



**TRANSCRIPT (3/4): Media Availability**  
*Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & D Will Sands*

**Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović**

***On the positives he saw from the team's performance against Red Bull New York:***

**Mitrović:** "I think, first of all, we had more energy and more intensity in the game. There were some moments I spoke about in the attack where we still have to find a way to sustain possession more against teams like Red Bull that are always on the front foot defending. Sometimes, you just need a few passes to get in good situations to create goal-scoring opportunities. I think we had some of those moments in the game, and that's something that was very positive because it came from certain situations that we practiced over and over again in these last seven or eight weeks.

"And on the defensive side, I think we're actually quite solid beside the one shot they had on goal [was] in the second minute. But if we take [away] that set piece where we conceded, I felt confident defensively. I think we had good, not just organization, but intensity, and good intentions from the players from the very beginning until the very end of the game. So, there are definitely some things where there is progress compared with the first game against Nashville."

***On preparing to play against FC Cincinnati next week and if there are any takeaways from the playing them during the preseason:***

**Mitrović:** "I think preseason is preseason for everyone. It's very, very different. Obviously, they are who they are, and we are who we are. But I don't think that preseason is a real picture about the quality of the other team."

***On playing in front of a home crowd in next weekend's season opener at Gillette Stadium:***

**Mitrović:** "We're looking forward to playing in front of our fans. It's always easier and better to play at home, and we'll be looking forward to having great support from the fans who support our team, because we really need that. We need another boost of energy. It's the environment we are looking for to have a successful season at home."

***On the importance of being a good team at home:***

**Mitrović:** "Yes, it's always good when you play at home and you play well, because the [fans] that support you are looking at you live. They're around you, and I think it's a different vibe if you have the same season but you're more successful on the road than you are at home. However, we want to get in situations that, for us, it doesn't matter if we play home or away in terms of our performance and the way we want to play the game."

***On the parity of MLS and the importance of winning home games:***

**Mitrović:** "100 percent. This league especially, but it's everywhere around the globe. That home advantage, it's always present and it's kind of always a better opportunity for home teams to win. I would say it's less difficult than it is for away teams."

***On how Matt Turner strengthens the team:***

**Mitrović:** “Matt [Turner] is definitely a big asset for us. Matt is a great professional, a great player, and we’re really happy to have him with us with his experience and with his quality. He can just be a big help for this team.”

***On if he sees progress in the attack:***

**Mitrović:** “That’s something we’re working on. We want to score the goals, and at the end of the day that’s something that we [work on] most – how to get in goal-scoring opportunities and score goals. That’s what matters in our game, and how we create conditions to get there. Did we create enough against Nashville and Red Bull? No, definitely not. It’s something that we have to keep working on and improving day by day.”

***On Carles Gil’s leadership and how the players feed off his leadership:***

**Mitrović:** “Carles [Gil] is great. He gives everything every day in our training sessions. He gives everything in every game. I just really appreciate his effort. I think he is a good role model for every player. At his age with everything he has achieved in this league, to come every day and work always at his maximum, his attitude is great, and just something that every younger player can have as a reference for their careers.”

**Revolution Defender Will Sands**

***On his mindset in working his way back from a minor injury in the season opener to return for last weekend’s match at Red Bull:***

**Sands:** “I just don’t like seeing my teammates and friends out there [without me], and I just want to do everything I can to help them. It was a tough first game. It was really unfortunate, and I think we know as a group that we can do better. I think the mindset is to work as hard as we can to produce the result.”

***On the progress the backline made during last week’s match after the season opener two weeks ago:***

**Sands:** “I still think there is some ways to go. I think we need to get more control of the game. In terms of pure defending, I think there was a lot more cohesiveness on the backline, and a big emphasis was the winning of duels. I still think there is a long way to go, but I think it was a good first step and I am optimistic of things to come.”

***On how the team can improve its mindset in search of the first win of the season:***

**Sands:** “I think we are just looking for the first win. I think there is a lot we can do to improve techniques, or [more] so the technical ability, as I said to take control of the game, playing around the ball, and doing the simple things very well. I think as a foundational aspect of the team, we just need to have a little more of a desire to win games.”

***On how the team is emphasizing winning its home games ahead of the home opener on March 15:***

**Sands:** “I think that there is so much parity in this league that you need to take advantage of all the advantages you can get, and having a good record at home is one of the most important things you can do to get a good playoff push. I think that was something that we really needed to work on last year. Hopefully can do a better job at [winning home games] this year.”

***On the approach to becoming a strong home team this season:***

**Sands:** “I think the fans deserve better. Putting on good performances at home and getting results is the first step we need to take, and we are focusing on it this year.”

***On if the team follows the ‘Defend the Fort’ mantra at home matches:***

**Sands:** “Definitely. It really doesn’t feel good to drop points at home. As I said, it is in front of your fans, and it is a waste of an opportunity to [not] maximize the points you can get. I think that we need to do a better job at defending our home [field] and getting better results when we play here.”

***On where he feels most comfortable on the backline and what he brings to the left back position:***

**Sands:** "I think a lot of my strengths are on the defensive side of the ball. I take a lot of pride in winning duels. I think there are still some ways to go in getting forward, and being involved in the attack and creating more, but I try to win duels as best I can."