

## **MLS POST-GAME QUOTES**

Colorado Rapids vs Portland Timbers FC  
Feb 28, 2026 – Dick's Sporting Goods Park, Commerce City, CO  
Final: Colorado Rapids 2, Portland Timbers FC 0

### **Portland Timbers FC Quotes**

#### **Portland Timbers FC Head Coach Phil Neville**

##### ***On what was the most disappointing aspect of tonight's match...***

"I think it was a lot, to be honest. I felt like we never got started. And they scored from a deflected shot in the first half, and they had one shot in the first half. I know they had a lot of corners and a lot of momentum, but they only had one shot, and we had two massive opportunities, and we've got to put them away. So the disappointing thing is that our best players didn't put the ball in the back of the net, which is what we pay them to do. But I just felt there was a little bit of naivety to some of our play. Jimer Fory; unacceptable. I'll defend my players, but that's unacceptable, because that's a pattern, you know, it's not the first time. So he's obviously been told that this is sort of like the last time. There's a pattern where you've got to start learning first time, okay, second time you start, you know, and then third and fourth time, it becomes a real concern. So that was a concern. And when we went down to 10 men, obviously, then it became really difficult. But I just think it was a steep learning curve for the team. I feel as if we've been doing really well, and today was another steep learning curve where we've got to improve. We've got to be mentally tougher on the road. We've got to find ways to win. Myself included. This is not just a player's thing; it's we've got to find ways to win, and we've got to be smart. And you know, coming away from the comfort of Providence Park was a big test for us. I felt we failed the test today. I felt the players now need to start living in that vulnerability stage. They need to start living in that stage where they're feeling uncomfortable, where there's pressure on where they're feeling uncomfortable, and that's the next step for the team."

##### ***On what the plan was going into tonight's match and why it didn't pan out...***

"Well, I think performance levels were nowhere near what we saw last week at Providence Park. I think that was, you know, away games are different. You can't just think it's just going to be easy. You want to hold the ball, you want your players to get into a situation where they can show their qualities, and if they don't show those qualities, it's going to be really difficult for the defenders. So I think that, and the fact that I just felt that we looked a little bit nervous in possession of the ball, we looked rushed. We didn't get our structure right, and when we didn't get our structure right, I felt as if we were rushed and not composed, and that's something that I thought we did really well last week."

##### ***On what Joao Ortiz was not included in today's squad...***

"His wife gave birth to a baby. As he was going to the airport yesterday, his wife went into labor. It should have been for next week, but obviously, nature doesn't always go according to plan. So we were super happy for Joao and his wife and his beautiful family. It left us really short in an area where we only had two players, as you see at the end, we had Kamal Miller sent to midfield. I always think that family comes before football. And him being at home to help his wife, who was rushed into the hospital yesterday to have the baby, was more important than today."

##### ***On Gage Guerra's performance tonight...***

"I like Gage. I think he's doing great. I think his goals will come. His energy, his attitude, his mentality. He's mentally strong, doesn't let things affect him, does the job that we asked him to do, and we're super pleased with Gage."

#### **Portland Timbers FC Midfielder Cole Bassett**

##### ***His thoughts on what area of the game was most disappointing...***

"From my point of view, there were a few. So I can't really say one. I mean, to start off, we were sloppy on the ball. Didn't come out with the right energy. Basically, our whole idea of how we wanted to hurt these guys, we didn't ever really get to that point. We wanted to get in behind them and expose their high line."

We rarely did that. We rarely hit them in transition. There were a lot of things that we talked about before the game that we just didn't do in the game. And sometimes that's MLS for you. You look at them; last week, they had a rough game against Seattle. We played well against Columbus. It changes game to game. But if we really want to be a top team in this league and kind of take ourselves to the next level. I think the away games are huge for us to not feel away. We need to get comfortable being away from home and put on the same performances that we do at Providence Park."

***On how it felt being back in Colorado playing for a different team...***

"Weird, just because it happened so quickly. Four weeks ago, you were in preseason with them, and then you were traded here, and I'm so happy to be here. It was a weird moment because all those guys I've spent so much time there. It's not like you're there for two years and then leave, you know, seven years, you create really good friendships, and a lot of those guys are my best friends, so it's definitely tough going against them. But at the end of the day I felt like when I stepped over that line, friends go away for 90 minutes, and I was trying not to talk to any of them, and acknowledge what was going on. Really, just trying to win for Portland. And you know, it didn't happen today."

***On what are solutions to performing better on the road...***

"There are a few things, I think, managing the game better, putting our authority on the game of what makes us good. I've always thought MLS is one of the toughest leagues to go away from home because of the travel and the differences in climate and stuff like that. But for me, there shouldn't be any difference going away from home and being at home. At home, obviously you have the love of your family and the fans, but away from home, you should still mimic the same style that you're playing at home. And to me, I don't feel like we looked like the Portland Timbers today. So you know, I think we all know when we're at our best last week, you know what that consists of, and we need to bring that out every single time we're away from home."

***On if looking at the next game against Vancouver Whitecaps help matters in putting today's result right...***

"You know, it probably will. We haven't, obviously thought about Vancouver until right now, so I know it's a big game for Cascadia Cup purposes, and a rival of ours. So we'll be looking to bounce back after this one. But honestly, it doesn't matter who the opponent is, you know, after tonight's result, I think we definitely want to bounce back in any way we can."