

POST GAME QUOTES

Saturday, June 24, 2023

LAFC VS. Vancouver Whitecaps FC



STEVE CHERUNDOLO

LAFC HEAD COACH

Re: Thoughts on the game

“I’ll just start by congratulations Vancouver. The right game plan tonight, made some plays, and we made one too many errors. Any time you concede 3 goals at home its hard to win, and in the end you don’t deserve it. Frustrating, but it’s the reality and we’ll recover from this, learn from it and move forward.”

Re: Valiant effort?

“The effort from the players is always there. They’ve never faulted that so that should never be an issue for a professional athlete and I haven’t seen it yet at LAFC with our boys. That’s never the issue. Some soft goals, especially the third and that can’t happen. If you make those mistakes it’s really hard to score 4 goals against a team that sits deep, efficient at time-wasting, and all the good stuff, and is dangerous in the counter. They had the right match plan tonight and it worked for them. The adjustments are us always trying to find some open spaces, some advantages on the field, some better matchups for us, and guys have the freedom to move around. We do change things around the midfield quite frequently to find those advantages and those open spaces. That seems to work, but like I said if you put yourself in a 2-0 hole, it’s hard to come back from and I think that was the issue tonight.”

Re: Chiellini fitness

“Giorgio it’s tough for him to turn it around that quickly with our schedule so for him to come out and give us a good 20 minutes tonight was incredible. Timmy gave us 10 minutes tonight, 10-15 minutes, back from injury. We’ll add to those minutes moving forward and hopefully add a few more guys for the next couple weeks to get back to our whole strength.”

Re: Upcoming rest and injury updates

“Acosta I just commented on, the others will need a little more time. We’re looking forward to giving the guys a couple days off, recover physically and mentally, and also take some time to train during the week. Some of the things we talked about and saw tonight. When you have games every 3-4 nights you don’t have time to train and work on things, you just move forward and try to stay as close to your game model as possible. That’s what we’re trying to do but now we can actually make some corrections and work on some things and show the guys some video and improve.”

Re: Why and how did Vancouver do so well?

“I think it was just playing it a little more direct and using obviously two big strong forwards. If you’re gonna play with forwards like that you better put the ball up there and that’s what they did and it was okay. Conceding the set piece that early also makes it difficult and you try to push and you try to tie and so you’re always then exposing your back line a little bit playing more man to man. Even though they had a good match plan I just think maybe we just lost it more than they won it.”

Re: Positive feedback on the game

“For those of you who know me well, I am a very positive person. If you take a look at the table that keeps us pretty positive here at LAFC. We’ve had a really tough stretch of games, that keeps me positive. There were some things you can see on our game but we’ll show the guys in the next couple days in video and they work. We just have to continue doing that. There’s always positive, obviously Timmy came back tonight which was nice too. Lots of positive over the past couple weeks, I think you saw some of the younger guys step up, that’s also very positive. Losing games should never feel super positive. There’s always things you can take out of it but it should hurt, that’s why we do this and it does.”