

# Toronto FC Media Conference

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

## Javier Perez

Media Conference



Inter Miami 1, Toronto 0

### Q. How are you?

JAVIER PEREZ: I'm not good tonight. How are you.

### Q. I didn't think so. I just wanted to get your take on the game. It seemed like you had a clear goal in the 87th minute, and then you gave up penalties where there seemed to be clear encroachment on the penalty kick. Can you give us your take on those incidents?

JAVIER PEREZ: Yeah, I think you made already the summary for me. It's just unbelievable that we have all this technology, all these rules that they put in place just to get things right, and instead what they do is just create more confusion and more things that are unfair. I think it is unacceptable what we witnessed tonight. It's unacceptable to we have here, we have clear the play that is not even reviewed, it's not even -- not even conceded. Same gentleman, VAR (ph) that he was in our game against Montréal, and Centoff (ph) called the foul on Noble to send him off.

And I don't understand why we have such a clear situation that you can see even live, you can see live in the game. And then they have the technology to see it, and still it's difficult to believe that they don't do it personally. I don't want to judge. I don't want to assume things. But it's very difficult to believe that this is not something that's not done on purpose.

So I'm extremely disappointed because as you mention, 86th minute, very clear, very clear that the goal goes in. 95th minute, very clear that the penalty has to be retaken because there are three players that very, very clear, Federico, Wayne and Brex (ph) they are inside the box and that penalty has to be taken and it wasn't. Extremely disappointed with what has been conducted and managed the game tonight.

### Q. The calls notwithstanding what did you make of your team's overall performance tonight, especially playing a man down for whatever it was, 5, 56 minutes?

JAVIER PEREZ: Yeah, I'm very happy with the team. I'm very happy we stick together. I said the same thing last week, it was a different game, but I think tonight we are trying to get out of the hole. We are trying. I think we are touching the right keys and tonight we started I think really well given the circumstances. We were in control of the game. We were energetic. We were fast and I think the game was in a good way while we were 11 versus 11.

And then when we went one player down, we took the challenge and we accepted the game the way -- the way it was. We created chances. We knew at halftime that we have to defend very strong together, be compact, and we know that one or two chances were going to come. They did. Some of them, we didn't put them way but one we did, and it wasn't -- it wasn't the goal that we deserved.

### Q. Were you given an explanation by any of the officials why there was no review of the goal or penalty kick?

JAVIER PEREZ: No. The fourth official couldn't articulate to me any of the answers.

### Q. I don't know if you spoke to the team after the game. If you did, what did you have to say to them in the wake of what happened tonight?

JAVIER PEREZ: Two things. One is that we fought and this is the team that I want to see from now to the end of the season. This is the attitude, the energy, the way we move the ball; that we are at home, and we have to be strong in our home, and tonight we did.

And we are not going to -- we are not going to let anybody come to our home and take advantage of us. So it's going to be them on the field because in the end the players are the ones winning the games, but it's going to be as well everybody else around them supporting them and helping them starting with myself.

### Q. Jacob was not included in the starting 11 but came on and was a real difference-maker tonight. What did you see from him?



JAVIER PEREZ: Jacob has gone through a difficult season but sometimes that's what younger players need and I think nobody doubted of his quality. I think he needed to see a little bit the other side of the -- of the football because not always everything is pretty and sometimes when you don't perform and your team is not going in the good way, you don't see the field for a long time.

Today given the circumstances of the game, he implemented the parts of the game that didn't in the past and now we feel confident and comfortable that he can put good performances and help the team.

**Q. Maybe on a lighter note, does it feel like this team is cursed a little but? I thought, as you said that, was the best performance we've seen from the team in a while and as you said, everything that can go wrong, does go wrong.**

JAVIER PEREZ: That's what it looks like. That's what it looks like. But it's the reality and it's our reality.

All of the external factors are not helping us. Meaning that we need -- we need fair judgment on the field, because if tonight we have a fair judgment, the result would be different. But I think you're absolutely right; that the things are not going in our way the first half we found ourselves 50 minutes playing really well, with a red card on Miami and a penalty in our favor. And then that gets put out and we find after a red ward against us.

So it looks like sometimes when things don't go your way, really don't go newer way. But going back again to the judgment, we need fairness and otherwise it's impossible like we saw tonight.

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