



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (1/21): Media Availability

Soundbytes from M Cristiano Oliveira, D Ethan Kohler, & M Brooklyn Raines

Revolution Midfielder Cristiano Oliveira

On the importance of his family throughout his professional journey and what it means to have them attend his games:

Oliveira: "It's incredible to be able to play for my team that I grew up watching. Being able to have my family there every weekend when we play at home, it's incredible. I was actually thinking about this, and I'm super grateful that God [gave me] a family with such a good foundation. I think it's helped me stay humble and always have good character wherever I go. So, I'm super grateful to God. I think it's just helped set that foundation, having a good family."

On how his confidence has grown throughout his professional career:

Oliveira: "It has definitely grown. I think there are always moments where there's ups and downs, injuries. But I just think always having that confidence is important but also being able to learn and use information that other people give you, that also helps expand my confidence and grow as a person and as a player."

On what he has learned from his new coaches and teammates during the first two weeks of preseason:

Oliveira: "Last year I was with the first team [in preseason]. I think last year was super helpful, helping me get adjusted to everything. Obviously, Marko [Mitrović], new coach, I've learned so much from him. I've grown up playing 4-3-3, [which] I was talking with some of my academy teammates [about] this week. But there's so many little details that Marko is really aggressive on, and I just think I'm always learning."

On how helpful it is to have a mix of young players and veterans on the roster:

Oliveira: "It's super important. I would say having the older players to help guide you, show you this is what you should do in this situation. Not only on the field, but also off the field. And having academy teammates [at preseason] like Javaun [Mussenden], Damario [McIntosh], [Eric] Klein, people that I grew up with, they also make me feel more comfortable. I feel like I'm not on a new team but just going through the phases with them. So, it's super important having both older and younger kids."

On his excitement as a Brazilian American ahead of France and Brazil meeting for an international friendly at Gillette Stadium in March:

Oliveira: "Yeah, it's amazing. Brazil, the biggest team in the world. We have five World Cup [trophies]. I'd say that's an honor to say because I'm Brazilian. Yeah, it's a great opportunity. I think having the World Cup [this] year is going to help soccer grow in the U.S. and having Brazil play, it's going to be a great opportunity for all Brazilians to come and watch. Hopefully we win."

On how his faith has impacted his professional journey:

Oliveira: "Great question. I would say that my faith, for me, is my foundation. Obviously, there's going to be moments where I'm doing super well in soccer, and there's moments where I might be injured, or I might not be playing. For me, I would say it's just kind of a base, and a base that doesn't shake. So, no matter

what's happening in my career – Obviously, I went through so much with injuries, different coaches, and I just think my faith has always helped me stay grounded and focused.”

On what it's been like developing through the Revolution's Pro Player Pathway and recently signing a Homegrown Player contract:

Oliveira: “It's amazing. I think each and every single phase that I've had so far since joining the academy, to starting to play with the U-15s, coming up with the U-17s, and then starting to train with the second team. Then going to preseason with the second team, signing my [Homegrown] deal, and starting preseason with the first team, I would say everything taught me something new. If that's speed of play, I've just always learned, and I think it's just helped me grow as a person, as a player. I think that each step was super important in my career to get me here where I am today.”

On how preseason has been so far and scoring a goal in the team's 6-0 win over Sarasota Paradise last Saturday:

Oliveira: “So far, it's been going amazing. Getting back with the guys, it's amazing. It's definitely a privilege being here. I also saw something that Ilay [Feingold] said on Instagram about us being a family, and I think especially this year, having guys from last year, and a couple new guys joining us, we're definitely building that chemistry and becoming more of a family. It was amazing to score my first goal officially as a first-team player [in Saturday's scrimmage], and I just hope to continue building on that with every training session, every game, and everything, just to help the team start stronger this season.”

Revolution Defender Ethan Kohler

On what excites him and the team about playing for Marko Mitrović:

Kohler: “Marko [Mitrović], for me, it goes beyond being just a football coach. He's very personable. I feel I have a genuine connection with him on a human level. I'm sure as you all know, football isn't just about what you do with the ball. Players feel secure under Marko. He has a high standard, but he takes the human aspect in as well. For players, that's what you want. You want someone you know will push you as hard as you can, but if you trip or fall he'll be there to pick you back up. I think really that's one of the main reasons why guys are so drawn to him. I think the guys throughout the season will really come to enjoy that and really appreciate that. But for me, that was massive.”

On his versatility to play multiple positions along the backline:

Kohler: “For the first 10 days, I have been playing right back, and I feel very comfortable there. I think a lot of it is going to come down to throughout the games where I work out best, what fits best, and how I play off other players. Maybe I work better as a right back given the players that we have on the other side. Say we have Peyton [Miller] who wants to go further forward and maybe I tuck in, so on and so forth. I think we're just letting it run out in the preseason and I'll fill the gaps when needed. If I thrive more in one position than the other, then I think maybe I'll stick there. But then again, if I'm needed in that other spot I have no problem filling in.”

