



VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1

# MATCHDAY



**1 GK**  
MATT REIS



**NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION  
VS.  
PORTLAND TIMBERS**



SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012 AT 4PM  
GILLETTE STADIUM, FOXBOROUGH, MA

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## NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	Hometown	Last Team
1	Matt Reis	GK	6-1	205	3/28/1975	Mission Viejo, Calif.	Los Angeles (MLS)
2	Flo Lechner	DEF	5-10	170	3/3/1981	Ellwangen, Germany	Karlsruher SC (GER)
3	Tyler Polak	DEF	5-9	150	5/13/1992	Lincoln, Neb.	Creighton
4	John Lozano	DEF	6-2	180	7/31/1984	Guacarí, Colombia	America de Cali (COL)
5	A.J. Soares	DEF	6-1	170	11/28/1988	Solana Beach, Calif.	California
6	Michael Roach	MID	6-1	165	11/18/1988	St. Louis, Mo.	Saint Louis
7	Kenny Mansally	MID	5-10	165	1/27/1989	Banjul, Gambia	Real de Banjul (GAM)
8	Chris Tierney	MID	6-1	170	1/9/1986	Wellesley, Mass.	Virginia
9	Jose Moreno	FWD	6-1	180	9/10/1981	Santander de Quilichao, Colombia	Once Caldas (COL)
11	Kelyn Rowe	MID	5-8	150	12/2/1991	Federal Way, Wash.	UCLA
13	Ryan Guy	MID	5-8	160	9/5/1985	Carlsbad, Calif.	St. Patrick's Athletic (IRL)
14	Diego Fagundez	MID	5-8	140	2/14/1995	Leominster, Mass.	Revolution Under-16s
15	Jeremiah White	MID	5-9	170	4/2/1982	Lansdowne, Pa.	GKS Belchatow (POL)
17	Sainey Nyassi	MID	5-8	155	1/31/1989	Bwiam, Gambia	Ports Authority FC (GAM)
19	Clyde Simms	MID	5-9	170	8/21/1982	Jamestown, N.C.	D.C. United (MLS)
21	Shalrie Joseph	MID	6-3	195	5/24/1978	Brooklyn, N.Y.	N.Y. Freedoms (USL)
22	Benny Feilhaber	MID	5-9	160	1/19/1985	Irvine, Calif.	AGF Aarhus (DEN)
23	Blake Brettschneider	FWD	6-1	172	4/11/1989	Lilburn, Ga.	D.C. United (MLS)
24	Lee Nguyen	MID	5-8	150	10/7/1986	McKinney, Texas	Vancouver Whitecaps FC (MLS)
25	Darrius Barnes	DEF	6-1	175	12/24/1986	Raleigh, N.C.	Duke
26	Stephen McCarthy	MID	6-5	190	7/21/1988	Dallas, Texas	North Carolina
30	Kevin Alston	DEF	5-9	160	5/5/1988	Silver Spring, Md.	Indiana
33	Zak Boggs	FWD	5-11	180	12/25/1986	Vienna, W. Va.	South Florida
34	Bobby Shuttleworth	GK	6-2	205	5/13/1987	Tonawanda, N.Y.	Austin Aztex (USL)
39	Saër Sène	FWD	6-3	185	11/4/1986	Paris, France	Bayern Munich II (GER)
40	Tim Murray	GK	6-2	190	7/30/1987	Haverhill, Mass.	Providence
80	Fernando Cardenas	FWD	5-4	150	4/30/1988	Cartago, Colombia	America de Cali (COL)
99	Alec Purdie	MID	5-10	185	11/24/1988	Elkhart, Ind.	Indiana
Head Coach: Jay Heaps    Assistant Coach: Jay Miller    Goalkeeper Coach: Remi Roy							



