



TRANSCRIPT (4/20): Media Availability

Soundbytes from Assistant Coach Sean Hughes & D Ilay Feingold

Revolution Assistant Coach Sean Hughes

On carrying the momentum from the three-game homestand into this week's two-game road trip:

Hughes: "It's something we've talked about as a staff and obviously we want to bring that to the team. For us, we want to put ourselves in the game, wherever it is. It shouldn't matter if we're home or away, we want to make a good impression. I think what we have done very well at home is we've been so strong defensively. When you think about the games, we gave up a goal this weekend on the back of two shutouts, so we have to make that a base when we go on the road. We're strong defensively, and in possession we still want to keep improving, create more opportunities, and bring the game to the opponents."

On how the team has built confidence and belief following three consecutive wins:

Hughes: "Like anything, I think everybody has ideas. But to get real buy-in, wins help. I think when the team sees positive results, not just from winning, but also small patterns within the game when they have big impacts, that starts to increase their belief, everybody starts to go in [a higher] direction. And for us, it's important to keep that moving."

On keeping positive energy through a congested schedule with upcoming U.S. Open Cup and MLS matches:

Hughes: "That's our job, right? To bring good energy every day. I think that as humans, as a staff at least, it's like the foundation for us. One of the biggest things we have in the [locker] room when you walk in every day, is 'come with positive energy'. Whether we play 10 games, two games, or one game, we're always excited for that, and I think our energy reflects within the team. We talk about it a lot. The fact that we have more games is because we're doing things right. We were able to get past Rhode Island FC [in the U.S. Open Cup Round of 32], which is a positive. It gives us another game, another opportunity, and we'll always look at that from a positive standpoint."

On versatility within the squad, highlighted by Ethan Kohler's shift from midfielder to center back last Saturday:

Hughes: "That's part of a team, we don't rely on one person. I think Ethan [Kohler], even after the game, you've seen his interview, [where] he talked about when he's on the bench, he celebrates the wins, he celebrates the goals. That's something that we're proud of as a group. We talk about togetherness a lot, so whoever it is on the pitch, we give them full trust, we know they can do the job. I think that's starting to show for those guys too."

On the team rallying after a hard foul to Carles Gil in the second half of last Saturday's match:

Hughes: "It's so important. We have ['togetherness'] on the wall [at the training center], but it has to be action. I think that's a really small window of where you see that in action. The team, as a whole, they're a close group of guys. But like Ethan [Kohler] said, 'you kick one of us, you kick all of us.' I think the group showed that in that moment, and it probably changed momentum in the game. From that moment onward, we felt if there's a team that's going to go on and win that match, it's going to be us."

On preparing for Wednesday night's road match at Atlanta United FC:

Hughes: "[Atlanta] is another good team. We feel they're a team that wants to have possession again, similar to Columbus in that respect. So, we have to be defensively strong. We have to give ourselves a good platform, but we know that we have quality in the team, we can create chances, and we will go there with the expectation to take the three points."

Revolution Defender Ilay Feingold

On the mentality ahead of a two-match week and continuing with a busy schedule:

Feingold: "It's good [to be busy]. I think at the end, this is why we play football — to have a busy schedule. We have two big tests for us and unfortunately our away record this season isn't so good. But I'm sure we will do a good job, and we'll change it to have two wins."

On how Head Coach Marko Mitrović's energy and messaging helped New England overcome a 1-0 deficit in last Saturday's win over Columbus:

Feingold: "[Marko Mitrović's energy] is very helpful, and the push that we got from Marko really helps us. But in the end, we are professional athletes, so we had to make that change at halftime. I'm really happy that we did it. We had a really good performance, especially in the second half. I think we need to keep playing the way we played in the second half in the upcoming two games, and I'm sure the results will come."

On the team's mentality in defending its home field and collecting its fourth straight home victory last weekend:

Feingold: "It's amazing. I think that the mentality that we showed, especially in the second half, was amazing. We were down 1-0 against a really good team, and we knew it was going to be a really tough game, but we showed a great mentality and grit. Everyone [showed] a great effort and [I am] really happy that we got those three points in front of our fans."

On the team rallying after a hard foul to Carles Gil in the second half of last Saturday's match:

Feingold: "The togetherness is very important for our team. Being united is one of our most important principles and I think everyone fights for each other. Carles [Gil] is one of our most important players, and when we saw him get hurt, everyone wanted to help him. I think maybe this was the moment that helped us win our game. Everyone is there for each other. I am really happy that we did it."

On the team searching for its first road victory of the season this week:

Feingold: "We believe. We are going to face good opponents in Miami and Atlanta. It's going to be [two] really tough games against really good opponents. We are going to respect them, as we respect all the other teams in the league. We are going to show our football and I'm sure the results are going to come."

On carrying momentum built over the three-game homestand into this week's road trip:

Feingold: "It's very good for us [to win at home]. Last year, I didn't think we played very good at home and the results didn't come. For us, it's very important for our fans to have confidence in us and want to come to our games. Especially now, that we are going to face two tough opponents away. So, it's very good for us and a really good test. I'm sure we will show good character and win these games."