

REVOLUTION

MEDIA RELEASE

Revolution Game Notes & Media Assets: (May 23, 2022)

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – The New England Revolution will travel to face New York City FC in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Round of 16 on Wednesday, May 25. The rematch of last year's Eastern Conference Semifinal will kick off at 7:30 p.m. ET at Belson Stadium in Jamaica N.Y., streaming nationwide on [ESPN+](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to view Revolution game notes in PDF format featuring updated rosters, statistics, club news, and notes.

On Monday, the New England Revolution announced the signing of midfielder **Esmir Bajraktarević** (EZ-meer BY-rack-TARE-a-VITCH) to a Homegrown Player contract through the 2025 MLS season with an additional one-year club option. Per the league's [roster regulations](#), Bajraktarević will be eligible to play in MLS competition one year after he joined the Revolution Academy beginning in August 2022.

Following Monday's training session, Revolution defenders **Jon Bell** and **Ryan Spaulding** addressed the media to preview the match at New York City FC. View the links below to access footage of today's interviews as well as a complete transcript and additional media assets.

Following Wednesday's match, Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena along with two Revolution players will be available in a postgame press conference from Belson Stadium (~9:30 p.m. ET). [CLICK HERE](#) to join.

Revolution Media Assets: May 23, 2022

- [SOUND: Revolution Defender Jon Bell \(5/23\)](#)
- [SOUND: Revolution Defender Ryan Spaulding \(5/23\)](#)
- [SOUND: Revolution Homegrown Player Esmir Bajraktarević](#)
- [GAMES NOTES: May 25 vs. New York City FC](#)
- [PHOTOS: Revolution Training Photos](#)
- [VIDEO: Training B-Roll](#)
- [Additional Revolution Media Assets](#)

Revolution Media Schedule: May 23 – May 28		
Date	Media Availability	Notes/Links
Monday, May 23	Video Soundbytes feat. Revolution defenders Jon Bell and Ryan Spaulding and Homegrown Player signing Esmir Bajraktarević	VIDEO HERE
Tuesday, May 24	11:00 a.m. ET – Training Access *TRAVEL DAY*	RSVP via email

Wednesday, May 25	<p>7:30 p.m. ET – Kickoff at New York City FC Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Round of 16 Streaming: ESPN+ Radio: WBIX 1260 AM Nossa Radio</p> <p>~9:30 p.m. – Postgame Press Conference</p>	<p>CLICK HERE to participate.</p>
Thursday, May 26	<p>11:00 a.m. ET – Training Access</p>	<p>RSVP via email</p>
Friday, May 27	<p>11:00 a.m. ET – Training Access</p> <p>11:30 a.m. ET – Video Press Conference feat. Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena and a Revolution player (TBD)</p>	<p>RSVP via email</p> <p>CLICK HERE to participate.</p>
Saturday, May 28	<p>7:30 p.m. ET – Kickoff vs. Philadelphia Union MLS Regular Season Match #13 TV: WSBK-TV38, myRITV, CoziTV Radio: 98.5 The Sports Hub, 1260 AM Nossa</p> <p>~9:30 p.m. – Postgame Press Conference</p>	<p>RSVP via email</p> <p>CLICK HERE to join.</p>
<p><i>Subject to change; Spanish translation available upon request</i></p>		

Revolution Midfielder Esmir Bajraktarević

On signing his Homegrown Player contract:

Bajraktarević: “It was obviously really exciting, but I feel like it was kind of like a motivation, because you’re already at that level and you really just want to get started.”

On if he envisioned his rapid rise upon joining the club’s Academy last summer:

Bajraktarević: “Honestly, yes. I was expecting it. I feel like everything came kind of fast, but I have to stay level-headed because a lot of these things, especially when they come quickly, can get to people’s heads. So, I had to stay humble, but I definitely was expecting it, for sure.”

On his development with Revolution II:

Bajraktarević: “Revs II is great. It helps a lot of players, especially now we’ve seen Tico [Damian Rivera] and how he’s done, and it’s great. Then ever since coming up here and training with the first team, obviously I have Carles Gil playing in my position and I’ve learned a lot from him. I’m learning something new every day and it’s great.”

