

Toronto FC Media Conference

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Bob Bradley

Media Conference



Austin 1, Toronto FC 0

Q. That must have been a real gut punch. Seemed like you were coming away with a valuable point on the road, given all the personnel you've gone through, and then to lose it at the end, what's your take?

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, that was -- football-wise, especially in the first half, they came after us. We didn't do a good enough job of finding ways -- inaudible. But we got through the first -- defending in a smart way -- inaudible -- from the back so easily.

Yeah, I agree, it's a very tough loss, a night football-wise, especially the first half -- I thought we made a few changes at halftime to make ourselves better and certainly felt like there was a point to be taken at the end and it's a very tough one to give up.

Q. You mentioned the changes at halftime. Obviously you brought in two players but you also sort of shifted some players around. It seemed like you had a little bit more of the ball at the start of the second half. Just wanted to get your rationale, what was your thinking behind the changes that you made there?

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, we tried to use Richie high in the field in the first half and obviously that's not a position that he plays often, and so we wanted to get Richie back on the right side but -- connect on the left side of the field. Kobe does a good job when he's on the left, coming inside and inverting on us -- in the midfield and then Kosi gave us some good minutes. Brandon was tired tonight. Kosi was able to step up toward her era so he wouldn't have such an easy time. I thought those things helped us.

Q. Just on the goal, what sort of happened there? Was the player on the ground interfering with Sean? That's kind of what it looked like.

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, the cross came in -- when they play in the back -- Richie moved and tried to go and see if he could win the ball. I think it was -- not sure, spun away from him and was able to get cross in. I thought we were positioned well. Raoul, his header goes straight up in the

air and now Sean is dealing with a guy at his feet. It's not easy for him to get to the ball, and then obviously the header goes off the crossbar and back.

Q. Fede came off in the 67th minute. Just wondering, was there anything more to that? Was it injury-related?

BOB BRADLEY: No, Fede has put a lot into it. Halfway through the game Wednesday, he had a little bit of a stomach bug so he struggled Wednesday night and Thursday. It's humid down here. I thought he gave us 67 good minutes and I felt that we needed fresh legs for the latter end of the game.

Q. Lorenzo was not included in the match squad tonight. What was the reasoning for that?

BOB BRADLEY: Well, playing a match on Wednesday, he landed -- on the way, was still struggling after he got on the field, hoping that he would be okay but in the end, he was not able to work yesterday so we didn't bring him. Hopefully it's not a big thing.

Q. It's now four and a half games without a goal, and I don't think your team registered a shot on target today. Generally speaking, when you look at these four games, do you see something that's sort of common amongst all four of them? What do you see that has to be addressed going forward?

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, look, I don't think you can -- I think each game is different, and I think there are some games where we created advantages and have some pretty good chances, some opportunities on set pieces. Tonight there's not much where -- crosses pressed us more, and I thought especially our passing, coming from the back into the midfield tonight against that pressure was -- inaudible.

Q. It's been a busy stretch. What do the next few days look like for you and the guys?

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, they get some days off, and then we've got to regroup physically, mentally and get ready for a home game against D.C.

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Q. Just more of a general kind of mental kind of question. What do you say to the guys after such a heartbreaking loss like that? How do you keep their spirits up when it's such a -- it's got to be a devastating way to lose a game like that.

BOB BRADLEY: Yeah, they were all devastated. You're right. There's no words at the moment. It's some of the things that I said to you earlier. We got some tough -- made some improvements in the first half.

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