

Toronto FC Media Conference

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Justin Morrow

Media Conference



Cruz Azul 3, Toronto FC 1

CONCACAF Champions League

Quarter-final Leg 1 of 2

Q. Given what happened tonight, you've been around the block, what kind of challenge are you facing next week in Azteca?

JUSTIN MORROW: Yeah, the second leg is going to be a tall task to turn it around. They are a really good team. You can tell that they are far into their season. They are really sharp on the day. We'll expect more of that next week and we're going to go there and give our best.

Q. Was there anything that you saw today -- I know obviously it's a disappointing result, but was there anything in the performance, any positives that you can draw upon that gives you kind of hope that you can build upon going into that second leg next week in México?

JUSTIN MORROW: Yeah, I think you can see that we're still building upon our style of play and implementing Chris's style. The positive, we got some important players back on the field tonight for some minutes that were coming back from injury. The closer that we get to full strength, the better we are going to be as a team. We have some young players with some good minutes in a tough situation today, so these are all positives. Like I said we have some history in this competition.

Going there, down right now in a tough place to play, isn't really going to faze us. We are going to come out and play our style and we are going to give it our best.

Q. Between the early goal and quick response after the goal that was ruled off-side, how much do those goals suck the wind out of you guys?

JUSTIN MORROW: Yeah, you can tell that they are a really sharp team. They are not top of the table for nothing. You can tell they have played together and they have good connections. Their reactions were really sharp,

and the goal in the beginning of the game -- they put us under pressure. We wanted to come out and start strong and they had a better start than us. So these are all things that we need to improve upon, as well as set pieces in the second leg.

Q. I know you guys don't like making excuses, but under normal circumstances, this game is played at BMO Field and the fans are going wild and it's a full house. Particularly after they go ahead by a goal, you would get a big lift from the fans. How much do you miss that and how bizarre did it seem tonight having your home leg and there's nobody there?

JUSTIN MORROW: Yeah, there's no two ways about it. We miss our fans dearly. Not just in this match but in every single match. But we're not trying to use that as an excuse. We've got a good setup down here. Playing in a couple different venues and we're doing everything that we can to churn out good results and win every single time we go out there on the field. So it wasn't there today for us. We're still a work-in-progress, but we're right back at it with a big game in Azteca next week, and after that, in Red Bull. So we are looking forward to a good week next week.

Q. Today is not the best performance that you have tonight, but the good thing is you got a tie faster the game coming back and the history and the background for defeating Mexican teams is on your side. So what do you expect for the second leg, because Toronto has been so complicated for Mexican teams, you kick out undefeated champions in the last tournament and you are facing the leadership of this tournament. But as I see you, you have good probability to get to the next round.

JUSTIN MORROW: Yeah, we have a good history in the tournament because we've had a team that's been together for a while, and we have players who aren't scared of the moment. We know that they are a very good team. We know that Mexico City, Azteca, is a very difficult place to go play, but mentally that won't be a hurdle for us. We'll have guys that are ready to rise to the occasion, take our opportunities when we can, and go there to give everything and lay everything on the line and that's a really

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good characteristic of our team.

We are mentally strong even in tough situations and we have kind of been through this before in some type of way, so that's a very big positive for us and that gives us hope going into the second leg.

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