



TRANSCRIPT (3/11): Media Availability
Soundbytes from Assistant Coach Michael Morris & M Carles Gil

Revolution Assistant Coach Michael Morris

On how the team utilized last week after the March 7 match vs. Houston was postponed:

Morris: "It's never ideal when you have to make a schedule change. Obviously, everyone was looking forward to the home opener [originally scheduled for March 7], but we were able to find positives in that change. It gave us an extra week to train and to recover some guys who had slight injuries. Last week felt like a productive week of training, and then we had a challenging [scrimmage] match against Rhode Island FC, where we were also able to bring in some players from the development system. It's always good to see some of the young players who are coming up. So overall, we took a situation that isn't ideal from a planning standpoint, everyone gets excited for the home opener, and turned it into an extra week to refine some actions we wanted to work on."

On how the coaching staff is developing intensity within the team:

Morris: "[Intensity] is something that, as coaches, we want to instill - the behaviors and those core anchors for the team. But it gets to a point where we have to pass ownership of those ideas and behaviors to the players. So, it's about reinforcing that intensity every day and creating organic, natural competition within training sessions. Ultimately, the way we perform on the weekend is going to reflect the behaviors and attitudes the group establishes in training on a daily and weekly basis."

On his excitement for Sunday's home opener at Gillette Stadium:

Morris: "From a personal standpoint, I am super excited. My whole family flew in for the game last weekend and then it turned out the game got pushed. So, it was great to just see my family. I am a little disappointed that they are not going to be here this weekend for it. I was actually walking through the Boston Commons the other day with my family, and it was almost this spiritual moment where I was like, 'Boston is this beautiful, amazing city. I love this place, and I love that we are in a club that gets to represent this place.' This will actually be my first touchpoint with the fans on a brand-new surface that we are building. So hopefully we can put on a positive performance and start to build a connection with our fans and build a connection with this city. One of the things that was really attractive about this, when Marko [Mitrović] proposed this opportunity, was that Boston is a city with a long history of winning in sports. So, I know I want to be apart of that and be able to create some of that history."

On what the Revolution expect from Sunday's opponent, FC Cincinnati:

Morris: "We have a good expectation of them based off playing them in preseason. They have a consistent way of playing. They are well organized. They are defensively solid. We're going to have to look at different ways in terms of how we break them down and in terms of how we deal with their second balls they try to create when they are defending and when they are attacking. We know it's going to be a challenge, but with organized teams like that, we know there are plenty of opportunities. Again, it's going to be a good moment to try and built momentum in front of our home fans and put on a show at home."

On playing on the grass surface installed at Gillette Stadium for the first time on Sunday:

Morris: "[Assistant Coach] Sean [Hughes] and I went [to Gillette Stadium] yesterday when we were done here, and we walked around the stadium. It looks nice and it is coming into place. It's amazing that we are

going to have an opportunity to play on fields that are going to be at the standard of the World Cup, and we feel we can actually use that to our advantage based off the way we ideally want to try and play in possession.”

On adjusting to playing on a grass field:

Morris: “There is always going to be a bit of an adjustment. But I think that when you get to play on a good surface, a high-level surface, it’s only going to benefit you. The adjustment I’ve seen has only been positive. It helps you play better, the play becomes more predictable, and movements off the ball become a bit clearer. I think the adjustment is going to be something that is positive for us.”

On the process of installing the grass nearing completion:

Morris: “It does look very pretty. Right now, I am not sure what phase it is in, but you can see that it’s laid down. You can see that it is all coming together. I think that once they have done their job, and it looks like they are doing a very good job with it, and they get everything the precise length and everything is all smooth and flattened out, it’s just going to be a surface that when you want to play at a high level, and you have a high level surface. [A good surface] makes play a lot more predictable in terms of the speed that the ball rolls and the precision that you can play at. It looks pretty and then hopefully allows teams to play pretty as well.”

Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil

On looking forward to playing in the home opener on Sunday:

Gil: “We’re very excited for what’s coming. Obviously, we love to play with our fans, so [we will] try to be ready for a difficult game.”

On the emotions before the home opener each year:

Gil: “We know we need [our fans] to win games, and we want to be strong at home. I think it’s a key to try to be a winning team. I hope we can have our first win of the season with our fans.”

On assessing where the group is after the first two matches:

Gil: “I think we had two bad games. It’s not the way we wanted to start, but it’s a new coach and many new things so we are trying to learn. I think this week we are training very well. Obviously, it’s going to be a long season. It is going to be a difficult game against Cincinnati, they’re a good team. I think a win can give us confidence also for the [rest of the] season.”

On setting a standard with a strong performance and a win on Sunday:

Gil: “After the first two difficult games, obviously a win can give us some confidence. But we also want to show the team we want to be with the ball, because we didn’t show that in the first two games. We are training hard for that, and I think it’s a perfect place on Sunday with our fans against Cincinnati. So, hopefully we can do that on Sunday.”

On what he’s hoping to see more of in the attack:

Gil: “Create more chances and more of everything. We trained during the preseason on many things with the ball, the buildup, and also in the last third. We didn’t show that in the first two games. I think we also need a little more confidence in ourselves. What gives confidence to everyone is winning, scoring goals, and everything with the ball. It’s coming, for sure. We need our first win, and hopefully it can be on Sunday.”

On how excited the team is to be playing on the new grass surface:

Gil: “It’s grass, so it’s nothing different. Obviously, at Gillette Stadium it’s going to be different. Normally it’s turf. Hopefully it can help us also in everything, and honestly, we prefer playing on grass, so it will be fun.”