On advice from Bruce Arena and Curt Onalfo on his development process:

Bajraktarević: “They just tell me always, if you’re going to do something, do it at 100 percent. And be confident, because they’re not going to be mad at you if you mess up or make a mistake. Obviously, we’re all young still. They just told me to keep trying new things and be confident.”

On the possibility that he could debut for the first team in Wednesday’s U.S. Open Cup match:

Bajraktarević: “I’m definitely excited. I’m looking forward to taking advantage of the opportunity for sure.”

On how comfortable he feels with the first team:

Bajraktarević: “I’m actually really comfortable. A lot of the guys, especially the core players that have been here for a while like [Andrew] Farrell, Matt [Turner], [Adam] Buksa and all them, they all really understand that I’m young still. They’ve been really welcoming and they’re great people to be around.”

On any veterans who have taken him under their wing:

Bajraktarević: “Yeah, definitely. I feel like [Andrew] Farrell, obviously when we play like 11-on-11 in a scrimmage, he’s always the guy leading and is always positive and keeps everybody going.”

Revolution Defender Jon Bell

On returning to action during Saturday’s match:

Bell: “It felt good. You know, being out for so long, watching from the sidelines, it definitely hurts and you just have to be patient, make sure your body’s ready. For me to get a couple minutes out there felt great.”

On carrying momentum after Saturday’s 3-2 win at FC Cincinnati:

Bell: “It’s going to be good. I think that win was definitely important for us, especially getting a road win. After a lot of hard challenges, a lot of 2-2 ties, to pull out and get that last-minute goal was crucial for us. Especially seeing how we have two games left before the break, it’s good momentum to put forward.”

On the mentality heading into a tournament game:

Bell: “I think it’s important that we go into this game with the right mentality. Especially, you know, we bounced out of the Champions League early so this can be a redemption road for us to get back in there.”

On rotating players as the team navigates a two-game week:

Bell: “It’s all about that ‘next man up’ mentality. I think coach puts that in us a lot, saying that he’s going to have guys that he’s going to rotate in. So, for us it’s just being the next man up and making sure we get the job done.”

On matching up against New York City:

Bell: “I mean, anytime we play that team it’s always an interesting game. Especially a team from New York, they like to be rowdy, they like to be aggressive. So, we just have to match their mentality. We can’t back down from any challenge, win each 50-50 ball.”

On the playing surface at Belson Stadium:

Bell: “We don’t know a lot yet but we have heard that it’s different from a usual playing field. In that case, honestly, you just have to go back to the basics of handling everything you can control. The field is one thing that we can’t dictate, so we just have to be prepared for that.”

Revolution Defender Ryan Spaulding

On building off a dramatic road win last Saturday night:

Spaulding: “Yeah, I mean that’s huge win. Getting three points on the road in a pretty intense environment like it is in Cincinnati, and then with the delays and stuff, just being able to get out there and put in a good solid performance to get the three points, obviously that’s massive. Especially with the games being this tight, you can kind of ride this wave of momentum and hopefully we show up well on Wednesday.”

On the mentality and approach ahead of Wednesday’s U.S. Open Cup match:

Spaulding: “Exactly, it’s huge. Being a knockout game, you really have to be in it from minute one and go as long as it takes. You never know if you’ll need a winner, so we’re going to go in with that mentality, win our duels, beat the guys we’re going against individually, and put in a really solid team performance.”

On the opportunity for depth players to step up:

Spaulding: “I think just based off how we’ve been training, guys are ready to step up. Obviously, with it being tight games like this, you need guys who maybe don’t play a ton in the regular season of MLS that can step into these spots, keep the same level, keep the guys putting, and again, put ourselves in the best position to get a win.”

On the challenges of facing New York City FC:

Spaulding: “Obviously, it’s a talented team and no matter who they put out we know it will be a strong lineup. We’re going to have our mentality of no matter who we see on the other side of the field, we’re going to go at it 100 percent and go out with that mentality. That’s the way it should be.”

On playing at Belson Stadium:

Spaulding: “Not too much. We’ve all been playing for many years and have played on tons of different surfaces. You get out there to warm up, kind of feel it out, and come game time you’re ready to go.”

MEDIA RESOURCES

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

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