

POST GAME QUOTES
Saturday, May 11, 2024
LAFC vs. Vancouver Whitecaps



STEVE CHERUNDOLO
LAFC HEAD COACH

On what he's seen from Cristian Olivera recently and his thoughts on the team's overall performance today:

"Goals. It's pretty simple. It's [what makes] the difference of any attacking player's performances and what you and your colleagues write about attackers. Attackers are there to score and set up goals. Everything that happens in between, that's my job. But yeah, we're happy with that. I think it's also been a long road for [Olivera] to become more prolific. He's put a lot of individual work in on the training field with our coaches. He also has the ability to learn and get better and I think that's what you're seeing. So we're very happy with his progression and his production. It's very important for us to win games that all of our attackers and midfielders, most notably our 8's, contribute on the offensive end. We're very happy with the performance, particularly in the first half. Our ideas were implemented very well by the players, really to a tee and everything worked. So, that's how we like to see LAFC. It's not always going to be like that, but I thought we were very good in the first half."

On if playing multiple games in a week helps with the team's sharpness:

"I don't think it has to do with the schedule. I think it has to do with the way the guys trained and it's really the approach of the players. They were focused tonight and when they're focused and they don't cheat, cheat the game, cheat our system or cheat the way they're supposed to play, they're good. Really good. And that's what you saw tonight. They were focused to win, but to win in a way where it's very clear. I was really pleased, again, with all sides of the ball: In build-up play, in progression play, in the final third but also in transition and defensively on top of that. Again, the first half was some game model stuff, especially, I think, the second goal."

On if the group was playing according to the team's game model today:

"Yes. I think the way we play, if you move the ball side-to-side then a winger will have 1-on-1 situations to take advantage of. [Denis Bouanga] took advantage of those on the left. [Cristian Olivera] has been listening, he's listening now. He has now learned to get in front of the goal and not outside the goal. We're very happy to see that."

RE: On the difference how it feels between assisting goals versus making goals

"When you don't know how to score, you have to make the passes and today I made three passes. I am as happy as I would be scoring. I want to help the team and I'm sure the team is happy about me and I am happy about helping the team."

RE: On being the top assister on the team

"I try to be decisive when either scoring or passing the ball. Today I did the passes and I'm very happy about it. Like I said last year, either way I'm happy and I'm here to help the team to be successful."

RE: On Oliveira's improvement throughout this season

"He's the same type of player as me, he's attracted to the goal. We didn't see much of him last year, but this year we did. I wish I could've given a _____ pass so he could have a hat trick to celebrate himself and I was really happy about that, he was at the right moment when I passed the ball."

RE: On having so many goal contributions against Vancouver

"I think it's just because I'm in good shape and I play well with the team. It happens against Vancouver all the time, but it's not really because it's fun for us, it's because I'm playing very well with the team at the moment."