



# Toronto FC Media Conference

*Saturday, June 22, 2024*

*Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

**Derrick Etienne, Jr.**

Media Conference

New York 3, Toronto 0

**Q. Obviously it's a tough result in a tough place to play. How would you characterize the team's performance tonight?**

**DERRICK ETIENNE JR:** I don't know. It's kind of difficult. I'm still processing it. I'm still upset about the loss. I think we have to sit down and talk about it, analyze it, players and staff.

So real difficult. I can just say that there were things that we talked about before the game that we wanted to see, and I think one thing we didn't see is us quitting.

So I think that's a positive take from it. We at moments played some very good football. Got in behind, I got to do better on some of the plays in the first half.

But, yeah, I mean, overall really disappointment right now. I'm sorry if I didn't answer your question. It's hard to put into words at this moment in time.

**Q. The conditions were the same for both teams. An hour and 40 minute weather delay, fire alarm at the end. Did it feel like a crazy evening?**

**DERRICK ETIENNE JR:** I cannot comment on the things that the league has us doing. I'm sorry. I don't want to get fined.

**Q. Derrick, what's the difference between a play coming off and not coming off? What's the margin between success and failure in a game like this?**

**DERRICK ETIENNE JR:** I mean, it's -- could be a number of things. Red Bull does a very good job making plays difficult for you. So for instance, I think there is a cutback that I tried to go for for Matty that after looking at the play got to beat into.

Another one I think I probably don't help myself trying to play through a foul. I try to be an honest player and I think maybe if I just stop or go down it's a yellow card. After speaking to the referee, yeah, he would've given a yellow card and all that.

It's those little things, reading what the defender is going to do, making sure the pass is precise and firm enough or soft enough.

Yeah, I mean, it's a lot of things. Yeah, just we just weren't at our best tonight, but we wanted to make sure that it didn't look like Chicago in the aspect of it looked like and felt like at times we quit on that game. I don't think we quit today. Just weren't good enough today.



That's something we got to look in the mirror. Something every single one of us has to see what we did good and bad and rectify it, because we have a game against another eastern conference team next weekend.

**Q. The team is now winless in six games and three losses in a row. When you look at this stretch, how do you dissect this? What do you see as the major issues? And then what's the team have to do to get back on track?**

**DERRICK ETIENNE JR:** I don't know. I just feel like a lot of times we beat ourselves. I think little mistakes from everyone cause lapses in the game, and of course when you're in a tough stretch like this, it's very easy for confidence to go down, so sometimes you might see heads drop after a goal.

We just got to get back to the football that we were playing before and the mentality and the confidence that we had. I see a lot of the quality in the group and we have a lot of winners in it the group.

I just think it's one of those times when you're in a little bit of a bad spell where things aren't going your way and you got to make things happen. I think we're just a game away from that.

We came to a tough place, played a good team, and we came up short. That has to hurt everyone in the locker room. We all have to feel something about that and just be ready for the next game.

The good thing about that is there is a game next week so we have a chance to fix our mistakes.

But, yeah very disappointing losing three on the bounce and then six -- winless of six.

So just got to get back to playing our way, getting guys back in with confidence and executing in the final third. I think that once we do that, we -- myself and Prince, Fede -- all of us can relieve some stress off the defenders and the attack.

So I think it's a group thing, and I just think that once we hit that little stride I think you're going to see great things.

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