



TRANSCRIPT (4/18): Postgame vs. Columbus Crew

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, M Carles Gil, and D Ethan Kohler

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Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On how dominating possession in the second half was a key in tonight's victory:

Mitrović: "We had some very good situations in the first half where we felt we were just impatient, and actually, the setup on the field for us was very good. We rushed to make certain passes, and we also felt that every time we executed simple passes in positions where our players should have been, we kind of had control of the game. The message was not doing anything different than we were doing, just keep executing those simple passes, and certain rotations that we had on the field, just keep doing that. It's more the perspective of having the control of the game and the ball, but believe that these situations will help us create scoring opportunities."

On Luca Langoni and Dor Turgeman connecting on the set piece goal to tie the game:

Mitrović: "We practice that. We work a lot on those situations, and it's not just on our team, it's every team that you face. Every player in the box has a certain role, and our players have certain roles. Obviously, it comes to the set-piece taker, how good he's going to put the ball there, and what space he'll attack with the ball, then which players will be in that space. I think it was a great cross from Luca [Langoni], but also great execution from Dor [Turgeman]."

On winning the first four home games for the third time in team history and Carles Gil scoring his 50th MLS goal in his 200th appearance:

Mitrović: "As long as those milestones help us move forward and achieve what we want to achieve, we have to celebrate them. We also have small milestones day-by-day that we want to achieve, like small successes that we believe will help us in the long term. I would say, about making some great results and creating some record for history, that's always great. But as long as that helps us to achieve our final goal, that's great. I'm happy for someone like Carles [Gil]. I think Carles is a great professional, and he deserved and earned this achievement and milestone in his career. We celebrated it now in the locker room. I'm very happy for the guys when they achieve their milestones in their careers. At the end of the day, that's their life, and we have to celebrate those moments."

On Brayan Ceballos being forced off with an injury and Ethan Kohler's versatility:

Mitrović: "With Brayan [Ceballos], we have to see. He obviously had some groin issue, but I think tomorrow or Monday we'll know more. Ethan [Kohler] is one player that is more of an all-around player. He understands the game at the highest level, and he can play right back, center back, center midfielder. I

think that his understanding of the game helps him to execute whenever he is on the field and he also has a very good technical ability to support his understanding of the game. I think when he was a center midfielder for the first 10-15 minutes of the game, he had a very decent [start], and I think he had a very good game as a center back.”

On the resilience that the team showed to pull out the comeback win:

Mitrović: “That’s something that we’ve spoken about many times. We had that game against FC Cincinnati when we were down 1-0, and we just kept going. To be honest, in the first half when we were down 1-0, I wasn’t sure that we believed that we could win the game. I didn’t see that in the faces of our guys. Columbus is one great opponent and probably someone that we needed a win [over] like today, so that we can develop that belief that we can compete with anyone. I think our clear message was at halftime, that yes we had some small tactical adjustments, but it was more, ‘Yes we can win this game, we just have to play better’.”

On celebrating with forward Dor Turgeman after his goal tonight and the qualities he possesses:

Mitrović: “I don’t think he ran [over] on purpose, I think maybe I ran to him. As we spoke about, what matters to us is how Dor [Turgeman] executes simple things on the field, and understanding that by executing those simple things, it will help us to help him later to win the ball in the box. Now he scored a goal, earned a penalty kick. As I said a couple of days ago, Dor is a pure finisher. He has exceptional quality in the box and he just has to connect with the ball. But Dor also has other qualities, he is not just a box forward. He can do many more things. We work on those things, and sometimes those certain things for Dor are very simple, but because they are simple, that doesn’t mean you don’t execute those simple things in simple ways. This is more like his mindset, his growing, and I said in preseason that he has high potential, he has a high ceiling. Our job is on one side, is to use Dor like I said to help the team to achieve results, but we also have an obligation to help Dor to become the best version of himself.”

On an intense moment following a hard foul to Carles Gil and the team’s ensuing reaction for the rest of the match:

Mitrović: “Listen, there are always emotions on the field, and I think once we leave here like a family and I love the unity of the players. If somebody is touching your family, you probably always protect that person. That’s how I felt in that moment. They went against Carles [Gil] and it was an organic reaction from the players. In those moments, we cannot lose our emotions and overreact. But if somebody touches our [own], we have to protect that.”

