

POST GAME QUOTES
Saturday, June 1
LAFC vs. FC Dallas



AARON LONG
LAFC DEFENDERS

Re: Opening thoughts on the big win at home and LAFC record

“Yeah it feels like a massive win at home. You always want to get 3 points at home, but with a big break like this you don’t want anything looming over your head, so to end this streak that we’ve had, a ton of games, to end with a 9 point week like that is exactly what we wanted. We feel really good about that.”

Re: Coach was saying how the players were fatigued and how this break was coming at a pretty opportune time, would you agree with that? How are the players feeling? Are you happy there is a break or would do you want to just keep playing now that you’re on this roll?

“No, I think we’re all happy there is a break. You give a lot of effort physically but also mentally in these stretches. And when you’re at home, you’re expected to win these games. We came into this one with a lot of fire. We knew - we were like listen we’re at home, let’s end this, let’s go into the break with 30 points. It was a big goal of all of ours. Yeah, I think it’s a perfect time to reset.”

Re: Do you have any aspirations to play for the United States men’s national team in any of the two-competition coming up?

“I think every player has aspirations to play for the national team. At least I do - always will; of course.”

Re: With the 3 points you guys earned today, you are now above LA Galaxy and Minnesota. That being said, how crucial is it for the squad to not only secure a spot in the playoffs but secure a high seat while doing so?

“Yeah, playoff games are always tough; they’re a different beast. They feel different, and home field advantage is a key part of that. And we know that from experience here, playing away is a lot tougher - playing home is huge. So the highest seed you can be is great, but more than anything, without looking too far ahead, it’s just winning our home games right now and climbing the table as much as we can.”

Re: Steve talked about with the breaks, the momentum ends tonight. Does it feel that way? Do you guys have to rebuild the momentum that you’ve established? What’s the attitude about that?

“Yeah I think we feel very good. Like I said, it’s been a big push and to end with a 9 point week - you’re on a high. But after two weeks of being off, it’s going to feel like a reset for sure. It’s not like we’re going to go into that game feeling like we’re riding some big wave like we’re feeling right now. It will definitely feel like a reset, and if I’m not mistaken we have two away games to start that. So, we know that there is a challenge coming up.”

Re: Regarding the shutout streak, one you've been a big part of - what does that feel to you in terms of an accomplishment, for helping LAFC go on this record and maintain the shutout streak?

"A lot of pride. Another thing we talked about - we wanted one more game, we knew we were 95 more minutes to continue the win streak, continue the shutout streak. So to get both of those tonights is huge; it's something that the whole club can be really proud of. All of the players that have played in these last 6-7 games, can be really proud of. There has been a ton of effort put into these games and it hasn't been easy. And I feel like there has been a ton of players really featured in these games, so it's really great. A great accomplishment for us."

Re: Considering the start you guys had, to where you are now going into this break - how do you keep adapting what you've learned from the beginning of the season, what didn't work, and continues to work for you?

"I definitely don't think you push them aside; you always got to continuing learning and evolving as a group and there is going to be more bumps in the road as the season goes on. It's a long season - there is going to be ups, there is going to be downs. I've played in a ton of them now, so when they do come, adapt and learn what we're doing well, how do we keep doing it, what's not working, how do we tweak it to our best interest. There is going to be tons of things to come."