

**POST GAME QUOTES**  
**Saturday, April 8, 2023**  
**LAFC VS. Austin FC**



**ELDIN JAKUPOVIĆ**  
**LAFC GOALKEEPER**

**Opening Statement**

“First of all, thank you for coming. I’m very happy to do my first MLS game, my first LAFC game. It was a good afternoon, three points, clean sheet and we are looking forward to Tuesday.”

**RE: his thoughts on the home atmosphere and BMO stadium**

“To be honest, the first game from this season we played Portland. Yeah, I felt something special, I mean, the fans are unbelievable. Today I played and then the first half... end of the first half, something happened. long ball and then I was shouting “keeper” and Chiellini went in front of me and then he told me after, in the halftime, that he didn't hear me because of the fans. You know, it says a lot. I really enjoy today and hopefully we can continue like this.”

**RE: settling into his first match with the LAFC**

“I mean, it's more the experience. My last, what, 11 years, I've been in England, I've played with the best players, against the best players. You're learning a lot and with the years it's more like you have to stay calm. I didn't play, maybe two years now of proper... I played some cup games in England, but a proper season game was about 2 to 3 years, maybe longer, I don't know. And for me it was today to just keep calm. I did trust the team in front of me. The good thing is they played good, Austin, but the last third we controlled them, especially with the crosses with Chiellini and Denil and they did a good job. Yeah, as a goalkeeper you have [to] sometimes make a save, it was good. The long balls could be a little bit better. I need more... it's not about practice, it's more like more games to get into it, you know? But all in all, I'm happy for the team, happy for the fans. Three points, still unbeaten in the league and we're looking forward on Tuesday with a good three-nil cushion. So that's the main thing to go to the semi-finals.”

**RE: what makes this group special**

“Like I said before, I've been in a few teams. Almost every team is saying - “we are a family, we are that, we are this”... But from the first day when I came here everybody welcomed me. I saw a special group. The unit is strong and like I mentioned in the trainings, if we have a tournament, three teams, everybody is going full power and it has to be like this. We have a good squad and everyone wants to play, that's normal. So how you want to compete is in the training's... fair, but you have to compete and we are a proper family here. You can see in the dressing room after the games, you can see air in the airplane when we are flying somewhere. It's a proper group and I feel really comfortable here with that. Yes, I'm one of the oldest, with Chiellini, but yeah, it's nice to be one of the oldest, but we have to do different as the older because we have a lot of young players. So we cannot be every day mature, we have to be a little bit of kids as well. But it's all good. It's all good. The team is looking every week stronger and stronger and stronger and this team can compete in Europe easily, in my opinion.”

**Re: the relationship with younger players**

“They are teaching us. No, if we talk serious, they're listening, but it's more like everybody's calm, everybody's fun. We have fun and without fun, it's difficult. We need a nice group to get forward and we have a strong group and it's still early in the season and everything, but we can achieve a lot here. Thank you very much. Thank you. Enjoy your Saturday evening.”