## PORTLAND TIMBERS

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	Hometown	Last Team
1	Troy Perkins	GK	6-2	190	7/29/1981	Worthington, OH	D.C. United
4	Mike Chabala	DEF	6-0	175	5/24/1984	Fresno, CA	Houston (MLS)
5	Eric Brunner	DEF	6-4	170	2/12/1986	Dublin, OH	Columbus (MLS)
6	Darlington Nagbe	MID	5-9	165	9/23/1988	Lakewood, OH	Akron
7	Sal Zizzo	MID	5-11	165	4/3/1987	San Diego, CA	Chivas USA (MLS)
8	Franck Songo'o	MID	5-10	175	5/14/1987	Yaoundé, Cameroon	Albacete Balompie (Spain)
9	Kris Boyd	FWD	6-1	180	6/5/1905	Irvine, Scotland	Eskisehirspor (Turkey)
10	Eddie Johnson	FWD	5-11	185	9/20/1984	Chester, England	Austin Aztex (USFF)
11	Kalif Alhassan	MID	5-10	160	10/15/1990	Accra, Ghana	Portland (USL)
12	David Horst	DEF	6-4	200	10/25/1985	Pine Grove, PA	Real Salt Lake (MLS)
13	Jack Jewsbury	MID	6-0	185	4/13/1981	Springfield, MO	Kansas City (MLS)
14	James Marcelin	MID	6-2	170	6/13/1986	Saint-Marc, Haiti	Portland (USL)
15	Jorge Pelaza	FWS	5-10	155	10/11/1984	Guapi, Colombia	Deportes Tolima (Colombia)
16	Brent Richards	FWD	5-10	165	5/20/1990	Camas, WA	Washington
17	Eric Alexander	MID	6-1	160	4/14/1988	Portage, MI	Dallas (MLS)
19	Bright Dike	FWS	6-1	223	2/2/1987	Edmond, OK	Portland University
20	Jose Adolfo Valencia	FWD	6-1	180	12/18/1991	Bogota, Colombia	Santa Fe (Colombia)
21	Diego Chara	MID	5-8	150	4/5/1986	Cali, Colombia	Deportes Tolima (Colombia)
22	Rodney Wallace	DEF	5-10	160	6/17/1988	Rockville, MD	D.C. United (MLS)
23	Joseph Bendik	GK	6-3	225	4/25/1989	Marietta, GA	Sogndal (Norway)
25	Steve Purdy	DEF	6-4	190	2/5/1985	Morgan Hill, CA	Portland (USL)
26	Charles Renken	MID	5-7	140	12/19/1993	Edwardsville, IL	TSB 1899 Hoffenheim (U-19)
27	Christ Taylor	DEF	6-1	160	5/12/1989	Edmond, OK	Tulsa
28	Freddie Braun	MID	5-10	160	5/13/1988	Rochester Mills, MI	Portland (USL)
30	Lovel Palmer	MID	5-10	160	8/30/1984	Mandeville, Jamaica	Houston (MLS)
33	Hanyer Mosquera	DEF	6-1	175	1/15/1987	Istmina, Colombia	CD La Equidad (Colombia)
33	Andrew Jean-Baptiste	DEF	6-2	205	6/16/1992	Brentwood, NY	Connecticut
90	Jake Gleeson	GK	6-3	200	6/26/1990	Wellington, New Zealand	Portland (USL)
98	Mamadou Danso	DEF	6-3	185	4/27/1983	Serekunda, Gambia	Portland (USL)



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

(0-2-0, 0 pts.) THROUGH GAMES OF MARCH 17, 2012																
UNF	POS	PLAYER	GP	GS	MIN	G	A	SHT	SOG	FC	FS	OFF	CK	C	E	
30	D	Kevin Alston	2	2	180	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	
23	F	Blake Brettschneider	1	1	90	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	
80	F	Fernando Cardenas	1	1	69	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	
14	F	Diego Fagundez	1	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22	M	Benny Feilhaber	2	2	151	0	0	4	1	0	6	1	1	0	0	
13	M	Ryan Guy	2	0	56	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	
21	M	Shalrie Joseph	2	2	180	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	
4	D	John Lozano	1	1	90	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	
26	M	Stephen McCarthy	2	2	104	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	
24	M	Lee Nguyen	2	1	111	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
3	D	Tyler Polak	1	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
1	G	Matt Reis	2	2	180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11	M	Kelyn Rowe	2	2	135	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	
39	F	Saer Sene	1	1	57	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	
19	M	Clyde Simms	2	2	169	0	0	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	
5	D	A.J. Soares	2	2	150	0	0	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	
8	M	Chris Tierney	1	1	90	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
15	M	Jeremiah White	1	0	29	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
25	D	Darrius Barnes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
33	M	Zak Boggs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	D	Florian Lechner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	M	Kenny Mansally	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	F	Jose Moreno	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
40	G	Tim Murray	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17	M	Sainey Nyassi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
99	F	Alec Purdie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	F	Michael Roach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
34	G	Bobby Shuttleworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Team totals			2	2	180	0	0	17	7	23	30	5	4	1	1	
Opponent totals			2	2	180	4	4	33	8	30	23	6	7	4	0	

