



## **TRANSCRIPT (2/26): Match Preview Press Conference**

*Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & F Leo Campana*

### **Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović**

#### ***On what he expects from Red Bull New York on Saturday:***

**Mitrović:** "If we speak purely about them [Red Bull], it's a young group of players, but very determined. They play with very high intensity, very direct in terms of advancing the ball forward and finishing the attack. Also, they're on the front foot when they defend. I think they play a game that is very intense from the very beginning until the very end. Against Orlando, they sustained the intensity throughout the whole game. We have to be ready to match that intensity from the very beginning until the very end, and to try to go above that."

#### ***On how the team is building on last weekend's match at Nashville SC:***

**Mitrović:** "When I came here, I said one thing: We go day-by-day, and we want to take the most out of every day. We still have to grow as a team. Nashville was a good reference for us because that's one very good team, to compete with the best teams in the league, what we have to do and what direction we have to go. There are references between our opponents but also references for ourselves and how we can be better, day by day, as a team. All of us, not just the players, the coaching staff and everyone else, the whole club, how can we grow day by day."

#### ***On Dor Turgeman's performance in his role as a winger in last weekend's season opener:***

**Mitrović:** "I think Dor [Turgeman] tried [hard]. It's not something that is a common position for him, and we are very aware of that. I would say the way we play, it's easier for him to play on the flank than for Leo [Campana], for example. We have one forward position, not players. The last couple of weeks [Turgeman] was really giving his best and trying to help the team on the field."

#### ***On his familiarity with Red Bull winger Cade Cowell:***

**Mitrović:** "Cade [Cowell] is a consistent threat. I think a couple years ago he was the fastest player in MLS. I believe he's still one of the fastest players in the league. When you have those very direct players and when you have those attributes, you have to be consistently aware to defend Cade. He knows the league. He's still a young player. He has, now, some international experience, but coming back to the league is not something that is unknown to him. He's going to be a good challenge for us."

#### ***On the challenges in playing on the road at Red Bull New York and if that affects the team's mindset in preparing for this weekend's match:***

**Mitrović:** "I think, in general, the last many years, Red Bull New York is a very successful team in MLS. When you are a successful team, one of the things you're doing is you're winning [home] games. I think all the teams around the world, when you have a winning record, most of those games come from home. Historically, if you go back I don't know how many years, they didn't miss the playoffs until last year. So basically, as I said, when you're successful like that, you are winning home games. I think this year, they are more back into the style that they were before. A very aggressive team on the front foot and I think, especially when you play at home, you have that kind of front-foot mindset even more. That's probably

something that when away teams go there, they're maybe not ready enough to play against a front-footed team that has a home crowd and is an even more front-footed team."

***On how preparation for matches has been different between international and club football:***

**Mitrović:** "We also have two themes to think about. First is always us. So, how can we improve our game? Or how can we sustain or maintain good things. And on the other side, you always have an opponent that will challenge you in different ways, or you can challenge them in different ways. Every week, we are working on our style and our identity, but also there are days in a week where we are trying to use our way of playing against the opponent. Basically, if it's two games in a window or if we have weekly games, it's the same preparation."

***On what he took away from the team and what he learned from last weekend's season opener:***

**Mitrović:** "I am still trying to learn, to be honest, when we are in a season with competitive games. During the preseason I felt that we were building step-by-step, and I felt positive about the team. Sometimes, it could just be one performance that wasn't there, and it's soccer. It's very difficult to predict how the weekend will go. Sometimes you have a great performance and maybe you don't expect that great performance. Sometimes you have a performance that's not good at all. I don't think we had a good performance in Nashville. Still, every game we analyze without thinking what the outcome is. There are always actions on the field, and we analyze those actions, what was good or what we can do better. Definitely, in that game there were a lot of things that we could have done better, and we should have done better. But that's now behind us. The team had a good week of training. We just have to find a way to keep the same mindset that we have in training sessions, and we had in preseason, when we get into the [regular] season's games."

***On if the blizzard this week impacted the team's training schedule:***

**Mitrović:** "I don't think that anyone could predict this weather or now you're thinking [ahead], 'Oh my first week of the season, we'll have snow and this is how we're going to practice.' Obviously, it's always better when we are outside on the full field and we have grass fields and can play, instead of being in a dome on a smaller field. But I'm also thankful that at least we have that resource that we can practice instead of canceling the practice, which would be the worst-case scenario for us. So, there are always pros and cons."

***On what the team can do differently in preparing for this weekend's match against Red Bull New York:***

**Mitrović:** "I don't want to say differently in terms of who we are on the field, we just have to show who we are on the field. Now, when you have opponents, as I said, opponents behave differently. Just speaking about these two games, Nashville is a very different team than Red Bull. That's something that, no matter where we are in our stage of development of our team, there's always adjustments towards the opponent. It will always be present, in the first game, second game, or 34<sup>th</sup> game of the season. One thing that I would love us to be in this game is a more front-footed team and more aggressive in any sense. Again, as I just said, we've had good behavior in the training sessions, we've had good behavior in preseason games, we just have to translate it now to the season. It's only one game into the season, I understand that. But on the other side, official games are official games. That's something that I'm learning about the team and how we can behave the way we should behave in those games."

