



## TRANSCRIPT (2/19): Match Preview Press Conference

*Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Carles Gil*

### Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

#### ***On the anticipation of starting his first season with New England:***

**Mitrović:** "It's always exciting after a long break, or actually a longer preseason, to go to competitive games. I think it's another game in our lives, and I think that's the approach we have. Every game matters in this season, starting with this first game. I feel good, and I think the team feels good and we're ready for Saturday."

#### ***On Nashville SC and their Head Coach B.J. Callaghan:***

**Mitrović:** "In general, Nashville is a very, very well coached team. I know their head coach, B.J. Callaghan, very well. We used to work together and he's a great friend of mine. I'm quite familiar with what he can deliver to his team, together with his staff, and you can see that in the last 18 months since BJ took over his role with Nashville how much they progressed as a team. They became one of the best teams in this conference and in the league. Obviously, for every team, all moments of the game are important, but they are a team that has a clear idea, a clear tactical intention, of what they want to do in attack. They were very, very efficient last year. They added some pieces this winter. But also, the other side will be there, so let's see how their attack will be tested against us."

#### ***On how he feels about the team entering the new season:***

**Mitrović:** "That's something that I still want to learn. I am very happy with these almost 6 weeks that we worked together. The team showed a great attitude throughout the whole preseason. We're, in a good way, very humble; I mentioned that several times, [it's a] hard-working group of players. I actually like the progression within our game model that we've implemented in our training sessions and the preseason games. But obviously, now when you come to the season, it's very, very different. I just want to learn how much of those things now we are ready to do, and how much of those things we can do when it comes to these games that really matter."

#### ***On the status of Peyton Miller and any other players who did not play in Saturday's preseason finale vs. Hartford Athletic:***

**Mitrović:** "None of them are long-term injuries. I think those are things that happen during the preseason. Luckily, all of them had minor, minor injuries, but we are assessing them day by day, and we'll see who of those guys will be available for Saturday."

#### ***On what he can learn from Nashville's 2-0 win on Tuesday in the Concacaf Champions Cup:***

**Mitrović:** "Maybe they didn't start the XI that we can expect will play against us on Saturday, which again, it's their decision and they will have their decision who's going to start the game against us. But I would say there are clear tendencies in their games, which I would connect, again, with the great coaching coming from the head coach and coaching staff in Nashville. Those tendencies are present for them no matter who is on the field, and I can see the same behavior in that game that they played in Concacaf Champions Cup that they had throughout the preseason and last year in MLS."

***On approaching his first MLS game as a head coach:***

**Mitrović:** "I've been in this game for so long, and I'm coaching for so long, I just take it as another season and another game in my life. That's how I take it."

**Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil**

***On his feelings about opening the new season this weekend after a long preseason:***

**Gil:** "We had a preseason with a new coach [Marko Mitrović], so obviously there were many new things. But I think we had a very good preseason. Like I said, with a new coach there's many new things to learn, to know each other, but I think we feel good and ready for Saturday."

***On how he feels playing under a new coaching staff and alongside the new players who have joined the team:***

*(Translated from Spanish)*

**Gil:** "Really good. Last year, we had the same coaching staff [as the previous season] with a lot of new players. This year it's the other way around, new coaches but there aren't many new players. We have three and a few new players from the Academy. But we had a good preseason with a lot of new concepts from the coaching staff. I think we've improved a lot from the first week of the preseason and we're prepared for the first game."

***On the team's expectations for the 2026 season:***

*(Translated from Spanish)*

**Gil:** "We will see how each game goes. The first [expectation] is to win in Nashville. That's what is closest to us and what we have to focus on, the first game. Then we'll assess how our team performs in each game. We want to be at the top of the table. But we're coming off two down years, and we need to show it on the field."

***On if the team focuses on its plan of attack or Nashville's strengths ahead of Saturday's season opener:***

*(Translated from Spanish)*

**Gil:** "Everything. In the end, when you play against an opponent every game is different. I think you always have to be aware of the weaknesses of the opponent so that you can try to control the game in your way. We're working on many things. Hopefully everything we've worked on during the preseason works well in the first game. We know Nashville is a tough opponent with good players and it won't be easy. But we'll work to make sure the positive things go in our favor."

***On his message to the fans ahead of the 2026 season:***

*(Translated from Spanish)*

**Gil:** "We're thankful that they're always supporting us. We hope to give them what they want, which is a winning team. I think that this season they'll see a team they can recognize, with clear ideas, with personality. I think those things bring a team closer to victory, but we need to show that on the field and we need to win. The league grows every year and is more difficult every year. It's a nice challenge. I think we've prepared well during the preseason for the first game."

***On if he still feels butterflies ahead of the season opener and what advice he can offer young players about starting a new season:***

*(Translated from Spanish)*

**Gil:** "Yes, without a doubt. I still feel it, like always. I'm more inspired, in fact, because I value every season more. I think at this age you appreciate it a little differently. And to the young players, I think each one is different. Some will approach it with more nerves, more emotion, more motivation. The key is to enjoy it, in this profession, and know that being in these situations, in this league, is an opportunity for everyone. In our case, hopefully we have a good season."

***On if he feels Marko Mitrović's style of play aligns with his strengths as a player:***

**Gil:** "Yeah, we work with the ball but also without it. But with the ball, we want to combine, to try to be a dominant team but also a team who has opportunities to create goals. I'm feeling very good. Not just me,

all the players. There are many new small things for everyone. In the first week we felt a little different, but I think we've improved a lot through now. Hopefully we can show that Saturday in Nashville."

***On what forward Leo Campana and Dor Turgeman can bring to the team and how they can potentially play together:***

**Gil:** "They're both strikers, different. I don't know if they are going to play together or who's going to play. It's Marko's [Mitrović] decision. But obviously they're two very good players who can score. They're very important for our team. I'm sure that they each have their own motivation. It's a big season for the both of them and I hope they can help the team a lot."

***On how Marko Mitrović has given him belief in this upcoming season:***

**Gil:** "The way I saw that we're working in preseason. In the end, you never know if you're going to win or not. But sometimes you can feel if you're going to be a competitive team, a team that has a clear plan, knows what do with the ball, without the ball. We are working a lot on that. That makes everyone happy and confident in what we are doing. When a team has clear ideas in what to do, it's easier to be closest to winning games."