GAME-WINNING GOALS: None

GAME-WINNING ASSISTS: None

PENALTY KICK GOALS/ATTEMPTS: None

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION INDIVIDUAL GOALKEEPING

UNF	POS	GOALKEEPER	GP	GS	MIN	SHTS	SV	GA	GAA	PG	PA	W	L	T	SO
1	G	Matt Reis	2	2	180	8	4	4	2.00	0	0	0	2	0	0
Team totals			2	2	180	8	4	4	2.00	0	0	0	2	0	0
Opponent totals			2	2	180	7	7	0	0.00	0	0	2	0	0	2



# The evolution of energy has sparked the Revolution.

At NRG, we're proud to support the New England Revolution and to be at the forefront of delivering reliable energy in new and innovative ways.





**1** MATT REIS



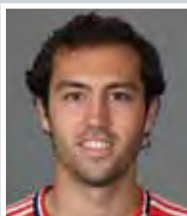
**2** FLO LECHNER



**3** TYLER POLAK



**4** JOHN LOZANO



**5** A.J. SOARES



**6** MICHAEL ROACH



**7** KENNY MANSALLY



**8** CHRIS TIERNEY



**9** JOSE MORENO



**11** KELYN ROWE



**13** RYAN GUY



**14** DIEGO FAGUNDEZ



**15** JEREMIAH WHITE



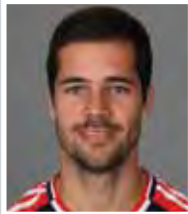
**17** SAINEY NYASSI



**19** CLYDE SIMMS



**21** SHALRIE JOSEPH



**22** BENNY  
FEILHABER



**23** BLAKE  
BRETTSCHEIDER



**24** LEE  
NGUYEN



**25** DARRIUS  
BARNES



**26** STEPHEN  
McCARTHY



**30** KEVIN  
ALSTON



**33** ZAK  
BOGGS



**34** BOBBY  
SHUTTLEWORTH



**39** SAËR  
SÈNE



**40** TIM  
MURRAY



**80** FERNANDO  
CARDENAS



**99** ALEC  
PURDIE



HEAD COACH  
JAY HEAPS



ASSISTANT COACH  
JAY MILLER



GOALKEEPER COACH  
REMI ROY



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION



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**ATTACK**"  
- Coach Jay Heaps



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## NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION VS. PORTLAND TIMBERS



### RESULTS

**Overall:** 0-1-1 **Home games:** 0-0-1 **Road games:** 0-1-0

#### LAST MEETINGS

04/02/11	Portland 1 at New England 1	T
09/16/11	New England 0 at Portland 3	L

### SERIES INFORMATION

- The Revolution is 0-1-1 all-time against Portland after the two teams met for the first time during Portland's expansion season in 2011
- The Revolution is 0-0-1 at home against the Timbers ... the two teams played to a 1-1 draw at Gillette Stadium on April 2, 2011
- Saturday's match is first – and only – time the two teams will meet this year
- Portland won the regular-season series in 2011 with two teams playing to a 1-1 draw at Gillette Stadium on April 2, and the Timbers winning the second match, 3-0, on Sept. 16 at JELD-WEN Field
- Both games in the series have seen early scoring with four of the five total goals scored coming in the first half

### PLAYER NOTES

- Stephen McCarthy is the only Revolution player to score a goal against Portland ... he tallied the Revs' lone goal against the Timbers on April 2, 2011, at Gillette Stadium
- Shalrie Joseph leads the Revs in shots against Portland with six in two starts
- Sainey Nyassi suffered four fouls in his one appearance against Portland on April 2, 2011
- Kevin Alston and Shalrie Joseph are the Revs' only two current positional players that played all 180 minutes against Portland in 2011
- Matt Reis is 0-1-1 all-time against Portland with a 2.00 goals against average and seven saves ... Reis recorded five saves in the first meeting between the two clubs in a 1-1 draw on March 26, 2011, at Gillette Stadium

### PLAYER TO WATCH



#### 11 • KALIF ALHASSAN

A former member of Ghana's U17 and U20 National Teams, Kalif Alhassan is in his second season in MLS with the Portland Timbers. The Ghanaian player has had a strong start to the 2012 season thus far, earning MLS Player of the Week by the North American Soccer Reporters (NASR) for Week 1. During the 2011 season, the 21-year old finished second among team leaders with six assists, including three game-winning assists, in 32 matches.

