

POST GAME QUOTES
Saturday, July 8, 2023
LAFC VS. Earthquakes



STEVE CHERUNDOLO
LAFC HEAD COACH

RE: Fall's return and changes

"Due to the way we are health-wise in our back line, and Aaron obviously with the national team, throwing Fall in right away without the proper preseason and having him play 90 minutes is never easy. That considered I think his performance was fine. I think still some tactical errors in the first half from him. Pretty normal for in center for a young defender. Things we'll talk about and clean up. But obviously stabilized after that and distribution out of the back I thought was positive for sure and he usually wins his aerial battles as well."

RE: Getting points yet frustrating second half

"Well I can share with you what I told the guys; you have to be able to win a game 1-0. We are conceding some pretty soft goals at the moment, which need to stop. I think our defensive performance in the first half was poor, much like it was the other night. That needs to change. For us to win a game right now it's going to take a 90-minute performance not just 45. That's where our heads will be and where our thoughts will be the next couple days for St. Louis when they're here Wednesday night."

RE: Momentum and chasing games

"Yeah, it's not ideal surely, but it's also part of it and this team knows how to come back from games and it's sort of a slippery slope. You have to invest a little more on the offensive end but make sure you don't concede any counters or anything like that. I thought they managed the game very well after we conceded. They just came up a bit short. Pretty good looks at goal, especially in the second half. The guys did enough to win, just didn't finish their chances."

RE: Why giving up soft goals?

"It's always something different and that's kind of the problem right now. Normally you prefer to start the same back four every week which hasn't been the case. I'd have to go back and look at statistics on how often we've been able to do that. I can tell you off hand it's not very often. That's always difficult to find some continuity and to understand each other's movements and habits, which you desperately want and need in a back line. We're fighting that a little bit at the moment. Sometimes it's an individual mistake, sometimes it's a tactical error, sometimes it's a little unlucky, sometimes a collective failure, so it's always something and those somethings need to go away fast."

RE: Looking forward to Leagues Cup and break?

"Yeah we're looking forward to it. Who doesn't like a few days off? We're definitely looking forward to it and yeah team needs a break, I think that's pretty clear."

RE: Thoughts on St. Louis and upcoming match

"Well they have a clear identity and way of playing and they don't budge and don't move an inch left or right. They stay within their means, a hardworking team, a disciplined team and they find ways to disrupt other teams play and to catch on a counter and set pieces and it's a way of

playing we know. Obviously, a page out of Red Bull's book and Philadelphia as well. It's a style of play that a lot of clubs are turning to, because its, as you can see, maybe at times not the previous but it certainly is effective. Hats off to them for starting the season like they have and continuing on those winning ways and remaining a threat and staying very disciplined in their ways. I think most clubs have a clear way of playing and an identity do fairly well in this league and around the world too."