

INDY ELEVEN QUOTE SHEET
OKC ENERGY FC 1 : 1 INDY ELEVEN
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021
TAFT STADIUM – OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

INDY ELEVEN INTERIM HEAD COACH MAX ROGERS

Overall thoughts on tonight's match:

"I'm really proud of the players' efforts this evening. I thought they worked really hard and showed good tactical organization and things that maybe don't come across on the television, they followed exactly what we were after. We got the first goal, but apart from that [OKC] didn't really threaten us. They had some crosses into the box that we defended well and a few shots from distance, but nothing really for Bobby [Edwards] to do. We had some periods of really good possession ourselves and deserved to go in with a goal.

"The second half, we probably sat a little too deep and needed to retain the ball a bit more, but showed good shape and organization. Unfortunately, Kevin [Partida] and Tobi [Adewole] were both playing well but had to come off due to lack of match fitness and we had to change shape a bit. We had a couple of great opportunities to get a second goal, but obviously in the end conceded an equalizer we weren't expecting them to with a cross into the box.

"Overall, we can't fault the effort of the players – everyone gave everything. To play on that surface again with the travel and being in a hotel, not to use that as an excuse or anything like that, but it's a completely different scenario for everyone. The good thing is that now we have a goal, we stopped a run of defeats and we've got five games with no more midweek games. We can prepare and attack these last five games."

On the team's decisive attacking movements this evening:

"We were a little bit more decisive. When you go a goal up, you obviously want to hold on to what you have. I don't think we tested their goalkeeper enough after we scored. Then it becomes a game of being set with what you got and push on. When you're on a good run and confident, then nine times out of ten that's when everyone's on the front foot, but when you're away from home and haven't picked up three points in a while, we have the tendency to sit deeper and try to hold on. It's also a balance, because when you do that and get away more than one-nil, it's a masterclass, if you don't then the feedback is 'why didn't you get higher? Why didn't you attack more?'. That's football. It's results orientated – I'm old enough to know that, but the players were determined tonight. They followed what I wanted them to do."

On the debuts of Kevin Partida and Tobi Adewole:

“I thought they were both very good this evening. I know Tobi from Saint Louis FC, I know what he can do and how strong he is at defending – he’s got a good understanding of the game. He communicates well and defends the box well.

“I thought Kevin’s work rate to not only to get up in the gates and oppose the midfield when he had to, but to recover possession and make really good moves to get onto the ball, play one-two touch which I thought was really good. It’s great to have them in and I hope we can welcome [Emmanuel] Ledesma as well and make sure we’ll still in the running for the season. It’ll be an excited end to the season.”