

REVOLUTION

MEDIA RELEASE

Revolution Media Assets & Transcript: Bruce Arena & Matt Polster (May 5, 2022)

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – The New England Revolution will host the Columbus Crew on Saturday night at Gillette Stadium. The match kicks off at 7:30 p.m. ET and airs on TV38, myRITV (Rhode Island), and Cozi TV (Western Mass.). Saturday’s contest also airs on the radio via 98.5 The Sports Hub and 1260 AM Nossa Radio in Portuguese. Coverage begins at 7:00 p.m. ET with “Revolution Kickoff” on TV38.

Following Thursday’s training session, Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach **Bruce Arena** and midfielder **Matt Polster** addressed the media in a virtual press conference. View the links below to access footage of today’s interviews in addition to a complete transcript and additional media assets.

Following Saturday’s match, Bruce Arena and two Revolution players will be available in a postgame press conference from Gillette Stadium (~9:30 p.m. ET). [CLICK HERE](#) to participate.

Revolution Media Assets: May 5, 2022

- [SOUND: Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena \(5/5\)](#)
- [SOUND: Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster \(5/5\)](#)
- [GAMES NOTES: May 7 vs. Columbus Crew](#)
- [PHOTOS: Revolution Training Photos](#)
- [VIDEO: Training B-Roll](#)
- [Additional Revolution Media Assets](#)

Revolution Media Schedule: May 5 – May 7		
Date	Media Availability	Notes/Links
Thursday, May 5	Video Press Conference feat. Sporting Director and Head Coach Bruce Arena & Midfielder Matt Polster	VIDEO HERE
Friday, May 6	11:00 a.m. ET – Training Access	RSVP via email
Saturday, May 7	7:00 p.m. ET- “Revolution Kickoff” on TV38 7:30 p.m. ET – Kickoff vs. Columbus Crew MLS Regular Season Match #10	RSVP via email

	<p>TV: TV38, myRITV, Cozi TV Radio: 98.5 The Sports Hub, 1260 AM Nossa ~9:30 p.m. – Postgame Press Conference</p>	<p>CLICK HERE to participate</p>
<p><i>Subject to change; Spanish translation available</i></p>		

Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena

On if the team’s confidence has improved after last week’s win over Miami:

Arena: “I think it’s still early. I think we need to get to the midway point in the season, see where we are. It’s early for everybody. I think you can see in the league, it’s pretty tight from top to bottom. A few teams are a little bit ahead, and everyone else is within striking distance. So, who knows where we are and hopefully we’re heading in the right direction.”

On how beneficial it is to have the full Starting XI back at full strength:

Arena: “It’s been better. I don’t know if it’s been a month of that, but it’s been better and the weather’s finally cooperating a little bit in Boston and so our training schedule and the way we do things is a little bit more consistent now, so hopefully that’s a positive as we forward.”

On if Gustavo Bou will be available this weekend:

Arena: “Not likely. Probably a week away.”

On what sets the Seattle Sounders apart from the rest of MLS:

Arena: “Well I don’t know if they’re set apart from the rest of the league, they’re certainly in the upper tier of teams in the league. What they do well, they have a great fan base as a starting point. I think when you play at home and average, whatever they average which is pretty good, and last night they had 68,000. That’s pretty impressive, but they’ve done a real good job in recruiting their designated players and their roster. So, they have a good roster. They’ve had consistency with the coaching staff there. [Seattle Head Coach] Brian [Schmetzer] has been there a number of years. They know what they’re about as a club. They have a way of playing, a great following in the city and I think that allows them to recruit well also. They’re one of the few teams that can survive playing on an artificial field in a football stadium because they do a lot of things right. And to answer your question, I don’t think there’s anything they do wrong, so it’s a real positive so that’s why they’re consistently good year in and year out.”

On his assessment of Columbus and the challenge he anticipates from the Crew:

Arena: “I really haven’t followed them that closely. Obviously, I caught up a little bit this week and I know their record, 3-3-3, I believe. I think they started the season with two wins, got in a little bit of a slump and won last weekend and had a draw in Kansas City. But their team is very similar to their team last year. And [Lucas] Zelarayan is an excellent player, [Derrick] Etienne Jr. is having a good start, [Darlington] Nagbe is one of the best midfielders in the league. They got an experienced goalkeeper [Eloy Room], so they’ve had a pretty solid start. And again, they’ve benefitted, the ownership has done a wonderful job there with their training facilities and their new stadium so they’re a team that’s going to be good I think year in and year out. I don’t even know did they make the playoffs last year? Columbus? I can’t even remember, but they won the cup the year before. So obviously they’re seeking to be a little bit more consistent and they will be. They have everything in place to be real good.”

