

POST GAME QUOTES
Saturday, March 9
LAFC vs. SKC



ILIE SÁNCHEZ
LAFC MIDFIELDER

RE: “Certainly a good effort out there but maybe not quite the precision - what went well, what didn’t, and what do you guys learn from this?”

“Some positives. Something things we definitely need to keep working on. I think that when you play against Kansas City, it is always going to present a challenge in the way that they play. It is the same playing them in Kansas City then on the road when they come here. We accomplished one of the goals, which was to keep a clean sheet. We didn’t accomplish the main goal which was to win the game, and I think that we need to be cleaner in our game with the ball - especially when we are in the final third in the last pass to finish the action. We need to put our forwards in better positions for them to be able to, in a selfish way, finish the play scoring. Look its the third game of the season, we are building towards being again a winning team. That’s our mentality. That’s our approach every single game. The good thing about it is now we have to go get the win on the road in Minnesota. That is our mindset from now on and what we will need to do is work towards what didn’t work tonight and having that mindset of winning that three points on the road.”

RE: “Just wanted to get your thoughts on this developing relationship with Eduard Atuesta, your first three games playing with him. Looks like he had a great game playing tonight and your partnership continues to develop.”

“He is a fantastic player. I am enjoying so much being by his side. I think that he brings something that is unique to him, not just for LAFC but in this league. He knows how to play with a tempo of the game, and that is very important for a team that wants to be good with the ball, that wants to dominate around that. I think that on top of how good he is as a player, he also add a great character and personality to the team, on and off the field. So I look forward to keep building and improving next to him. Not just him and I, but the whole team. Definitely a very strong addition for our organization.”

RE: “What is the identity of the team? Are you guys a transition team looking to counter? Are you a possession team trying to build off the back? Can you do all of it? What is it you guys are trying to accomplish?”

“This is a question we would need much more time to discuss about, but I want to try to simplify by saying we have a very strong game model. Obviously there are some principles that we need to follow offensively, defensively - transitioning offensively, transition defensively - we can also add set pieces in there, but if you are focusing on offensively, your question is about that, I think that we are a team that needs to be the main team on the field. Obviously we want to have the ball, but at the end of the day, the opponent is the one giving you the solution on how to attack them. There are teams that are going to press higher to us, that means that our forwards need to be ready because we will send the ball to them faster. That is exactly what all these principles and what we are trying to do offensively is about - trying to get our forwards in a 1v1 situation so they can create the biggest chances possible. There are other teams that are going to sit a little bit deeper in the back, so then we will have to be - all our back line, including midfielders - will

be the ones dictating the game, making the game. That is something we need to keep working on because we need to be the ones realizing what the game requires of us on the field. Other than that, we have a very, very good offensive players individually that we need to feed. So if we can take advantage with the ball higher on the field and feeding those players so they can do their jobs. We will take advantage of that. We won't say no to that just because we have the ball more time on the field. After those principles you have some principles that we need to keep working on - being cleaner with the ball and trying to play better football. Shorter passes; not as long. At the end of the day, I am saying the opponent will give you the solution. So we need to be better understanding what is that solution on the field."