



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (1/23): Preseason Match #2 vs. FC Cincinnati

Soundbytes from Assistant Coach Blair Gavin, F Griffin Yow, & F Leo Campana

Revolution Assistant Coach Blair Gavin

On how the coaching staff implemented new tactics into today's preseason match:

Gavin: "It's been really nice, especially against a really quality team like Cincinnati, to put us in situations that have a lot of stress. They're very well organized defensively. We've been working a lot on the attack, and we saw a lot of good moments today. Now it's about building that consistency, building that familiarity with people on the field, and today was a good day to get opportunities for a lot of players and they did really, really well."

On how the team has progressed during the first two weeks of preseason:

Gavin: "I think you also saw the intensity and the willingness to keep going. The goal that we gave up was unfortunate, but the guys came in and got another goal back, and it looked like at the end there that we were going to be the winning team. Ultimately, we want to set [the mentality] that we're always going for the win, and today you saw that at the end of the game, that we should have got that at the final touch."

On the importance of establishing a game model during preseason so that players can become accustomed to it:

Gavin: "Absolutely, and that's why these games are so important. The trainings are so important, the videos, and the sessions. It's just building that familiarity with partnerships, with collective. There's a lot that goes into it, and today you start seeing those organic relationships and some quality plays of springing guys behind the last line. And now it's how do we accelerate? How do we know the right moment to score? We had a lot of really good opportunities that we'll keep progressing."

On working alongside Head Coach Marko Mitrović and adapting to the new system:

Gavin: "It's great. The intensity that we play with, the attacking freedom and fluidity that we want is all really enjoyable to watch. I think for me, learning from these guys has been a real privilege, and I'm excited to continue to build and get better. We're two weeks in, but I think everyone today saw the direction we're going and it's very exciting."

On how the players have developed over the first two weeks of preseason:

Gavin: "I mean when you empower people, you show what we want from an attacking perspective, and the enjoyment that you can have if you do the right things, it's contagious. You can see that with the players, you can see that with the smile on their faces, but also the grit in their teeth because they want to win and they want to keep pushing. Marko [Mitrović] is doing a great job of installing that and the rest of the staff, so it's been fun to be a part of."

On what battling back from a 1-0 deficit reflects about the team:

Gavin: "Ultimately, we as this club and as this team, we want to push no matter what the circumstances are. Today you saw that from everyone within the group – being relentless in the sense of, 'Okay, we're going to go for the win, whatever the score is, we're going to keep pushing, keep scoring goals'. You saw

at the end of the game that we were tilting in our favor and ultimately should have got the result, but we'll keep building on that."

Revolution Winger Griffin Yow

On what it was like to suit up for his first minutes of the preseason:

Yow: "It felt really good to be honest with you. I think it was a really good showing. I think it's a credit to the team that as soon as I went out there I felt comfortable right away. The group is really tight knit. I think that really reflects on the field, just how I was able to mesh right away which was nice."

On how Marko Mitrović's style of play empowers him as a winger:

Yow: "It just always gives me the feeling that I can be dangerous. I think he puts me in really dangerous situations. Of course, there's defensive work as a winger that I need to do and that I don't mind doing at all. But then on the flip side, it's really nice to be able to do what wingers do- attack and be dangerous."

On erasing a 1-0 deficit in today's match to earn a draw:

Yow: "I think it shows the resilience of the team, that we just fight until the last whistle. I think we were unlucky not to go [up] 2-1 and leave with the three points. But that's just how football goes. I think it shows really good character and gives us a good feeling to push for the rest of camp."

On how the team has focused on implementing tactical ideas into preseason matches:

Yow: "Marko [Mitrović] and the staff do a really good job of incorporating hidden fitness but also having everyone learn his tactics and how he wants to play. Because obviously, the goal at the end is to be ready for the first game physically but also tactically, that everyone's on the same page. It helps me, of course, that I kind of know his ideas. But he's also implementing new things that I'm learning along the way into his system, so that's really nice."

On earning a draw against FC Cincinnati:

Yow: "I think it gives us a lot of confidence. Throughout the whole game, putting the score aside, I think we put out a really good performance."

Revolution Forward Leo Campana

On scoring in each of the first two preseason matches:

Campana: "It's important, always, to score. As you know, I worked really hard in the offseason. I think we're getting the results we've wanted. The first game, we won against Sarasota. Today, a tie, and I think we're not happy about it. Obviously, I think the mentality has raised on this team this year. So, we have to keep performing, keep getting better, keep working on the things we need to improve, and keep getting better every day."

On what it's been like learning Marko Mitrović's style of play and learning his mentality:

Campana: "I think [Marko Mitrović] and his staff have been a big part of it. Talking about the mentality, to be more aggressive, to be better inside the field, to protect each other and fight for each other. That's the only way, and thinking about winning. That's the plan for this year and I know we're going to do good things."

On his first impressions of Marko Mitrović's style of play:

Campana: "I think it's interesting. I like it, especially because he gives freedom to the players with the ball, without the ball. The most important thing is that inside the pitch we need to compete, to have the mentality of winning every game, doesn't matter if it's preseason. That's why I said that we're not happy with the tie. We need to keep improving, keep going, and look forward to the next game."

On how the team is focusing on implementing new tactical ideas:

Campana: "Every day, I think. Obviously, because the ideas are new, us as players need to have time to learn the things they want. I think we're getting good results. The most important thing is to win, that's our mentality. We're really strong with each other. We need to compete every day."

On his excitement through the first two weeks of preseason:

Campana: "I'm excited, honestly. The vibe, the environment, are really nice. The players we have are good on the pitch but outside of the pitch they're great human beings. I think it's important to create a culture, to create a team. Inside the pitch we're a family and we need to protect ourselves."