



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2020

UPDATED MEDIA ASSETS: New England Revolution Return to Full Team Training

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. – The New England Revolution today returned to full team training for the first time since Major League Soccer suspended play on March 12 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please [click here](#) to access b-roll, interview soundbytes, and photos from Monday’s training session. To request specific footage or interviews with Revolution players or staff, please email media@revolutionssoccer.net.

Revolution Media Assets - June 8, 2020

- [B-roll from Monday’s full team training session](#)
- [Photos from Monday’s full team training session](#)
- [Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena](#)
- [Defender Alexander Büttner](#)
- [Defender Henry Kessler](#)

Revolution Sporting Director & Head Coach Bruce Arena

On the team’s first full-team training session:

Arena: “The first day of training was good. You can’t expect too much on day one, but we have approximately four weeks to get our team ready for real competition. We’re going to work hard and get there, but I was impressed with the effort to day.”

On how the training facility helps ease the modified training setup:

Arena: “The facility is outstanding. We’re really, really pleased with the training facility and I know the players appreciate it. It allows us to do our training in a much more efficient manner, so we’re real pleased with everything here. The guys have been utilizing all the facility here and we have an outstanding hill as well for some fitness work. Overall, everything has been good.”

Revolution Defender Alexander Büttner

On how it feels to be back in a full-team setting:

Büttner: “It feels great. Finally we can play football with each other again. It was a long time we had to train by ourselves, but finally we are back.”

On the team’s fitness level:

Büttner: “I think everybody is fit on our team because we train hard for ourselves. But it is different when you train with a team, different fitness and everything, so yeah, it seems good and feels good and it’s good to be back.”

On Monday’s training session:

Büttner: “We did some small games, some crosses, so for me it was a good training. Most things was like in smaller areas and quick, fast returns with the ball and everything on crosses. It was really good training today.”

On feeling safe with the safety protocols in place:

Büttner: “Yeah, because we get tested almost three, four times a week and so I think it’s safe to train because the results are good. I hope everybody stays safe and healthy.”

On the difference between individual workouts and full team training:

Büttner: “It’s much better. We can sit inside now in the dressing room. Normally [during prior individual and small group training periods], we came here direct to the pitch and now we can use everything like normal, so it’s better.”

Revolution Defender Henry Kessler

On returning to full-team training:

Kessler: “It felt really good to be back, full training, for the first time in months. I think guys are going to be a little rusty, but it felt really good to be back. We’ve done a lot of running in the past weeks and I think we’re all glad to be back playing with the ball again.”

On similarities between the current return to training and the preseason:

Kessler: “I think that assessment is fair. I think it is similar to a normal preseason. Obviously, unprecedented circumstances, but we’re getting there and I think we’re headed in the right direction.”

On measures taken to build a safe environment for players:

Kessler: “It’s safe and reassuring that everyone’s been tested and no one tested positive. That’s really good news. There was a blood test and then the other one was a bit uncomfortable. You have to stick something pretty far up your nose. Those were the tests but it’s good to have those done and make sure everyone’s healthy.”

On the resources available at the team’s training facility:

Kessler: “The resources are tremendous here. These fields are fantastic. Being able to walk right outside the locker room to the fields is a luxury. The gym, the meal room, stuff like that are luxuries that we have here and we really appreciate. It’s good to have those back again instead of just driving in and driving home. We appreciate that stuff.”

On what he missed most during the training moratorium:

Kessler: “This might be a defender’s answer but I missed competing the most. Battling with guys. That’s probably what I missed most. You can kick a ball around, still try to do technical stuff, but competing against another guy – that’s something we didn’t have. I think that’s what I missed the most.”

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