

POST GAME QUOTES
Saturday, February 24
LAFC vs. Seattle Sounders



STEVE CHERUNDOLO
LAFC HEAD COACH

RE: On the team's success in season openers, historically

“Certainly, the home games, I think you can draw a conclusion that the fans help push things over the finish line. So, our fans are incredible. They came out again today to support us. Without them, the success LAFC has had over the first seven openers, or first six full seasons, wouldn't have been possible without them. Hats off to them. We're always grateful for their support. The away openers, I'm not sure how many. I haven't done my homework. Away [openers], maybe just speaks for the quality of the teams and preparation, working in the preseason. I'm not a huge fan of drawing conclusions from season to season or stretching stats out over multiple years. But in this case, it's a positive one, so I'll accept it.”

RE: On the performance of Hugo Lloris

“Exactly what I've seen on the training field, [Lloris] has a calmness to him. He doesn't feel pressure and has real-time answers for the guys and input, which he vocalizes. His passes, his touches kind of send a message as well. So, he's communicating nonverbally with his passing and his body position. He brings a plethora of knowledge, experience, and quality which we need. We needed him in the beginning portions of the game today and he showed up, all game. I think he gives our back line and our entire team a sense of security, which we've had over the past couple of years but, in my opinion, a little more now. That's going to go a long way and we will build on that and become even stronger.”

RE: On the performance of Eduard Atuesta and what impressed him most about his game

“I think continuity. The reason why we are very adamant about playing the same way at LAFC, regardless of coaches, is for that exact reason. If players do come back, integrating them into the squad becomes quite easy. Everybody knows our system. He's a big part of our system. It certainly looks a little different with him, and we're trying to get his qualities on the field, that's why it will look a little different. We do tweak things to showcase the qualities of certain players. [Mateusz Bogusz] coming underneath or [Carlos Vela] coming underneath, more of their strengths. So, we will tweak things a little bit, for the most part it's the same. I was very happy with Eduard's integration into the team in preseason. We're still getting him to a level of fitness he can still reach, after his injury and after an offseason. Not quite there physically, but technically and tactically he's great. He's amazing and he's going to make us a lot better.”