

REVOLUTION

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2021

[CLICK HERE](#) for postgame media assets that will be available shortly.

Revolution Win Second Straight at Home, 2-1, against Atlanta United FC *Carles Gil records goal and assist to continue Revs' unbeaten start through three games*

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – The New England Revolution (2-0-1; 7 pts.) defeated Atlanta United FC, 2-1, at Gillette Stadium on Saturday night. Brandon Bye opened the scoring in the 19th minute when he connected on an inch-perfect cross from Carles Gil and placed a headed shot inside of the near post. Atlanta's Marcelino Moreno converted a penalty kick in the 41st minute, which left the score level at the break. Tajon Buchanan won a penalty kick on the other side of halftime, and Carles Gil's successful bid from the spot in the 53rd minute lifted New England to its first ever win against Atlanta.

The Revolution move into sole possession of first place in the Eastern Conference by taking all three points from tonight's match. By collecting seven points through the campaign's first three games, New England has also matched the best three-game start to a season in club history, tying the mark set by the 2005 and 2009 Revs sides.

Carles Gil registered a goal and an assist in the same match for the fifth time in his MLS career. He owns one goal and two assists through the season's first three games, and has accrued 11 goals and 18 assists for his MLS career. Bye's goal is the fourth of his professional career, and his first since June 26, 2019 – a goal that was also assisted by Gil.

Midfielder Maciel became the first Revolution II alum to ever appear for the first team in tonight's match. The 21-year-old Brazilian, who signed with Revs II last year ahead of the team's inaugural season and started all 16 of its games, played 90 minutes and completed all 33 of his passes in central midfield in his MLS debut. He played alongside Matt Polster, who registered his 100th career MLS appearance in tonight's game.

Andrew Farrell also recorded a milestone, eclipsing Jay Heaps for third-most starts in club history with 239. Farrell marked the occasion by registering a secondary assist on Bye's first-half goal, his ninth career MLS assist.

New England returns to action on Saturday, May 8, when the team visits Nashville SC at Nissan Stadium. The match kicks off at 1:30 p.m. ET on myTV38, myRITV, 98.5 The Sports Hub, and in Portuguese on WBIX 1260 AM Nossa Radio USA.

POSTGAME NOTES

New England Revolution 2, Atlanta United FC 1 May 1, 2021 – Gillette Stadium (Foxborough, Mass.)

- The New England Revolution defeated Atlanta United at Gillette Stadium on Saturday night, 2-1, to improve to 2-0-1 on the season. The victory, New England's first over Atlanta in the series history, pushed the Revolution' all-time record against Atlanta United to 1-4-2.

- Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena's earned his first-career victory against Atlanta United. His record with New England moves to 18-10-17.
- Sporting Director and Head Coach **Bruce Arena** deployed a 4-2-3-1 for the first time this season with three changes in the Starting XI from last week's home opener against D.C. United. **DeJuan Jones, Maciel, and Tajon Buchanan** all started in place of **Christian Mafra, Wilfrid Kaptoum, and Gustavo Bou**.
- Midfielder **Carles Gil** registered the primary assist on Bye's first-half goal, his second helper of the season, and converted a second-half penalty kick in the second half for his first goal of the season. The tally was his 11th in the regular season and improved his record from the penalty spot to 5-for-7 in MLS.
- In a 90-minute effort, Gil finished with 93 touches, his sixth-highest total since joining the Revolution, and had a game-high five key passes.
- Defender **Brandon Bye** scored his first goal of the season, and fourth of his career, in the 17th minute of Saturday's contest. The goal was his first since June 26, 2019. Bye also recorded team highs in tackles (5), recoveries (9), and interceptions (2) as well as two clearances and duels won.
- First-year midfielder **Maciel** became the first Revolution II graduate to appear and start in a first-team match. The 21-year-old native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was signed to the MLS roster on March 22 and was the lone Revolution II player to start in all 16 games during the team's inaugural USL League One campaign in 2020.
- Maciel, the sixth different Revolution player to make his MLS debut this season, completed all 33 of his passes, the first time a Revolution player has finished with 100 percent passing accuracy completing 30 or more passes since both Teal Bunbury and Juan Agudelo both did so with 31 completed passes on Oct. 19, 2019, also against Atlanta.
- Forward **Tajon Buchanan** returned to the starting lineup after registering a nine-minute performance off the bench a week ago. Buchanan won a team-best nine duels and added five recoveries, two tackles, and a clearance and was fouled six times on the night.
- Defender **Andrew Farrell** recorded his first assist of the season on Bye's opening goal, the ninth of his MLS career. The assist was Farrell's first since Sept. 7, 2019.
- Farrell was in the Starting XI for the 239th time in his Revolution career, moving past **Jay Heaps** into third place in club history behind **Matt Reis** (253) and **Shalrie Joseph** (254). It was the 242nd appearance for Farrell with New England as well, moving him one shy of tying Heaps for fifth in club history and 19 away from matching Joseph and **Diego Fagundez** for the club record of 261.
- Midfielder **Matt Polster** made his 100th MLS appearance, playing 90 minutes and finishing the night with eight recoveries, three duels won, and two clearances.
- Forward **Adam Buksa** led the way with four shots, including two on target, to go along with two key passes and seven duels won.

