

REVOLUTION

MEDIA RELEASE

Revolution Media Assets & Transcript: Bruce Arena & Matt Polster, (August 26, 2022)

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – The New England Revolution begin a three-game home stretch on Sunday night, when the club welcomes the LA Galaxy to Gillette Stadium. The match kicks off at 8:00 p.m. ET on WSBK-TV38, myRITV, 98.5 The Sports Hub, and 1260 AM Nossa Radio in Portuguese.

On Friday morning, Sporting Director and Head Coach **Bruce Arena** and midfielder **Matt Polster**, who signed a two-year contract extension this week, met virtually with the media from Montreal to preview Sunday's match. View the links below to access footage of today's interviews in addition to a complete transcript, game notes, and additional media assets.

Revolution Media Assets: August 26, 2022

- [GAME NOTES: August 28 vs. LA Galaxy](#)
- [SOUND: Revolution Head Coach Bruce Arena \(8/26\)](#)
- [SOUND: Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster \(8/26\)](#)
- [VIDEO: Training B-Roll](#)
- [Additional Revolution Media Assets](#)

| Revolution Media Schedule: August 26 – 28 | | |
|--|--|---|
| Date | Media Availability | Notes/Links |
| Friday, August 26 | Video Press Conference feat. Bruce Arena and Matt Polster | VIDEO HERE |
| Saturday, August 27 | 11:00 a.m. ET – Training Access | RSVP via email |
| Sunday, August 28 | <p>8:00 p.m. – Kickoff vs. LA Galaxy MLS Regular Season Match #29 TV: WSBK-myTV38, myRITV (Rhode Island) Radio: 98.5 The Sports Hub, 1260 AM Nossa</p> <p>~10:00 p.m. – Postgame Press Conference <i>Open Locker Room Access to follow</i></p> | RSVP via email CLICK HERE to view |
| <i>Subject to change; Spanish translation available upon request</i> | | |

Revolution Head Coach Bruce Arena

On Matt Polster's contract extension:

Arena: "Well, Matt's been a good midfielder for us the last couple of years and he still has many good years ahead in his career and he's a valuable asset to our team, so we thought it was important to sign him."

On if the full Starting XI has returned to training:

Arena: "I doubt that. We are still short a number of players, so no, but it's better. This week, we have some reserves that can help us. We've been shorthanded for a while now and it's getting a little bit better and hopefully as we move into the month of September we'll be at full speed."

On facing his former club, the LA Galaxy:

Arena: "Well, it's always interesting facing a former team. I saw it with D.C. United and we played them a couple of weeks ago and I really enjoyed my time in D.C. as I did in LA. LA was a great club to work for. They're built to win championships and that was a great experience, and we had a lot of success, so I'm looking forward to the game."

On the upcoming three-game homestand:

Arena: "Obviously any positive points we get out of these next three games are going to be very important since the playoff race is tight. If you take away maybe the early part of the year, we've played fairly well at home and hopefully it's going to be a big advantage this week. It's going to be a difficult week for us as well as our opponent. We play three games in eight days so it's going to be challenging and hopefully we get some good support in the stands and we're able to play well and get some points."

On midfielder Matt Polster finding success in New England:

Arena: "Well he was only in Scotland for a year if that, right? I don't even know exactly because we got him mid-year so I think he was only there a year so you can't come to any great conclusions there, but obviously coming back here, it did take him a little bit of time to get adjusted being back in MLS and playing a relatively new position. His position with the Rangers was as a right back and he played a number of games as a right back for the Chicago Fire as well so his initial year was coming back and adjusting to the league again and playing a somewhat new position and we saw last year after having that year under his belt, he was better and this year, he continues to grow as a player, so it's been a real positive for him."

On assistant coach Shalrie Joseph's role:

Arena: "Everyone has a role on gameday and one of [Shalrie Joseph]'s responsibilities is when we bring new players into the game, they understand their responsibilities on restarts and obviously understanding our team's shape and both sides of the ball, so he reviews that with the players before they go in. And he's been a great addition. He's a former great [player] here. He's got a great personality. He fits in very well with our staff and our team, so he's been a great addition to our club."

On his relationship with Galaxy head coach Greg Vanney:

Arena: "My first year when I came to LA in, I believe, August of 2008, and Greg [Vanney] was finalizing his career, so I got to see Greg at that point and he had played in the national team program as well, so I had those experiences with him as his coach and then later he became an Academy coach with the Galaxy and then eventually moved on to other clubs and got to where he is today. We've had relationships both as player-coach as well as two managers and he's done a very good job at all the clubs he's been at."

Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster

On signing a contract extension with the Revolution:

Polster: "I think, for me, like you said, I wanted to be part of a group that wants to win, get more playing time, and those two things I feel like I've ticked the box on. I think, for me, I still – and I know for this group and the staff – they want to win an MLS Cup and that's the goal. That's always the goal as players in this

league. So, for me, that's what we're going to strive for this year and in the years that I've extended, which I'm super happy about. My parents are proud of me, my family's proud of me, my wife's happy to be here, so it's all in all a good situation for me and I couldn't be happier."

On the upcoming three-game homestand:

Polster: "I think the most important thing in a stretch like this, especially at home, is making sure that first game is strong, and we somehow come together as a group and get three points. That's what's most important because the turnaround to play Chicago and then NYC is within five days, six days of each other, so the first thing we need to focus on is Galaxy, putting a good performance together, a strong performance, and getting three points."

On the UEFA Champions League group stage draw for Rangers FC:

Polster: "Obviously it's an incredible achievement, something they've wanted to push for, and they've achieved it. I think you can never count Rangers out. I don't know what that quote is off the top of my head, but I'm sure they will find ways to make it difficult for the big teams, and they're going to find ways to win games. I mean, Ibrox is a tough place to go for any club, so there's always a chance at Rangers."

On the direction of the club and how that impacted his decision to re-sign:

Polster: "I think what drew me to the club and I think what a lot of guys see here, and I think even from the outside you guys see it, is Bruce [Arena] doesn't like losing, so he'll always find ways, if we're not performing, he'll find ways for us to start performing, and if guys aren't performing, he'll find guys to replace you, so there is that competitive edge at this club and that's what kind of attracted me here. He's not going to settle for second place, so for me that was attractive and not settling for second place means trying to win an MLS Cup, which was most important."

On preparing for Sunday's meeting with the Galaxy:

Polster: "It's a difficult game. Galaxy's a very good team, they have a very good coach, they have very good players, and the guys have showed up really well this week. We've pushed really hard, trying to get back on track with what we've done well in the past, so this weekend it's all about being aggressive on the ball, off the ball, and trying to find a way to get three points."

On what has made his first two years with the Revolution so successful:

Polster: "I think they're two different situations. When I went over to Rangers, the expectation and the goal was to compete with [James] Tavernier, the right back and the club captain, and it was a task that I did to the best of my ability, but he's an incredible player, he's an incredible captain and leader of that group, and he doesn't really miss any games, so it was a tough task. He's been arguably one of the best right backs in the world, so to compete with that was difficult. Here I was more suited to play the six role, which is what I did in Chicago, so I feel most comfortable in that position where I'm able to run around and be able to make tackles and play the ball forward as quickly as possible, and that's what's made this situation the best for me and for my family."

On the group dealing with adversity and the confidence level with eight games remaining:

Polster: "Like you said, we've dealt with a lot of adversity, and there's guys that are super influential within this team that have been missing in moments, and I don't think we've had much of a cohesive starting XI all season, and to be in the position we are just shows the resilience amongst the group and players wanting to show that they can play at this level. There's been a lot of opportunities for those players, and I think they've shown well. There hasn't been a situation where we've been completely played off the park, maybe you could say that against Montreal a little bit, but from the course of the season so far, it's been really strong and we're going to have to have a cohesive group come the weekend and be fighting for each other, because that's what it's going to take to get in the playoffs."

MEDIA RESOURCES

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

Social: NERevolution | #NERevs

COMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS

| COMMUNICATIONS STAFF | INTERVIEWS, ACCESS & CREDENTIAL REQUESTS | | MEDIA@REVOLUTIONSOCCER.NET |
|----------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------|
| ADAM KLIONSKY | DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS | (508) 455-7551 | ADAMK@REVOLUTIONSOCCER.NET |
| HAROLD RIVERA | COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER (ESPAÑOL) | (508) 404-0248 | HAROLDR@REVOLUTIONSOCCER.NET |
| DAN SHULMAN | COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR | (508) 404-5677 | DSHULMAN@REVOLUTIONSOCCER.NET |
| MERISA BOYD | COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE | (508) 254-1890 | MERISAB@REVOLUTIONSOCCER.NET |

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