

POST GAME QUOTES
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
LAFC VS. Houston Dynamo



CARLOS VELA
LAFC FORWARD

RE: On tonight's defeat

"I think everybody knows we are not in our best moment. But like I always say, it's two ways right now: Go home and cry, or come back tomorrow and work harder to get back. I think we still have a good team. We still trust in what we have in our team, and sometimes you lose confidence. You start to miss small things that make the games harder for us. We create that. Our own things. So, when you are like that, you have to work harder and never give up. I think that's the only way to come back and be us. When we can come back to do our things, we will start to win games and feel happy again."

RE: On if the congestion of fixtures and the loss to Leon is impacting the team:

"Honestly, yes. It's a combination of everything. I don't say it's [an] excuse, because we have to be ready. We have to work hard. We have to be trying every day we have a game, to win. But of course, after a long way to work hard in the [CONCACAF] Champions League, to get that trophy, coming to the last day and lose the game. Of course, you have some loss of confidence. Of course, it's there, but we have to trust in us. It's the only way. We know it's a hard moment. We know when you lose games, everybody starts to talk about 'Maybe it's not a good team. Maybe this guy is bad. Maybe the coach is bad. Maybe Carlos [Vela] is bad.' We know that. We know how [are] some people. The press, it's part of their job and we are ready for that. I've passed [this] a lot of times in my career, this moment. Honestly, I'm okay with that. When I play bad, I'm the first to accept that. I talk by myself and say 'You are not doing well.' The team needs more from me. Of course, everybody has to be honest with [themselves] to say 'What can I do better?' It's not about the star, to say 'He's not playing good.' To put excuses, or to put the problem to the other side, or the next guy. I think, when you do that, you are a bad team. I think you have to start saying, 'Carlos, you are not scoring goals.' If I don't score goals, how can we win? When I start to play better and I start to score goals, everything will start to be better for the team. So that's what I'll tell you. I will work and work and work until I get back my rhythm, my skills and my goals. For sure, in a couple of weeks, a month, I don't know when, we will start to talk about how good you are, the team, how good you play and everybody will be happy again. Right now, we are a little bit disappointed, but we have another chance in three days, or two days. When you play that fast, of course, it's more tiring, but also the chances come in quicker. We will get a good game, win a game and after that we will change the rhythm and the energy that we have right now."

RE: On if opponents are trying to replicate Leon's game plan when they play LAFC:

"Of course, Leon, I think tactically do a really good job. That's why I think it's one of the reasons they won, because they played better [in] the final. Honestly, they deserved to win more than us. But I don't think that helped other teams. I think every time we play at home, most of the teams come to defend in a deep block, and after that try to find corners, corners or some goals. They know we are an attack team, we like to put a lot of numbers in the attack. So, when you attack a lot, sometimes you leave a lot of space for the other team. I don't think it's something they are doing different. I think we are not playing in our best, is one of the reasons we are not winning

We are not our best shape. Though I'll tell you, we have to turn around quick. We are still in a good position. It looks like it's a big drama, but we are still three points from first place, one less game. Like I say in Spanish, if we are bad, the rest are bad too. We have to trust in what we are doing, and don't lose the confidence in what we are doing. Don't start to see things are not there. Just focus on ourselves, come back, rest, get mentally fresh. I think that's one of the big reasons. When you don't win, you get tired. You feel like you are worse than you are. It's all in your head. When you start to see you are playing better, you win one game and everything changes. You start to feel again, 'I'm good.' That's what I'll tell you. Every team in this league and around the world passes some bad stretch, but the good teams change that quick or work harder than others to change that. That's what we will start to do and I hope we can change it soon."