

**POST GAME QUOTES**  
**Saturday, March 4, 2023**  
**LAFC vs. Portland Timbers**



**GIORGIO CHIellini**  
**LAFC DEFENDER**

**RE: Pregame celebration**

“It felt like a good celebration for us after the goals achieved the last year. It was a new thing for me. The ring, I was waiting for it. It was very nice and will remain in my memories for all time. It was an important trophy we won last year for everyone. For different reasons, but for everyone was very important to win the league, lift the trophy and celebrate those. But now after the celebration, we have to erase. We started very well and we were looking forward to starting because we were ready for playing last week and unfortunately it was not possible and we played the first 60 minutes very well. When we are able to make things and press for us it's much easier to find the right spot to engage our forwards and create chances when we add a lot of corner kicks we are very dangerous and we know from the last year because we weren't going yet and it a very good performance for our system. We have to take care and learn from our mistakes in the last third because it's impossible. I arrived at the end to race to draw this game after a dominate game but it is an important win. Now we have a few days of rest in order to prepare as best as possible for the Champions League game. It was a great goal for us a big goal we know how difficult it is to play in Costa Rica. For me will be the first time but in a way that situation is a different condition and different way of play. We don't know very well many things out there of teams and then we have to be aware of the game of Thursday. It will be very important in order to arrive and play at home with a good result. But now I think it's the right thing is celebrate the last win and celebrate also the first week of the season.”

**RE: Adapting to the different defender styles**

“It was a challenge for me. It was nice because I am curious and I want to learn about everything. And then when it's changing it was changing the type of play in the way of play from the center back, it was not so easy at the beginning but really I loved it. I was engaged in order to understand the new passes I never did before the right position and I worked a lot on it in all the trainings and I still continue to work underneath and to try to improve almost at 40 because I think it's the only way to keep going to continue to play. I'm very different defender from many years ago. I do something I earn something else. I was able to maintain by my best skill especially marking men and in helping the team to be settled to do the offensive marking and don't consume so many counter attacks. That is the worst thing for me happened because I know it's impossible for me to read the to run against Mahala or other players all over the pitch. After two months alone, it was so hard restarting in the beginning of January. The first two weeks I was almost unable to run. The first month I started to run slowly and but fortunately we have time, seven, eight weeks of preseason. I arrived and in a good condition. I am very happy and now ready to get to starting to play and help the team to continue to win.

**RE: First goal scored**

“It's weird that the last goal I scored is 2019, and it was almost the same and yesterday in training we tried to set pieces and I scored three goals the same as today but as we train we play. The celebration is for an old teammate of mine that passed away five years ago. I was thinking about him this morning and I don't know if there's a final destiny or nothing more but I would like to celebrate to him and he's always in my mind. Sometimes I think how it is possible and there's no reason about it.”