



## **TRANSCRIPT (3/15): Postgame vs. FC Cincinnati**

*Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, F/W Diego Fagundez & F/W Luca Langoni*

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

#### ***On his assessment of today's win and the improvements he has seen from the team:***

**Mitrović:** "There were many more moments in this game than in the previous two, that represent what we want to look like, game after game, in the long term. Something that I'm very aware of, and I'm very patient with, is the way we want to play, the way we want to [progress], and how much we have to grow as a team. That's not easy. That's doesn't happen week after week – 'Well, we're going to be great in the first game of the season.' But on the other side, this game is a great reference point for the future, and something that we would love to look like week after week. Again, I'm also very aware that it's not easy to repeat those performances consistently. And to have a longer possession - we are working on that. That's what I want to [emphasize]. We are working every day on how we can be more in control of the game with the ball, but also how we can advance in creating opportunities for ourselves to finish in the attack."

#### ***On matching the club record of scoring six goals in MLS action and claiming his first victory as Revolution Head Coach:***

**Mitrović:** "For me, what matters more than six goals is the way we play. We don't want to give up on the way we play, no matter what the score is or where we are within the game, whether it's the 15th minute or the 90th minute. Obviously, there is always game management. Today, everything worked well for us, so that we can sustain and keep playing the same game from the very first minute until the last minute of the game."

#### ***On Luca Langoni's three-assist performance today:***

**Mitrović:** "Luca [Langoni] has quality, including his strength to provide those runs from the back, and his speed with or without the ball. One of my tasks, when I came to the club, was how we can get Luca in more of those situations. It's not just Luca running behind, it's how well we can time his runs, and how he can also repeat those runs, doing it in the right way at the right time. Today, he was better, but I still believe that Luca can be more threatening from behind with his pace, with and without the ball."

#### ***On Alhassan Yusuf's performance today and the decision feature him in the Starting XI:***

**Mitrović:** "[Alhassan] Yusuf is doing really well. I have said many times that every player is doing really everything, every day, since I came here. It's a really high work ethic and it's something that we spoke from the very first day. It's something that's non negotiable for us. Yusuf was ready to start, ready to play, ready to perform. We had some idea on how we can overload certain spaces today, and how we can advance the ball against a team that is very aggressive, very front-footed defending, and has much higher physical profiles than we have. So, we knew that we had to overload and create certain spaces, and [understand] how we could use those spaces that they will provide us in a game. In the game preparation, we felt that Yusuf can help us a lot with that. So, that was the decision and I'm happy that he also produced and scored a goal."

#### ***On Peyton Miller's first minutes in returning from injury and his abilities on the attacking end:***

**Mitrović:** "First of all, I'm happy that Peyton [Miller] is back. Peyton is one of the top talents that we have in U.S. Soccer in general, and I've known Peyton for a long time. I have worked with Peyton for a long

time, and just having him back, it's massive for our team. Peyton can play down or up, depending on where we need him. That's something that I was always aware of that when he's higher, he can produce 100 percent, like he did today. Based on the game's needs and team's needs, he can sometimes be down or sometimes up. I don't think it's going to change his game much."

***On Brayan Ceballos' aggressiveness and strengths in central defense:***

**Mitrović:** "Brayan [Ceballos] might not be the tallest player, but he has great timing and great athleticism. [Ceballos] is really gifted, and has that natural instinct to attack the ball, being aggressive, and playing in the box. He scored two goals today, but even in the games where he didn't score, he always does the same things. He's always a threat and a good resource for us on attacking set pieces."

***On what it means to him to get his first win as Revolution Head Coach in front of the home fans:***

**Mitrović:** "I'm very aware that this is our first home game this season and my first home game as [Revolution Head Coach]. For me, it's another game in my life, and I will approach this game as I'm going to approach every game, no matter where we are in the season. It's a relief, it's always better to win, but I strongly believe in what we are doing. Sometimes the result will be present, but I have clarity with the coaching staff about what we want to look like and what the final product is. And I just know that we relentlessly have to work day-by-day. Something that I said to the guys, I congratulated them with a win, tomorrow they have the day off, but Tuesday we have to keep going. So, that's how I see it. My objective is day-by-day. We took most of today, and then we have to take most of tomorrow when it's our recovery day, and then we keep going."

***On the team's mindset in fighting back from a 1-0 deficit in today's match:***

**Mitrović:** "It's something that I felt during the preseason. In a couple of the games where we were down, when we conceded a goal, the team just lost belief. Maybe it's the confidence level that we talk about, and no matter the reason why, there is no belief that we can come back. It really frustrated me. More because I said, 'We are doing everything and the guys are really pushing so hard, but then why don't you believe in yourself? Why don't we respect ourselves more? We concede a goal, that's part of the game.'