Ned Dishman/Getty Images

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**SE**



# MATTER





## 2012 NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION SCHEDULE

Subject to change. Updates will be listed on [revolutionsoccer.net](http://revolutionsoccer.net). All times listed Eastern.

DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (ET)	TV	RESULT
Sat., March 10	at San Jose Earthquakes	Buck Shaw Stadium	10:30PM	CSN	L, 0-1
Sat., March 17	at Sporting Kansas City	Livestrong Sporting Park	8:30PM	CSN	L, 0-3
<b>Sat., March 24</b>	<b>vs. Portland Timbers</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., March 31	at LA Galaxy	The Home Depot Center	11:00PM	NBC Sports	
Thurs., April 5	at FC Dallas	FC Dallas Stadium	8:30PM	CSN	
<b>Sat., April 14</b>	<b>vs. D.C. United</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>4:00PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., April 28	at New York Red Bulls	Red Bull Arena	3:30PM	NBC Sports	
<b>Wed., May 2</b>	<b>vs. Colorado Rapids</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>8:00PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., May 5	at Real Salt Lake	Rio Tinto Stadium	9:00PM	CSN	
<b>Sat., May 12</b>	<b>vs. Vancouver Whitecaps FC</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
<b>Sat., May 19</b>	<b>vs. Houston Dynamo</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., May 26	at D.C. United	RFK Stadium	7:30PM	CSN	
<b>Sat., June 2</b>	<b>vs. Chicago Fire</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
<b>Sat., June 16</b>	<b>vs. Columbus Crew</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., June 23	at Toronto FC	BMO Field	4:30PM	CSN	
<b>Sat., June 30</b>	<b>vs. Seattle Sounders FC</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
<b>Sun., July 8</b>	<b>vs. New York Red Bulls</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>CSN/Galavision</b>	
<b>Sat., July 14</b>	<b>vs. Toronto FC</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Wed., July 18	at Montreal Impact	Saputo Stadium	8:00PM	CSN	
Sat., July 21	at Sporting Kansas City	Livestrong Park	8:30PM	CSN	
Sun., July 29	at Philadelphia Union	PPL Park	7:00PM	NBC Sports	
<b>Sat., Aug. 4</b>	<b>vs. Sporting KC</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
<b>Sun., Aug. 12</b>	<b>vs. Montreal Impact</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., Aug. 18	at Chicago Fire	Toyota Park	8:30PM	CSN	
Sat., Aug. 25	at Columbus Crew	Crew Stadium	7:30PM	CSN	
<b>Wed., Aug. 29</b>	<b>vs. Chivas USA</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>8:00PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
<b>Sat., Sept. 1</b>	<b>vs. Philadelphia Union</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
<b>Wed., Sept. 5</b>	<b>vs. Columbus Crew</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>8:00PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., Sept. 15	at D.C. United	RFK Stadium	7:30PM	CSN	
<b>Sat., Sept. 22</b>	<b>vs. New York Red Bulls</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., Sept. 29	at Houston Dynamo	BBVA Compass Stadium	8:30PM	CSN	
Sat., Oct. 6	at Philadelphia Union	PPL Park	7:00PM	CSN	
<b>Sat., Oct. 20</b>	<b>vs. Chicago Fire</b>	<b>Gillette Stadium</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>	<b>CSN</b>	
Sat., Oct. 27	at Montreal Impact	Saputo Stadium	2:00PM	CSN	



## MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	STREAKS	LAST 10
Sporting Kansas City	2	2	0	0	6	4	0	Won 2	2-0-0
Houston Dynamo	2	2	0	0	6	2	0	Won 2	2-0-0
Chicago Fire	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	Tied 1	0-0-1
Montreal Impact	2	0	1	1	1	1	3	Tied 1	0-1-1
Toronto FC	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	Lost 1	0-1-0
Columbus Crew	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	Lost 1	0-1-0
Philadelphia Union	2	0	2	0	0	2	5	Lost 2	0-2-0
D.C. United	2	0	2	0	0	1	4	Lost 2	0-2-0
New York Red Bulls	2	0	2	0	0	1	4	Lost 2	0-2-0
New England Revolution	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	Lost 2	0-2-0



## MLS WESTERN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	STREAKS	LAST 10
Real Salt Lake	2	2	0	0	6	5	1	Won 2	2-0-0
Colorado Rapids	2	2	0	0	6	4	1	Won 2	2-0-0
Vancouver Whitecaps FC	2	2	0	0	6	3	0	Won 2	2-0-0
Portland Timbers	2	1	0	1	4	4	2	Tied 1	1-0-1
FC Dallas	2	1	0	1	4	3	2	Tied 1	1-0-1
Seattle Sounders FC	1	1	0	0	3	3	1	Won 1	1-0-0
LA Galaxy	2	1	1	0	3	4	4	Won 1	1-1-0
San Jose Earthquakes	2	1	1	0	3	1	1	Lost 1	1-1-0
Chivas USA	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	Lost 2	0-2-0

## THIS WEEK'S MATCHES



## LAST WEEK'S MATCHES

### Friday, March 23

Houston at Seattle, 10 p.m.

### Saturday, March 24

San Jose at Toronto, 1 p.m.

Portland at New England, 4 p.m.

Montreal at Columbus, 4 p.m.

Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Chivas USA at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.

D.C. United at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

### Sunday, March 25

Colorado at New York, 4 p.m.

FC Dallas at Kansas City, 7 p.m.

### Saturday, March 17

Chicago 1 at Montreal 1

Houston 1 at San Jose 0

Portland 1 at Dallas 1

New England 0 at Kansas City 3

New York 0 at Real Salt Lake 2

Toronto 1 at Seattle 3

Vancouver 1 at Chivas USA 0

### Sunday, March 18

Colorado 2 at Philadelphia 1

D.C. United 1 at LA 3

## GOAL SCORING LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	GOALS
David Estrada	SEA	1	3
Fabian Espindola	RSL	2	2
Robbie Keane	LA	2	2
C.J. Sapong	SKC	2	2

## GOALKEEPING LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP	MIN	SHTS	SVS	GA	GAA	W-L-T	SHO
Joe Cannon	VAN	2	131	8	8	0	0.00	1-0-0	1
Tally Hall	HOU	2	180	7	7	0	0.00	2-0-0	2
Jimmy Nielsen	SKC	2	180	7	7	0	0.00	2-0-0	2

All MLS statistics as of games played through March 18, 2012

## CONCESSION STANDS



Hot Dogs, Individual Pizza, Anna's Fried Dough, Popcorn, Pretzel, Peanuts, Candy, Nachos, Hot & Cold Beverages, Draft Beer  
Vegetarian Options: Cheese Pizza, Anna's Fried Dough, Pretzels



Hot Dogs, Italian Sausages, Bratwurst, Meatball Subs, Popcorn, Pretzel, Peanuts, Candy, Nachos, Hot & Cold Beverages, Draft Beer



Chicken Tenders, Chicken Wings, French Fries, Popcorn, Pretzel, Peanuts, Candy, Nachos, Hot & Cold Beverages, Draft Beer



