



## TRANSCRIPT (4/4): Postgame vs. CF Montreal

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, D Mamadou Fofana & D Peyton Miller

### Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

#### ***On forward/winger Luca Langoni's goal-and-assist performance in today's win:***

**Mitrović:** "Luca [Langoni] scored a goal and [recorded] an assist. He's growing game after game. He had several occasions today when he was running in behind. I still believe Luca can do more. He's opening his mind to how dangerous and how good he can be if he exposes his strength all the time. We've been working consistently now for almost three months on those small details in his game. I just believe that he's going to get even better and better, but I'm very happy with his performances so far."

#### ***On the team's defensive performance en route to its first shutout of the season:***

**Mitrović:** "I am very happy because of that. I know that we want to be a team that wants to control the game with the ball. But we also have to understand that there are moments where we have to control the game when we are without possession and when we defend. Today's performance showed us that when those moments come in the game and we are strong defensively, we can still be dangerous with the ball and we can still win the game. I know that Montreal today had more possession, and I think it could be very good for us going into the future that when those moments occur, when opponents have the ball, we can still do a good job and be a dangerous team."

#### ***On Peyton Miller's performance coming off the bench and scoring the final goal of the win:***

**Mitrović:** "It's a similar situation to when [Miller] came off the bench in the last home game against Cincinnati. Peyton missed almost the whole preseason, and we're still building the minutes for him and then today he got a few more minutes. The way that space was given to us was because we were defending, and then we had a lot of space to run in behind. We expected in our game preparation that those moments would happen for Peyton, and they happened in the last action of the game, but it could happen even before that. Peyton, going forward, is always dangerous. It doesn't matter if he's playing lower as a fullback, playing wingback, or wide-forward, and that's his strength."

#### ***On Luca Langoni leading MLS in assists and creating another goal from a set piece:***

**Mitrović:** "We really work on set pieces a lot. For example, last game we conceded the second goal on set pieces. Today, we scored the second goal on set pieces. We are growing. I would say we are trying to minimize those moments where we're going to concede and be consistently more dangerous. In the training sessions, we have a group of guys that are consistently working, our functional work. Probably three to four times per week, they stay and practice their set pieces. They also practice with those guys that would execute in the box. I'm also happy for Mamadou [Fofana] that he scored the goal, because it's another part [of the game] that we really invest in, together with Mamadou, a lot of time and energy for us to convince Mamadou how dangerous he can be, but also creating that habit when he's there and how he can score the goals."

#### ***On if he received an explanation about his red card:***

**Mitrović:** "The referee made his decision and I have to accept that. I had left my area. I was very focused. To be fair, I didn't pay attention to where the lines were. I thought when you leave the area, you get a yellow card for that. I don't know, in the rules, if it says if you leave it one yard or 50 yards, that it's different. I

know that you cannot leave your area. To be fair, I didn't expect a red card. I was thinking he's gonna tell me something, and then when he started to go for a card, I was thinking it's a yellow card. The last thing I was expecting because I had left that restricted area was that I'm going to get a red card, but if I deserve it by the rules. To be honest, I don't know in the rules that if I'm so far from the bench that I can get a red card. It is what it is."

***On if the referee explained that it was due to leaving his technical area:***

**Mitrović:** "No, I didn't want to ask anything, because I know if you stay there and then you argue, it can be more punishment. I cannot change the red card in that moment. I could have done maybe a better job before that, not to leave that restricted area and expose myself to a situation like that. But once I got the red card, I had to accept that, because everything else could be just more punishment for myself in future games. It is what it is. I made a mistake, got a red card, and we have to move on."

***On scoring nine goals in the first two home games:***

**Mitrović:** "I think every time we score, those are happy moments. Then the [happiest] moment is when you win the game. When you summarize that, I know that in the halftime, the message from the coaches was that we don't want to stop. It's 1-0 and we still have to be clinical when we get there. Every time in every game when we have the opportunity to go and score more goals, we'll score more goals. We have to treat every action the way it has to be treated on the field. If it's the 90<sup>th</sup> minute and Peyton [Miller] has that situation to go forward, just go forward and score the goal. There is no other choice in that moment."

