

REVOLUTION

MEDIA RELEASE

Revolution Media Assets & Transcript: Bruce Arena and Omar Gonzalez (March 8, 2022)

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – The New England Revolution will begin their 2022 Scotiabank Concacaf Champions League campaign on Wednesday night, when the club welcomes Liga MX side Pumas UNAM to Gillette Stadium for Leg 1 of the Quarterfinal Round. The match kicks off at 8:00 p.m. ET and airs nationally on FS2 and TUDN, and locally on the radio via 1260 AM Nossa in Portuguese.

Following Tuesday's training session, Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach **Bruce Arena** and defender **Omar Gonzalez** met with the media via video press conference. View the links below to access today's interviews, a complete transcript, game notes for Wednesday's match, and other media assets.

Revolution Media Assets: March 8, 2022

- [SOUND: Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [SOUND: Revolution Defender Omar Gonzalez](#) (English & Spanish)
- [GAME NOTES: CCL Quarterfinal Leg 1 – Revolution vs. Pumas UNAM \(3/9\)](#)
- [VIDEO: Training B-Roll](#)
- [Additional Revolution Media Assets](#)

Revolution Media Schedule: March 8-9		
Date	Media Availability	Notes/Links
Tuesday, March 8	Video Press Conference feat. Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena and defender Omar Gonzalez	VIDEO HERE
Wednesday, March 9	8:00 p.m. ET – Kickoff vs. Pumas UNAM Concacaf Champions League Quarterfinals (Leg 1) TV: Fox Sports 2, TUDN Radio: 1260 AM Nossa (Portuguese) ~10:15 p.m. – Postgame Press Conference featuring Bruce Arena and two Revolution players	RSVP via email CLICK HERE to Register
<i>Subject to change; Spanish translation available</i>		

[Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)

On how the timing of Concacaf Champions League affects MLS clubs:

Arena: "Well, the timing is poor for MLS clubs. I recall when we won it with D.C. United, we were playing in the summer months, which was obviously to our advantage. This is not. But having said that, I think

MLS teams have done well to date. For our team, this is certainly a challenge. We aren't a team with a lot of experience with games at the international level. So, this will be a real challenge. The different style of opponent, different officiating, things that we're not used to, it'll be interesting to see how players are able to adjust and try to be successful tomorrow."

On Matt Turner's injury status:

Arena: "He got hurt in a practice game against LAFC in LA, whenever that was in early February, I don't know the exact date. Just a foot/ankle injury. Timeframe? Probably a couple of weeks from now that he'll be available."

On Pumas UNAM and their style of play:

Arena: "It's an interesting question. [Pumas UNAM] is a good team. I think they're mid-table right now in their league [Liga MX]. I think last year, they were obviously closer to the top, but still early. I think they're eight games in, in Mexico right now. They're a fairly experienced team, especially in their top-six position. [They] play out of a 4-4-2, a team that's pretty solid going forward and good on attacking set pieces. Like most Mexican teams, disciplined, technically good, and experienced. So, for our team, it'll be a great challenge."

On his concern over player fitness with five games in 15 days:

Arena: "It'll be challenging, for sure. I think playing this game tomorrow night and then a turnaround for Saturday is going to be challenging. And then to travel to Mexico City and then a quick turnaround again for Charlotte FC, it's certainly going to be challenging. We're going to have to rotate our team in some manner, and we haven't decided how we're going to do that yet. I think the best way to attack this is simply go one game at a time. So, we'll play the game tomorrow night, Thursday and Friday we'll assess our team and make a decision for Saturday, and that'll be the case as we go to Mexico and then to Charlotte. So, yes, it'll be challenging. There are concerns about our fitness. I think even doing this mid-season would be really challenging. So, it'll be interesting to see how we come out of these four games."

On the importance of being in a continental competition:

Arena: "I think it's important for any of the MLS clubs to have these opportunities and to see how our league sizes up in Concacaf. And certainly, for this franchise that has had very few opportunities at this level, I think it's an important game for our club."

On getting off to a good start with inclement weather in the forecast:

Arena: "Well, I think snow and cold conditions, I would have to think, they are favorable for our team. But having said that, this team is a good team, and good teams deal with difficult opponents, difficult conditions in the right way. So, it'll be challenging. We have to play well for the conditions to be a factor tomorrow. It's important. If we lose this game tomorrow, the probability of us advancing is going to be very slim. So, we need to go ahead and win the game."

On the importance of having players with prior international experience:

Arena: "I think it's important. I think, in our lineup tomorrow without Matt Turner, we have a goalkeeper that hasn't played in international games. Probably on our roster, [Gustavo] Bou played against Mexican clubs, so that counts. [Arnór] Traustason and [Sebastian] Lletget and [Adam] Buksa are international, so they have experienced at these levels and everyone else does not. So, it'll be interesting to see how we hold up to that."

On International Women's Day and how the club is promoting opportunities for women:

Arena: "Well, my experiences with women in sports today, I think the women in broadcasting and journalism have been absolutely fabulous. They've made a great contribution to sport in our country in our club, I'd love to see more women. You're one of the women working here in the club, the only one I know actually Elizabeth [Pehota] and you do an outstanding job. I'm hopeful that women continue to play a role, not only in this club but in Major League Soccer. I think diversity is one of the strong points in our league. So hopefully, that continues at all levels, and that women not only are involved in communications and digital, but also in the front offices, in the training rooms, and eventually coaching as well. So hopefully, we can continue to make progress with women both at the club level and at MLS as well."

