



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### TRANSCRIPT (1/17): Preseason Match #1 vs. Sarasota Paradise

*Soundbytes from Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović, M Jackson Yuell, & D Will Sands*

#### Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

##### ***On building a foundation through the first week of preseason:***

**Mitrović:** "First of all, I would like to say that the energy level is really good. We're kind of learning what the right standards are when we're on the field and off the field. I'm very positive about that after the first week. Today, the game was kind of a summary of the first week, what we're trying to do. It's not that easy that after one week you get even the very basic things in our moments of the game. But there were some moments today in the game where I felt like 'Okay, we're getting it,' and I felt very positive. So, now it's about how we can have more of those actions during the game and then what are the next steps in development?"

##### ***On the importance of intensity as a focal point through the early stages of the preseason:***

**Mitrović:** "Very, very important. I think it's one of our core performance anchors. When we speak about intensity, we always connect with run, which is present and it has to be present. But it's also intensity in way of thinking and making decisions because it goes together. And as I said, it's one of our core performance anchors. That's something that is really up to us. It's very, very in our control. There's no other way to win if we don't bring the right intensity into our environment."

##### ***On what he wanted to see from the team during today's match:***

**Mitrović:** "Yeah, we just did one starting concept in attacking and simple foundation in defending. And then those pieces that we tried this week in training sessions, and we had certain progression, how we can implement and integrate that into the game. We had a really proper opponent that tested us in several good ways, to challenge how we can really implement those things. There were moments where I felt like, 'Okay, now they see where we want to go,' and that's encouraging."

##### ***On six different players scoring in today's match:***

**Mitrović:** "As a team, one thing we speak about is that we have to feel comfortable wherever the ball is and whatever the moment of the game is. If we're defending and attacking, and then we're attacking, whoever is there has to feel comfortable to score the goals. We're not here to depend on two or three players because it's not easy for the team or the whole season. Everybody has to have that mindset and capacity to score the goals and be present in the box. That's something we're trying. I actually hadn't thought about that. We had six different goal scorers, which is nice for all of them to feel that part like 'If I'm doing the right things and I'm in the right spots, I can put my name on the board.' So that's great."

"And score-wise, winning matters. There's no hiding, whether it's a preseason game or a regular season game, we cannot hide. For us, it's more those small things. Can we win those small actions on the field that can lead us to find a win?"

##### ***On the two groups of players each playing 45 minutes in today's match:***

**Mitrović:** "There are a couple of components. Number one, obviously we're in preseason still. And no matter what, game fitness is game fitness. The easiest way for them to develop [to the level where] they can sustain the intensity that we are talking about is through playing games. The other thing for us is it's

also a great opportunity to see the guys. They're all even and they're fighting for their spots. It's good for us to learn how much we can get from each of them."

### **Revolution Midfielder Jackson Yueill**

#### ***On his takeaways from the team's first preseason match and scoring in today's game:***

**Yueill:** "It's nice to be back with the guys, getting the first game minutes underneath us. I think the work we've done this first week has been really positive. I think there's a lot to learn with the new staff and the way we want to play. The guys have really taken the message and the understanding that we want to play with the ball, we want to be aggressive, we want to create a lot of goal scoring opportunities. Today was a good moment to practice some of those things in a game situation. The guys have responded really well. It's good to be out there and good to get a goal today."

#### ***On two groups of players each seeing 45 minutes in today's match:***

**Yueill:** "It's a lot of good players, good camaraderie with everyone. It's nice to be out there. It's a full team. We know how long the seasons are and we need everyone. So, everyone on the same page, playing together, is really important. Marko and his staff have done a really good job bringing everyone in and giving a clear message and intent of how we want to play. You could see that through both groups today and hopefully we keep that going throughout the year."

#### ***On his early impressions of Marko Mitrović and the coaching staff:***

**Yueill:** "They're a very positive group. Everything is exciting, very intentional, and thoughtful. When you're around people like that and a coach like that, it resonates through the whole team. You can make mistakes, and it's all about the intent that [Marko] wants. I think there's a lot of learning to do just in the style that we want to play and the complexities in certain moments of the game that we want to utilize. But the guys have really responded to the energy levels and to the commitment that [Marko] and his staff have. It's really positive so far in this first week."

#### ***On Mitrović's points of emphasis and his message to players prior to today's match:***

**Yueill:** "A lot of it was intent, be intentional in how we do things. And the intensity. Do things as best and as fast we can. We know that we're still one week into it and there will be mistakes, there will be missed passes. But it's about our reactions after those, trying to do the right things that we've been working on and talking about this week to defensively be well and offensively try to break them down. So, intent and then intensity behind that."

#### ***On the importance of developing intensity:***

**Yueill:** "I think you'll probably hear [Marko] say it a lot, 'intensity is the starting point.' Tactics, everything else is kind of secondary. You have to bring the right attitude and mentality, and that starts with intensity. Intensity and the focus that you have to bring to the meetings, off the field, intensity on the field in what you're doing. I think one of the big qualities that [Marko] has is that he shows that to you, so you resonate after that. That's the starting point with this team. We have a young team, so we want to build off that and then let the qualities show, let the tactics show after that."

#### ***On learning Mitrović's style of play:***

**Yueill:** "I think in day one, even the first calls, I think [Marko] was telling everyone a little bit of his plan, what he wanted to do, and kind of get your mental scope around how he wants to play. You can hear him while you're playing, in training, outside of training, in the meeting rooms. He's very intentional and clear about how he wants to play and what he wants to do. Obviously, he wants to give players freedom inside of that game plan and that structure. But this first week, he's been very demanding and very clear in how and what he wants to see out of everyone. I think that's very positive to see. It gives guys a clear understanding of what they need to do and what they expect their teammates to do as well."

## **Revolution Defender Will Sands**

### ***On getting his first minutes of the preseason in today's match:***

**Sands:** "It felt good. It was a long offseason, and I think everyone was ready to go. The energy in the first couple of days has been amazing. I'm really excited for what this year has in store. I think it was a good start to the year, and we can keep building on that."

### ***On six different players scoring in today's match:***

**Sands:** "It's great to get everyone experience and kind of familiar with each other in the system. I think it's just everyone has something to prove. It showed today, with everyone trying to crash the box, everyone trying to score goals. It shows a hunger and an omen for good things to come."

### ***On learning Marko Mitrović's style of play:***

**Sands:** "It's always really fun for me to experience a new way of playing. I think you learn a lot from the game. I think everyone's learning and there's a way to go to make sure that it's a good final product. But the process of understanding what [Marko] wants and the fundamental aspects of his style of play are really fun, actually. I think everyone's really excited."

### ***On the chemistry he has developed with Homegrown Player Cristiano Oliveira:***

**Sands:** "I love Cristiano. He has such a good work ethic. He always wants to get better, to learn. He works really hard. It makes my job as an outside back really easy, just move off him. I think he has a special future ahead of him, so I'm very happy for him."

### ***On how the newcomers are integrating to the team:***

**Sands:** "It's been great. I think it all starts with how we gel off the field. All the guys that we brought in are very nice. I think they also, as I said, have a hunger and they understand how Marko plays, especially Brooklyn [Raines] and Ethan [Kohler]. I think they bring a level of experience with Marko's style of play that helps everyone. They've been a pleasure to play with."

### ***On intensity as a focal point for the team this preseason:***

**Sands:** "I think you could see it today with people crashing the box, really wanting to score goals. Also, defensively I think we're really organized. Even in practice, it's kind of awesome to be in, at least for me, a back four. Just taking pride in what we do, not conceding goals. And on the other end, scoring goals. So yeah, the intensity is very high and it makes me happy."