



POSTGAME TRANSCRIPT: February 28 at Red Bull New York

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Brooklyn Raines

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Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On whether New England could have better defended the corner kick that led to New York's winning goal:

Mitrović: "When you concede a goal on a corner kick, you can definitely defend better. No question about that. I think that was the only time we lost focus in our box and we got punished. Definitely, we should have done a better job there."

On his takeaways from today's match:

Mitrović: "I would say, comparing this game with the first game [against Nashville SC], we showed today much more personality and much more intensity, and we fought. We had situations in the second half where we were running with four or five guys in the box against one or two [opposing] players, and we just didn't execute those things. Even though Red Bull had more of the possession, I didn't feel in any moment that they were really threatening us in their wide areas, where they are really strong. I think both Ilay [Feingold] and Will [Sands] did a great job defending those threats that Red Bull had."

"They are a team that plays with unbelievable intensity and, really, congrats to them. They're a great team, and it was a great test for us in terms of how we can sustain our intensity through the whole game. That one moment on the set piece defined the game. [We had] some situations, especially in the last 15-20 minutes in the second half, where we could have converted and scored a goal. We didn't. I don't like to lose games, but there 100 percent are some positive takeaways from this game that we can build on for the coming games."

On the team's positive response after falling behind:

Mitrović: "I wouldn't say it was just connected with [conceding] the goal. The way Red Bull plays, it's such a high intensity. They are so front-footed and we knew that it would be difficult to sustain that, and we would have our momentum in the second half. I think what we got in the last 30 minutes of the game was something we expected is going to happen, and that the space will be open for us. In the first half, we had three great situations in transitional moments. We just lacked literally the last pass there to convert. If [there's] a positive, when we were down 1-0, we stayed together, we stayed organized, and we were looking for our chance, our opportunity to score the goal to tie the game."

On his overall assessment of the team's defensive performance today:

Mitrović: "I felt the team was defensively very solid. As I said, they [Red Bull] are a very attacking-minded team. They finished their last game with 22 shots against Orlando and had so many opportunities [in their season opener]. They're very dangerous going forward. Once you open the space for them, that's where their strength is exposed and we knew that. When we speak about defense, it's not just Matt [Turner], it's not just the backline. The whole team, in my eyes, did a very good job defending today."

On how the team is getting closer to playing his desired style:

Mitrović: “I would say the togetherness and intensity was present throughout the whole game, and that’s our foundation. Listen, we speak about four moments of the game and then set pieces. We conceded on a set piece. So, we have to be strong and solid, as we were today, when we defend. We can still improve our game with the ball, and have, in certain moments, more calmness to play. I understand what position we are in as a team and that it’s going to take us some time to have that strong belief that we can be with the ball as good as we want to be.”

On how the Revolution broke New York’s press in the second half:

Mitrović: “[Red Bull] are just flying with eight players on you, with three front forwards, with three midfielders, and two fullbacks. They’re very aggressive on the front foot and defending. We knew that space would be open. I know that in the second half, we had better situations. If you go back and watch the game, we had three amazing transitional moments in the first half where we just lacked the pass to get in a great goal-scoring situation. As I said, it’s very difficult to sustain that intensity with what New York Red Bull is doing. We knew that as long as the game goes, we would have more and more space for us.”

On the impact of substitutes Jackson Yueill and Alhassan Yusuf:

Mitrović: “Jackson [Yueill] played in the middle and [Alhassan] Yusuf went wide, because Luca [Langoni] had 30 minutes against Nashville and now 60 minutes [today]. Luca missed the last three or four weeks of preseason. We’re building playing time for Luca. We knew that Luca couldn’t go more than 60 minutes today. With the experience that Yusuf has, we felt that he could do a great job there. I felt that both Jackson and Yusuf coming in brought us good energy, a tendency to go forward with the ball. Jackson had a great opportunity [to score].”

On Revolution II forward Jayden Da, a Boston native, making his MLS debut today after recovering from a 2025 injury:

Mitrović: “Jayden, we know that he is coming from a long break because he had the ACL injury and didn’t play for a year. He started his preseason with the second team and we watched a couple of games with the second team and took him to practice with us. In this situation where Leo [Campana] was out and we were chasing [a goal], we had that plan that if we were down and chasing, for Jayden to come in. Listen, it’s his MLS debut and he’s coming to play after one year not playing soccer. I would say I always believe in the guys when they’re on the field, but if they don’t execute things, well, we always also have to be realistic. Not playing for a year and then coming to [make] your MLS debut, it’s not easy. But we’re looking forward to working with Jayden, learning more, and seeing what we can get from him in the future.”

Revolution Midfielder Brooklyn Raines

On the team’s performance against Red Bull New York:

Raines: “Obviously, it was an unfortunate result, but I think it was a better response from the team after our first game. I think in this game, from when the whistle was blown to the last minute, we believed that we could win. Obviously, it didn’t go our way today, but I was really proud of the team and how we performed, and how we all stuck up for each other. We showed more togetherness and more personality, but again, goals change games, so they had one shot that went in, in the end. But I’d say it was a better response. I can’t speak for everyone on the team, but for me personally, I thought it was definitely a step forward. We’re just going to continue to keep our heads high and just focus on the next one.”

On chemistry building amongst the midfielders:

Raines: “Like you said, we’re growing. We’re still trying to figure out the chemistry between each other, but for me personally, I’ve learned a lot from all four of them [Carles Gil, Matt Polster, Alhassan Yusuf, and Jackson Yueill]. Every day in training, just trying to get one percent better every day. As you can see on the field, it’s starting to come together. Again, we’re not getting the results we want, but again, we’re going to continue to work and just build off each other.”

On his reasons for optimism after the opening two matches:

Raines: “Yeah, 100 percent. Two losses doesn’t really define us as a team. Obviously, we would love to win, but again, I don’t think these first two losses define us as a team. Everyone in the locker room, we’re all sticking together. We’re all still sticking behind [Head Coach] Marko [Mitrović], the staff, and each other,

so it's important that in moments like this, we all come together and figure out solutions. For me personally, I have no doubts that we're going to make a comeback."

On playing against Red Bull's intense press:

Raines: "I know that Red Bull likes to press high and they're very aggressive when they attack, and they're really good in transition. For me personally, I was trying to get on the ball and trying to just find our front three in behind. Then defensively, trying to press as a team, but obviously trying to stop their front three and their midfield. It was definitely an intense game. We both had our moments. Coming away from this game, I'd say it was definitely a better response, just [needed] that bit of luck."

On improving the offensive performance moving forward:

Raines: "I can't speak for everyone on the team, but kind of like Griffin [Yow] said, it's our patience versus their patience. Who is going to break first? Today, we had a few opportunities. We were getting in behind them. We put in good crosses and good chances, and I think it's just, again, that bit of luck in the final third. It's not like we're not getting opportunities or not having shots on goal. It's just getting in the box and finishing."

On Brayan Ceballos and Ilay Feingold both making starts, and adapting to Marko Mitrović's system:

Raines: "Having Brayan [Ceballos] and Ilay [Feingold] back was definitely helpful. I think whoever is in the backline, everyone that plays back there is strong, but I think it was really cool to have those guys back. In the final third, we're getting in good spots, we're building, we're getting in behind the backline and moving the ball. But again, I think it's just working on the final third, because we're getting really good crosses. Ilay's [crosses] are really good. He can put the ball across the goal really nice, and same with Will [Sands]. But in those moments, how can we not necessarily move the ball, but find those gaps where we can exploit the opposition?"