

Toronto FC Media Conference

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Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Chris Armas

Media Conference



Montreal Impact 4, Toronto FC 2

Q. I wonder if you can give us your thoughts on the team's performance today, and I guess in particular, about the goals that were conceded.

CHRIS ARMAS: Well, look, I would say that our team has experienced in just a few days, maybe the highest and the lowest. It quiet in that locker room, much different from a few nights ago and, yeah, in some ways it will be good for our team to feel what that's like and for all of our players to understand that it's not just about showing up because you're Toronto FC, and it comes easy, just because.

Look, when you look at the game, I think the starting point is we just finished second all day long. Start with the coaching, the tools, tackles, coming in second all day long. You know, in moments we look like we are out here for a pass, right, just not good enough. And when you're not good enough against a team that can hurt you in transition, that's what it looks like, right. We knew that. We knew that no matter which structure we played, transition would be their thing and with some speed and we played into their hands. I think you could see that in three of the goals, you know, it's transition moments, some bad giveaways, losing the race down the field and the set piece. We clawed our way back in, 2-1, made a push and fell short. But on the day, not good enough.

Q. We know you don't like to make excuses, but do you think fatigue came into play at all in the match, how you played on we had night, hot again, that kind of thing?

CHRIS ARMAS: No. I think we just weren't ready for the match. We're not ready for the match. We knew that we could push guys certain minutes, we knew we had reserves, we could go to them quicker, but on nights like this or days like this, what was stalked about is -- is although we can play with 90 minutes intensity physically, that we have the intensity in our minds. The times we can be intense physically, we do it and other moments, with the ball, without the ball, we can have recharging periods and still the intensity at our minds could be at a high level.

So, no, I'm sure, I'm sure Montréal was tired, too, today, in moments. We're not accepting that as the reason.

Q. What did Montréal do right, do you think? How did they sort of get at it today and sort of make life difficult for you guys?

CHRIS ARMAS: I think they took their chances well. I think they were dangerous in transition. They forced some mistakes and with the ball they moved us around a bit and we chased too many back passes which is something that as we grow as a team and we want to be a pressing team, we have resetting moments and moments where it's not time to go.

But they opened us up at times and we expended a lot of energy chasing in moment that is we shouldn't have and overall, they executed without the ball and with the ball especially in transition.

Q. Tough matchup, but is there any silver lining you can take from a loss like this?

CHRIS ARMAS: There's always information. That's the silver lining, you find out where we're at, and you know, on our way to becoming a great team. We're on our way to understand days like, this how to show up and as you are fatigued and like that, all the things that become important against a team like that, right.

It's a derby match. It's opening day. We understood where they could be dangerous, and yeah, we gathered information. It's especially valuable for young players that are out there to understand these types of games, right. When things are tougher or different types of stock positions.

So there's certainly value, and I think on the inside, that I think the silver lining may be as a coach and even for a team, as we see Ayo stick to it. We had a play early on that gets away from him but he's the one sliding and running back 60, 70 yards to put out a fire, Omar Gonzalez, Michael, still pushing late.

So we are a team that understands we don't get too high



and we don't get too hoe. One thing for sure, we don't give in. We don't quit. We don't give in and the third goal is there, and we had a couple of big chances and it could have got interesting on a day when our good stuff didn't show up. But we don't quit. We learned that today for sure.

Q. A couple of valuable minutes at the end for Jahkeele, picks up his first assist. Maybe did he do enough to warrant some more minutes from you next time and what did you see from the young man?

CHRIS ARMAS: We saw today and what we've seen in training, he's clever and tidy and in interior spots, he's very shifty and elegant with the ball. He helped build some promising attacks, and yeah, I thought it was important to get him out there and not just for the experience.

I know I wasn't the only crazy one thinking we are going to score the first one and next ones are going to follow. I think he had a good relationship with Richie out there, and with Richie overlapping, he had some really good moments.

But Jahkeele, he's shown some good moments in training. He earned those minutes today.

Q. You're missing some important pieces like Pozuelo, Mavinga, Altidore. Will you have them back for the next game?

CHRIS ARMAS: It looks like we'll have a few of our reinforcements, if you will, back for the next game. And that will be good for those players, good for our team, and each day, it seems like every few days we are getting healthier, we're getting stronger, yeah. We'll get back to full strength real soon.

Q. Luke Singh, big occasion for him, especially coming off the Champions League sort of on display in mid-week in his MLS debut tonight. What did you make of his performance overall? Are there still learnings there and growth to be made?

CHRIS ARMAS: I think we know, yeah, there's so much -- our veteran players will still learn and grow. Imagine a player like Luke, we've thrown a lot at him. We discussed not starting him today because it could be a lot for a young player early on but we wanted to expose him to this type of game, and he held up in many ways, he did. It's just a big challenge on the day as we had to put out a lot of fires in transition. So with two strikers, with good moments, with quickness that he's dealing with all year long, I think he's growing quickly.

So it's a couple of really difficult games, you know, that he's had to face, but I think it will pay dividends for him moving forward.

Q. Three different games in short order, a lot of valuable information for you to go over. What do you do with that as you look ahead to the next match?

CHRIS ARMAS: Like always, this is when we played a USL team in preseason, and now that we play our opener and even Leon, we look hard at ourselves. We look at video. We just assess individual performances, collective performances, keep implementing. It's still early for us. It's still early for us. We need time to all get on the same page and understand what it takes to be a team, what it takes to play a certain way, to understand all the details and nuances of when you have the ball and you don't, when you lose the ball, when you win it, yeah, so what does the next week look like, we get home, we take some rest, it's been a tough stretch, we take some rest and we look hard and we put it right back to work. That's what this team is about. When we get right back to work in a real way, and it requires taking a hard look.

But that one's passed us. It's passed us. We'll be looking forward after a few days of rest.

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