On how helpful it has been to reunite with former coaches and teammates in New England:

Kohler: “It's huge. Marko [Mitrović] said it's like a little reunion. It's not just Marko, it's Coach Sean [Hughes] and Coach Michael [Morris] as well. It felt like I was back at [United States National Team] camp coming in my first day. I also know Jackson Yueill, Tanner Beason, and Damario [McIntosh], so I had a whole group of players that I knew, and it takes the edge off a bit. You immediately feel more welcomed. And the guys I hadn't met obviously welcomed me. It allows you to kind of be the player you are a lot quicker. The nerves were gone – first-day nerves were gone. You go in, I see Peyton [Miller] and I see Brooklyn [Raines], you see familiar faces. You go up and you're reuniting with the staff. It makes a world of difference. But even without that, the guys have been amazing. So, I think I'm super lucky to have them. But the vets, the young guys, and everything in between, they've been so welcoming, so I think I would have felt at home within a couple days anyways.”

On what he is most looking forward to with the Revolution in 2026:

Kohler: “Honestly, playing games of course and seeing where the season progresses. I’m excited for all of it. I’ve loved the training sessions, the gym sessions, our test game was great. I’m just trying to take it one day at a time, but every day has been super enjoyable. I’m just excited to see kind of where our work takes us.”

On what he learned about himself during his time playing in Germany:

Kohler: “My time overseas was not trivial by any means. I think what I got most out of it was learning how to deal with hardship and struggle. Being in a foreign country where you don’t know anyone and you don’t speak the language, you have this sense of isolation, and your struggles go beyond just the football part. It kind of made me grow up a bit quicker. Outside of all the football things I learned and the technique I learned trying to emulate the players playing at the highest level, I think my biggest takeaway was learning how to deal with adversity. So, coming here, I’m in a country where I speak my first language and culturally it’s very similar and I understand the people and how they operate a lot better. I just have this sense of confidence that whatever gets thrown in my way, because I’ve already dealt with a lot in my past two-and-a-half years overseas, I can take it in stride. There’s not really going to be so much of this up-and-down and I’ll be able to maintain a more constant rise upward.”

On which veteran players he has leaned on during his first two weeks with the club:

Kohler: “I was at dinner last night with Matt Turner, [Matt] Polster, and [Andrew] Farrell. My roommate is Jackson Yueill. There’s a lot of experience in the locker room. They haven’t necessarily gone out and given me like a step-by-step of ‘this is how you do it.’ They’ve kind of watched from the side and have given me encouragement. That goes a long way for someone who has been in the league that long and seeing the things they see to push you on the field. I think the thing they do that’s really appreciated is it’s not like ‘hey, do this, do that,’ they create a safe space for you to work it out yourself. And if you need them, you can go to them to seek that guidance. They’ve kind of been there for me when I need it, and it’s not necessarily this feeling of ‘do this, do that’. They’re letting me explore for myself, learn, and make my own mistakes. And then if I really feel like I need someone to talk to, all of the vets are really open to helping me out.”

Revolution Midfielder Brooklyn Raines

On how much confidence he gains from Head Coach Marko Mitrović:

Raines: “For me, it brings a lot of confidence. I’ve known Marko [Mitrović] for a while, since I think the U-17 through U-20 [United States] National Teams and here again with the Revolution. We had actually spoken a little bit in the offseason about him potentially having this job and that I was a player that he wanted to bring in. I think with him sending that message, letting me know that I was a player that he wanted to bring in, is a huge confidence boost. That’s something you want from a head coach, to have that confidence in you to help you perform. If I have any questions or anything like that, I know I can always go to him.”

On the chemistry and relationships he has built with defenders Ethan Kohler and Peyton Miller through playing together as teammates at the FIFA U-20 World Cup last year:

Raines: “It’s great. Peyton [Miller] is obviously younger than me and Ethan [Kohler], but he’s really cool, really down to Earth. Ethan, I wouldn’t say he’s a veteran, but you can tell he’s very wise and knows a lot about not just on the field but also off the field. It’s an interesting group. I love them and I know to go to either one of them if I ever need anything.”

On how he would describe Head Coach Marko Mitrović as a coach and as a person:

Raines: “Marko [Mitrović] on the field is very demanding, but in a positive way. He’s very clear on what he wants to see. I’d say he also can be funny at times on the field. You kind of want that with a coach, not someone who always just wants to go crazy. He’s great. Off the field, I think you can see it around, he’s a very approachable guy, very respectful. He takes the human aspect into consideration.”

On what the first weeks of preseason have been like both off the field and on the field:

Raines: “I noticed that everyone jokes around. On the field we take it seriously, but off the field it’s a lot of jokes. I’ve been sitting with [Andrew] Farrell at dinner (*laughs*). Me and him are just making jokes all the

time. Even with [Matt] Polster, obviously Peyton [Miller] and Ethan [Kohler]. Allan [Oyirwoth] is a really funny guy. He doesn't seem to be funny, but when I speak to him he's always making jokes. It's a great group of guys. I think from day one, they've all been so welcoming, very approachable, and very easy to work with, so that really helps."

On playing alongside and learning from Revolution captain Carles Gil in training:

Raines: "Carles [Gil], he's great. We're still trying to build that chemistry on the field, but he's definitely one of the best players I've ever seen play. His creativity, what he's able to do on the ball, off the ball, his effort. Also his humbleness, I think that's something a lot of people don't take into consideration, just having a captain that obviously is going to push you but also supports you in the same way. I think for a young player like myself, that's a huge confidence boost knowing that if I were to make a mistake he's going to have my back but at the same time holds a high standard, knowing that I need to push myself but also that he's there to help out."