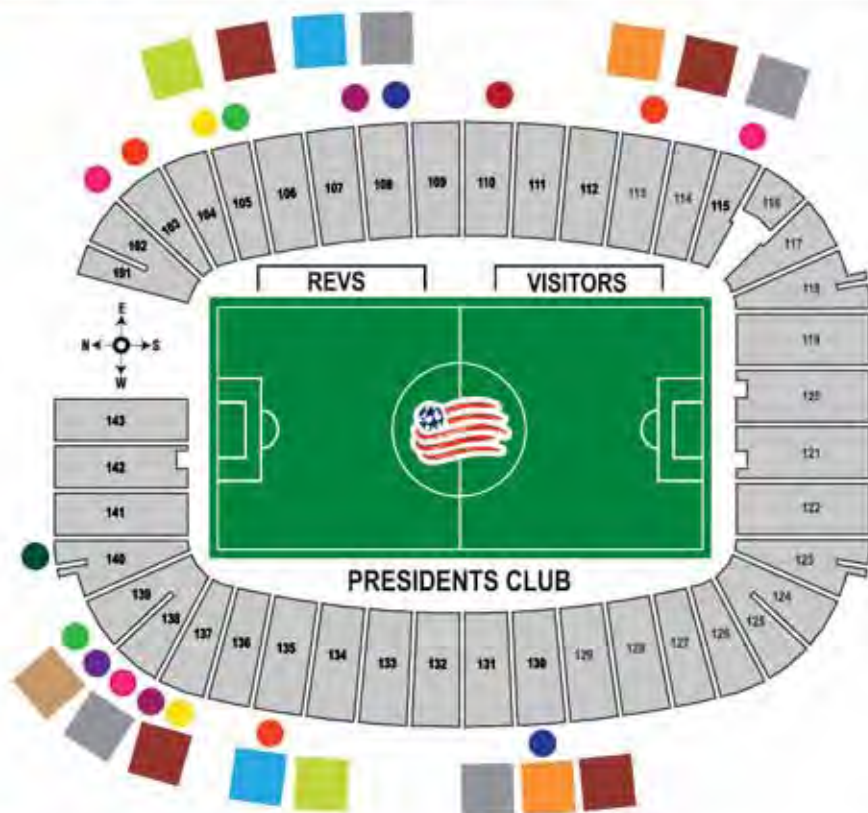
Hamburgers, Chicken Breasts, Cheesesteaks, French Fries, Chili Cheese Fries, Popcorn, Pretzel, Peanuts, Candy, Nachos, Hot & Cold Beverages, Draft Beer Vegetarian Options: Veggie Burgers, Veggie Hot Dogs, French Fries, Pretzels



Fresh Battered Fish & Chips, Chicken Tenders, Chowder, Fried Shrimp, Clam Strips, French Fries, Popcorn, Pretzel, Peanuts, Candy, Nachos, Hot & Cold Beverages, Draft Beer



Hot Dogs, Italian Sausages, Bratwurst, Cheesesteaks, Popcorn, Pretzel, Bottled Soda, Bottled Water, Bottled Beer



## FOOD AND BEVERAGE PORTABLES

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Sam Adams Draft, Sam Adams Light Bottles & Twisted Toes

Popcorn, Frozen Lemonade, Hershey Ice Cream & Bottled Water

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# TYLER POLAK

By Corey Hanlon

Tyler Polak is one of the Revolution's four rookies this season and made his MLS debut in the team's season opener at San Jose on March 10. The Lincoln, Neb., native took a few minutes to chat about his experience with the Revolution so far.

• ***What's the biggest thing you've taken from your MLS experience so far?***

I would definitely say the pace is a lot higher and more intense. I played in college, and those guys are big, but they didn't really know how to play soccer and move the ball around but these guys do. They know what they're doing, they're thinking two plays ahead and it can be hard to keep up but I'm just trying to get used to that.

• ***How has coming into a club with a lot of new faces, both coaches and players, helped your transition into MLS as a first year player?***

It's definitely helpful. Jay (Heaps) as the new coach and a lot of other guys, I'm making a lot of friends, and it makes it easier to ease into. It was really easy because everyone is kind of new and we're all on the same playing field.

• ***You're from Nebraska and played college ball at Creighton. What stands out about New England?***

There's a lot more things to do around here, especially being close to Boston.

• ***What has been the biggest difference in the style of play in MLS so far compared to other levels that you've played at?***

The guys are just bigger, they have a lot of speed, a lot of athleticism. It's been a lot different. Also, just guys being two, three plays ahead

• ***Who's your favorite player and what team do you follow?***



Cesc Fabregas, he's my favorite player. And I follow Arsenal. They're kind of struggling right now but they'll get back into things.

• ***Any consistent game day routines?***

Not really. I don't have any superstitions. I like to keep things fresh.

• ***What's your best soccer memory from Creighton?***

Definitely us winning against USF in overtime. It was really awesome, the crowd was really into it and they just went wild after we scored.

