



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## New England Revolution Training Report: May 24, 2017

All,

Please visit the [MLS Soundbytes Page](#) to access interview footage and training b-roll previewing this Saturday's away match against the New York Red Bulls, including quotes and footage from:

- **Head Coach Jay Heaps**
- **Midfielder Lee Nguyen**
- **Midfielder Kelyn Rowe**
- **Defender Antonio Delamea**

For additional footage or any specific interview 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](mailto:media@revolutionssoccer.net).

### **New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps**

#### ***On how the team can harness the energy from the two home wins:***

**Coach Heaps:** "Obviously, you want to take care of your business at home, but you want to make sure that you're pushing the group along. I thought both games were very different in how we played and how the performance was. Against Salt Lake, I thought it was a really good performance front to back. Columbus was a little different in the sense that we didn't go out and blow them out of the water, but at the same time, we fought really hard. I thought our guys put in a really good mental shift, a really good physical shift. For me, that's the kind of performance you need to take and need to have on the road as well. Things aren't always going to go right – we made some adjustments and we were able to take advantage of the opportunities when they were there."

#### ***On the tactical flexibility and depth Gershon Koffie provides:***

**Coach Heaps:** "That's exactly why you love having depth across the board and especially being able to move players around. Also, I think for me, having Gershon [Koffie] is a sense of knowing the league. We didn't sign a guy that may or may not know who we were playing against. We put a guy in there who knew Columbus Crew [SC] as well as anyone on the field. For me, it was a really – I don't think we would have started him, but knowing we could go to him felt like a comfort, and we did and we didn't hesitate."

#### ***On how close Juan Agudelo is to returning to action:***

**Coach Heaps:** "I think he's there. Today, we brought him up today and he was able to go through all the paces. At this time, both he and Gershon [Koffie] are starting to really push for more minutes."

#### ***On the options at right back with Andrew Farrell suspended due to a red card:***

**Coach Heaps:** "Look, I think it's always difficult because Andrew [Farrell] has played every game there for us this season, so it's going to be tough to fill his spot. But at the same time, we have three games in a week, so we'll be able to rotate a little bit, and we're being forced to in this first game [against New York]."

***On the challenges of a five-day, two-game road trip:***

**Coach Heaps:** "It's just all about preparation. We have to be prepared for all three games before we leave here on Friday. "

***On having nearly 1,000 supporters traveling to the Red Bulls game:***

**Coach Heaps:** "For me, it's such an exciting road trip in the sense that we know they're going to be there. We love playing in front of [our supporters]. You love going to an away game, but you feel like your support is there. It meant a lot to us in [the] '14 [Eastern Conference finals] and really was something that you can tell was something that most guys on that field that day remember well. Now, we just have to make sure we make more memories and try to get them involved in the game like we did in '14."

**New England Revolution Midfielder Lee Nguyen**

***On building off of consecutive home wins against Real Salt Lake and Columbus:***

**Nguyen:** "It was great momentum and great results that needed when we were here at home, and now we've got to take that on the road. These are going to be two big games against Eastern Conference teams, so we're going to need results to push up in the standings."

***On facing a pair of Eastern Conference teams during the upcoming five-day road trip:***

**Nguyen:** "It's going to be huge. These are two teams who are above us right now and we know in order to get closer, close that gap, we're going to need to get positive results. One game at a time, but we're going to go back and look at film and see what we need to improve on. So far, we've done reasonably well against tough opponents in tough environments. Now, we're going to have to do it again against teams in our own conference."

***On entering a hostile environment at Red Bull Arena on Saturday:***

**Nguyen:** "It's a tough environment, but for most of us, we've been there before. We know what it's going to take to get three points. We know that they're going to be coming out high intensity, high pressure, so we're going to have to be able to withstand that for the first half of the game. Once that happens, we know the game is going to open up and those are the types of games we like."

***On having nearly 1,000 supporters traveling to Saturday's Red Bull match:***

**Nguyen:** "It's a tremendous boost. We love it when our fans are able to travel to our away games. It gives us another sense of supporting. It feels like there's an extra boost out there, like a 12<sup>th</sup> man. It is huge and it does help us. We're looking forward to going out there and having our home supporters come out there and help us out."