Revolution Defender Omar Gonzalez

On what information he can share with his teammates about playing in SCCL matches:

Translated from Spanish

Gonzalez: "What I can tell them is that in these two games you have to raise the level of play a little more, be a little more focused, play with a slightly quicker pace, read the game a little quicker, be more intense. I know from my experience that in these games a lot of strange things happen. You have to be intense and stick to your plan. We need to be ready to play at home and on the road. We have to be ready to do what we need to do here at home."

On if he expects Pumas to come out attacking:

Gonzalez: "It's hard to say exactly what they might try and do, but we'll be prepared for anything they come at us with. Whether they want to sit back and counter, that just means that myself and the rest of the backline has to be really focused when we're in the attack in case we lose the ball, be ready to defend, and put immediate pressure to delay the game or whatever we have to do to keep them out of our net. If they do decide to come here and press and play higher lines, then we'll be prepared for that too. I think for us, we're focused on ourselves. We're focused on how we approach the game, on how we show up, and we're going to make them react to us."

On how he's gotten acclimated to his teammates:

Gonzalez: "Yeah, I've been really enjoying the preseason and the start of the regular season. The guys are great, the locker room is amazing. We have really good human beings here. A lot of characters, and so they made me feel welcome right away. And on the playing side, if the other side goes well, it makes it easier to just integrate yourself on the field and be able to fit right in. And we have some very good quality players, so when you play with good players it makes it that much easier. And so, the whole backline has a lot of strengths, they're very dynamic, they read the game well. So, for me, it's been easy to begin to get familiar with them and start building that chemistry."

On how important it is to win the home leg of the Quarterfinal Round:

Translated from Spanish

Gonzalez: "For us, it's important to get a favorable result because we're at home and we have the advantage with the crowd. We have to use those advantages, but we also need to play well. We have to score goals when we have chances in front of goal. It's important to go to Mexico with a win. It's tough to play there, I have experience playing there. The good thing is we aren't playing at noon like Pumas normally does. But they have advantages like their altitude and their field. It's very important to get this win."

On how his experience will help the team and how big a match this is for the club:

Gonzalez: "I think it's very important to just start off on the right foot, and my hope for tomorrow is to start the game off strong, to go into halftime even or ahead, and just build from there. For the guys who have the lack of experience, they're going to get it tomorrow. So, they shouldn't be timid, they should go out and play as if it's just another game. Of course, there's more on the line, but like I said earlier, we have a lot of quality and so we have to bring the game to them. We have to be the protagonist, and so yes, I can do what I can to tell them what it's going to be like, but at the end of the day it's just another game. And every game that we step out, whether it be a league game or preseason game, we always step out with that mentality of playing our football. So, if we do that tomorrow, then I think we'll be okay."

On if the United States-Mexico rivalry will be on display tomorrow:

Gonzalez: "Yeah, I mean, I think more of it comes out of just the leagues: MLS versus Liga MX. I think that's more of the case because it's not just Americans, not just Mexicans on the field, we have people from all over the world. So, you can't just dumb it down to just USA vs. Mexico, it's not, it's more to that. But yeah, there is going to be that. We want to win this tournament. We want to be the first MLS team to win Concacaf [Champions League] in its current format, and so it's going to be chippy and the Mexican teams have always wanted and so yeah, it's going to be very interesting, it's going to be exciting, and I'm really looking forward to playing tomorrow."

On the importance of communication on the backline and the forecast tomorrow:

Gonzalez: “Yeah, I think with the snow, the circumstances are going to be for both teams. For us, can we have that mentality of just 'So what? Who cares if this is happening, who cares if it's snowing, if it's hailing or whatever.' We still have to play the game. The other team has to go through it too. So, can we have that strong mentality of it doesn't matter what's happening, we're going to come at you with all we've got. And in terms of the communication part, communication solves a lot of issues. And so, the more vocal all of us can be, the more things can get solved in a quicker manner, maybe save us some energy if we can use our voices rather than have to run those extra five yards or things like that. It can manifest itself in different ways. And so, the communication part is very important and it's something that that myself, [Andrew] Farrell, and whoever's on that field has to be ready to be tuned in, locked in and ready to go.”

On the characteristics of the Revolution on his first impression:

Gonzalez: “Yeah, I've been just blown away by my teammates since arriving in January. Just the amount of talent, the amount of firepower that we have on this team and just the selflessness is just unbelievable. The willingness to work for each other, to never stop working hard, and to have each other's back. I think there was articles written about this last year, about just the locker room, the amount of good guys we have on this team and so reading about it is one thing and wondering what it's really like. Then seeing it firsthand, it's just amazing this group of guys that we have. I think that locker room, that culture that we have, can translate to really good things on the field. And so, we're looking to start tomorrow, to get an important win at home, and to see how far we can go.”

On what he was wearing around his neck during last week's match:

Gonzalez: “And answering the second part of your question. What I was wearing is called the Q-Collar. It basically protects your brain on the inside. So, I'm wearing this collar on the outside, it's putting a little bit of pressure on the vein, which doesn't allow the blood to flow out as quickly. If you're familiar with BFR, blood flow restriction, it just keeps a little bit more blood in there and there's less room for your brain to move around and bounce around, so your head is just that much more protected, and your brain is much more protected. So, if you do get hit, and I head a lot of balls, my brain is just that much more protected. And so for me, that's really important for the long term, brain health, mental health, and just being as safe as possible.”

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