

POST GAME QUOTES
Saturday, June 29, 2024
LAFC VS. Colorado Rapids



STEVE CHERUNDOLO
LAFC HEAD COACH

Re: On Matusz Bogusz and how he is progressing right now

“Sure, form is real. Some players are in form, some are not. More importantly the team is in form, and that is what we tend to look at as coaches. Because when the team is in form, that means individuals will always profit, and then allows individuals to be in form. So you have to look at the group as a whole - if things are moving the right direction, or if they aren’t collective, or if they are disconnected, those are things that we can adjust and help strengthen and we do that. Then moments like this with Mattie and maybe sometimes Denis and other players, like Timmy in the beginning of the season, that’s the end result.

Re: You have the Galaxy on the 4th, both of you are at 40 points...some thoughts leading in to the match?

“It’s exciting! It’s great. I think over the past couple of years the Underdog role was clearly on the side of the Galaxy, but maybe not this year. So it’s great and we’re really looking forward to it - should be energetic. Exciting match; high-quality football match hopefully, where Black and Gold comes out on top hopefully. I’m really looking forward to it.”

Re: Thoughts on the hat trick and what it means to see a player be able to achieve that?

“It means he’s hungry for more, not just relaxing after one. It means the team is playing offensive football and trying to score more goals and create chances. Because as much as Mattie had chances, it’s others as well. He was the only one finding the back of the net tonight but we clearly created more chances than for three goals. It’s a good sign, and it shows that Mattie is relishing the moment and really figuring out where goals are scored. When we first started using Mattie as an attacker, he found himself in positions outside of the box, and now he is finding himself in the box more - risking injury and running full speed into the back of the net - and that’s what goal scorers do.”

Re: The contribution from the bench at the end - how have you collectively seen that group and what they’ve been able to do?

“Yeah, to be successful in the MLS, you need to rotate, you need to have contributions from the bench. You need to have a deep roster, you cannot play with 11 players the entire season - it doesn’t work. With their schedule, with the travel, with the weather, it’s a different animal. So having a strong bench and players who come on and respond and take over responsibilities are crucial to maintain a successful and winning organization. And we got that tonight. I am very happy and we need to build on that. I think you saw David Martinez come in for 10 minutes,

instantly involved with many great actions. You can also see he is a little rusty, a little nervous, but we want to build on that, and we know we have a great player in him.

Re: Is it fair to say that this is the best performance of the team overall this season?

“I don’t know. I would have to look at the tape again. I think there were a couple really good ones. I thought against San Jose was pretty good. I think against Nashville was pretty good. Minnesota was good. There were a lot of good performances this year. So the best? I don’t know. If we had scored another one - then maybe yeah. But it’s a good conversation to have.”