***On the flexibility offered to the midfield by Gershon Koffie's return:***

**Nguyen:** "He's another physical guy in the midfield that can win balls and change the point of attack. Like in the game this past weekend, we were able to put him in there and change the formation to a two D-mid [defensive midfielders], so we were in a 4-2-3-1. That helps us depending on the opponent we play, if we do need to change the formation, if we do need to go more defensive, more muscle, then he gives us that option. It's huge for us to be able to play with that option."

***On countering a high-press team like the New York Red Bulls:***

**Nguyen:** "Those are the type of things we need to be wary of when we're trying to play out [of] the back, because we know teams are going to want to high pressure us. But at the same time, teams that do want to try to build out of the back, those are the things we look to try to counter. We knew Columbus was a team that likes to possess out of the back. New York, they'll be the same way, so we'll have to find ways to change those possessions and quick attacks. Those are the ones that will lead to a lot our chances."

**New England Revolution Midfielder Kelyn Rowe**

***On the upcoming two-game road stretch in New York:***

**Rowe:** "We've had a few road games that you've seen a lot of success in some areas, and then a lot of difficulties. So, we need to be able to sort those out. Can we put a full performance together for a full 90 minutes? These next two games are going to be huge. They're obviously Eastern Conference teams. It's going to be a long trip to New York."

***On the opportunity to make a statement in two away games in New York:***

**Rowe:** "You said it, you've got to make a statement. These are obviously two very good teams and New York Red Bulls, for us, is a nice little rivalry. We have [those nearly 1,000] traveling fans again. It's two games you have to win or at least get points on the road. We haven't done so great on the road point-wise and I think we need to do it [this week]."

***On the boost nearly 1,000 traveling supporters can provide:***

**Rowe:** "It's the best kind of boost you can get, especially on the road. To have those fans cheer when you're in that corner, and you can actually hear them on the other side of the field, which is incredible because of the fans that [the] Red Bulls get. For us to have that support system in the back of our minds when maybe it's the 70<sup>th</sup> minute and we need a goal, or hopefully we're in the lead and we're trying to run it out. To have that support system is incredible and cheers to the fans."

***On the challenge of playing at Red Bull Arena:***

**Rowe:** "It's been hard for many teams and I think for us, we've done better over the years, but it's not an easy place to play. Like I said, [it will be good] to have that support system, just to have that extra little bonus, the extra little push to get us through."

***On the recent consistent and productive play of Diego Fagundez:***

**Rowe:** "I think we've seen Diego [Fagundez] grow throughout the years. I think he's gotten better and better and yeah, he had that – I think it was like a 13-goal year towards the beginning of his career. But you've seen him [be] more consistent. You've seen him on both sides of the ball now. I remember he made multiple plays in the defensive half to spring an attack for himself, so he's working hard and he's very consistent, like you said. For us, it's helping the team. Last game, he was the man of the match by far from minute one to minute 90. We're happy that he's finding this consistency and hope he can keep going."

**New England Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea**

***On carrying the momentum from back-to-back wins:***

**Delamea:** "It was an important win for us and now it's up to us to bring this energy from our fortress back to these road games. If we perform like we did this week, train hard like we did, I think anything is possible. We are all saying that we know what our goal is. We'll do everything we can to achieve our goals."

***On the challenge of the upcoming five-day New York road trip:***

**Delamea:** "It's always nice for me to visit new cities, to experience something new. But in my head, all it is the first game we play against Red Bulls. Like I said, we need to be in good shape, we need to be good in our head, we need to prepare. We all hope for a good result and we are all looking for a road win. I hope we can get this."

***On having nearly 1,000 traveling supporters for Saturday's match at Red Bulls:***

**Delamea:** "I didn't know this until now, so it will be huge. Huge impact for us. They're very good here in [The Fort] cheering for us. I'm really looking forward for them to be there and I hope we can celebrate this victory together. It's up to us to give our all on the field and to pay back to them."

***On missing Andrew Farrell for Saturday's match due to a red card suspension:***

**Delamea:** "[Andrew] Farrell is an important factor on defense, but he won't be able to play and we have other good guys. Josh [Smith], London [Woodberry], also Kelyn [Rowe] can play right back, or Je-Vaughn [Watson]. So, we have other players that can take his spot and I know that any player that gets the chance will give his 100 percent, maybe more. I'm not scared that this will affect much on our defense."

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