready for a group that is hungry to come here and play."

On bringing back Gershon Koffie on loan:

Coach Heaps: "He was someone that obviously we as a coaching staff really thought highly of last year and how he impacted the play. Really, at the end of the year was one of our better players in keeping our midfield strong and helping us defend better. So, I think overall, hopefully it solidifies our – first of all a little bit of depth – a little bit of solidification in that midfield role to be a little bit harder, and gives us a little more versatility in what we can do offensively by being a little bit more aggressive, because we have cover. But also, for me, it puts us in a position where we can attack a little bit more, because we have good defenders and it makes us better defensively."

On the depth at the defensive midfield position:

Coach Heaps: "It also lends us to make some tactical shifts, so I think it is going to be a combination of competition for the minutes, but also, what system we think is best to make an opponent – take to our strengths on the field and try to take their weaknesses and put that in the forefront."

New England Revolution Midfielder Scott Caldwell

On becoming the second Homegrown field player in MLS history to hit the 10,000-minute mark:

Caldwell: "Going into this year, I had no idea that this was a milestone that people were looking at, but then when I saw Diego [Fagundez] had hit it – it was great to see that, see the [Revolution] Academy and how well it's done so far here. It's something that the Academy kids can look forward to or look at and see, 'Hey, look, this is a real opportunity we have here,' and try to take advantage of that. For me, it's a proud moment. I'm very happy to do that for the Revolution in front of the fans that [watched me as] I was growing up. It means a lot. It's unfortunate to do it away at a loss, but looking forward to this weekend being back in front of the fans."

On playing seven of the team's next 11 games at home, including this Saturday:

Caldwell: "This is a huge one. We haven't gotten three points in a while now and I think we know that. We know how important it is back at home in front of our supporters and against RSL [Real Salt Lake]. It's an important three points to get us rolling on the next four or five games. We start here and we've got to get three points at home."

On the team's mentality heading into the weekend:

Caldwell: "We take every game the same. The next game is the most important – it always has [been], always will be. Being in front of our supporters again, we want to make this a tough place to play and I think it has been so far this year, but winning our first two games and then the last two ties, I think we want to get back on that winning stretch. We've got to all be focused in on defend first, attack later, and get our goals eventually. I think it's important that we, first and foremost, just get the win."

On what he expects from a team coached by Mike Petke:

Caldwell: "They're going to be a hard-working group. I think a lot of young guys that are going to be in to play for their worth, try to show what they have, and I think we're going to have to deal with a lot of excited players that we're going to have to show that we're ultimately the better team on the day."

On Gershon Koffie rejoining the team on loan:

Caldwell: "I think everyone is excited. Great guy. We're excited to have him back. He's a very talented, very athletic, and physical guy on the field, and also able to make that pass forward that we need. He's a talented player and we're excited to have him."

New England Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell

On playing four of the next five games at home:

Farrell: "It's definitely good. Obviously, I think we've had good games at home, we've had games we know we want back to get all three points. But we haven't lost here yet and I think that's a point for us. For teams coming in, they know when they come down here, we battle with everything we have. It's an important place to get the points. Obviously, having these tough couple of road games this past month and tough games, it feels good to get back home and have a lot of games coming up that are going to be here. We've got to make sure we take care step by step and game by game and get all the points we can."

On the importance of having the right mentality before a stretch of home games:

Farrell: "It's big. Obviously, we're disappointed with the past couple runs of results, but we've got to stay positive. If we keep our heads down and stuff like that, it can affect the games coming [up] at home. We've got to come out each game with a positive mentality. We know we're as good as any team in the league and we've got to keep that mentality up. We can score with anybody and we can shutout teams

like Houston when they came in – they were one of the top-scoring teams. We've got to stay positive, keep pumping each other up, and keep that mentality going through."

On what challenges he expects from a Mike Petke team:

Farrell: "When he was at Red Bulls, I think they were good at the press. They like to keep possession and they are a fighting team. They'll fight for everything. RSL's had a good history in the past whatever couple of years I've been in the league. They're always a good time, we're always going to get a good battle from them. Obviously, they aren't doing as hot and we aren't doing as hot, so it's an important game for both teams. It will be a big one on Saturday."

On his longtime friend Scott Caldwell reaching 10,000 career minutes:

Farrell: "It's great. You can ask anybody in this organization, we love Scotty. He's a great, great teammate, a great person on and off the field. To see him in a conversation like that, it's great. Personally, being one of his closest friends, I think it's great for me just to be in the presence of greatness. He's a good guy and he's earned every single minute. He's deserved every minute and earned it, so I think we're all really proud of him and hopefully, 10,000 more."

On Gershon Koffie returning to the team on loan:

Farrell: "He's a fighter. He battles in games, in practices. You'll feel your ankles and stuff like that. He bites at you and is a great player. He's good technically, can find a lot of the long passes to get forward. He's a great player and a good person on and off the field. It's a great addition to get him back and I think he'll add to our midfield. Even though we have a lot of guys who can play there, I think he'll add another piece of the puzzle to get to where we want to be."

New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper

On the opportunity ahead with seven of the team's next 11 games at home:

Cropper: "Massive. I think that so far this season we've proven that we can be a very good threat at home and I think we have to continue that mentality. Continue to be strong and go out there and play in front of our home fans like we have done in the past."

On facing a team like Real Salt Lake with a new head coach in Mike Petke:

Cropper: "I think that we as a team approach it the same as always. We're going to go over video like we do week to week and continue to prepare in training leading into Saturdays as we have done the last 10 games."

On the importance of communication between the goalkeeper, backline, and midfield:

Cropper: "Huge. Obviously, as the back, I would say six, we have to communicate from left back to left center back, center backs to defensive midfield. That's only going to help us resolve issues during the game and at the end of the day keep clean sheets or allow fewer goals than we have been. I think for us, we just have to continue to work on that in training on a weekly basis and move forward."

On communicating with the backline when the team is in possession:

Cropper: "I'm always talking to Toni [Delamea], I'm always talking to Josh [Smith] or Benji [Angoua]. Those are really the two closest ones to me, so those are who I try and focus on. As it gets closer to goal, I can obviously pull the weak-side outside back in or up or back, or whatever I need to do. I think, for me, it's huge, because it's one of the things that keeps me in the game mentally. It keeps me attached to the game so that I don't lose focus."

On what Gershon Koffie adds to the midfield:

Cropper: "Defensive stability. I think that he proved that over his years in the league here and obviously with this team. I think that he'll be a great addition to our defense and in the midfield. He'll play really well along with Scott Caldwell, Daigo [Kobayashi], and [Xavier] Kouassi."

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