

**POST GAME QUOTES**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**  
**LAFC VS. Sporting Kansas City**



**SERGI PALENCIA**  
**LAFC DEFENDER**

**RE: Have you ever played center-back? What was that experience like?**

“No, I’ve never played in that position before, but I used to train in it sometimes so the defensive concepts are the same. A lot of communication with Denil and Ryan and it was very comfortable and wherever they need me, I will be there. It was a little interesting in the beginning, but then without a striker, a nine, the striker moves a lot and isn't fixed in the position, so I felt more comfortable.”

**RE: Did Ilie dropping-in help a lot?**

“Yes, when we had the ball Ilie helped me a lot when he dropped and I was in a more natural position on the right to have the ball and start the play.”

**RE: Why did you have to emergency defend today?**

“I think today the pressure was not as good as always and I think the defensive line dropped too much. I think if we would be able to be higher, I think it would be better for the team, better for the pressure. They moved us from one side to the other very easily, but I think we saw the mistake in the half and we fixed it.”

**RE: What’s it like to have freedom to create offensively more than other outside-backs?**

“I feel comfortable with that because I’ve always been in teams that give me this freedom to create chances and to move and with our style I think it’s very easy for us. We have a lot of space because we have the strikers very narrow. Very good strikers that all the defense watch them so we can arrive and surprise and it’s better for us. We have a lot of work to do and if they follow the full-backs there’s more space inside so it’s very difficult to defend and we work on this every day to become more dangerous.”

**RE: Empate hoy, cómo se van a preparar para jugar contra San Jose, un equipo que enfrentaron hace un par de semanas?**

“Si, está claro que aquí en casa queremos ganar absolutamente todo y nos vamos hoy decepcionados. Pero hay que estar con calma y hay que saber también que los puntos son buenos, hay que evitar las derrotas y cogemos este punto y ahora a recuperar a gente, a recuperar sensaciones y las ganas que tenemos con San Jose, fue el único partido de MLS que hemos perdido así que con ganas de enfrentarnos a ellos de nuevo.”

**Translated:** “Yes, it’s clear that at home we want to win absolutely everything and today we’re going home disappointed. But we have to be patient and know that a point is good, we have to avoid losses and we got a point and now we have to recuperate people and get our feel back

and the anticipation against San Jose, which was the only MLS game we have lost so we are looking forward to facing them again.”

**RE: Piensas si los equipos vienen aquí y juegan con más intensidad porque quieren ganar?**

“Si, eso siempre pasa. Yo cuando estaba en Francia y jugaba contra Paris Saint-Germain, jugaba con más intensidad por que es el partido grande del año. Eso pasa así, sabemos que tenemos que enfrentarnos a todos los equipos que vienen como tienen que venir, con mucha intensidad, por supuesto, y si son peleas que se quedan en el campo pero bueno. Asumimos que la gente viene con intensidad y eso nos exige a nosotros también poner esa intensidad para querer ganar y es lo que hacemos cada partido y tenemos que seguir haciendo.”

**Translated:** “Yes, that happens all the time. When I was in France and played against Paris Saint-Germain I played with higher intensity because it’s the biggest match of the year. That’s the way it is, we know we have to face every team, the way they should be coming, with a lot of intensity, but of course the battles stay on the field. We assume that everyone comes with high intensity and it forces us to work harder and bring the intensity needed to win and that’s what we do each game and must continue to do.”