On Peyton Miller’s increased minutes this week:

Mitrović: “We didn’t plan to have Peyton [Miller] come in and play 75, almost 80 minutes, but after additional time he almost played a full 90. Tonight, knowing that we didn’t plan for him to play 120 minutes on Tuesday [in the U.S. Open Cup] and then another [90] today, he has built up a real accumulation of minutes now. He probably has played more minutes in the last four days than he has in the last four months. We just have to be aware to recover Peyton well and prepare him for success in the coming games.”

On how the team’s recent results build confidence toward long-term goals:

Mitrović: “It’s very important because [when] you are building something, there is always meaning in the short-term [goals to build] things that are going to happen in the long term. You want to believe and be successful in the long term, but short-term success always helps. Today, we were down 1-0 against a very good team and then we won, 2-1. We got another win. This is achieving the small milestones that down the road will help us get where we want to go at the end of the fall.”

Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil

On the team's collective belief leading to a second half comeback:

Gil: "We are very happy. A [fourth] consecutive win at home, and today a very difficult game against a team that is special with the ball. [Columbus] keeps the ball. I think in the first half they were much better than us with the ball. We didn't know how to change the game, but in the second half we did. With the ball, we were passing more, and I think they were ready for us to score the first goal, because they thought if they continue like this they would score the second one. But yeah, I'm very proud of the second half we had."

On winning the first four home games and the vibe around the team:

Gil: "I think since Marko [Mitrović] arrived, he changed our mentality. Even with the difficult start of the season we had, he brings us a different mentality – a winning mentality. Obviously, it's never easy and we have many young players that are starting, somewhat, their careers. We know that, like you said in 2021, we were very strong at home. It's the way to be there in first place [in the standings], and it's what we're doing. Now, we have a good challenge with two consecutive games away at Atlanta and Miami, so now it's time to rest and be ready for that."

On scoring his 50th MLS goal in his 200th game in a Revolution uniform:

Gil: "New England is the most important club in my career. I've spent many, many years here, and I am very happy. Obviously, coming from two difficult years, I want to win. Winning games is the way that everyone is happy every day. We are coming from difficult years, and I am very proud of what we are doing right now. It's the beginning of the season, and we need to be better and better. We have many things to improve but we are on the way."

Revolution Defender Ethan Kohler

On adjusting from center back to midfielder:

Kohler: "The first 20 [minutes] as a six, we suffered, I think, as a group. It's always unfortunate to see a player as important to us as Brayan [Ceballos], to go down, but center back is a position I played many, many times, so I was comfortable to go back. During the game we suffered for 45 minutes, but that's the quality we have. We can suffer and we can stay in games. Then the second half, we showed what we can do and who we are as a group. I mean, it's unbelievable to go one-zero down and to have that bravery and that willingness to play with the ball, to take risks, to defend high, and especially with some guys playing out of position like [Alhassan] Yusuf at left winger coming back inside. I think today showed us that with that belief and with our qualities, we can win any game."

On Dor Turgeman:

Kohler: "He [Turgeman] is top and he works so, so hard. Above all, he has all this quality. But the reason why he draws the penalty, the reason why he's always in the right places, is because he's a guy who's willing to work hard, not only for himself, but for the group. That's why he continues to produce for us week in and week out."

On building off the success at home:

Kohler: "Away games, it's different. Obviously, the support of the crowd has really carried us. They've been unbelievable. But at the end of the day, we're the same 20 guys. So when we go there, we have to remember that it's football, whether we play it here or play it there. We have the same core beliefs wherever we play. We can play in a different country, those core beliefs remain the same. So, I think, if we remember our identity, we can do that here. We can do that when we go to Atlanta, we can do that at Miami. We can do that anywhere."

On the halftime adjustments being mental or tactical:

Kohler: “Honestly, I'd say it was more mental. It was pretty much solely mental. But when you instill a team like this, guys with this kind of quality, with belief, then the tactical piece comes out, and we can figure it out ourselves. When he [Head Coach Marko Mitrović] says ‘believe that you're going to win the game,’ we figure out a way to win the game. That's where we kind of changed tactically, just through belief.”

On playing with Carles Gil:

Kohler: “He [Gil] is unbelievable. He makes my life very easy. I have to say, if I see pressure, I give the ball to Carles. He's such a positive guy in the locker room. He's been so uplifting from when I got here, for me, for all the new players, and he instills a belief. Not always just through words, but to the way he plays. I mean, you can't not feel confident when he's on your team.”