



# LA Galaxy Media Conference

**Saturday, October 4, 2025**

*Los Angeles, California, USA*

**Greg Vanney**

Press Conference

FC Dallas 3, LA Galaxy 1

*Q. Just talking to Diego about how this is the second game in a row that the team hasn't been able to hold a lead. Where do you think the problem lies in not being able to hold these leads? Is it an execution thing or is it a mentality thing?*

**GREG VANNEY:** Well, I think, again, like for us, the issue is that the game is 90 minutes, and inside of the game, there are multiple plays that equate into kind of key plays inside of the game.

We've talked a lot this year about defending in the box, crosses being more connected to men, being able to be physical with them. In the first goal, we get up 1-0, the first goal, it's a crossing situation. We lose a mark in the back. They cross to the back post, and they are able to put it right back into the mix, I think. And it becomes, again, a situation where in some of these key plays in the course of the game -- we do some of them through the course of the game, we do manage the situation and that keeps us in games, of course.

But then there's just too many moments that we have breakdowns. Sometimes you can say it's a mentality. I think the second goal is a mentality breakdown. I think the first goal is an assignment breakdown. You can go through the different games and you can probably attach different things to each goal.

But the second goal, possibly a foul on Joe. Guy leaves his leg in as Joe is turning back. But even when the ball turns over, we have enough numbers behind the ball to deal with the play. Zanka needs to release because there's nothing for him to keep dropping back for. He needs to release quicker and harder and not allow Delgado to get off a clean shot. There's no reason for us to be slow in doing so.

If we were outnumbered, I get it. If there's a space there that we have to manage, I get it. But that's not the case. We had enough numbers. The guy on the inside and outside of them were both dealt with. We need to release.

So again, it's a situation that it arises a little bit out of nothing. We think we have possession and all of a sudden we don't have possession, and for me, it's a mentality that we have to switch on and we have to make the appropriate decision quickly in that and be appropriately aggressive in the situation. And we were not. We were passive, and we allow -- yeah, he hits a great shot. So kudos to him, but he shouldn't have that time and space to be able to line that up and get a free look in my opinion because we have numbers behind the ball to deal with it.

You know, again, I think sometimes we find some ways, again, outside of that, I don't think they had a lot. Inside of that, they were overpressing a lot in the first half where they were getting man-to-man, and our first nine has to be a release valve for us. And we didn't hold one ball that we played to our nine in the first half.

So when a team goes man-to-man and our goalkeeper is looking up high we have to be able to -- as McGee did the good job



in the second half of battling through situations. He still lost a few, but battling through situations. Because all it takes is for us to control a couple or a few of those, get on the other side of them, and then they start to think twice about overpressing us. And the problem is we lost every single one. So there was no penalty for them to overpress us.

And then what ends up happening is, right, we end up conceding more possessions in our defensive half of the field and now you have to manage more situations defensively.

So it's a combination of things, but inside of it, again, they don't create many chances. But the few semi-chances had a had he create, we helped turn them into goals in my opinion.

*Q. Even before your time here with the Galaxy, L.A. has found Dallas a hard place to play. What makes it so hard to play there?*

**GREG VANNEY:** I think a few of the times that we've come here, they have been middle of the day games. It doesn't mean a whole lot other than the game goes into the conditions are different, it's hot, there's some humidity involved, whatever, and especially in the summer, it's brutal.

But a day like today, it's still warm, and it's an important game. It's a playoff-implication game, especially for the other team. And to play these games in Dallas at 3 o'clock in the afternoon just doesn't make sense to me because we want these games to be high intensity, high speed for the fans, for everybody.

We don't want it to be walking soccer, like it was part of the time out there. So I just don't understand it. I know maybe there's television evidently involved, but I just don't understand it. Even for the television, for everyone, you want a game at this time of year. And this is a special part of this time of year. You want high intensity. You want people sprinting as much as possible. You want challenges. You want the game to be fast, and you want it to be -- you have intensity, and these games in Dallas, when you come in in the middle of the day or it's in the summer even in the evenings, it's just slow pace. And I felt like we haven't managed the conditions well.

Today we lost too many balls where I felt like we weren't moving quick enough to support each other and some of the man-on-man pressing situations where we were not showing up, we weren't sharp, we were missing passes. As I said at the top, we were losing some duels. But I think in order to break, and I thought all through, as an example, in Leagues Cup, a lot of the Mexican league teams would overpress us in man-to-man, and we were fantastic in those situations. But game was moving fast. Players were moving fast. Conditions were evening.

Today, I just felt like we were too slow sometimes to really hurt them for extending their pressure the way they did.

So does that equate to every time? I don't know. I think it adds a little something to do with it but maybe not every single time.

Again, I felt like today was a day with better execution, I think we can get a result and we didn't execute on both ends as clean as we needed to.

*Q. Diego scored today, last game, and he's kind of played out of his -- not kind of, he's played out of his traditional position all year. Just speak on what he means to this team during this difficult period?*

**GREG VANNEY:** He's been one of our most important players for the whole season because he's out there, shows up every single day. He's ready to play every single game. I don't know if he was unavailable even one game this year.

You know, if we needed him to play in a pivot, which is what I felt got us moving in the right direction midseason a little bit. When he and Eddie were in there with Marco, I felt like we started to turn the momentum of our season around more.

And that's not his traditional position when he has to play wide because we are missing one of the two wingers or we have to do something different with him, he gives us that.

But for me, he's the consummate team guy. He's a connector in the locker room. He understands our league and he



understands players from different places. So he's able to connect with everybody.

Tactically, he's just very aware. He know what is we're trying to do out there and he understands the solutions inside of the game.

And so, again, he's been a huge piece for us because he's always available and he's so versatile in being able to put him into different areas, and again, off the field, he brings a presence that few others do inside of our group.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports ...