



July 19, 2017

New England Revolution Training Report: July 19, 2017

All,

Please visit the [MLS Soundbytes Page](#) to access interview footage and training b-roll from Tuesday's post-training media availability previewing this Saturday's match against LA Galaxy (NBC Boston/CSN New England), including quotes and footage from:

- [Head Coach Jay Heaps](#)
- [Midfielder Lee Nguyen](#)
- [Defender Antonio Delamea](#)
- [Goalkeeper Cody Cropper](#)

Also available [HERE](#) are soundbytes from midfielder **Kelyn Rowe** on his time with the United States Men's National Team during the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup group stage.

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.

[New England Revolution Head Coach Jay Heaps](#)

On Kelyn Rowe returning from the U.S. Men's National Team following the Gold Cup Group Stage:

Coach Heaps: "Disappointed for him, because I know that it was a tough decision for the national team to let him come back, but at the same time, we'll put him back to work."

On his surprise at Rowe's return given his performance in the group stage:

Coach Heaps: "I thought he really assimilated well and played some good games. I think having a big picture of understanding that [USMNT Head Coach Bruce Arena] was bringing in six players – and I think Bruce does a really good job of balancing out who he's taking from teams – I thought we would get one of the players [Juan Agudelo or Kelyn Rowe] back. I didn't know which one. So, yeah, a little bit shocked. On Sunday, I would've bet money that both players were going to stay, to be honest with you."

On Xavier Kouassi working toward full fitness upon return from his quadriceps injury:

Coach Heaps: "We had him on the bench [on July 13 vs. New York] because we only had 18 available players other than the third goalie, so we were kind of numbers-crunched there. There wasn't a real plan to play him, but it was good that he's progressing. This week, we've really been able to get him into training well."

On leaning on veteran players to lift the team:

Coach Heaps: "It's not just one player, it's got to be the collective. Players holding themselves accountable, holding the group accountable, and working together and stop pointing fingers and really use the group to get the result, because one guy is not going to be able to change the entire course of the results. It's going to have to be everybody."

On how to neutralize the LA Galaxy, which leads MLS in away wins with five:

Coach Heaps: "Obviously, they're also veteran players. They're good on the road and they make good decisions on the road of how to beat teams and how to come in and have a good game plan. I think we understand that we're fighting for our lives here as we have [our next] two games at home. Each of them is going to be more important than the next, because we just have to get points at home. It's going to be more about us going into this game. We're going to be mindful of what we're doing, but we're going to be ready for anything, but be up and ready to fight for the points."

On how Jermaine Jones' potential return from injury changes LA's game:

Coach Heaps: "I think [it would be] very different. Everyone knows Jermaine [Jones] in this league. We know him probably the best. He makes them a lot better. He makes any team better."

[New England Revolution Midfielder Lee Nguyen](#)

On what the team has to do to turn things around:

Nguyen: "We've been here before. It's not going to take nothing special. It's taking the whole team coming together to really just out-will – we just haven't out-willed opponents now. We've got to grind it out, that's really what it's going to take. The great thing is we've got a game at home here this weekend, which we love, playing at home. This is a great time – a win will change things for us. This weekend is going to be a big game."

On the mentality of grinding out games:

Nguyen: "At this point, we haven't had the bounces go our way or anything like that. We missed a chance here or there, an inch here or there, that could've gone the other way. When it comes down to it, it's just about now we have to stick to it and grind it out knowing that our luck will change."

On the return of Kelyn Rowe from U.S. national team duty and the potential return of Xavier Kouassi from injury:

Nguyen: "It's big. Those are two starters that we've missed. They're going to add a big push for us going forward this weekend and hopefully we'll get that win."

On the challenge of playing against Jermaine Jones:

Nguyen: "We've played with him here before, the fans know what to expect. He's a veteran guy with a lot of experience. He's a guy who [if] you give time on the ball, he can pick his passes. We want to limit his touches and at the same time, he's known to try to breakup that midfield, but the more we can try to play around him and maximize possession, the harder they're going to have to work, and the less time they'll have on the ball."

[New England Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea](#)

On working through a tough run of results and trying to galvanize the team:

Delamea: "We have a tough time now, but we all try to stay positive. We know we can get out of this thing together. We train hard and we can only promise to our fans that we will give everything on the field. I hope the result will come."

On looking to reestablish dominance at Gillette Stadium:

Delamea: "It's always nice to play here at home. We always feel good. I think we were a little unlucky in these last games, but we know what we are capable of. We know that our fans always give us this extra energy, which is important. I just hope this time we won't let them down. We know what our duties are. Like I said before, we need to stick together like a team. We need to help each other and I know that we will get a good result."

On the return of Kelyn Rowe from U.S. national team duty and the potential return of Xavier Kouassi from injury:

Delamea: "It's good to have them back. We were a little short on the bench these last games, so it's very good that they are back. They can give us this extra energy, extra strength on the field. We will use them, of course, and I think with them we will all be better. We're looking forward to this game."

On Saturday's match up with LA Galaxy:

Delamea: "They have a good score [record] away, but we have a good score [record] at home, so we'll give our best. We have to play at our best to out-beat these guys. Like I said, I believe in this team and I hope we won't disappoint our fans, who have been amazing this season. We feel really sorry for everything that's going on right now, but football is like that. We all need to stay positive and come out of this together."

[New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper](#)

On what the team has to do to turn things around:

Cropper: "I think we just need to bond together. Just really come together and keep strong and keep fighting for one another, covering for one another on the field. I think at the end of the day, if we do that, I think that the results are going to come back to us and we'll find our feet again."

On taking advantage of playing at home:

Cropper: "Just really coming together and just taking advantage of it. We're in front of our own fans, we're on our own field, we know how to play on this field best. I think that we really just need to do the simple things right and when we're away, continue to do those simple things right. I don't think that we should have any different approach or any different mentality going into an away game as we do a home game, but I think that now we're at home for this weekend versus LA and I think that we really need to find our feet and get a result."

On how the team goes about neutralizing an LA team that has had success on the road:

Cropper: "I think just being solid defensively. Toni [Antonio Delamea] and Benji [Angoua] at the back with Gersh [Koffie] and possibly [Xavier] Kouassi coming in. Really just being strong in the middle of the field and shutting Giovanni [dos Santos] down and forcing the ball wide and making them really beat us. Like I said, just doing the simple things right and we're going to get a result."

On what Xavier Kouassi provides to the team:

Cropper: "Just plays simple. He does the simple things extremely well, and that's not to say that Gersh [Gershon Koffie] doesn't. Gersh does better things than Kouassi, and Kouassi does better things than Gersh. But, I think that when Kouassi comes in, he really sits and he really owns that defensive midfield role and really protects the two center backs."

On the impact of having Kelyn Rowe back with the team:

Cropper: "Huge. His involvement on our team is massive – his work rate off the ball, his work rate on the ball, his runs off the ball. His leadership on the field is huge for us and I think that's really going to help give us another boost coming back in to the league this weekend versus LA."

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