

# St. Louis CITY SC Media Conference

Sunday, April 13, 2025

St. Louis, Missouri, USA

**Olof Mellberg**

Postgame Press Conference



Columbus 2, St. Louis City SC 1

**Q. What was the trouble --**

OLOF MELLBERG: They have not conceded on chances for goals at the beginning of the season but because they are really good on the ball and have a lot of possession. So, they did today, but you know, we managed to create these big, big chances through the possession we had. So obviously extremely disappointing not to win this game or at least get a point.

**Q. What was the key in getting so many more offensives chances today?**

OLOF MELLBERG: I think I spoke about it last week. How we could improve from last week's game, and obviously also having analyzed the opponents and where we could hurt them. We did that really well on the chances, you know, a lot according to game plan, and obviously some individual good performances, as well, to create those chances, and we're very unfortunate not to pull them off.

**Q. Do you think Klauss was on-side?**

OLOF MELLBERG: No, he wasn't. He definitely wasn't off-side. That should have been a goal.

**Q. You thought he was on-side?**

OLOF MELLBERG: I had no idea in the moment. So I didn't look at any screens or anything but we've been told afterwards that it's definitely not off-side. So I don't know why he gives the off-side in the first place when it's so close. Better to get the ball and they can look at it afterwards, not the other way around.

I don't know if that's the reason they decided to give an off-side because I thought it was close. But apparently the people have been looking at the pictures and it's on side.

**Q. You mentioned midweek you're looking for the team to be more aggressive, and starting out the match in the first few minutes they reacted exactly like you said. Did you see and notice that progress, what you talked about midweek, how the club was operating today?**

OLOF MELLBERG: I think so. It was good energy. It was difficult for us to hold that up throughout the game. They are good on the ball, and we tried to push the guys to put as much pressure on them as possible. And on some moments, they did really well.

But on others, we had to back off a little bit.

**Q. And in the second half, you conceded the goal, but throughout the half it seemed like you were denied. Is that something they can bring out next week against Vancouver?**

OLOF MELLBERG: I mean, obviously I have to look at the game again. It's always better to have that analysis. I felt like they were more dangerous in the first half. Some situations, I think had one really good opportunity to go. It was a shot wide and advanced left. Apart from that, they had some dangerous situations, some balls in behind us.

But obviously we created those really big chances in the first half, and in the second half they didn't have much. I think it was the goal, and the off-side goal, they had, as well, and not much more than that, and we created our chances.

**Q. You seemed to make tactical adjustments in the second half. You were giving instructions to Kyle and Kessler to make moments. Did you like the reaction you were saying?**

OLOF MELLBERG: Yeah, I think so. We went to more of a back four and sort of gambled a little bit. Mykhi as left back in the end trying to throw everything forward, and we had some good moments, and I think created enough chances to score at least another goal.

**Q. Tough game against a tough team who is really good in tight spaces. What can the team and everyone can learn about them, and improve for the next match? What do you think about those situations?**

OLOF MELLBERG: Yeah, I think you said it. We knew that before, and so every week we have a new opponent. They are all very different from each other. You know, the last home game was very, very different. We had a lot of possession. They backed off, and you know, it wasn't a possession team.

So we have to look at each game individually, and you know, try to have a really good game plan for each opponent.

**Q. What's the situation with Josh Yaro? Is it a concussion?**

OLOF MELLBERG: No, it doesn't seem to be. But yeah, they have to follow protocol.

**Q. City is ranked 27 out of 30 teams in the MLS in expected goals. You had 1.66, a little better than Columbus, but you don't get the result you wanted. What do you feel this team did better or worse tonight compared to maybe some of the other games like the L.A. game where you got a win or the past three where you've fallen and been in the loss column?**

OLOF MELLBERG: I think probably the it game we created, I don't know about most chances but definitely the biggest chances. I find that surprisingly low expected goals, looking at Simon's couple of chances, Klauss's, Cedi's. There must be a couple of those chances more than a penalty. That sounded a bit low. Much better chances than those, it's difficult to get in a game, and especially get four chances like that in the same game.

Yeah, definitely look at how we can take that into the next game, and hopefully score. We got a little bit more direct; we spoke about that after the last game, as well, not so two-possession minded for the second week. We were really trying to look for our strikers as early as possible, and yeah, I thought we did that quite well on a few occasions.

**Q. If you can describe tonight's game in one word, what would you say that word would be?**

OLOF MELLBERG: There was so many things happening in this game. So there are lot of words. There were ups and downs, a lot of situations; the goal we should have had. You know, the goals allowed. It's very difficult in one word.

**Q. In the first half, you guys got that early goal, and it seemed like some of that aggression that started early really gave way to Columbus's possession style. Is that due to something Columbus did, or is that just part of our game plan to kind of stay back and let them have the ball a little bit more?**

OLOF MELLBERG: No, not -- I mean, you have to give credit to the opponents, as well. They are really good on the ball. Played with small margins. They knew that and they are really good in the buildup. They have a good goalkeeper there, as well.

So start being patient, as well, and not giving up. Still continuing to try with that high pressure, and eventually will give you a chance, like it did with Simon, a really, really big chance in the second half. We've seen that before in their game. It's enough to score on one of those if we are patient in our high defending throughout the game.

But it's difficult to do it all the time, every time, and we had a period there in the second half when we sat back a little bit too much, I think. But also in a period where they had some situations that were dangerous behind us and in our box. We had to be cautious, also, in our defending.

**Q. In possession, it seemed like a lot of times it was really heavily reliant on finding that first ball to Klauss or someone in the attack. But then oftentimes, the ball was lost. So can you talk a little bit about the importance of getting that second ball?**

OLOF MELLBERG: Yeah, we knew we had been working on that, the possibilities on the longer ball, and I think when we found Klauss, he did well on several occasions, and we were able to be dangerous from there on a few occasions.

But yeah, on our possession game, our buildup, I don't think it was great today. We really have to look at how we can really improve there and get better movement and variation in our attacks.

**Q. Talking about Klauss's game, it's got to feel Klauss finally get a goal with how the season has gone for him and he certainly looked like he was energetic, as well, after that?**

OLOF MELLBERG: Yeah, it's really nice. He had a good training week, as well, with good energy. It was nice to see him out there today. I thought we had some other really good individual performances.

So you know, obviously we're all extremely disappointed to lose but we've got to try to bring the positives to the



performances, and the chances we created, definitely need to improve on certain other things.

**Q. Looked like Timo with the start came flying out of the gate. Looked like he was ready to go today.**

OLOF MELLBERG: Yeah, definitely. I thought he did well, as well. Nice to see Mykhi, as well, making his home debut. He did well when he came on, as well.

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