



August 2, 2017

New England Revolution Training Report: August 2, 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 the Chicago Fire (CSN New England), including quotes and footage from:

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

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 taking the work from the past few weeks and translating it into success on the road:

Coach Heaps: "I think use the positives and try to keep momentum going, but at the same time, understand the things that we did in each of the games that got us the results. It was hard work and it started here on the pitch on the training field."

On what he believes makes a good week of training:

Coach Heaps: "Obviously, when you outline the objectives for the day and you put it together in a big picture for the week and then we hit on all those objectives. Obviously, as a staff, we discuss it with the players, what we want to hit. Last week, it was simple messages, but we hit all the objectives in each training session."

On how locked in the team will need to be against Chicago:

Coach Heaps: "Even more so. Whenever you go on the road, the margins for error shrink. We just have to lock in and have the principled defending be key, and I think offensively, we'll get chances. We just have to make sure we don't give anything away."

On if the focus is primarily on the defensive performance:

Coach Heaps: "Of course. That's how we usually approach each game, but in particular the road games, because like I said, the margins for error are very slim. For us, if we can focus for 90 minutes and play – I guess that focus is on both sides of the ball, but more so on the defensive side – we'll be alright."

[New England Revolution Goalkeeper Cody Cropper](#)

On the effect that Saturday's performance against Philadelphia has on the team's mentality:

Cropper: "[It's] huge. I think it had a real big impact on our mentality. I think walking out of that game with a clean sheet for the first time in nearly six to eight weeks was huge for us and we really defended as a unit, as an 11-player unit. Hopefully, we can take that into next week and shut down Chicago."

On not being forced to make a lot of saves:

Cropper: "The less shots that we face, obviously, the less chance they have of scoring goals. For me, seeing the team really put in that shift for 90 minutes in front of me is a huge relief. Like I said before, hopefully we can take that into Chicago and do the same thing and hopefully, there's only one or two shots that I have to face in Chicago and we can, again, walk out with a clean sheet."

On how locked in the team will need to be against Chicago:

Cropper: "Very. We're going to have to be locked in again for 90 minutes. They have a very strong attacking line and we have to really be switched on for 90 minutes and really prepared for a 90-minute battle. So for me, it's just going to be doing the simple things right. For us as a group, doing those simple defensive things correctly again and really working for those 90 minutes."

On if picking up points on the road begins with defensive principles:

Cropper: "Absolutely. I think that for us, we really just need to focus on the small things, the bread and butter. I think at the end of the day on a Saturday, those are going to be the things that get us the three points, or get us that road point or that shutout on the road away from home. I think for us, it's just going to be down to that."

On what makes a good week of training:

Cropper: "Training like you play a game. For me, it's every player walking onto the field treating training as a game and walking off knowing that you've just put in a 90-minute shift, even if it's training for 75 minutes or however long it is. We really have to work hard and push each other and fight for the man next to you just like you do on a Saturday game."

[New England Revolution Defender Antonio Delamea](#)

On the importance of keeping a clean sheet in last Saturday's win against Philadelphia:

Delamea: "I think it's very important for the whole team, especially for us defenders and goalies. I think this is what we are in the team for. I think we had a great game as a whole team. We all defended very good, starting from attackers to the back line. We just need to keep this momentum. I think we're playing very good at the moment. We really look like a team. Maybe, this was the first game where we all played one for another. We just need to keep this going. In Chicago, we are expecting a very, very hard game, so we'll have to do our job in both ways – attacking and defending. For ourselves, this clean sheet [against Philadelphia] is very important. It's very good for confidence."

On replicating Saturday's defensive performance against Chicago this weekend:

Delamea: "Everything begins with good defense. We [have been] working very hard the last few weeks on our defensive shape. I think we really started to put this on the field the last few games. We just need to keep this going. We need to do our job. Every player has his own job on the field. If we do what [Head] Coach [Jay Heaps] expects from us, you can see we look very good on the field."

On the key to containing a versatile Chicago Fire attack:

Delamea: "They have maybe the best attacking line in the league. We know them. We already played two games. We know what to expect from them. Like I said before, every player knows what he needs to do. We are going to some different places in training to try to simulate some plays they make and try to do this defensive formation already here. We just need to put and keep this performance in training on the field. If we do it like this, I think we'll do very good against them."

[New England Revolution Midfielder Lee Nguyen](#)

On winning back-to-back games after a four-game winless run:

Nguyen: "I think we definitely finished our chances. I think that's seven goals in two games – that's good for the guys up front. I think what improved was our defensive shape. We were able to keep a clean sheet against Philly, so that was big. Going into [Saturday's] game against Chicago, we're going to need that and the same mentality and that same effort. It was basically the whole team just playing unselfishly – not just defensively, but offensively."

On turning sound, principled defensive play into goal-scoring opportunities:

Nguyen: "We were [doing that] in good spots. When we win those balls in certain areas, we're able to spring the attack. But I think what we did well was we were able to balance out our quick attacks and pick moments when we needed to hold the ball and keep the tempo going on at our own pace. That was good to see [against] Philly. We have to do that away from home now in Chicago."

On the attacking group's performance in last weekend's win against the Union:

Nguyen: "Kei [Kamara] put in a good shift, Teal [Bunbury] put in a good shift, Diego [Fagundez] did the same thing, and then Juan [Agudelo] did the same thing when he came in. Overall, everyone that stepped up that needed to step up. It's a big victory. I told you before [the July 22 match vs. LA] we needed to win both these games at home. It's playoff time now for us, because every point, every game is crucial. That's what we have to think going forward now."

On seeking a win against a difficult opponent of late in Chicago:

Nguyen: "We said that before the game going into Philly, the same thing. That's going to be the same in Chicago. Obviously, it's not going to be easy having to go to their home to get the result, but we don't like when a team can take us three games in a season. We're going to have to come and show up this weekend."

On the importance of quality training sessions leading into a match:

Nguyen: "It's huge. It's just a mentality. You've got to go into training like it's a game. Everyone is fighting for playing time. Everyone is healthy now, so you get that mentality. At the same time, you got to bring the intensity and that sharpness so when you come into the game, you're ready."

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