

## **INDY ELEVEN QUOTE SHEET**

**INDY ELEVEN 1 : 1 ATLANTA UNITED 2**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021**

**IUPUI MICHAEL A. CARROLL STADIUM – INDIANAPOLIS, IND.**

### **INDY ELEVEN INTERIM HEAD COACH MAX ROGERS**

#### ***On the end of tonight's match:***

“It’s tough. It’s not just the last couple games, it’s been the whole season. We’ve had these situations and moments, it’s the rude awakening to life in professional football, but unfortunately it is what it is. It’s another sort of routine moment; it’s mad.

“Even when we’ve been on the tough end of games, our players have given everything they’ve got. We try to implement what we wanted to do and Atlanta, every team they play against has more possession and a few more shots on goal. I thought we played really well tonight. We should’ve put the game to bed a little bit on the counterattack. It’s a tough one to take, but we have to suck it up and be ready to go again the remaining games.”

#### ***On the interjection of Nicky Law and Kevin Partida in the second half:***

“They were excellent, and that was the reason they didn’t start – to manage them. Nicky’s obviously played a lot of minutes for me and done really well, so we have to manage him. Same with Kevin, he played really well the other night, but to ask him to go again from the start tonight wouldn’t have been fair to him. You have to take care of the players.

“The game plan in a sense went away in the first half. We saw it and didn’t really love it, so we brought on those lads to help us in the second half. It’s just disappointing.”

#### ***On Tobi Adewole’s leadership on the back line:***

“I worked with him in Saint Louis and I did a lot of work with the defenders there, so Tobi knows how I want a back-four to play. He’s excellent in terms of his communication and his positioning – he can reach to clear and block balls.

“It was tough tonight to play football. Again, every team that Atlanta play against find it tough because they press so well. I thought Tobi and Jared Timmer both had a good game, I thought they defended the box really well. To be fair, Jeremiah [Gutjahr] at right back isn’t his natural position, but I thought he did a good job. It’s hard to pick out somebody that hasn’t performed to be honest with you.”

#### ***On performing during a difficult stretch of games:***

“[Atlanta] may have had more possession or shots, but that’s what they do to every team. What we had to do, I felt we did it until the last moment. There’s no pointing the finger at anyone, it’s just been the season for this group and it’s testing everyone’s mentality. That can be football at times.”

***On keeping the locker room positive:***

“It comes from the experienced players, but it has to come from me and the staff as well. You can’t rely on the players just to do that all the time. It has to come from me to pick up the lads and go again at Birmingham. We’ll have a couple of days off just to refresh and recharge. It’s been a busy period for us and I think it’ll do us a world of good and then we can get back to working.

“I’ve said to them numerous times that football’s a funny game. We have to keep going, keep representing the club in the correct manner when we play at home – and away games when the fans can travel. They’re supporters, so we have to represent the club and represent the fans in the right manner, and who were again fantastic tonight. We don’t know what’ll happen, we just have to keep going.”