

POST GAME QUOTES

Friday, July 26, 2024

LAFC vs. Club Tijuana



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LAFC HEAD COACH

RE: On Cristian Olivera and Denis Bouanga’s performances, and what teams can do to defend LAFC when Olivera and Bouanga are in good form:

“After scouting the opponent, you have an idea of how they’ll play. But you don’t really know until the team shows up and they confirm what you saw in previous matches. We did see opportunities in transition, and to put our guys into those half-spaces. And then [Cristian Olivera and Denis Bouanga] are very difficult to mark, you’re absolutely right. The way to deal with that, in my opinion, is to not give them open spaces. You have to kind of suffocate them. Tijuana wasn’t able to do that, so advantage for [Olivera and Bouanga]. Those are things we talk about and try to achieve, and we’re happy it worked for us in our favor tonight.”

RE: On Cristian Olivera’s form since he’s returned from Copa America, and if anything about Olivera has been different since he came back from the tournament:

“I think we sent him to the Copa America in great form. I think we can go back that far. He didn’t play a whole lot in Copa America and I don’t know exactly what happened. I do know that his training sessions were very intense, but he left in good form and he’s come back in good form so maybe it’s just his normal form.”

RE: On what players, aside from Cristian Olivera and Denis Bouanga, stood out to him in the match:

“I thought, defensively, Jesus Murillo made some big plays for us and stepped up, Aaron [Long] did as well and Hugo [Lloris]. Hugo has a sense of calmness about him when attackers are shooting or attacking our goal, where he makes it look very easy. But all of his experience is going into each of those moments and all of his anticipation. So he doesn’t react, he anticipates. That’s something that isn’t often seen and, in my opinion, isn’t often complimented enough. But we definitely profit from that. It gives the group a sense of calmness that, ‘Okay, it wasn’t that big of a chance.’ When he just kind of snuffs up all of these shots, opponents find it difficult to gain confidence. Hugo is excellent for us in the unseen moments, more importantly, we think.”