"But if we concede at 0-0, we can still come back and create those three goals. It's the same if we scored the goal, the game is not done. We have to keep going. And after the game against Red Bull, something that I felt positive about was when we were down 1-0, I felt that the team believed we can score now. And I actually felt that until the referee blew the last whistle of the game, that we would score a goal. That's just the belief. Maybe it's good that we were down 1-0 today, because that showed us to just keep going if we have the right approach. However, do not get me wrong, when we are down 1-0 it's not easy. Now you have to score two goals to create the game in your favor. But if we believe that, we can do it. If you don't believe it, forget about it."

***On playing on the new grass surface at Gillette Stadium for the first time:***

**Mitrović:** "I think we're a team built to play and we need a good surface. Today is probably the best field we've played on so far. Not to make excuses for the first couple of performances, there is nothing with that, but this team needs a good field to play the soccer that we want to play. The field was in good shape today, even though I thought that the grass was a little bit higher for my standards. It should be shorter so the ball can go quicker, but a good surface is important for us."

***On scoring goals via set pieces and how the team is improving on them:***

**Mitrović:** "I think we are really investing a lot in set pieces. Literally every day we work on set pieces. It's an important part of the game and Marc [Orti Esteban], our Set Piece Coach, is a very enthusiastic person. We work every day, we collaborate and find the best way based on our personalities, to attack or to defend based on our opponents. Together with the rest of the staff, [Orti Esteban] does a great job, and I would just congratulate [the coaching staff] on preparing great things for today's game."

***On winning in front of the home fans after consecutive losses and Diego Fagundez returning to the team:***

**Mitrović:** "Our mentality is day-by-day. I'm literally not looking at the standings, not looking at anything else. Our staff has the day off tomorrow, I have my work to do, players have the day off. Then Tuesday,

we have to take the most out of every day and let's see where that's going to bring us to in the end of the season.

"Having Diego [Fagundez] back is a good resource for us. Having him back, getting some minutes, we just have to be patient. I know people are excited about Diego, but Diego didn't play a game for more than five months. Those who've played soccer know how big of a break that is. He's going to have ups-and-downs until he gets in a good shape where he can perform consistently."

### **Revolution Forward/Winger Diego Fagundez**

#### ***On tallying an assist in his return to Gillette Stadium after signing with the club last Friday:***

**Fagundez:** "It's incredible. There are so many emotions today, especially when you hear the fans yelling that they wanted me to go in. I didn't know when I was going to get the opportunity. I didn't know if it was going to be this weekend, next weekend, or the following. But at the end of the day, I had to be ready. I'm thankful that they allowed me to go in and help out the team. Most importantly, going in and making an impact. With this team, there are such good players that, playing like this, we should be winning a lot more games. I think the first two games [of the season] – you can't really say a lot about them. Things happen, and today it shows what kind of team we can be."

#### ***On serving as a role model for Homegrown defender Peyton Miller:***

**Fagundez:** "It's amazing. I saw a bunch of tweets from [Miller], and I've followed his career – great player. That's why I was very happy today for him to get a goal [today], knowing that he just came back from an injury. Him coming in today and making a difference is huge. Most importantly, I'm going to try to keep doing that with the young guys – teaching them everything I can and taking them under my wing like everybody else did for me when I was here and I was only 16 years old. At the end of the day, like I said, there are good players. He is one of those players, and he can make a difference on the team."

#### ***On moving within one goal of the 80-goal and 80-assist milestone for his MLS career:***

**Fagundez:** "I think it's nice that I came back home to New England, and I already have a couple of records here. To keep growing them and making new ones is also amazing. New memories – I said I wanted to come here and make a difference. I want to come here and win a cup, win something, because after all these years, I left here with something missing. Now I can return home and do everything in my power to help out. I think with this team, we can go far. It just depends on what kind of team we want to be, and if we play every game the way we did today, we can definitely do that."

### **Revolution Forward/Winger Luca Langoni**

(Translated from Spanish)

#### ***On becoming the second player in club history to distribute three assists in a single game:***

**Langoni:** "I'm very happy, like I said. [The chemistry in the attack] is something we practice a lot during the week. Myself, Griffin [Yow], Carles [Gil]. I'm very happy, and I just want to continue this form."

#### ***On how the team is improving in free kicks and corner kicks:***

**Langoni:** "It's something that we practice. We try to work on it during the week with [Set Piece Coach] Marc [Orti Esteban], with Capi [Carles Gil] and the rest of the guys on the team. And we're just glad that it went well today."

#### ***On the team's aggressive mentality today:***

**Langoni:** "I think it's great. I think it comes from the coaching staff. They always talk to us and tell us to talk to one another and to not get comfortable, to go for more. And that was reflected in the performance today. We kept scoring and we're very happy about [the performance]."

#### ***On conversations with coach Marko Mitrović about making runs from wide positions:***

**Langoni:** “[The conversations] have been very good. We have a lot of conversations with [Mitrović] and the rest of the coaching staff, and our focus is just try to improve day to day. We look for the best ways to attack every game, and we showed that today on the field.”