

Leagues Cup POST-GAME QUOTES

Portland Timbers vs. Club América
August 9, 2026 – Providence Park (Portland, Ore.)
Final: Club América 3, Portland Timbers 1

Portland Timbers Interim Head Coach Jack Cassidy

General thoughts on the match tonight...

"I'm really proud of the players tonight. I'm actually really proud of the players throughout the whole period I've been in charge. I think if you're going to lose a game, that's how you lose it. I thought there was a lot of fight. I thought there was endeavor, effort, duels. I thought we were really good from start to finish. The difference is when you play an opposition of that quality, they get chances. You know, for example, the free kick. I actually felt [Club América] were a bit fortunate with the one off the post. But overall, as I sum up the whole period of time, I'm really proud of what we've done. I'm really proud of where we've left the team, particularly in the league. I'm really grateful to Liam Ridgeway, Connor Ceballos, Memo Valencia, and Andrés Flores. I think we've really found a way of working that's helped the group, and I think overall — tonight and in the previous games — I've been really proud of the players' efforts and where they fell in line with those basic things that you speak about."

On the differences between the first and second halves...

"I thought it was an emotional night. There was a lot of energy in the game. I thought it was two good teams going toe-to-toe. I thought at 2-1 there could have been a chance for us. We just didn't quite secure the first pass on the counter attack. So I think that was probably the most disappointing thing. Just that little bit of lack of quality at times, but it's difficult when it's such a battle like that, and [Club América] make it such a battle. They're an excellent team, you know. They're a big football club with excellent players, and they just came out on top, really."

On the intense atmosphere with so many Club América fans in the stadium...

"I didn't really speak about it too much. It was more just about sort of concentration and little bits like that. I actually thought they communicated and solved a lot of problems because — to be honest — they couldn't hear what we were saying on the sideline. It's so difficult to get messages on when it's that loud, and it's quite often like that in Providence [Park] anyway. But probably even more so on a night like tonight. So no, it was more just staying concentrated and being able to communicate those things themselves on the pitch."

On the relationships he's built with the players...

"That's a big part of how I like to lead is developing the relationships with the players. I was curious how it would look because I obviously didn't know the duration of how long I'll be taking this role. I'm glad that I was able to develop those relationships and be the authentic version of myself — which I always am. But sometimes time can be a constraint if you haven't got long to build those relationships. But I think in a short amount of time, I managed to develop those relationships with the players. We sort of just found a togetherness, which sort of resulted in a lot of what you saw tonight actually. I really do think that — although it's the only defeat we've had — it's as proud as I've been of the group, and I said that to them before. As long as we give absolutely everything and leave everything on the pitch, and I think that's what they've done. And then the supporters have matched the energy in the stadium. I know tonight looked a bit different, but I'm just sort of speaking about the time as a whole. The energy at the home games has been unbelievable, but really that's been driven by both the supporters and the players. The players have to give the supporters something to cheer about. So I'm really grateful to the supporters. I'm also grateful for the reception they've given me over the six matches. It's much appreciated. I think it's important now

that they continue that energy with Martí [Cifuentes] and his staff starting tomorrow, because it's going to be a really busy fixture schedule. There's not going to be a lot of time to train. There's going to be a lot of games, so he's going to need time. And I think it's important that, particularly at Providence [Park], the fans match that same energy and get behind him the same as they have me. But this is just an opportunity for me to thank the supporters because it's been an amazing journey, and I really appreciate the reception I've received over the time."