

## **MLS POST-GAME QUOTES**

Portland Timbers vs. Seattle Sounders FC  
August 1, 2026 – Providence Park (Portland, Ore.)  
Final: Portland Timbers 2, Seattle Sounders 1

### **Portland Timbers Interim Head Coach Jack Cassidy**

#### ***On if he was waiting for a player to step up and smash a shot into the goal...***

"I don't like making too many judgments before I watch the game back, but it probably wasn't our tidiest performance out of the four games. We had a few sloppy balls. The game went a little bit like a lot of MLS games do — the transition game and I don't like that kind of game. Those games worry me a little bit. But we ended up coming out on top. It was a great strike. So yeah, worthy to win in the game, a strike like that."

#### ***On what it means to beat Seattle for a second time as Timbers Interim Head Coach...***

"I thought 'I won't have to buy a drink anymore.' So if anyone sees me, I like a non-percent Heineken, and my wife's a red wine. So just make sure everyone knows that when they see me out. But no, it's been an amazing time. The players have given everything, and we said after the break, on the first day, how do we create a higher bar for the next incoming head coach, and the lads have put themselves right back in the mix. You know the season is bang on now. We were a little bit more drifting than we wanted to at the break, so it's just credit to the whole squad. It's been a pleasure."

#### ***On his experience stepping up to coach in MLS...***

"I've had really good support. Really good support, because we're a really small staff. We're one assistant coach with Liam [Ridgewell], Memo [Valencia] with the goalkeepers and Connor [Ceballos] as an analyst, and we've been borrowing Andrés Flores from the second team on match days. He flew back in from the second team game yesterday from Minnesota and come straight to the stadium, and he's doing that well. I might not have my job back, by the way, when I go back. But we've really come together, and we've had to do a little bit more. Everyone's had to do a little bit more because sometimes when you're up against it like that, you rally together. The players have got on board with it. I was trusted and put into this position, and this is something I've been preparing for a long time. I've been coaching a long time. It's not just like you turn up. You work towards these things. I've always backed myself because I was given the opportunity and I believe I know what the fundamentals are to get a team well organized and functioning in the right way, and we've proved that over the four games. But I wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of the guys. It's been a really collective effort. There's been so much change, so many different moving parts across the process. We didn't know who was coming in at one stage. Then we knew, and all these moving parts that come with it, but I'm just extremely proud of everyone in the collective effort, and it just seems to be that we created a bit of togetherness with the players as well. I'm extremely proud about what everyone's done."

#### ***On the atmosphere inside Providence Park for tonight's Cascadia Derby...***

"It was unbelievable. The noise when Brandon [Bye]'s goal hit the back of the net. I had a perfect view. I was just sat in my seat at the time, and I just see it whistled in the bottom corner. So yeah, amazing moment, amazing noise. It's a European atmosphere, you know. It is. I don't mean that disrespectfully to other crowds in the US, but I think it's a special atmosphere here. It's different. It's different to any other stadium. We can hear it even before the lads came out to warm up. I will remember that moment for a long time."

**Portland Timbers defender Brandon Bye**

***On what he saw leading up to his goal...***

"We've been working on that positioning for me. I felt it in the last game too, in that spot. I think I was talking to [David] Da Costa after, and it's like, 'hey, I'm gonna open in that little hole there,' and he does a great job with attracting players, and everybody's watching him because he's such a talented player. So he dragged some players over, and I was in a good spot. I hit one like that in warm-ups and we were joking about it. So I was ready for it, and it came off right."

***On scoring the winner over the Timbers' biggest rivals at home...***

"It was electric. I mean, every game has been, but in particular tonight, it was amazing. So that was great. The fans really came out and showed out, and we knew we were going to get chances later and later in the game, and continue to put pressure on [Seattle]. I'm happy. I was happy to put that in the back of the net. And the celebration with the boys was great."

***On the influence of the Timbers Army on the team during the match...***

"It's amazing coming here from New England for eight seasons and stepping in for the first game against Columbus and seeing it for the first time being cheered for instead of cheered against. It's amazing, and every game it's crazy when you walk out for warm ups. They're already here, and they're already so loud and chanting, and screaming your name, and pushing you forward. Late in games when you're tired and your legs are gone, they're pushing you, and it's amazing. It's something really special. They're here after the game, like last game with [Felipe Mora], and this game with us and the logs, cheering us on, and nobody wants to leave. It's unbelievable."