

MLS POST-GAME QUOTES

Seattle Sounders vs Portland Timbers FC
Jul 16, 2026 – Lumen Field, Seattle, Washington
Final: Seattle Sounders 1, Portland Timbers FC 5

Portland Timbers FC Quotes

Portland Timbers FC Interim Head Coach Jack Cassidy

On what it feels like to win tonight's match...

"Delighted for the players. It's obviously a feeling that gives you great satisfaction in the work that's taken place. I think any time you navigate these interim spells there's uncertainty. There's change coming when a permanent coach comes in, and I think everything that they've given us as a set of staff and what the staff and how the staff has supported me, when you see it come together in a performance like that, it's massively pleasing, you know."

On Jimer Fory's assist for Kevin Kelsey's goal...

"A lot of that was Kevin [Kelsey] just being intuitive to when to drop in, when to stay high. I thought Kevin was really, really good today. We've been trying to work with him to occupy the central defenders a little bit more, and stay in that position higher, and then come in and drop deep. And I thought he did that really well because then he started to cause them some real problems, and I thought his run for the goal was really good."

On how the team was organized to manage the midfield and control the ball in that space...

"We spoke a lot about you know those basic things. I thought we battled really well tonight, and doing those things, the duels, the second balls, that gives you energy. [Liam Ridgewell] worked really hard on the out of possession stuff with the players, and I thought we looked really solid. I'm disappointed we didn't quite get the clean sheet, but that will be for another day, hopefully. But in terms of actually the way that we defended in the open game, I thought we looked really, really solid, and we nullified some of their some of their threats really well."

On how to build off this win into the remainder of the season...

"The key is obviously for the players to enjoy it tonight, but then you've got to do it again because now they've set a bar and a high level of performance that you've then got to repeat next week when we go back to Providence [Park], so it will just be about the same messages. Honestly, we've been so consistent with the messages over the last six weeks. We've been just following the same things, same meetings, same things with the players, and we're just going to have to do that again to try and match that that type of performance."

Portland Timbers FC Defender Kamal Miller

On what emotions the team is feeling right now after tonight's win...

"I think as a team, we feel really good. It's definitely the highlight of the season so far. We've been on the end of some tough results, whether the ball didn't bounce our way or whether we just weren't up for it on the day. Whatever happened in the first half of the season. So over the past month, after we had a couple weeks off and we came back to train, we just right away decided as a group that this is it, you know, we're toward the bottom of the league, but it's not over yet. We can turn this around, and that's what we wanted to do. We knew coming here would be a huge task, but we were ready for it. I think Jack [Cassidy] did a good job to come in right away and simplify everything, and simplify the game plan, and most importantly, get us that fighting spirit again. And you saw that today, every player on the field was tackling and tracking back and working for the team. So it feels really good that we put together a performance where it feels like everyone's on the same page."

On takeaways from tonight's match for not only the remainder of the season but for a potential transitioning to a new manager...

"It's a very good result, and we'll use this momentum to help whoever takes over. We want to kind of steady the ship, and that's exactly what we wanted to do, and show fight, and at least be in a better position for when the new coach comes in, instead of him coming into you know a ship with a hole in it. We wanted to just be solid and keep growing as a team, knowing that someone else is coming in to take over. And I felt like we did that today. And yeah, if we could just keep taking steps forward and putting together results. At the end of the day, the most important thing as a result, if we could just keep getting results, I think it makes the transition much easier for all of us."

On if the goal line block or scoring a goal meant more to him...

"The block for sure. I think if what was the score at the time? It was still one nil. So if that goes in, they get momentum, and you know the game could be completely different. We'll be in here feeling sorry for ourselves. So I felt like that was an important moment in the game to get over those moments. Of course, it's going to be on top of the game and in control. We fought well through a lot of those spells where they put two three crosses in the box and we're getting free kicks and stuff like that. We fought really well. Unfortunately, we're all very upset about the clean sheet. We really wanted the clean sheet, but I think to go and score the fifth, we showed that you know we're a team that's even if we have the lead or like the new loss at the start of the second season, we're just going to stay on the front foot and try to play the way we want to play."

Portland Timbers FC Forward Kevin Kelsey

On what emotions the team is feeling right now after tonight's win...

"I'm happy for the team. I'm happy for my teammates. We've been working on details that we hadn't done so since the beginning of the season. We're a humble team. After every win or loss, we go into the next day ready to tackle all those small details that we need to work on, and we try and improve them the following week. The best way to do that is to get results and to get a win like tonight."

On what gave him more freedom and space in his game tonight...

"I love it. You know, I think having all the time that I've had in this league, I've kind of learned where the spaces are. It's hard to guard me at times, so I love playing free. I love playing that way in this league. I'll pivot sometimes, and I'll be able to look for spaces or to be able to look for my teammates when needed. I just try to contribute positively any way that I can, and when I do, it's great for the team."

On what goals he has for himself and his team for the rest of the season...

"You know the goals I set for myself personally, I will keep them to myself. But all I can say is that it's always good to contribute with goals, as that's the number one thing that's asked of me. If I can contribute in that way, I know I'm doing well."