

**POST GAME QUOTES**  
**Wednesday, May 29, 2024**  
**LAFC vs. Minnesota United FC**



**STEVE CHERUNDOLO**  
**LAFC HEAD COACH**

**RE: On the team's defending in recent matches:**

"Yeah, it's exactly how you described. It's always a collective. It's making good decisions with the ball when you're moving forward. Not risking too much in build-up play, but at the same time also trying to be effective and control games, control transitions, defend critical errors and defensive organization. So it's a collective, well, accumulating good decisions throughout 90 minutes with and without the ball and in transition. Also, obviously, being focused on set pieces which is a huge part of scoring goals and conceding goals in any league. In those areas, we've been very good. There's still room for improvement, but I was very happy and pleased tonight with the performance. It was professional. It was controlled. At no point in the game did I fear us losing nor did I see Minnesota being dangerous. It was how you need to play at home against a very good team."

**RE: On the lack of space provided by Minnesota's defense in the first half, and the adjustments made in the second half:**

"There were a few positive passes in the first half where we were patient with the ball, moving the ball, connecting passes in their half, pinning them in and then using our counter-pressure to apply more pressure. The changes we talked about at halftime were not so much changes, but making the guys aware of what makes us dangerous. It is isolating their center backs with our wingers. Trying to get [Denis Bouanga] matched up against [Kervin Arreaga] and [Cristian Olivera] with [Miguel Tapias]. We found both of our wingers in better positions in the second half and it made it more clear for us. We had clearer chances, putting them in tough spots. I was quite happy with the way we approached the second half. In control, in possession and on the front foot. We saw the opposite of that in Atlanta when we took the lead. So, it's things we talked about and I was very happy to see an improvement. Granted, it is easier at home to do that than away, but it's still an improvement and we were quite happy with that."