GAME CAPSULE

REFEREE: Chris Penso.

AR1: Corey Parker; **AR2:** Jason White.

4th: Thomas Snyder;

Video Assistant Referee: Sorin Stoica.

Weather: 58 degrees and clear

Scoring Summary:

NE – Brandon Bye (Carles Gil, Andrew Farrell) 19'

ATL – Marcelino Moreno (Penalty Kick) 43'

NE – Carles Gil (Penalty Kick) 53'

Misconduct Summary:

ATL – Jake Mulraney (Yellow Card – Foul) 17'

ATL – Alan Franco (Yellow Card – Foul) 29'

ATL – Santiago Sosa (Yellow Card – Foul) 33'

NE – Brandon Bye (Yellow Card – Foul) 75'

ATL – Gabriel Heinze (Yellow Card – Dissent) 76'
NE – Matt Polster (Yellow Card – Foul) 90'+2

New England Revolution: Matt Turner; DeJuan Jones, Andrew Farrell, Henry Kessler, Brandon Bye; Matt Polster, Maciel; Arnór Traustason (Teal Bunbury 72'), Carles Gil ©, Tajon Buchanan (Tommy McNamara 72'); Adam Buksa.

Substitutes Not Used: Brad Knighton, Jon Bell, A.J. DeLaGarza, Christian Mafla, Scott Caldwell, Wilfrid Kaptoun, Edward Kizza

Atlanta United FC: Brad Guzan ©; Brooks Lennon, Anton Walkes, Alan Franco (Miles Robinson 46'), Jake Mulraney (Erik López 72'); Franco Ibarra (Ezequiel Barco 46'), Emerson Hyndman, Santiago Sosa; Jürgen Damm (George Bello 26'), Marcelino Moreno, Erick Torres (Josef Martínez 72').

Substitutes Not Used: Ben Lundgaard, Jack Gurr, Jackson Conway.

New England Revolution	Team Statistics	Atlanta United FC
14 (6)	Shots (on Target)	11 (4)
2	Blocked Shots	4
3	Saves	4
7	Corner Kicks	4
1	Offsides	2
15	Fouls	14
386 (81.1%)	Passes Attempted (% Completed)	489 (84.7%)

POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena

On Carles Gil's performance and whether he stepped up his level of play tonight:

Arena: "He played very well. I'm not sure if he brought it up a notch. That's how Carles [Gil] plays. He's a very good player. He's, in my opinion, one of the elite players in the league."

