



TRANSCRIPT (2/17): Media Availability

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, M Matt Polster & F/W Griffin Yow

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On the team's first days back in Foxborough after returning from preseason camp in Florida:

Mitrović: "It's really great to be back home after a long preseason. Even though we had really good conditions to work with in Florida, being home is always great. As I said after the game [on Saturday], I'm really happy with the shape of our field, because it looks really good for these weather conditions and such a cold winter in Boston with so much snow. I really appreciate our groundskeepers for maintaining the field and keeping it in great shape for us."

On the team's mentality ahead of the season opener this weekend:

Mitrović: "It's really a group of guys, and I've said this quite a few times so far, that's humble in a good way. It's a working group that is ready and open to receiving new things and trying to implement that immediately on the field. We are happy. Every meeting we have, we get on the field and whatever is addressed, the guys are trying immediately to implement that. It has been a very positive five to six weeks so far with the team."

On the focal points of his messaging to the team this week:

Mitrović: "We can speak about intensity, but it's more the mindset that every training session for us is an opportunity to install certain behaviors that we want to translate later to the games. It's difficult if we have one kind of behavior during the week and then we cannot turn it on during the weekend and change it. I don't believe in that. I believe that the behavior we have through the week, we can transfer that to the games. Also, we spoke that we have training sessions, then there is a stage where you have preseason friendly games, and now we are getting to the [regular] season games. There are certain things that we do that we don't want to change. The same approach we have to the training sessions or preseason games, we want to have the same approach when it comes to the season now."

On what to expect from Nashville SC this weekend:

Mitrović: "First of all, Nashville is a team that is very well-coached. I appreciate [Nashville SC Head Coach] B.J. Callaghan, he is a friend of mine and I really appreciate him as a coach. He's a very organized person and has a high knowledge about the game. I think that he showed in the last 18 months how he transformed Nashville into one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference, obviously together with the club and the people who support him. They have a clear identity on the field, both in and out of possession. We are expecting, again, based on everything I said, one very well-organized team and a great challenge for us."

On the challenges with opening the season on the road:

Mitrović: "I know it's the opener on the road, but personally I don't look at it that way. Stats are there, but stats sometimes can go in our favor before a game or can go against us. I think every game is a new game for itself. The [past] record [in season openers] is there, but we can change that record in a positive way. To be fair, I don't think that way right now that it's our first game, our away game record, the past was like this. That doesn't worry me at all."

On the progress made by the younger players on the roster and how they will feature this season:
Mitrović: “I would say when players are on the field, I don’t have their passports in my hand. So, I look at who behaves and who performs, and that’s what matters. I’m happy that the guys, all of them, have the same approach. Obviously, we have to pick the players that we believe in the moment can perform best. Nashville, the game after that, or any games after that, we are not looking at their ages. We respect everyone’s age, don’t get me wrong, but we are trying to find who are the best performers on the current day for us.”

Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster

On adjusting during the first days back in Foxborough after returning from preseason camp in Florida:

Polster: “I think the first thing is it’s cold, but it’s nice to be back in our own atmosphere and our own space. For me, I get to be back with my family, which is very important for me personally. But obviously as a group, to feel comfortable again playing in our environment going into the season was huge. Then to get minutes against Hartford, I think it was a good buildup for us to fully understand what Marko [Mitrović] is asking from us and to implement it the best we can.”

On if the team's focus has changed this week heading into the opening match of the season:

Polster: “Absolutely not. I think it has been a consistent base of what [Mitrović] has asked for, and he has just implemented a little bit more each way. I thought we put it into action against Hartford really well, so I’m really happy about that.”

On how prepared the team is to begin the regular season:

Polster: “Very ready. I think we’re excited for it to start. Obviously, it was a long preseason, so now to play when it means something is the best feeling.”

On opening the season on the road in Nashville:

Polster: “We’re going into every game to win. That’s the mentality, but also to implement what Marko [Mitrović] has asked for. I think if we do what’s asked and we implement it properly; we’ll create a lot of chances and from there the results will come. But it’s always difficult, home or away, to win games in MLS and it’s not getting any easier.”

On what New England expects from Nashville SC this weekend:

Polster: “It’s always difficult, no matter what team you’re facing, going into their home and their atmosphere. They’re going to be up for it, so we have to match that intensity, which we will. From there, we have to let our soccer do the talking.”

Revolution Forward/Winger Griffin Yow

On how he has acclimated to New England since joining the Revolution last month:

Yow: “I think it’s really nice to be back in Foxborough, because I was only really here for two or three days doing medicals. It has been really good to kind of get the lay of the land and go apartment hunting. But as far as the team goes, I think they’ve made me feel welcome since day one. I think I integrated really quickly, and it’s just a really nice group of guys. That makes it a lot easier to perform, to be honest.”

On the team's mindset ahead of the season opener:

Yow: “We’re super focused, but we’re also kind of calm and collected. Not to get too excited, but I think sometimes the nerves build up and then you go out and it’s difficult. I think we have the right balance of focus and just knowing that we have a great team, it can only be positive in the first game.”

On the messaging from the coaching staff before the team's season opener this weekend:

Yow: “The message is really clear. It has been the same all preseason. Just because now that there is a game, it hasn’t changed much. But one thing we can always control is our intensity and how hard we work, so I think that has kind of been the mindset that we’ve had.”

On what he learned from his time playing in Europe and if he feels he improved as a player:

Yow: “I’d like to think so, to be honest. I started as a professional as a young kid, so I think going to Europe and growing and maturing on and off the pitch, I think I’ve come back and, yeah I still have a long way to go but I like the improvements that I’ve seen.”

On his versatility and where he feels most comfortable playing:

Yow: “Left wing, right wing, I can play the 10 sometimes. Wherever they need me to play, I’ll always give my best. I’m going to bring goals, excitement on the field, and a hard-working mentality.”