

POST GAME QUOTES

Saturday, March 9

LAFC vs. SKC



STEVE CHERUNDOLO

LAFC HEAD COACH

RE: On the result and the team's performance:

"I think the effort was fine, but I think LAFC's teams always do a fantastic job of putting everything on the field and trying to win games. I think we do try to be the aggressor, try to play forward and to score goals. I saw that tonight, so no fault to the boys there. I think the only couple of things we can improve on is, defensively, being a little more compact. Either pressing as a group or dropping back and staying in a compact block. I think we got caught in between a few times, too often which allowed some longer possession spells for Sporting KC. That, we need to improve on. Other than that, with the ball I think we created the better chances tonight, for sure. And we certainly should have finished at least one. Whether that was enough to win the game, I don't know. In the end, another area of improvement for us is in the final third, to be a little cleaner and have a little more patience when we do have the ball. Not to always go for the home run, so to speak. Have a little more patience, work teams in a deeper block and then try to go expose them with our ideas. So, room for improvement, which is how it should be this early in the season after our second game of the year, we'll call it. Second real game, sorry."

RE: On if any players have stood out in leadership roles on the pitch:

"Sure, I think some of our new additions. Obviously, Ilie [Sanchez] is our captain, some continuity from the past couple years who has always taken a leadership role and will continue down that path. Adding Hugo Lloris is a dream for us. He's a born leader. In a different way than last year in [Giorgio Chiellini], but nonetheless effective. And then Eduard Atuesta in his return to LAFC is also a leader in the locker room and on the training field. He brings intensity every day and brings a lot of quality. So, we're ecstatic about that. Then I also look for guys who have been around the league a long time, [Jesus Murillo, Ryan Hollingshead and Aaron Long], to step into more leadership roles as well."