

Toronto FC Media Conference

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Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Bob Bradley

Media Conference



Montréal 1, Toronto FC 0

Q. What did you make of the performance?

BOB BRADLEY: Pressure most of the game, I thought we defended for the most part pretty well but weren't able to put enough football together and not able to connect enough which just kept us deep.

You know, spoke at halftime about ways we can still get out a little bit more, the way they set up, especially on one side, the first half I thought more back -- time getting balls and playing balls forward and I thought we did a little better at that in the second half but still not enough football. And then we really make a mess out of the goal kick that leads 15, 20 seconds before the goal, short to my mow, under pressure to Shane, and that corner -- they step up high and comes back for Shane and probably he has to take a touch, move the ball forward and we move out. On the end of the play, the cross to the back post, don't do a good enough job in that area and Alex gets caught.

Q. Can you walk us through the decision to play with that back three tonight and what did you see from Shane O'Neill in that central role there?

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, when we found out that Oso was having some -- it was a concussion protocol which we didn't fully determine until mid day today, we decided to switch to the back three, and the way Montréal plays, especially at home, they put the backs very high and flat across the line and we felt we could handle that better playing three in the back.

You know, Shane in his role in the centre, especially in the second half was aggressive, stepped up early in the game.

Our back three didn't do a good enough job of stepping -- we were letting their two strikers, Quioto and Kamara, hold all three of our defenders and that got a little better in the second half and got out a little quicker but overall defensively Shane was pretty solid.

Q. With 13 MLS games left, is it not frustrating for you about the fact that you still have a team that's getting to know each other, or you still have some major

players coming in that still haven't played with you guys or still learning your systems and all that stuff and you really haven't had a chance this season to sort of fire on all cylinders?

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, that's been a challenge. I always keep saying, the first half of the season, but obviously the way things have gone, it's now moved into the second -- the beginning of the second half of the season, and you know, when you consider still at times waiting for players, and at times some injuries and being thin, again, today is another example when we lose Oso we have to sort of change our idea of how we want to play. That's not ideal but obviously got to find a way to keep everybody going. That's been the biggest challenge is to keep everybody believing that we are going to get it to where we want but it's hard work right now and we'll be excited to get a lift when some of these other guys get here, get on the field and see if we can get ourselves on a little bit of a run.

Q. You went back with Bono for the first time in four games. What went into that decision, and what did you make of Alex's performance? He made some big saves for you guys tonight.

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, I think Alex made one or two good saves for sure. I think the one was off-sides in Oso, the flag goes up way after but it's still a very good save. The decision is just -- I thought initially when Q came in, Alex had played a lot of games and thought he was a little bit beat up. Q came in and gave us some really good games, and then in the last little stretch, I think his form has slipped a little bit and we felt it was a night to bring Alex back.

Q. That might be one of the more hostile environments you've played in, tensions flared towards the end.

BOB BRADLEY: Well, we knew coming in it would be a good environment, not hostile.

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