On Matt Polster’s role and what he brings to the team:

Arena: “He’s been pretty consistent. I’m not even sure if he’s missed a game to date, perhaps it was one game, so he’s been consistent. He plays an important role in the midfield as our number six. He’s good at winning balls and he’s good in possession, and he’s solid. He’s very verbal on the field and we’re a team that’s not real verbal, so that’s a real positive as well. And he’s appreciated by his teammates, all the hard work for all the hard work he gives us game in and game out.”

Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster

On whether it feels like the team has turned things around following the win over Miami:

Polster: "I'm not sure if we've turned it around necessarily. I think I've said this last time, I think we've played well throughout the course of the season. I think it's just been mental and individual mistakes and moments that have kind of let us down and drop points here and there, but I don't think it's we've had, yes the season has been a poor start but I think we've played well through the course of the season so far and you know, I think once we can string up together a couple solid results you know, I think then we'll turn the corner but right now it's just one win that we have so we need to focus a lot on Columbus and try and get to three points there."

On making the most of home games and if he'll be watching the Rangers in the UEFA Europa League semifinal:

Polster: "Yes, I think that's really important when you're playing at home, you're playing in front of your fans, that you produce three points week in and week out and we did that really well last year and now we need to kind of keep doing that this year. And to your second question, yes, I'll be tuning in. Obviously, it's a big match for [Rangers]. They've done well all season. So hopefully they can turn the tide a little bit tonight, get a win and get into the finals."

On the importance of in-game communication:

Polster: "It's extremely important, I think that will very key this weekend. They have a lot of players, they have a really good system where they're very intricate in their passing and their movements, so to be vocal within the group, explaining to players where to be in certain moments and solid defensively will be very important. So, we just need to keep that up as a group. I think in moments we're doing much better on the defensive side of the ball, and I think that showed against Miami."

On playing alongside Tommy MacNamara in central midfield:

Polster: "Yeah, he provides a lot obviously, he sures us up a little bit more. You know, he's really solid on the ball and he positionally is very good, so it secures us a little bit more obviously we were getting countered a little bit here and there and with two defensive midfielders, it makes it a little more difficult to break us down where we're just much more secure in moments of transition. And it's freed up, I think, Carles [Gil]. I think it allows him to float around the pitch a little bit better and pick his moments when he wants to drop deep or when he wants to get into the attack. So I think it's allowed players to gel well within that system and it showed against Miami."

On Revolution Academy and Revolution II players advancing to the first team:

Polster: "I think as a collective you know, we try and push those guys. We know they have talent we can see it in training. Obviously, Tico [Damian Rivera] got to show that moment in the game and he's done that multiple times in training. He's arguably one of the most annoying players to play in training. I try and kick him as much as possible so he gets used to it in games. Noel [Buck]'s been very outstanding. I think when he comes into himself and gains that confidence at this level, I think he'll show really well. Ryan [Spaulding]'s done really well as well at leftback and I think it's a tough spot for him with DeJuan [Jones] in front of him, but when he has come to the games, he's done really well for us. So those guys have a lot of good talent, good skill. It just takes experience to play at this level, so they need those reps and they need those minutes to feel comfortable, but they've all done really well so far."

On having goalkeeper Matt Turner and defender Henry Kessler back in the Starting XI:

Polster: "Yeah, I think Henry [Kessler] and [Andrew] Farrell share a good relationship on the field. Obviously, they played together all last season and they were pretty sound defensively and they gel with each other, so Henry's been solid. He's always been solid for us. He reads the game really well. He sniffs out danger in certain moments, and he's good in the air and those things have played a big part in how we play. He's super good defensively one vs. one. Sometimes we leave them one vs. one in the back and Farrell and Henry have to deal with that a little bit and they do a great job with that, so hats off to them and they've done that really well. And [Matt] Turner, you know, he's okay. He's okay to have back, but

he's a great goalkeeper. He just makes the group feel comfortable. It's hard to explain but you could tell in the Miami game guys just felt more comfortable on the field. It's hard to explain but that's what it felt like to me.”

MEDIA RESOURCES

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