



TRANSCRIPT (4/22): Postgame at Atlanta United FC

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & D Will Sands

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On the team extending its winning streak to four games with tonight's 2-1 come-from-behind victory over Atlanta United FC:

Mitrović: "I know I'm repeating myself, but it's great to win four games in a row and it's really not easy. It's a massive achievement. However, we are still not going to give up on what we want to do, which is to go day by day, and game by game. I've really never talked to the guys in the locker room about having four straight wins, we're just analyzing day after day. Did we maximize our things? Even in this win, I'm very aware there are things that we have to do better. What are the things that were good, how can we emphasize those good things, and keep improving them as well? So, that's our main focus."

On the team continuing to show growth and belief in overcoming deficits:

Mitrović: "I think this is the third time in the season [with a come-from-behind win]. However, we had the game in St. Louis [on March 21], where we were up 1-0, and then lost 3-1. Again, we have to play games from the very beginning until the very end. In any given moment, there is a possibility that some of the teams can have opportunities to score goals. So, no matter what the score is, we just have to keep going."

"Obviously, there is always an opponent that dictates certain things on the field and gives you different kinds of resistance in some moments. But we always talk [about] how we have to embrace those challenges. We are now in our fifth game in a row where we play on Saturday and [midweek], and you can see that players are tired. But that mentality is to sustain when we concede possession, when we are in low-block defending, and then everybody is giving their best. Matt [Turner] made one or two very good saves [to finish the win]. We have to find those small successes on the field in any given moment."

On preparing for a quick turnaround with a match at Inter Miami CF and Lionel Messi on Saturday:

Mitrović: "Number one, we have to recover ourselves. We have a game in 72 hours. We all know who Lionel Messi is. I think people have been trying for 25 years to figure out how to play against him, and with not much success so far. But I know one thing is we have to behave as a team in that game, knowing that we are facing a great team that is an [MLS Cup] Champion, and that has arguably the best player in the history of this game. But that's another challenge that we are going to embrace and face, and another opportunity for us to grow our mentality and our game."

On defender Will Sands netting his first MLS goal tonight and his progress this season:

Mitrović: "Since I arrived at the club, since our day one training session, Will [Sands], like every other player, always had [shown] a level of commitment. We also saw potential in Will and had a feeling in the beginning that we had to open him up. He didn't believe in himself enough. But he is very reliable and I

think he is very consistent with his performances. I also believe Will has a lot more inside, that we can still open up Will more, and that he can still perform even better. But we are very happy with Will so far."

On VAR negating a goal scored by Alhassan Yusuf in the first half:

Mitrović: "I think that the whole play was very good. I think anytime you score a goal, we want to be smart about it and say, 'we want to do things like that.' Some positioning that we want to occupy on the field and execute passes that were very good. Obviously, we didn't plan that [Alhassan] Yusuf would score such a great goal. Was it offside or not? Listen, the VAR referee looked after the play. I can have my opinion about that, but I don't think it matters at the end of the day. What matters is what the referee's call was, because the final call is the referee's call. If he says it's offside, then we have nothing to do but respect that decision."

On the team's response to defending 23 shot attempts from Atlanta United FC tonight:

Mitrović: "Yes, we conceded shots. There were a few attacks where they actually created three or four shots in a row. I would say that would add to the amount of shots, which to me is encouraging because we are kind of stopping the domino [effect]. We are blocking first shots, second shots, third shots. For me, that's a relentless mentality. We are not giving up. Today I felt that our lines were a little bit wider and more open than they usually are, and in certain moments we gave them situations to easily progress the ball. They have some very technical players where if you give them time and space, they can execute those passes, and obviously finish the attack. That's something that we definitely have to work on, how we can stop that progression. But, it is what it is and we move forward."

Revolution Defender Will Sands

On scoring his first MLS goal as part of a second half comeback:

Sands: "It felt really good. I think that moment of the game was really important, and I think it gave us the momentum to go on and get three points, which is above all the most important thing. So, I'm just happy that we could get a win away from home and kind of keep this momentum going."

On playing alongside Peyton Miller and both scoring in tonight's win:

Sands: "I was joking about that with him. I think the world of Peyton [Miller]. He's an awesome guy, and it was unfortunate that we couldn't share the field last year. I'm really happy to be doing that this year, and he is having an amazing season. [Miller has scored] three goals already, and I think he's going to have the world at his feet. So yeah, I'm really happy for him."

On if the team feels it has turned a corner and how much they still have to prove ahead of Saturday's match at Inter Miami CF:

Sands: "Miami is always a really tough place to play – quality players and a tough environment. I think it's going to be a good test for us. I think we've gotten a couple good results in the last month or so. And I think the performances we've had have been glimpses of really good play. Then I think what we need to work on is making that kind of an entire game, because I think there have been moments where we've slipped a little bit. But yeah, I think it's a really big test for us. It's really important to go out there and have a very good performance, so I think we're all very excited."

On the culture change and belief instilled under Head Coach Marko Mitrović:

Sands: "That's a perfect word for it. I think it's just a belief in each one of us as individual players, and I think he tries to bring the best out of us. But I think it's also a belief in the cohesive group. Even when we come inside [the locker room], and I think we've been 1-0 down in the last two games, no one really thinks we're down and out and no one is holding their head down. I think there is a belief that we will

come back and win. And I think the mark of great teams is finding a way to win, so I think we just need to have a performance to kind of back that belief. I think this team has the potential to do great things.”