



LA Galaxy Media Conference

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Maya Yoshida

Press Conference

San Diego FC 2, LA Galaxy 0

Q. Did you get a good look at Novak's pass? Is that a pass that should be booted up the field, or how did you see that develop there?

MAYA YOSHIDA: No, this is what we try since last season, and we always dominate the team. But to be honest, of course, that was mistake.

But San Diego making good press from high, high pressing, and yeah, to be honest, it's much better than I thought because they just train six weeks to build up their team and club. It's kind of like surprise for me.

People probably say it's our sloppy mistakes, but I would say not only that mistakes, but overall I would praise them that they prepare well in a short period and making this kind of game, I would say, well.

Q. How would you say you guys handled the evening?

MAYA YOSHIDA: There's no excuse that we -- even we miss a couple, the important players, experienced players and who can change the game. Even though, yeah, we prepared well and we already have the base of the team since last season, and of course new players have to understand how we play still. But you know, instead of six weeks preparation for them, we had more time that we should have done better.

Today is totally lost, defeat.

Q. You said last week that the team needs to be hungry and realize that you have to accomplish everything all over again. So I'm wondering, you're out there on the field and you see the MLS Cup come in, the fireworks, the banner. In a sense, was this a wake-up call? You guys are not the champions and now you are 0-0.

MAYA YOSHIDA: Should be. Should be. We are proud as a champion but it's a new season. No one starts like three steps forward, ahead, from anyone else. We are flat, and everybody start equal. That's why we have to be hungry and we are like -- we have to fight as a challenger.

This is a new challenge for us/, and look, after the game, they are celebrating like, what, the Cup final? This is how they want to beat us in the next 33 games. We have to be ready for this, and we have to fight for that.

Today was enough for sure, but next week, Vancouver, next important game away in a difficult stadium. Tough, as well. You know, after that, we have CONCACAF Champions League and lots of games coming. We need everybody ready, and still new players, Lucas and Christian, we need to build our structure more and more. This is very obvious. We have to be better.



Q. Last year, a lot was made of staying undefeated at home and using that as a rallying cry. You guys came in today and you lose the first game at home. Is there more disappointment than you'd expect from just a loss because you've already sort of ceded that record?

MAYA YOSHIDA: Yes, any defeat is disappointing for me, especially at home. Like we made a great result last year, and of course we wanted to continue. But this is just one of 33 games, plus playoff we looking for.

So one day, we could lose a game. This is normal. This is part of the game. So important things is, as I said, our season, we don't lose twice in a row, and very, very important to continue as competing the team, competing in this competition. Next game is more important.

And also, we have just played one game, and more understand how we play and how they come. Of course in the next game, opponent are going to analyze the team and the game. So it's going to be more difficult. But I still have confidence to compete.

Fitness-wise, also, it's getting better. This is my first 90 minutes since MLS Cup final. I'm still very positive.

Q. In goal, last year you had John and seems like Novack has the job now. Is there a difference as a center back and playing off of them prevent often?

MAYA YOSHIDA: Yeah, of course, J-Mac has more experience and Novack has more distribution skill probably. Unfortunately, this happened today but this is normal for young players, not only him, but also the opponent close my side and let Emiro have the ball as much as possible and waiting for the mistakes. This is how they wanted to play against us. So we have to analyze, and we have to find a solution for next game.

Still, just one game and one mistake, nothing change. Of course, it's twice, but we have to change. But this is a competition. Every position, Zanka came. Zanka has experience and he is an influence to the young boys on and off the pitch. I can see, it's very important for me and very happy to see that. But of course any don't play well and Zanka -- this is normal. Every position -- especially we have CONCACAF Champions League and we have two squads and this is important and difficult as we have limited budget. We are just starting to build up the team.

Q. You started alongside Garcés. What, if anything, did you go ahead and talk to him about after the game regarding the situation that led to the first goal?

MAYA YOSHIDA: You can see the physical ability is fantastic. He's very spaced, fast and strong but at the same time, probably this season, his next step, he has to improve with the ball, and tactically, as well. The small detail, which position, when we pass over the zone marking or intercepting and anticipate the game, this is next step for him to improve his career. This is very obvious.

Yeah, if he want to improve it, I'm here, and everybody is here. I think easily he can improve because he has already physical ability, and I cannot compete him in 30-meter sprint.

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