

POST GAME QUOTES

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

L AFC VS. San Jose Earthquakes



STEVE CHERUNDOLO
LAFC COACH

RE: On Olivier Giroud making his LAFC debut:

“The minutes were calculated, not dependent on the result. It’s basically his preseason, we gotta put him through while we are in a competition. A real game is not replicable in training so we will need to use our games for him to find his optimal fitness again, so this was one more step. He knows where to be and where to go, there weren’t many actions in front of goal, just one or two, but we’ve seen at training already that he’s going to score goals.”

Re: On if Olivier Giroud can play on artificial turf and if he will be available against Seattle in the quarterfinal:

“I think so, yeah.”

Re: On another matchup against Seattle and matching up against a team they see frequently:

“It’s a great squad, well-coached. Brian [Schmetzer] has done amazing work with them over all of the years, very successful. A very proud squad too. They don’t like to lose. I think the last one stung a little bit, so they’re going to come with everything they have. The winner goes to the semifinals so it’s worth the effort for both sides and for us, it’s a precursor to what’s coming in the [U.S.] Open Cup. So it’s a big game. It’s fun. Those are great matches against Seattle, very intense and I’m looking forward to it, decided by difference-makers. Right now, our difference-makers are showing up and that needs to continue.”

RE: On Timothy Tillman’s recovery from injury:

“He’s getting close. He’s tracking a little bit ahead of schedule, but these things take time. I’m not sure if he will be available for the next match, we’ll label him as questionable for now, but I’m hopeful for the one after that if it’s not the next one.”

RE: On the team's evolution this season

“There certainly has been an evolution to the group. We had a mediocre start to the season, away from home we had poor performances and results, but what we talked about in that phase was that we knew it was all self-induced and we knew we had the tools to fix the problem and the guys did. We worked hard, we were very clear with them. It's an ok problem to have as long as you have solutions to fix it in the locker room and we do. We talk about that a lot, we are in control of our own destiny and that's a luxury, but the players understand the work they have to put in to play like they did tonight or other nights. It's not automatic, it comes from work in training, dedication, teamwork, guys checking their egos at the door and making sure LAFC is successful and not just the individual.”