

MLS POST-GAME QUOTES

Portland Timbers v LA Galaxy

Oct 14, 2026 – Dignity Health Sports Park, Carson, CA

Final: Portland Timbers 0, LA Galaxy 2

Portland Timbers FC Quotes

Portland Timbers FC Head Coach Martí Cifuentes

Overall thoughts on tonight's match...

"Difficult feeling right now. I think that we had big expectations for the game, understanding that it was a very important game to push on our chances to get into the playoffs. And obviously, we think that we started quite well in the first 10-15 minutes, which is an important part of things we want to improve on as a team. But then we can see the goal, and after the goal, despite having some control on the ball, we were not capable of creating chances, and so actually we had to wait until the end of the first half to create a shot. We had a lot of dominance and won a lot of situations in the last half, but we couldn't convert because of different reasons into chances, and then in the second half we really had to shift to be much more aggressive in getting into the box. So I think we did. We created more situations in the box, and then it came to the second goal, it's a mistake on the mark, and we definitely felt that it was short. That we were short, that they were better than us at the end of the game because it was a similar action to the one that they scored. We had a few minutes before with the corner kick with Kama [Miller], and they had the quality to score. We couldn't, and that means that we were chasing a result. Nothing to complain about, but definitely feels that we were short on certain things to win the game."

On what were the changes made ahead of the second half...

"This process, where we are on understanding a new way of playing, in my opinion, the team has been more a counter-attacking team over the last seasons, so now we're trying to be a team that attacks in possession, that attacks using the ball, and we try to be dominant not only using the ball but as well being high on the pitch. I think that sometimes we are missing this sense of urgency because it's where we need to value the ball, but at the same time you only score goals if you get into the box. In the first half we need to have this desire, this aggression to attack more certain areas that we know that can end into chances, and in the second half we did more, we attack more the box, we were a bit more aggressive once we got into the last attack faster, and I think that's part of the development on what we need to improve."

On seeing the consistency that was hoped to be developed within the team...

"There are a lot of things. There are a lot of things that we need to improve. That's for sure. Actually, in the end, you can be unlucky in one game. You can be unlucky in two games if you want. But it's difficult when we have this trend. That means that we have not done well enough in certain areas. One of them is that we're conceding in every game, and we have been speaking with the guys that we cannot put ourselves in a situation where we need to score three, four goals every game to get something from them, so today again I don't have a feeling that I think the Galaxy in the first half had the goal and one counter. That was it. I think that in the second half they didn't get into our box much more than the goal, and still they managed to convert two goals. But still we had a lot of situations last year, and we were missing that cutting edge. So there are a lot of areas that we need to improve, and I'm aware of that. I understand that all of us were disappointed because now it's been a while since we won a football game, and we're here at the end to get the results. So yeah, it's not a good feeling."

Portland Timbers FC Keeper James Pantemis

On where communication needs to be between himself and the backline...

"I don't think communication is the word I would use. I think we defend as a team, we attack as a team, and I think that right now every little detail is killing us. We're just getting punished if we're not in the right space every single time. We can be better, obviously, set piece goals, we don't want to concede, cut backs, we don't want to concede. But I just feel like I don't think it's a communication problem. I think we're all on the same page in what we need to do. I just think that we are in a span of games right now where it's been a story of our season almost, and it's just every little thing is just not going our way in that sense, and it's a shame because I think we play well most of the time, but we're just not getting those bounces in our favor."

On the team staying motivated knowing they are not out of the playoff race yet...

"Obviously, a big one on Saturday against Colorado. I mean, I think you say it there. I think we're not out of it. We know we're not out of it. This league is very interesting in that way, where for some reason every year it comes down to decision day, and they love the MLS. So it's very possible to put two wins together. We're back in the mix. We still have a game in hand as well on LA. So we just gotta just gotta win. Sort of, we gotta take care of business, and I think that's gonna be the best way for we'll be at home. It's been a while, so we'll need the Timbers Army. That's for sure."

On the defensive strategy for set pieces...

"Yeah, I think when the ball is that low in regard to our box, I think we work and we train as if it's a corner, so we set up as if it's a corner. We are set in a zone. Our three guys in zone one, two, and three, and then one guy, which was I think [Alex] Aravena in the first post. We knew going into it that they like blocking the first zone, and I think [João] Klaus blocked, not sure who, Alex or Ronald [Hernández] and the ball just went over, and I'm not really sure where he came from or who's supposed to be marking, I think everybody knows their jobs, everybody knows their roles, but it just can't happen."