



# NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

## TRANSCRIPT

### TRANSCRIPT (2/7): Preseason Match #4 vs. CF Montreal

*Soundbytes from Assistant Coach Sean Hughes, xxxxxxxx*

#### Revolution Assistant Coach Sean Hughes

##### ***On how valuable Saturday's match was for building fitness:***

**Hughes:** "I think that's a big part of the preseason. Obviously, there's a tactical piece but there's a huge physical component. So, today was a good chance for us to give a lot of guys more minutes than they've been exposed to, and different players probably getting longer than they've had in the last three games. Again, just filling the tanks up, putting minutes in the legs, and hopefully a step forward in a physical direction."

##### ***On the immediate takeaways from Saturday's match:***

**Hughes:** "The big takeaway, obviously, is the elements. I think everybody could see that the wind played a factor for both teams. I think, obviously fresh, there are moments where we have to do better. We created some good opportunities, the last pass and last service in the box. We had some good moments to finish attacks that we probably would like to take back. Then defensively, the goals we gave up were really disappointing from our end. Take those two things out, we defended quite well as a whole. It's kind of individual errors and mistakes that led to the goals. But overall, like every preseason game, we still try to move the needle forward. There's a lot of positives to take away, and some learning lessons."

##### ***On how valuable the preseason has been to evaluate the group:***

**Hughes:** "I think it's valuable from an individual standpoint. We learn a lot about the players individually, but also combinations of players, team cohesion, where we still need to improve as a group, and where we've made some good strides. Again, we're moving forward, so it's important for us to take the lessons from today – good, bad, and ugly – and we keep moving."

##### ***On how he feels about the foundation the team has laid in preseason:***

**Hughes:** "I think the last three minutes of the game kind of give that impression. The last three minutes, we have two good opportunities, and the guys are still pushing. There's a hunger and a commitment to compete, and that's what we're about. We want to make sure we're going forward in the right direction, but we never want to lose that edge and that mentality that's a strong part of this. I think the last two or three minutes of the game displayed that. Of course, as a team, there's tactically things that we'll keep moving forward with also, but the guys I think are in a good spot."

##### ***On the focus and mindset ahead of the regular season opener in two weeks:***

**Hughes:** "Smaller details, the little things that we start to improve tactically in possession. The combinations of players, we've still yet to put out a team where we have a lot different lineups and different rotations. I think solidifying the guys as we get closer to that Nashville game who will probably start the match. Those are things we're looking forward to, and there's still great competition within the team at a few of those spots."

## **Revolution Defender Ilay Feingold**

### ***On the progress the team has made over the course of preseason:***

**Feingold:** "It's very exciting. We are working very hard, and this preseason is pretty long, but this is the work we have to do in order to be a really united team. We lost today, but we have a lot of things that we can learn from and hopefully we can learn from those mistakes and we will be better in the league."

### ***On learning from the positives and negatives:***

**Feingold:** "Of course there are a lot of positive things, also negative, but again this is the place to make the mistakes and to learn from them. We know that in the league, we will get better results."

### ***On what he has enjoyed most about learning a new playing style:***

**Feingold:** "Marko [Mitrović]'s idea of the game is a very modern one. I really like it. We're trying to play very offensively and try to control the ball every time. Unfortunately, we didn't win today but we saw a lot of positive things. Also, some bad things, but we will learn from these things."

### ***On the foundation the group has set under Marko Mitrović while in Florida:***

**Feingold:** "It's good. It was a really good time, pretty long but a really good time. It was really positive."

### ***On how close the team is to being ready for the season opener:***

**Feingold:** "I'm sure that we're ready. We've been waiting for this moment for so long. We didn't play for four months after our last game against Chicago. It's very exciting. We will learn from our mistakes, and I'm sure we'll get a great result in Nashville and in general this year hopefully."

## **Revolution Forward Malcolm Fry**

### ***On scoring his first goal of preseason:***

**Fry:** "It's awesome. I'm obviously super happy to get my first goal, be it preseason or not. In that moment, all I was thinking of was a specific drill we did in training this week of just keeping it low. All Marko [Mitrović] said is you can miss a million times, but if the ball doesn't leave the ground, it's okay. I looked up, I saw where the keeper was, and I tried to keep it down. It wasn't a perfect shot, but it went in."

### ***On the progress he has made in his second preseason on the MLS roster:***

**Fry:** "Yeah, it's everything I think about. I've made a concerted effort this year. Being in my first year with the first team [in 2024], I maybe focused too much on being happy to be here. Not that being focused on being a good teammate is bad, but I'm trying to put more focus this year on not just being a good guy in the locker room and being a good influence around the club but also being someone that everyone can trust. That means being someone that the older guys and the more experienced guys can respect on the field. Hopefully, I've done that with a goal today and I'll try to keep doing that in training. I know it's a fun story, but [I don't want to] just be the [former] academy player but be a first-team player and a real player for this club."

### ***On his development under the new coaching staff:***

**Fry:** "It's incredible. I feel like personally, I'm thriving in it. I'm loving all the new information. I think the style of play not only suits me really well, but suits the group well. I think we've seen in the performances in training and in the games, there is 100 percent buy-in from everyone. I'm just trying to really enjoy it. Being a professional athlete is awesome, especially when you have someone who believes in you and gives you the confidence and the leeway to make mistakes and have freedom, but also freedom with discipline. I'm having a great time."

### ***On the team having an aggressive mindset in their approach:***

**Fry:** "That's how I would describe myself as a player. It's nice to feel like that style matches what I like to bring to the team. I love the way Marko [Mitrović] coaches in the training sessions. He is incredibly intense, demanding but in a way that – I heard someone else say this – demanding in a way that never seems demeaning. He demands a lot of you because he knows that you can do that. He knows that he'll push you

as far as you can, and then if you ever make a mistake he's also there to explain why, what happened, and be there to help you correct it. Like in the finishing, I missed a bunch in training, he was very demanding of me on it, helped me fix it. I score in this [game] and hopefully, I can continue to do that going forward."

***On the foundation the team has set while in Florida:***

**Fry:** "I'm super positive about it. I'm very optimistic about how the team has developed. I think that's what is most important in preseason, not only how the performances are and what the results are, but also the development and how much we're improving throughout the process. Game to game, even session to session, personally I feel like every session I'm able to add things to my game, and I think the group is able to do that. There are a lot of specific tactical actions that today we were able to execute on. Even the goal that I scored, it's something that we worked on specifically in training. So, it was exciting to me. I know there is a lot more we can learn, especially heading into that first game and as the season heats up. I'm just excited to see how much we can improve and where we can get as a group."