**Revolution Forward Leo Campana**

***On starting the season with a goal-scoring performance last weekend in Nashville:***

**Campana:** "As a forward, it's always good to score. But for me, that means nothing when we cannot get the three points. Obviously, we're hurt but there's no time to get sad. I've been really confident, [starting with] the work we've done in the preseason, in how we were going to start our [regular season]. But unfortunately, we didn't do a good job [in the season opener]. We weren't at the level we were at during the preseason. We talked about what happened last weekend. For sure, this weekend we're going to change that and correct the mindset. I think that's all we need- change the mindset, win the duels, and compete. Compete if we want to achieve good things."

***On how the attack can improve following last weekend's performance in Nashville:***

**Campana:** "I think the second half was better. First half, as I said, we didn't follow what we planned. Nashville went into the first game to compete, to give it their all, and we didn't. That makes the difference in the mindset that we need to have in these types of games. We know about the Red Bulls. We know they like to attack with a lot of people, so maybe we can hurt them in transitions."

***On how the team can improve its mentality this season:***

**Campana:** "I spoke with other guys from the team, and they also agreed that we need to change something. As I said, we didn't change it in the first game. But throughout the season, I think we'll have that mentality that if we put it during the weekends, in the games, we're going to get good results and we're going to achieve what we're going to achieve. We just need to keep working hard. The last result, we won't let it affect us. We know what we can do when we're in good shape with the new coaches and what they want from us. If we do that, we're going to do really well against Red Bulls and throughout the season."

***On his relationships and building chemistry with his teammates in the attack:***

**Campana:** "It's really good, to be honest. I really like playing with Dor [Turgeman], playing with Luca [Langoni], now Griffin [Yow]. I think they're really good players to combine with. Carles [Gil] also makes things easier for you. We need to connect even more, rely on each other more, compete, and give everything for each other. That's what a team is made of."

***On how the team has built a positive mindset this season:***

**Campana:** "It's been really good. We were in Sarasota for a month and a half, and everyone was really confident in what we can do this year. I don't think we should let [last] weekend's result affect us, because we're on the right path to do great things. [The season opener in Nashville] was one day, a gameday obviously, and we needed to perform on that day. But it wasn't our day, it wasn't meant for us. So, we need to correct things and focus on what we can control which is Red Bulls on Saturday."

***On the importance of attacking players contributing on the defensive end:***

**Campana:** "The defensive part starts with us, the forwards. In modern football, I think even if you're an attacker you need to defend. So that's why Carles [Gil] and I, if you see our numbers they're really high in terms of running and high intensity. I think it's just modern football. We just need to follow what Marko [Mitrović] says to us. Hopefully we can do a really good job on Saturday and get the three points."

***On if he feels a blessing he received on his feet can attribute to his strong start in 2026:***

**Campana:** "Maybe [laughs]. I'm a really Catholic person, so it could be. That, combined with the hard work, the mindset, those are the three things that are keeping me good. I'm really happy. I think we forgot about what happened last weekend and now we're moving on to Saturday, our next game. We'll have a different mentality- aggression, communication, fight for each other, and be a team. That's the only way to achieve what we want to achieve."

***On the team's assessment of the season opener last weekend:  
(Translated from Spanish)***

**Campana:** "We were happy with the work we did during the preseason, very inspired. To start the season like that, it wasn't what we hoped for. With the work Marko [Mitrović] and the coaching staff have implemented since they arrived, I think we were in a good place. We weren't at the level we needed to be at in terms of mentality, competing, and duels. We need to be more intense and give our best. We don't need to overreact. It hurts us, and it should hurt us, to lose 4-1. But we have to move on and control what we can control, which is the game this weekend."

***On what New England needs to improve ahead of this weekend's match against Red Bull New York:***

***(Translated from Spanish)***

**Campana:** "It's mentality. We have to be aggressive, pressure [New York], communicate with one

another, talk. At the end of the day, this is like a war because there's a lot on the line in addition to the three points. It's not just the three points. There's glory, to be a champion, to get to playoffs, the things that motivate us. We compete for a lot of things at the end of the day. So, on Saturday, we need to have a change of attitude, a change of mentality, and hopefully we get the three points we deserve."

***On how the team can build the mentality it needs:***

***(Translated from Spanish)***

**Campana:** "We spoke about it because we meet every day. It's something we have to achieve as a group. I told the coaching staff and my teammates that we don't have to overreact. The way we started the season hurts and it should, to lose by [three] goals. But we need to be calm and confident in the work we've done. We were together for a month and a half in preseason and we're very inspired by what we can achieve together this year. We just have to compete and give our best. In the end, that's what makes the difference in this league- be aggressive, be physical, win the second balls, the duels. That makes the difference. I think Saturday's game will be like that and we have to be ready for it."