

Miscellanea

[No. 5] An MLS Field Experiment

This item tracks the win-loss record of the New England Revolution in reference to the type of playing surface and other conditions, as reported by *The Boston Globe* or TV commentators.

01. Houston Dynamo (0) v. Revolution (3) at New England, Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. March 30, 2008. According to right back Jay Heaps, "I liked us defensively, we kept them in front of us. We probably caught them off guard a little with the cold [sub-freezing temperatures] and field [FieldTurf], but we were raring to go." Frank Dell'Apa, "Revolution imports deliver the goods," in *The Boston Globe*, March 31, 2008, available at http://www.boston.com/sports/soccer/articles/2008/03/31/revolution_imports_deliver_the_goods/. "The Houston defense was knocked off balance in the early going, victimized by the Revolution's speed and unpredictability." Frank Dell'Apa, "Revolution as good as new," in *The Boston Globe*, March 31, 2008, available at http://www.boston.com/sports/articles/2008/03/30/revolution_as_good_as_new/.

02. Revolution (0) v. Fire (4) at Chicago, Toyota Park. Natural grass. April 1, 2008. According to Matt Reis, the Revolution goalkeeper, "This was their home opener; we beat them the last three years and knocked them out of the playoffs, plus the weather and field conditions, and some inexperience on our part led to some mistakes." Frank Dell'Apa, "Revolution get burned early," in *The Boston Globe*, April 2, 2008, Sports section, page E2, available at http://www.boston.com/sports/articles/2008/04/04/revolution_get_burned_early/.

03. Revolution (3) v. Wizards (1) at Kansas City, Community America Ballpark. Natural grass. April 9, 2008. According to news reports, "The game was played at high tempo, a cold rain making the field slick." The Rev coach, Steve Nicol is quoted as saying, "The field was really fast and it was difficult for the players to control the ball." Frank Dell'Apa, "Revolution back on attack," in *The Boston Globe*, April 10, 2008, Sports section, page C2, available at http://www.boston.com/sports/articles/2008/04/10/revolution_back_on_attack/.

04. Colorado Rapids (1) v. Revolution (0) at New England, Gillette Field. Artificial turf. April 12, 2008. It rained heavily during the first half of play. According to the broadcast comment on Boston's Channel 38, "the slick field wreaked havoc with the passing game."

05. Revolution (1) at New York Red Bulls (1), Giant Stadium. Artificial turf. April 19, 2008. Frank Dell'Apa, "Revolution not caught short," *The Sunday Boston Globe*, April 20, 2008, Sports section, page C2. The article stated, "Altidore adjusted to the conditions, the Giant Stadium artificial turf slickened after having been soaked by the grounds crew before the game."

06. Revolution (1) at FC Dallas (0), Pizza Hut Park. Natural grass. April 24, 2008. No mention of field conditions or affect on play.
07. Chicago Fire (3) at Revolution (0), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. May 3, 2008. No mention of field conditions. It rained during the day on Saturday, May 3.
08. Revolution (2) at Chivas (1) Carson City, Home Depot Center. Natural grass. May 11, 2008. No mention of field conditions.
09. San Jose Earthquakes (0) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. May 17, 2008. No mention of field being a factor. The weather was warm, no rain.
10. Revolution (1) at Columbus Crew (0), Crew Stadium,. Natural grass. May 24, 2008. No mention of field conditions being a factor.
11. DC United (2) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. May 29, 2008. No mention of field conditions being a factor.
12. RFC Dallas (1) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Natural grass (converted from artificial turf because of Brazil-Venezuela friendly), June 6, 2008. No mention of field conditions. It drizzled early on in the day and a day before it was a rainy day.
13. Revolution (2) at Houston Dynamo (0), Robertson Stadium. Natural grass, June 12, 2008.
14. New York Red Bulls (1) at Revolution (1), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf, June 18, 2008. No mention of turf or weather conditions. Light rain fell through the game.
15. Revolution (1) at Real Salt Lake (2), Rice-Eccles Stadium. Artificial turf, June 21, 2008. No mention of field or weather conditions.
16. Toronto FC (1) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf, June 28, 2008. No mention of field conditions or weather/rain.
17. Revolution (2) at Los Angeles Galaxy (1), Home Depot Center. Natural grass, July 4, 2008. No mention of field conditions or weather.
18. Chicago Fire (2) at New England Revolution (1) at Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. August 9, 2008. No mention of filed conditions or weather.
19. New England Revolution (0) at San Jose Earthquakes (4), Buck Shaw Stadium. Natural Grass. August 16, 2008. Two goals for San Jose were scored by O'Brien: the commentators on Channel 38 TV (Boston-based) said of him that he did not like playing on artificial turf when he was at Toronto.

20. DC United (1) at New England Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. August 20, 2008.

21. New England Revolution (1) at Toronto FC (1), BMO Park. Artificial turf. August 23, 2008.

22. Los Angeles Galaxy (2) at New England Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. August 30, 2008.

23. Revolution (0) at Columbus Crew (4), Crew Stadium. Natural grass. September 6, 2008. I watched the game on Channel 38 TV in Newton and the field at time looked so even and nice that I thought it was artificial turf, but it was not when the camera zoomed in onto the surface toward the end of the game. I need to research this and make sure that the surface was indeed natural grass.

24. Chivas USA (0) at New England Revolution (4), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. September 11, 2008.

25. Revolution (1) at Colorado Rapids (1), Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Natural grass. September 20, 2008.

26. Columbus Crew (1) at Revolution (0), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. September 27, 2008. Pouring rain. Crew played most of the game with 10 men.

27. Real Salt Lake (2) at Revolution (2), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf. October 4, 2008.

28. New England Revolution (0) at Kansas City Wizards (1), Community American Ballpark. Natural grass. October 11, 2008.

29. New England Revolution (1) at D.C. United (2), RFK Stadium, Natural grass. October 16, 2008.

30. Kansas City Wizards (3) at New England Revolution (1), Gillette Stadium. Artificial grass, October 25, 2008.

Playoffs:

Chicago Fire (0) at New England Revolution (0), Gillette Stadium. Artificial turf, October 30, 2008.

New England Revolution (0) at , Chicago Fire (3) at Toyota Park. Natural grass, November 6, 2008.

