



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (2/14): Preseason Match #5 vs. Hartford Athletic

Soundbytes from Marko Mitrović, D Andrew Farrell, & D Ethan Kohler

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Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On his takeaways from today's preseason:

Mitrović: "My first thought, we have a great field to practice on, which is very good in such cold weather. I actually didn't expect the field was going to be in such good shape. From today's game, we are five weeks into preseason and it was great to see where we are with the progress. We had a really good opponent to try certain things on the field. If I were to summarize the last five weeks: I feel good, I feel positive, and obviously, now the real thing starts next week."

On building off a positive result to close the preseason as the team approaches the regular season opener on February 21:

Mitrović: "It's always better to win. I would say that yes, it's important to win, but also it was important for us the way we want to win the game, because can we create a sustainable model for us during the season? This is something that we're setting step by step through the whole preseason, and game by game. Yeah, I feel good."

On Leo Campana scoring five goals in five preseason games, including two today, and his combination with Dor Turgeman:

Mitrović: "Both of them are players that can provide us with goals. For us, it's how we can put those goals on the field and have them together while, again, not losing the way we want to play. Leo was very sharp. He came with a very great mindset for the whole preseason. Dor is also working very hard. Obviously, he didn't score as many [goals] as Leo [in preseason], but we feel positive about both of them."

On his evaluation of Allan Oyirwoth and Malcolm Fry:

Mitrović: "Allan had a small injury that he picked up when he was with the [Uganda] national team, so he missed probably the first three or four weeks, fully. He joined the team maybe 10 days ago, so he is still getting in rhythm. Malcolm does a lot of small actions in the right way. He had some goals and some assists, that production, but also we are happy with, like I said, the small actions in all four moments that Malcolm provides. He had a very decent preseason."

On depth at the striker position beyond Campana and Turgeman:

Mitrović: "I wish we could create a roster of 40 players and have four players per position, but it's impossible. We are happy with the two of them. We had [Revolution II forward] Jayden [Da] today with us. I'm quite positive that there are other players that if we put to play that position, they can figure it out and help us."

Revolution Defender Andrew Farrell

On how the team can carry momentum from today's victory into the first week of the regular season:

Farrell: "For the guys, seeing the way we want to play, the build outs, things like that, it's important. But

then obviously the goals and finding the back of the net wasn't something that we did [as often] during preseason. But it was just nice to put that all together. I'm really happy with the guys today and obviously getting the win and the result."

On how the team is playing with freedom under Marko Mitrović's style of play:

Farrell: "I think the mindset of the guys on the team is really high. The positions, I'm not going to say they matter for who is there, but you need somebody in those spots. I think the level of knowledge from the guys this preseason, and from Marko [Mitrović] and the staff to implement it has been great. Guys know, if someone's in the fullback spot, what their role is and what needs to be done in that position. And it can be anybody. It's hard when you do it in training. It's hard for us to press ourselves. Hopefully that will translate into the season. It's been great so far. The intensity, the group is really together, and today, finishing the goals and putting in a good performance is important for next Saturday."

On strong performances from forwards Leo Campana and Dor Turgeman during preseason:

Farrell: "Leo [Campana] has started off hot in preseason, scoring goals. I think he's coming into himself a little bit more. I think he's more of a leader on this team. He has a big voice for us and he's going to be an important player for our team if we want to be successful. He has looked good in the build up and play but putting the ball in the back of the net is so important for a forward. He's done a great job."

"Dor [Turgeman] is the same. He has played out wide a little bit, played up top. His technique, his feet are as good as anybody in the league. He's like Carles Gil level of technical ability. Having him on the field, having him for a preseason, I know he came in hot at the end of last year, but having him for a whole preseason, he's looked really good. He's gelled with the group. It's been great to have those guys scoring goals and being as sharp as they've been."

Revolution Defender Ethan Kohler

On the chemistry the team built over preseason:

Kohler: "The last month has been amazing. It's a great group of guys on and off the field. I think you can see it when we're playing. It's very fluid, the connections are all there. It's a group of guys that I feel comfortable with. I can try things and I know they'll have my back. I can go and step out, and I know they'll have my back. It has been great, being able to develop these connections on and off the field in the past month."

On how the team is developing fluidity in the attack:

Kohler: "It starts with the coaching staff. It starts with Marko [Mitrović] giving us the belief and we've worked off that. It's very clear that everybody has everybody's back. I know if I go forward that someone's filling. I don't even have to think about it. We have a very good foundation tactically and that gives you the freedom."

On where he feels most comfortable playing in defense:

Kohler: "I played center back for maybe the past two years in [Germany]. I was mostly a center back, but I had some games at right back. I mean, in all honesty, I'm very comfortable in both and I'm very happy in both. Wherever [Marko Mitrović] sees me, where I can most impact the team and help, I'm very happy to play in both spots. So, I don't really have a position I would choose at the moment."

On the team's mindset heading into the first week of the regular season:

Kohler: "It feels like group has been preparing like every preseason game is our last preseason game. I wouldn't say that there's a shift in mindset. We've been preparing like we're going to play our first MLS game this whole preseason. I think the only thing we need to do is continue the way we've been going and I think we'll be all right."