

MLS POST-GAME QUOTES

Portland Timbers vs. Real Salt Lake
May 2, 2026 – America First Field (Sandy, Utah)
Final: Real Salt Lake 2, Portland Timbers 0

Portland Timbers Head Coach Phil Neville

General thoughts on the match...

“We lost the game in the first half, and that’s all on me. Got to take full responsibility. I think I’ve sat here in the past and we spoke about accountability. I think the first half was definitely on me in terms of the way that we tried to play. So I just said to the players that they were let down badly by their coach in that first half, and I take full responsibility for it. So I think that’s probably the main thing. I thought in the second half, I thought we had a resemblance of structure, organization, but not first half, and that’s all on me.”

On why the Timbers are struggling to string wins together...

“The start was on me. No blame to the first half. Could we have passed better? Yeah, we could have, but I think the first half was on me. We didn’t get outplayed second half. We got outplayed first half. We didn’t get outplayed in Minnesota, but we lost the game. So I think the consistency now is something that we need to get better at. We’ve got a big week coming up, and like I say, I think my overall thoughts of the game — forget the second half — is that the first half was on me. So I think any criticism comes my way, anything just comes my way in that first half, because the team needed to be better set up in that first half.”

On the team’s biggest struggle right now...

“Consistency is the biggest thing that we are struggling with. When you’ve got young players, they struggle with consistency. What I would say is that what you saw in the second half, Kamal [Miller], Ian Smith, [Alexander] Aravena came into the game, and maybe there was a little bit of complacency with the players that have been playing. But I think what I saw in the second half was that maybe there needs to be some changes within the starting 11. Maybe people got comfortable in there. Maybe people because they’ve been bought or brought in, or [Designated Players] or whatever, for large tags and large salaries, maybe there’s a bit of comfort in terms of their overall feeling, but you know, we just need to be better.”

Portland Timbers goalkeeper James Pantemis

On setting a new personal and Timbers’ record with 13 saves in the match...

“Obviously you pay attention to it a little bit as the game goes on. I noticed it more in the second half because I was facing the scoreboard and I saw the amount. I said ‘Man, I’m close.’ I knew what the MLS record was — I know Max [Crépeau] has it. I was thinking about it a little bit, but it’s my job. It’s my job at the end of the day. I’ve said it throughout the week. I’ve said it throughout my career. I’ve said whether the team needs me one time or needs me 50 times, I got to do what I got to do. So that was kind of what I was going through during that game.”

On what the Timbers are struggling with...

“I think that we try to implement our identity. And one of our principles is being stolid in possession. And I think that if you look at the majority of chances we concede, it’s because we’re losing the ball way too easily. We’re aware of that. We know we need to take care of the ball. And I think it’s just a question of us being more sharp. Our principles are in place where we’re good enough to follow it. And I just think that we just need to take care of the ball, because especially in places like this, where you’re at a

disadvantage already with the altitude, and you just need to breathe with the ball. And we didn't do that today.”

On making 1v1 saves and what he looks for in the attacker...

“Obviously there's little cues that you're trying to look at. We work on breakaways. We do 1v1 drills. We do 2v1 drills. Nothing can really prepare you for the game. At the end of the day, it's you against a shooter, and you got to try and play your angles, play the mind game a little bit and stay as big as possible. And luckily, today, the majority of them went my way. There's other times where the majority of them go in the forwards way. So it was one of those days where I read everything right, pretty much most of the time, and then I got the upper hand. But at the end of the day, we try and replicate as much as we can in training. So if I could get something out of that then that's what you got to do.”