On the team's overall performance tonight:

Arena: "It was a real good performance. I think for 90 minutes we played well against a very good team. They're going to be a team that's going to contend for the MLS Cup this year. And they demanded that we play with quality tonight and you see the difference with this opponent this week, as compared to last weekend. A different kind of challenge. Atlanta [United] is a very good team and it required that we raise our level of play, and I think our guys responded very well."

On the performances of Maciel and Matt Polster in central midfield:

Arena: "I think Matt Polster, his last two games, have been simply outstanding. Winning balls, getting the ball off his feet quickly, getting it moving. And Maciel is just a terrific passer of the ball and he really complements him. Maciel sees plays early and one thing we lacked last year, for sure, is quicker passing out of those positions. And I think Maciel gives us that."

On the team's strong start to start the season:

Arena: "Yeah, it's a good start. Hopefully, the next 31 games go well also. This is a challenging schedule. It's going to get even more complicated once we start playing a number of games a week. But we needed to start off well, and we have. We needed to win games at home, which we have as well. So far, it's a good start. I know next week in Nashville is going to be a really, really challenging game."

On moving Carles Gil to the middle of the field more and if that is his best position:

Arena: “In all honesty, he played tonight the same way he played probably the last two games. He has the freedom to move around. Again, I’m not one of these people that’s big into heat maps. But I imagine if you did a heat map, you would find that Carles [Gil] probably played more away from the middle of the field than you may think. He played that position tonight the same way he’s played the previous positions the last two games.”

On the injury status of Gustavo Bou:

Arena: “He’s fine. He had a minor muscle injury. He’ll be back in full training on Monday.”

On the performance of Tajon Buchanan:

Arena: “That’s his best performance this year. I thought the opening game against Chicago [Fire FC], he didn’t play well. Last week against D.C. United when gave us 15 minutes, it was an improved performance. And tonight was very good. He’s a talented player and it’s good to see that he can understand what he needs to do on the field and be a little bit more composed. And he showed that tonight and played a very good game.”

On the performance of Maciel:

Arena: “He played very well. I thought he had an outstanding game. Good partnership with [Matt] Polster, for sure. His ball distribution was excellent and he defended quite well out of the position. So, we were very pleased with his performance.”

Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil (translated from Spanish)

On defeating Atlanta in the teams’ their first meeting since the 2019 playoffs, and if this was one of his best games with the Revolution:

Gil: “I think it was a different game, that playoff game. I’m not sure how many players in tonight’s starting 11 actually played in that playoff game, but it doesn’t matter here. We played well. We know that [this Atlanta side] is a very tough team. They play hard one-on-one throughout the entire field, and we knew we had to win those one-on-one individual battles to come away with the victory tonight and for us to come away with one more goal than they did. I think that was going to be the occasion of what kind of game it was.”

On missing Gustavo Bou tonight, and the team’s upcoming match against Nashville:

Gil: “We knew Gustavo [Bou] wouldn’t play. He’s got a knock, but he’s a good player. He gives us a lot. He marks up well and he’s tough for the opposing team. I think one of the improvements we’ve made this year is the competition that we have, and that’s important for us up top. We knew we had to start the season well – we didn’t do that last year. Now, we’re focused on preparing for Nashville and to come away with three points in that game.”

On if he knows Brad Guzan’s tendencies on penalty kicks from their time together at Aston Villa:

Gil: “It’s kind of funny, because yesterday I was talking with Matt Turner and we talked a little bit about that. The last two penalties that I took, I kind of put toward the center. He told me, ‘Hey, don’t do that again. Don’t do that for the next one.’ I paid attention to his advice, and honestly that goal I kind of have to give credit to Matt.”

On how much pride he takes in the defensive part of his game:

Gil: “I think we all have our defensive responsibilities. Logically, it’s very important that we all support one another. Last year, I think we demonstrated that we’re a really good defensive team and we’re heading there this year. This year, we’re getting there. We have to support each other both offensively and defensively, and that’s a very important aspect if you want to achieve important things this season.”

On Maciel’s MLS debut:

Gil: “I think he’s been good. He’s a different type of player. He’s different with the ball – he’s very smart. I understand him well. I like playing with him, and I think he’s going to help us. There’s a lot of competition in our team in the midfield. Wilfrid [Kaptoum] played well last week, Tommy [McNamara] and Scott

[Caldwell] are good. In this case, Maciel, he's been very special. He's been spectacular to start the season."

On how Matt Polster and Maciel allowed him to play higher up the field:

Gil: "It's important to have those players in the midfield. That's the base of the team. Today, they played at a very high level with and without the ball. We have options there and we'll rotate throughout the season, because it's a long season and we have to stay fresh. Honestly, tonight we had great performances from both Maciel and Matt [Polster]."

Revolution Defender Brandon Bye

On his first-half goal and the play of Carles Gil:

Bye: "We all know Carles [Gil], the capabilities he has on the ball and the vision he has. He gets the ball, gets it onto his right foot actually, gets his head up and sees me. I think it was like a recycled corner kicker or free kick or something like that. I was up the field and able to just get in front of my defender. Whenever he gets on the ball, all I always think is just run, because you know he can find you and he can deliver the final pass, so I made the run, and he was able to put it right on top of my head. So it's all credit to him. And obviously he finds the goal. Definitely a big-time player and he's always shown that."

On how pleased the team was with the performance:

Bye: "I'm pretty pleased. We came out and played a full 90 minutes. We were able to see out the game at the end of the game, not give up too many chances down the stretch, and really see out the game so that was a good sign from the boys. But everything's good, excited to get off to such a good start in the first two games and we hope to keep it rolling."

On Bruce Arena's halftime message:

Bye: "Yeah, it was stay true. Play the full 90 minutes because I think if we play the full 90 minutes to our capabilities that we can play with any team in the league and we showed that. I think it was keep going, keep pushing, and try to find the next goal obviously and see what we can do moving forward. So I think it was nothing new, but I think there was some confidence. Obviously unlucky with the goal that we gave up, but we just keep moving forward and leave it in the past."

On winning games in different ways:

Bye: "I think every game shows different ways we can play. At the end of the day, we won last week and won this week so that's important, winning different ways and showing that we can do that. It's just another building block and another step forward in the right direction."

On the team showing character in the win:

Bye: "Again, every game provides different obstacles and challenges that you have to get through and get over. Every team does the same thing, so I think it's a little character exactly in us just being able to fight through the adversity and get three points."

On how the team operates differently with Carles:

Bye: "I think he gives us a different dimension when he's on the right or in the middle or wherever he ends up. He can kind of flow wherever he wants to and find the game. That's his style and how he likes to get on the ball, so I think wherever he ends up, he's going to find the ball. Today, he started in the middle I guess, but when he's on the right he floats in the middle as well. I think it's just tactically how we're going to line up on the day."

On combining with Tajon Buchanan:

Bye: "Solid. Tajon [Buchanan] is always a great player, running at guys, getting them in foul trouble early. Sounds like basketball, but foul trouble early. He's always running at guys, getting them on their back foot, and just trying to create as many chances as he can. But Tajon's a great young player and he keeps growing into every game he plays, and he shows that."

MEDIA RESOURCES

[Media Website](#) | [Roster](#) | [Photo/Video](#) | [News](#)

Social: NERevolution | #NEReVs

COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

Communications Staff

Kaitlin Gangl Alden	Communications Director	(508) 549-0496	Media@revolutionssoccer.net KaitlinGA@revolutionssoccer.net
Adam Klionsky	Senior Communications Manager	(508) 455-7551	AdamK@revolutionssoccer.net
Scott Altman	Communications Coordinator	(508) 549-0533	ScottA@revolutionssoccer.net
Harold Rivera	Communications Coordinator (Bilingual)	(508) 404-0248	HaroldR@revolutionssoccer.net
Dan Shulman	Communications Associate	(508) 404-5677	DShulman@revolutionssoccer.net

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION • 1776 REVOLUTION WAY • FOXBOROUGH, MASS. 02035