

MLS POST-GAME QUOTES

Portland Timbers vs. Montréal CF
May 13, 2026 – Stade Saputo (Montréal, Quebec)
Final: Portland Timbers 2, Montréal CF 2

Portland Timbers Head Coach Phil Neville

On getting a draw on the road...

"I think the positives are we came back from one-nil, we came back from two-one, we got a point on the road, which if you look at our record we haven't done that much, but I still think it was a winnable game. So, I am frustrated, the players are frustrated, but with a three-game week you have to take the positives and take the lessons, and the lessons are that both goals we gave away are, for me, totally unacceptable, and individual errors, and it leaves you a mountain to climb. I thought there were periods of the first half where we were sensational, I thought in the second half there was a little bit of fatigue for some players, and I think in the end 2-2 was probably a fair result."

On what needs to improve in the second half of play going forward...

"I think it's the concentration, it's the discipline, because we can do it, we've seen that at Providence Park, we've seen that on the road at San Diego, at Minnesota at times and today in the first half. I think when we get to a point where we've just got to keep passing and moving and believing in what we're doing, believing in the system and believing in the football we're trying to play, and when we start being individualistic, and I said it Saturday about the ego, we've got to leave the ego at the door, leave the 'I want to win the game on my own, I want to do the special thing', we've got to keep the passing the ball with quality. So that's the big learning and we've been punished at times, we got punished for the first goal for giving the ball away in our own half when there were simple combination plays and there were times in the second half when we gave the ball away sloppily. I did think there was a little bit of fatigue in the second half, you know the six-hour travel and time difference, it's a cumulation of that, but no excuse in terms of fatigue because I rested five players after 60 minutes on Saturday, I rotated the team with a fresh player today because Antony felt really tired yesterday. We've just got to be better, we've got to keep improving, and I think we are improving."

Portland Timbers midfielder Cole Bassett

On his goal and scoring in consecutive matches...

"Tough game. They were definitely a tough team to play against, a lot different than years past. When we played them in Colorado, it was a lot different system than this. That was very reminiscent of a Matias Almeyda-San Jose Earthquakes system back in the day, where they are marking you all over the pitch and you have to move a lot to get free. We thought they were eventually going to tire out in the 60th minute, but they did not, so it was definitely a tough challenge for us. We did think we could get the three points on the road, and we think we had a few chances to end it that we maybe didn't capitalize on a few crosses, but overall, our ability to fight back was a positive on the night."

On the midfield shape...

"We want to get our best players on the ball, so the ability of those two [David Da Costa and Kristoffer Velde] to drop down and get on the ball helps us a lot, but I think it was an emphasis on this game because of the way they defend. If me and Diego [Chara] always stay centrally, it's very hard for us to progress the ball forward, so you need movement and the timing of when to show up and when to run through, and a lot of times its those two dropping down and me and Diego running through the middle. That was more of a tactic for this game, a nuance that the coaching staff and us worked on throughout

the week, and we had a few moments there where I think if me and Diego are better on the final ball, we could've gotten Antony in a few times and could've worked for us."

On tracking the rebound that led to his goal...

"To be honest, I thought it was going in on the initial shot, so I was kind of peeling off in a sense that way when I hit it, and I know it's either going inside post or in, and I was lucky that it kind of fell back into my path and the second I saw it going, it was just a sense and a feeling of where it might go, and I was able to finish it off. I wish the first one went in but always happy to finish it off there."