

POST GAME QUOTES
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
LAFC vs Minnesota United



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RE: How does this feel? Does it feel relieving?

“It feels good but nothing special. I think that we were able to do and execute some of the principles that we follow here at LAFC, but these are three points that we needed to stay and to put pressure to other teams that are fighting with us in these last games to get as high as we can on the table. It feels good, obviously for our people that came here on a Wednesday night after a tough loss this last weekend, but we just wanted today to enjoy with them - our last home game of this long regular season. And we did it! For the team, I think it's three more points but for our people and for the people that really support LAFC, it must feel great. As the coach said right after the game, this is our standard. So we got into the playoffs spot and we cannot go away from these standards that LAFC has sent since day one and that we were able to get back to them tonight.”

Re: In terms of preparation coming off the last results, which Steve mentioned and probably were pretty agreeable that they weren't bad performances, but you guys were just dissatisfied with not being effective enough and obviously no scoring. Is it something that changed? Did anything in preparation wise change for you guys to come today and say “we're going to put that in the past” and show off today the way we know we can?

“Well, we were better with the ball definitely. We played better futbol. When you score first - when we score first - we are a much stronger team; that is a fact. I think that we played an extra pass on the final third. That's definitely something that we worked on. With very few days that we have during the week because they are not full weeks, they are mid-weeks again and again and again, over and over and over, and there is not much time, so you have to be very specific with what you want to improve. So, Steve Cherundolo and his coaching staff are very specific on their demands - it's enough to follow week after week.”

Re: I know another three points but I am wondering if there is a sense that it's reassuring that you guys can put on this performance in the game model that you want to - you know, you still have a postseason to play - but it's coming quickly. So is it reassuring in this moment?

“I think that our mentality approaching this game was a playoff mentality. I think that this team - we said this last season, and maybe made more sense that we could say that, because we were winning, game after game - but we say it again this season: this team has been built for big games. We haven't been good enough and sometimes lucky enough in those big games this season. Believe me, we are very hurt by that, but one thing that definitely we learned from this season is that we cannot get stuck in the past. So, moving forward, we showed tonight, that with this mentality, that means intensity as the highest means, focus, mean unselfishness, and effort from all of us. I think that moving forward we need to show that in these two games that we have on the road to finish the regular season but mainly and most important in the playoff games that will start at the end of October.”

Re: Because we have seen MLS teams get hot at the right time, do well in the postseason - how critical is it maintaining this performance and carrying it into the road and feeling good heading into the playoffs?

"I don't know. For us, it's all about what we do during the week heading into the playoff game what will matter. This is a special group of players with a leader in Steve, that is able to stay away from any kind of pressure or expectations that you guys have for us. I think that we are best is when we just focus on the week of preparation heading into a game and we are able to execute from the beginning of that game. So winning these two next games will be important but in my opinion, but it will be more important to finish as high as we can on the table and come back here in the playoffs in front of our people and surrounded by them, more then to create a momentum before this important games into the playoffs."

Re: I caught a little bit of your on-field interview, you talked I think about how you didn't feel like LAFC wasn't respected enough this year. I just wanted you to elaborate on how you think LAFC hasn't been respected this year and why you think that.

"I don't know why, we should have been respected for the schedule, whoever makes the schedule - I think we all know who makes the schedule - and for the refing. LAFC from day one has been a model organization from the ownership group, that I think is very strong, going down to John and his departments, and since I have been part of this organization - following with Steve Cherundolo and his staff, and from the players with our leader Carlos, who has been here since day one. Coming from a season where we became champions of supporters' field and MLS Cup, we aren't asking for any help, believe me, we don't want it. No one outside of these walls helps us win games, but I personally feel that we've been punished by these organizations that call the games and that make the schedules. So that is something that probably John is going to not be happy with my words right now, so that is why I am saying these are my personal opinions, and I think that there are some facts behind my words that I can be free to bring here. It is what it is. My response on the field came from a question about our fans."

RE: Si el equipo les ocupaba confianza

"No, confianza tenemos mucha. Confianza tenemos en nos entrenador, en el cuerpo técnico y nuestros jugadores. Yo creo que esta temporada no ha sido una cuestión de confianza. Ha sido más cuestión de acierto y de estar mejor en ciertos momentos de la temporada de jugar mejor futbol. Pero no por falta de confianza. Porque al final también hay rivales que se preparan muy bien y que nos apretan. Creo que ha sido mas falta de juego en ciertos momentos de que confianza.

RE: If the team was lacking confidence

"No, we have a lot of confidence. We have confidence in our coach, in the coaching staff and in our players. I think this season has not been a question of confidence. It has been more a matter of success and being better at certain moments of the season and playing better soccer. But not for lack of confidence. Because in the end there are also rivals who prepare very well and who put pressure on us. I think it has been more a lack of play at certain moments than confidence.