***On the importance of today's clean sheet, New England's first shutout of the season:***

**Mitrović:** "It matters a lot. We cannot ignore it. In every game that you have a clean sheet, you have a great starting position, but you have to score goals to win the game. Again, I believe in single actions on the field, and I'm looking at how we execute every action, because I believe you have to play the game from the first second until the last second on the field. And if we execute all the actions well, every player, we can get a clean sheet defensively. Today, I was really happy with the positive defensive performance from the team. Everyone, from Dor [Turgeman] until Matt [Turner]. We got rewarded with a clean sheet and that's great. More clean sheets is going to be more of a reason for us to win."

***On goalkeeper Matt Turner's performance today after returning from international duty:***

**Mitrović:** "It is massive for Matt [Turner]. I spoke with Matt when he came back on Thursday, and I saw that he is mentally here, that he is present. I think that he has a lot of experience. I also know that it is not easy to get there and concede five goals [with the United States Men's National Team] and have to refocus and be present. I would just say that I appreciate Matt, and that it shows his quality and the maturity in his game. Even Matt as a person, [he shows] that even in a very difficult, tough loss. As a goalkeeper you conceded five goals, and I think that he had a very decent performance in that game. But to kind of forget that and move forward, it takes exceptional quality and Matt showed that today."

***On New England's defenders contributing on the attacking end with goal-scoring performances:***

**Mitrović:** "I know I was asked a question like this earlier in preseason when we played a friendly match, and we had five or six different scorers in the game, and I would connect the question to us having a clean sheet. I think that in every action, we have to execute it the way it should be executed, and we work on that in practice. We don't just practice in training that our forwards are scoring goals, and that our defenders are stopping goals. Our main objective is to understand that wherever the ball is, and whoever is in possession of the ball, what we are doing as a team. It's not easy to instill that behavior. For example, if you are a right full back and now you are in a forward position, just act as a forward and finish that attack because we have a lot of rotations on the field. So, once we make those rotations, behave as the position of where you are on the field. And the same with defense. I think [we are] instilling that piece by piece. They are getting in that habit that in any given moment, there is an opportunity to score the goal and just do it. It's always great to score goals."

**Revolution Defender Mamadou Fofana**

***On scoring his first MLS goal in today's 3-0 win:***

**Fofana:** "I'm very happy to score my first goal in MLS, but I'm happy also for the team, because we won and we didn't concede. It's good, but we have to continue."

***On the importance of getting the first clean sheet of the season:***

**Fofana:** "Yeah, I think it's important because it's our first clean sheet [of the season]. And that's why I say we have to keep working and continue like this, because we are [performing] the right way, and so let's continue like this."

***On the team's defensive performance:***

**Fofana:** "Yeah, I think we defended well. We didn't concede, it's a good thing. But I think we can also keep more [of] the ball, because CF Montreal plays man-to-man. It's not easy, but at the end of the day, we take the three points. We didn't concede, we are happy, and we will go back to work again."

**Revolution Defender Peyton Miller**

***On his ability to play forward and contribute in the attack:***

**Miller:** "It feels great, especially when [Marko Mitrović] has trusted me to go forward. But just being able to contribute to the attack and get goals for the team [is my focus]."

***On the importance of registering the first clean sheet of the season:***

**Miller:** "It's very important. We emphasize getting clean sheets a lot, so just getting that clean sheet builds a lot of confidence."

***On holding off Montreal's pressure in the closing minutes of the match:***

**Miller:** "It's very important, especially because [CF Montréal] were pushing our wingers back, so it was very important for us to get back behind the ball, but also, when we saw the opportunity to counter, we could hurt them in the counter attack."

***On difference between playing wingback and playing further up the field:***

**Miller:** "I think it's generally about the same for me. I'm getting forward and getting back, helping on defense. When I came in, you saw I was pinned back a lot by their right back, so it's kind of the same."