• ***Go-to time killer for road trips?***

I have a lot of movies on my computer so I try and watch those. And if it's not movies, then I have Temple Run and Zuma. Those are pretty fun games.

• ***The March Madness tournament is well underway. Did you have Creighton going all the way?***

No. I tried to be realistic. I [had] them beating Alabama and then losing to UNC.



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# Changing of the guard

Veteran goalkeeper Matt Reis is one of the few remaining links to the Revolution's past

By Jeff Lemieux  
Staff Writer & Online Host

**F**OXBOROUGH, Mass. – “Change” was a buzzword which became synonymous with the New England Revolution this past offseason.

In essence, the organization was overhauled from top to bottom. There were changes in the front office, where Brian Bilello and Michael Burns took on new roles as the club's President and General Manager, respectively. There were changes to the coaching staff, where legendary defender Jay Heaps replaced long-time gaffer Steve Nicol as head coach and subsequently added Jay Miller (assistant) and Nick Downing (strength and conditioning) to his staff. There were extensive changes to the roster, as well, with more than a dozen new players brought on since the end of the 2011 campaign.

Even the locker room wasn't safe from the alterations; upgraded facilities – including brand new spaces for weight training and video analysis – were installed to aid the club's preparations. And although it was more a product of the league's natural two-year cycle for new uniforms, it seems fitting that the Revs will take the field for the home opener

against the Portland Timbers wearing completely remodeled jerseys.

“When you only win five games, you have to be open to anything,” said veteran goalkeeper Matt Reis. “Obviously what we were doing towards the end (of Nicol's tenure) wasn't working for us and it was time for a change.”

Reis is perhaps the antithesis of the Revolution's offseason overhaul. The 36-year-old shot stopper enters his 10th season in New England as the club's all-time leader in every goalkeeping category and is one of the most recognizable personalities in the entire league. He's been a fan favorite at Gillette Stadium for almost a decade and is one of the last remaining links to the Revolution side which appeared in three straight MLS Cups from 2005-07.

But to quote Bob Dylan, the times they are a-changin' in Foxborough. Of the 14 players who took the field for New England in the season opener against San Jose, only Reis, captain Shalrie Joseph and defender Kevin Alston were with the Revs prior to the 2011 season, and Alston was drafted in 2009. Half of those 14 players made their Revolution debuts against the Earthquakes.

Although it's unquestionably a different atmosphere for Reis – who was coached by Nicol for each of his first nine seasons with the Revolution – the changes have been welcomed with open arms.

“It's unfortunate, but it was something that had to happen,” said Reis.

“With only winning five games last year it kind of gave everybody a wakeup call that we have to start doing things a little bit differently.

Thank goodness the front office and ownership group decided to make some

Thearon W. Henderson/Getty Images

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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7:00PM - MIDNIGHT**



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

drastic changes and I think that they're going to work out in the long run."

While long-term success and an eventual return to championship caliber is the ultimate goal, Reis has already noticed results in the first few months of 2012. Although the group around him – including goalkeeper coach Remi Roy and fellow goalkeepers Bobby Shuttleworth and Tim Murray – has remained intact, Reis notes an increased focus on fitness and video analysis as critical changes moving forward.

"One big key is the addition of Nick Downing as a strength and conditioning coach, giving us that aspect of the game, covering that and making sure that we're fit," said Reis. "It's not only just running us, but sometimes some players need to take a little break and that's something they can analyze with that data and see those kinds of things.

"The other thing is the use of video," he added. "We didn't really do that at all with Stevie. Jay's very much into a lot of that analysis ... I think a lot of good things can come of that, not only [analyzing]

our opponents, but (also) looking at ourselves. And not only looking at the bad, but (also) looking at the times that we do good stuff."

The Revs are a youthful team with 20 players on their roster aged 26 years old or younger. But Reis – the oldest player on the roster by more than three years – rejects the notion that this is a team built for the future. Instead, he's prepared to win in the here and now.

"The way this league's set up with the parity and all the extras that you get when you don't make the playoffs and you have been struggling, you do get allocation money and you do get top draft picks," Reis pointed out. "So it really is set up that you can turn around and come right back.

"If you look at the last couple years, there's been a lot of teams which have been out of the playoffs and come back to win MLS Cup," he added. "We didn't have to make complete and total revamp changes and we've done a good job bringing in new blood."





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