

POST GAME QUOTES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

LAFC VS. Seattle Sounders



STEVE CHERUNDOLO

LAFC HEAD COACH

Re: Thoughts on game

“We’re really happy with 3 points. Some of the moments in the game tonight and the way the team has played you think this was a small step forward to where we wanna be in order to reach our potential and play the football that we are capable of, but not a big step just a small one. But enough to win and to get 3 points. I think the priorities tonight were to win and the guys got that right and put in the necessary work in Kansas City first and then capitalizing on it again tonight, so very pleased with that. I think textbook discipline and the awareness and the effort is back. What we’re still working on will come with time and with confidence is just really the combination play and being a little more secure with our passing, making better decisions to create more chances in the final third, that’s the only missing piece.”

Re: Thoughts on Opoku

“Look if he makes his chance in the final minute, I think it’s a valid shout, then you have a great game. But we judge attackers by their productivity in the final third, and it’s not there. Not just Opoku, but Denil tonight, obviously Carlos and Stipe and Nathan as well. Mateusz as a midfielder found the back of the net, had a good game as well. I think it’s an interesting position for him playing in between lines. It’s tough for teams get ahold of him. Other than that, between the boxes is Opoku had a very good game like many players tonight but our final product and chance creation and finishing those chances is what we judge attackers by in professional game, Opoku included.”

Re: Thoughts on Mateusz

“It’s the player who’s counted, who fits three profiles, three positions on our team and that’s extremely valuable for us, especially in a tough stretch right now that we’re in with all these games and a depleted roster and playing through the extra window. Mateusz has seen a lot of

minutes and has taken advantage of that in multiple positions and that fits our model to a T, so we're very happy with Mateusz and right now I think he is jelling and understanding the league and opponents, and finding those spaces where he can be a gamechanger or difference maker."

Re: Thoughts on Danny Crisostomo

"Danny and my journey together the past couple of years has been fantastic. He's an absolute team player and joy to coach. He does his afternoon training everyday and haven't had to call on him too much up until now but I thought Danny had a very good game. He defensively won a lot of balls, clogged a lot holes, was very simple and efficient with his passing exactly what we expect from a 6. Danny did his job tonight and brought the team some much-needed energy. Was crappy a little bit which is why we took him off but Danny continues to play like that he'll find a lot more minutes."

Re: MLS X Pro and USL relationship

"I think it's a little too early to talk about if it's affecting the MLS and affecting our rosters in a positive way. Let's give it a couple years. What I can tell you is the level of MLS X Pro is not at USL level its a step below that, I think as it was meant to be, which makes the jump for those players even greater to make an impact on 1st team play in the MLS. So I think that's something in the next couple of years we'll have to figure out what that solution looks like, not sure at the moment. The further we try to push our 1st team, the further away it gets from our 2nd team. If your gonna do both you're gonna have to invest more or raise the ceiling and the floor at the same time. That's what we're trying to do at LAFC and it's an evolution, it's gonna take a few years for us to see those results pop out, but I can tell you that our academy coaches and our second team coach Enrique [Duran] do a fantastic job of getting the players ready for when we call on them but certainly its a pretty large jump for these kids and it's not easy."

Re: 1st in West

"Tough moments, really the only disappointing moment of the season for us is losing the finals. Everything else has been really positive. Just kinda picked up where we left off last season. Been thrown through the gauntlet and its been really difficult physically and mentally to get everyone ready in a 3-4 day rhythm and hats off to the players they've done fantastic. Top of the West, played in a Champions League final, still have a game in hand I believe, so it's pretty good. We're very happy with those results. Can we play better football? Absolutely and we will."

Just maybe get a full roster at some point back that would be nice and helpful and then get a full week of training in our legs. Something that kind of goes underestimated you have game after game after game and you're just in recovery mode and you can't work on any of your mistakes or weaker portions of your game, so we're looking forward to next week to have actual real training sessions I think I and the other coaches forgot how to do it so looking forward to that challenge."

Re: Bale's no pressure to win

"I haven't seen the video so I'm not gonna comment on it."