



TRANSCRIPT (4/30): Match Preview Press Conference

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Brooklyn Raines

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On how the team will defend against Charlotte FC's attack on Saturday:

Mitrović: "[Charlotte FC] has a lot of talent on the field, and a lot of players starting or coming off the bench that keep doing the same things. It's a team that is capable of creating good situations on the field in any given moment. That's probably one of the reasons why they are so successful, with the amount of goals that they scored this season."

On New England's continued improvement in the final third:

Mitrović: "Our ultimate objective is to score the goal. So, any time we are on the ball it is how we can explore certain spaces and get ourselves in the best possible situations, or we like to say, to create conditions to finish the attack. Then ultimately, finishing those situations. I expect again that on Saturday, the certain ideas that we'll have clarity of what we want to do when we're on the ball, connected with all our principles in the game, and how we can get us in those situations more often that we continue the attack and, again, score goals."

On the importance of collecting points and positive results in May before the league pauses play for the World Cup break:

Mitrović: "I think every game matters. Yeah, probably teams are thinking of that now. Top teams will have more time to make a different strategy. There's going to be a transfer window bringing in different players in different clubs, so I think the teams will look different when we come back in July. For us, this is another game. Every game for us is the most important game. That's how we're going to approach the game on Saturday."

On injury updates on defenders Ilay Feingold and Brayan Ceballos, and forward Leo Campana:

Mitrović: "They are all still day-by-day. They are making small progress, but still a day-by-day decision on Saturday."

On the team developing and improving under his style of play:

Mitrović: "I would say number one, for me, it goes with relentless fighting spirit. Every time we step on the field, that's something we would love from our guys to be present. And then talking about that, if we're in possession or out of possession, no matter what our strategy is – do we want to be in a high press or lower on the field to defend, or if we build up or finish the attack – that intensity and that relentless mentality has to be present. That, for me, is a foundation. The second thing is our togetherness on the field and that we are all together in everything. I think those are the things that we're really improving and getting better game after game."

"Now, every game we have very good moments in and out of [possession]. For example, I just spoke about where we have clarity about the way we want to play with the ball and we also have very good defensive moments. Again, it doesn't matter if we are in a high, medium, or low block, sometimes we pick a certain line of confrontation. That depends on the opponents. But, we still have gaps in our games where we have to be consistent. However, it is not just about us. It's about our opponents. Different

opponents challenge us in different ways, and so far we were capable of adjusting through the games. I'm looking forward to us improving game-by-game, because in my eyes we still have, I don't want to say a long way to go, but we still have room to improve and to get better. And that room, for me, is not a small room. We still have a lot of room to be a better team."

Revolution Midfielder Brooklyn Raines

On the team building a culture and identity through the early months of the season:

Raines: "First and foremost, it's a really great group. You can start to see, starting from the first game to now, how we've really built an identity. I think it's based on the players. Obviously, Marko [Mitrović] has his tactics and all. But I think, from a personal standpoint, I think it's all the guys coming together and really trying to create something that's worth being a part of. I'd say it's also just day to day us getting the small details right. Whether that's eating right, sleeping right. All the little details have come into play, so I think it's just a mixture of those things."

On carrying an unbeaten 4-0-0 record at home this season:

Raines: "We're on a home winning streak, so I think it's important that we remain humble, but we still want to go and win every game possible at home. I think, again, it's just about the small things that we do and having the right mentality of going in and respecting our opponent but at the same time wanting to dominate."

On playing with defender Peyton Miller:

Raines: "I've known Peyton [Miller] for a long time. He's a really cool guy. On the field, he kind of just has that freedom to express himself. Whether that's left back or left wing, or right wing, wherever [Mitrović] decides to play him. [Miller] just has that chip on his shoulder. When he plays, he wants to go and dominate."

On joining Peyton Miller in his goal celebrations:

Raines: "For the celebration, it's not really practice. We just both said we want to do the 'scuba celebration' and we both know what that is. When [Miller] scores, we just go to the cameras and do it."

On the team's strong run of play and areas for improvement moving forward:

Raines: "Not every game is going to be perfect, but I think, for one, just getting results is always a positive. In terms of things to work on, for me, I'd say just cleaning up small moments. When it's early on in the game and it's kind of chaotic, just kind of putting our foot on the ball and re-setting. From a personal standpoint, I feel like we're doing really well. Like Marko [Mitrović] said, there's always things we can improve on. But from a personal standpoint, I'm really happy with how we've been doing."

On playing next to Alhassan Yusuf and Carles Gil in the midfield and finding his way on the scoresheet:

Raines: "To be working with Yusuf and Carles, it has been amazing so far. Anytime, whether it's on or off the field, I always try to just communicate with them and try to get advice on certain things because they have more experience than me. I think having that chemistry both on and off the field helps. In training, I wouldn't say it's a lot of communication because it's chaotic. But I think we just found that flow state where we combine and work off each other. In terms of getting on the scoresheet, I had a chance against Miami. It's funny enough, Marko said I needed to score in that game and I should have. I'm hoping that against Charlotte [on Saturday], I'll be able to score."