NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION

TRANSCRIPT

TRANSCRIPT (3/19): Match Preview Press Conference

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Brooklyn Raines

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On multiple players, including goalkeeper Matt Turner, receiving call-ups for international duty during the March FIFA window this week:
Mitrović: "I think it's an honor for every player. I'm very happy and excited. We as a club, at least while I'm the Head Coach, will always support players going with their national teams. It's something special. I was a part of national teams for a long time with the Serbian National Team and the USA. Those are special moments, having the opportunity to represent your country in any given moment. It's amazing, but also for players like Leo [Campana, Ecuador] or Matt [Turner, USA], having the opportunity to fight for their spots to participate in the World Cup, which is the biggest event in the world, is something special. I'm very happy and excited for them. My fingers are crossed and I wish them all the best."

On how the team can build momentum following Sunday's 6-1 win over FC Cincinnati:
Mitrović: "I think in the world of soccer, you can't hide emotions if you win. It's better when you win, it's a better environment. I'm thinking more about how our first two games weren't the results we wanted, but it's also about the performances. It's about how we can get better as a team and keep working. Working with the team for two months and only having three competitive games, I'm still trying to understand and learn about the players, their behaviors. Training is one thing, but games are something very different. But after [Sunday's] game, I feel like it can help us believe in ourselves more, and that certain actions that we do can help us to win the games in the long term."

On the challenges he expects from this weekend's match at St. Louis CITY SC:
Mitrović: "I actually watched all of the games that [St. Louis] has played so far this season, and some of the preseason games as well. First of all, they're a very well-coached team that has certain tendencies in games. [St. Louis] is team that wants to have the ball and control the game with the ball, also control transitions. I would say in their first four games, I don't think that the results were a reflection of their performances. In my eyes, they had much better performances but didn't get the results.

"We're also going into [Energizer Park], where the crowd is great. St. Louis always has a great crowd. I think that they are trying to build a certain identity and the results don't support them. I would say that's [what I have learned from their] first four games, and I know that the crowd that will be on their side. It's going to be a great challenge and a big challenge for us."

On if the Revolution might add a Desigated Player at any point this season:
Mitrović: "Every team in the league at any given moment can be better. Every team, and not just us but everywhere in the world, will use an opportunity to be better. So if we have a possibility to bring in a [Designated Player] and that DP is someone that we believe is the right decision for us, I think we as a club will make that step. But that's something that I'm not thinking of right now."

On the importance of featuring a balanced attack and multiple scorers around playmaker Carles Gil, as the team did in Sunday's win:

Mitrović: “We want to win on a long term, and it's not a one-man team. Carles [Gil] is an exceptional talent. I’ve spoken so many times about Carles. As a coaching staff, a club, the players, we all rely on what Carles is going to do on the field. And I don’t think that is going to be a winning formula. We just know that we are going to get Carles in spots where we want to get Carles, and because of his talent, he will find the vast solutions and he can handle those [tough] situations. But for us to go game-by-game with the mindset that Carles will win the games for us, I don’t think it works like that.”

Revolution Midfielder Brooklyn Raines

On how the team’s mindset has strengthened following last weekend’s 6-1 win over FC Cincinnati:
Raines: “I think just from a cultural aspect, we've definitely started to build our identity as a team. Obviously, we have our anchors. They’re [posted] all around the facility and in our locker room. It's just about being committed to not only the team, but also yourself, respecting everyone, and then just having that mindset. Whether we are up a goal or down a goal, the goal is to win. But having that belief and mindset that whatever the case may be, we're just going to believe in ourselves, continue to stick to our principles, and then we'll come out with the result. I think it has been a huge mindset change from the first two games. We're trying to build off that, but I think [the 6-1 win over Cincinnati] has been major for the team, and we just want to continue to build off that.”

On finding the balance between sustaining momentum and staying grounded:
Raines: “You can't get too eager, but I think using that as a reference for us to continue to push is definitely helpful. Marko [Mitrović] always says to remain humble, but we're never satisfied. I think that's also a good reminder, to understand that it's important to celebrate little things and the wins, but at the same time be humble about it and continue to be hungry. I think that's what I kind of noticed about this team, is just that we're always hungry for more. Obviously, after our third goal [against Cincinnati], some people might say that's a good enough win. But we continued to score, which I think is a good mindset. So, just remaining humble, steady, and steadfast is definitely important for us.”

On having played against St. Louis CITY SC during his tenure with Houston:
Raines: “From a personal level, it's always exciting to go to St. Louis. I think the atmosphere and just the city itself, is really cool, but it'll be a pretty good test for the group to showcase ourselves against a team in the Western Conference. For me, it's always a fun trip in St. Louis, so I'm excited for it.”

On the importance in featuring five different goal scorers during Sunday’s win over FC Cincinnati:
Raines: “It’s pretty important I’d say, just to have that many players on the scoresheet. I think it says a lot. The subs came in, did their job, and the players that started did their job.”