

REVOLUTION

MEDIA RELEASE

Revolution Media Assets & Transcript: Bruce Arena on Giacomo Vrioni (July 5, 2022)

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – On Tuesday morning, the New England Revolution announced the acquisition of forward **Giacomo Vrioni** (JA-co-MO vree-OWN-nee) from Italian Serie A club Juventus FC and signed the Italy native and Albania National Team striker to a Designated Player contract through the 2025 MLS season with an additional one-year club option.

Following Tuesday's training session, Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach **Bruce Arena** addressed the media in a virtual press conference to discuss the signing of Vrioni. View the links below to access footage of today's interviews in addition to a complete transcript, game notes, and additional media assets.

New England (6-5-7; 25 pts.) resumes the 2022 MLS season on Saturday, July 9 when the club visits New York City FC at Yankee Stadium. The match kicks off at 1:00 p.m. ET and airs nationally on Univision in Spanish, while streaming via Twitter in English. Saturday's contest also airs locally on the radio via 98.5 The Sports Hub and 1260 AM Nossa Radio in Portuguese.

Revolution Media Assets: July 5, 2022

- [DOWNLOAD: Giacomo Vrioni Photos & Highlights](#)
- [SOUND: Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena \(7/5\)](#)
- [POSTGAME NOTES & ASSETS: July 3 vs. FC Cincinnati](#)
- [VIDEO: Training B-Roll](#)
- [Additional Revolution Media Assets](#)

Revolution Media Schedule: July 5 – 9		
Date	Media Availability	Notes/Links
Tuesday, July 5	Bruce Arena Virtual Press Conference	VIDEO HERE
Wednesday, July 6	11:00 a.m. ET – Training Access	RSVP via email
Thursday, July 7	11:00 a.m. ET – Training Access 12:00 p.m. – Video Press Conference feat. Revolution Players (TBA)	RSVP via email CLICK HERE to participate.

Friday, July 8	11:00 a.m. ET – Training Access	RSVP via email
Saturday, July 9	1:00 p.m. ET – Kickoff at New York City FC MLS Regular Season Match #19 TV: Univision (Spanish), Twitter.com (English) Radio: 98.5 The Sports Hub, 1260 AM Nossa ~3:00 p.m. – Postgame Media Availability	RSVP via email CLICK HERE to participate.
<i>Subject to change; Spanish translation available upon request</i>		

Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena

On the addition of Giacomo Vrioni:

Arena: “Giacomo [Vrioni] is a player we've looked at recently. There were a number of players we were looking at, mainly attacking players for our third designated player position, and as we went through the process and did background work on Giacomo, it became apparent that he was going to be a very good choice for our club. And we had to go through negotiations with Juventus for a while to see if it was something we could make happen and we were fortunate, over the last couple of weeks, we could come to terms with both the club and player, and he's here. He is going to play the striker position, the number nine position which was obviously occupied previously by Adam Buksa, and I think he's a good option in that position and gives us some strength there now with Gustavo Bou as well, and Jozy Altidore, so we feel good about that. Giacomo is a left-footed player primarily, has good size, about 6-foot-2, 185 pounds, and like all players, he will take a little time to make an adjustment to our league and our club and our country and city, but we think over time he's going to fit in here quite well.”

On the qualities he was looking for in a new Designated Player:

Arena: “We were looking for an attacking player, whether it was a midfield player or a striker, and obviously those positions required some different qualities for sure, but in the end, we felt that we had a good opportunity to bring a number nine who could be very successful in this league, and that's why we brought him in. Giacomo, physically, has good size. He runs well in and around the penalty area. He's a left-footed player, as I said. He had an outstanding goal-scoring record this year in the Austrian league and we did make note of the fact that a number of players that have come from that league in MLS have done well, so we feel it's a good fit.”

On when Vrioni will be available to make his Revolution debut:

Arena: “He'll be available once he gets his visa, and you never know how long that takes. We think it might take two weeks from last week when we signed him, so he could be here probably mid-July, maybe a couple of days after. That said, maybe a couple of days before that. It just depends on the visa process.”

On how long the Revolution have been monitoring Vrioni:

Arena: “I think about a couple of months, hasn't been long term. We have been looking for a player since the last transfer window. I think the last one ended, I'm not mistaken, the first week in May. If I can recall, that's when we brought Djordje Petrović here and once that transfer window ended, we began looking for an attacking player for this next window.”

On the Revolution's increased prominence in the global transfer market and how he sells the New England Revolution to prospective new players:

Arena: “This is new for the Revolution. I think we're trying real hard to move the club forward. We realize that we've been a little bit behind in a lot of areas and we're trying to catch up. I think over the last year or two, we've done a better job with our everyday environment here with our new training facility. Eventually,

we're going to move into a new stadium, and I think that's going to help us with our visibility in our community and expanding our fan base, and that will one day make Boston I think a prime choice for many players around the world. In the case of Giacomo and some of our previous designated players, we can sell them on the fact that we now have a history as a club where we develop players and move players on to Europe if that is their ambitions. I think that was the case with Adam Buksa when we brought him in, certainly will be the case with Giacomo. Matt Turner has now recently left, as has Tajon Buchanan, so we are one of the few clubs in MLS, not that there aren't a number that do it as well, that can develop players and move them on to what they believe are better opportunities for them in Europe, so that's certainly a selling point."

On how the Giacomo Vrioni signing affects Jozy Altidore's role moving forward:

Arena: "We're going to continue on a daily basis with our team and give players the opportunities that they warrant, so we have no set schedule for him or other players right now. We're in the business of preparing for the next game and going with the players that we think give us the best opportunity to be successful and Jozy [Altidore] fits into that category."

On if the club considered targeting a Young Designated Player in order to explore other U-22 Initiative signings, especially given the immediate success of U-22 midfielder Dylan Borrero:

Arena: "First of all, every case is different. That doesn't mean because you have a successful U-22, the next U-22 would be successful as well. We think this is a player that can help us in the short term as well as long term and that is why the decision was made. Personally, I don't believe that having three U-22s is the way to go for where our club is right now."

MEDIA RESOURCES

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

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