

**INDY ELEVEN POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET
INDY ELEVEN 2 : 1 BETHLEHEM STEEL FC
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019 - LUCAS OIL STADIUM**

INDY ELEVEN HEAD COACH MARTIN RENNIE

On tonight's result ...

"It was a big win for us. It was always going to be a game like that, hard. We obviously had to dig in because we've played a lot of games recently. I felt we started the game well and had good chances. I was hoping we'd take one to make the game a bit easier. At halftime, we've been in that position a lot where its nil-nil and we've come out and won the game. We knew we could do it.

"We started the second half well and had a good goal. Credit to Bethlehem Steel FC, they came back and fought hard. They were energetic and dynamic. Evan [Newton] made a really good save and that was a big moment in the game. It was disappointing we didn't manage to deal with the corner having dealt with a similar situation just before it; great defending from Paddy [Barrett]."

On the team's character and culture ...

"The character to come back was excellent. Obviously, there are a bunch of really good players on this team. Most teams have that, but there is a connection between the players. They fight for each other and care about each other. They have a good culture in the locker room. It's a unique group of players and that's what I think makes the difference on a night when players are tired."

On tonight's offensive performance ...

"In the first half we had good chances and took shots from bad angles. It is one of the challenges of Lucas Oil [Stadium]. Sometimes guys feel set and the ball moves a bit more than on grass. It's something we have to deal with and made the most of. Creating that many shots is a positive sign, but we want to be a bit more clinical. Their 'keeper made a couple really good saves."

On Dane Kelly's performances as of late ...

"Recently he's been doing really well. Playing the other teams tired in a bit of space seems to suit him. He's got great speed and great awareness. It doesn't matter if you play 90 or 15 minutes, if you get the goals in that makes the difference. It's a great skill to have. We've done it on a few occasions, but it's nice to see Dane [Kelly] do it again."

On clinching a playoff berth ...

"We made the playoffs tonight with five weeks to go. That's a huge achievement. Every club looks to make the playoffs and we've done that. We have much higher aspirations than that. We want to be at the top and give ourselves the best chance to win when the playoffs come. But that's quite a while away. We've still got a lot to play for, but we've got playoffs to look forward to in the future. Finish first would be our goal."

INDY ELEVEN FORWARD ILIJA ILIC

On tonight's performance ...

"First of all, I want to say it was a really hard game. Bethlehem is a really good team. They have a lot of young players that can go to MLS at any moment and are all really, really talented. It was really hard for us. One thing I want to say is that our response to their goal was amazing."

On the impact of the fans ...

"I think I said this before, but when I played against Indy Eleven before, I used to hate these fans. They were so loud and always supporting and they were hard on the away teams. Now that I'm on their side I'm really happy, and I think tonight especially, when we needed it most, I couldn't hear myself. It was really loud, and I get those chills, you know? That's what brings the energy, that's what makes you run more. It brings you that little bit extra you need and I think we got that tonight."

On how this Indy Eleven team handles adversity ...

"I'll tell you something – the strikers win you the game, but defenders win you the championships. So if you have a good defense throughout the season, that's how you get to the top. I would say that this year the defenders are actually much better than the strikers for us. We have the best defense across the league and I'm really happy for the guys. They just keep providing clean sheets."

"Tonight, I think that Bethlehem, the way that they responded after a goal was really hard for us to defend. We were a bit tired from the game before. You then have players like Dane Kelly who are coming off of the bench. You have [Tyler] Pasher who played 90 minutes. You get that late goal, it kills everything that the other team was trying to do all game. I think it's really special that we have very good strikers but it's even better to have such good defenders."