



TRANSCRIPT (5/7): Match Preview Press Conference

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Carles Gil

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On how the team has evolved both on and off the field after a strong start to the season:

Mitrović: “I never felt that we don't have belief in what we are doing. I just wanted to be sure that we stick to our objectives, day by day. I think that's something that the whole team, including all staff members and players, implement. The most important thing for us is focusing on today and how we can get the most out of today. When we have the right intentions day after day, and clarity in what we are doing, we will always have some kind of outcome. But the more we have right intentions and do the right things, the more times we will get a better outcome. We've had some good results in the last several weeks, which helps the [team] dynamic always. We want to be sure that we are not emotional and taking it as 'Oh, now we are winning,' and that we don't ignore things that we always have to do good or things we have to do better. The team is in a good spot.”

On what New England expects from Saturday's match against the Philadelphia Union:

Mitrović: “[Philadelphia Union] are a team that have their style of playing. They are very clear in what they are doing, and not just this year, but for years. They are a team that is very aggressive in going forward, pushing the ball forward as soon as possible, trying to finish their attacks. They are very good winning second balls — that is kind of their identity. Those second balls give them another opportunity to make another attack, and they are very intense without the ball. So, games against Philadelphia, I think for every team in the league, are very unique. Maybe they didn't start the season the best way, but we are talking about the team that won the most points last year and a team that has clarity [in their style of play]. We know that it's going to be a very challenging game ahead of us.”

On New England's approach in preparing to play against Philadelphia:

Mitrović: “Number one, we are not looking at the standings. We don't have that message of 'We are playing against the team that is at the bottom of the table.' I think that every game is unique. Every game has uniqueness and special circumstances. This is a long season. We're only talking about 10 or 11 games into the season. We have our approach. As I said, we don't look at the standings. We have our next opponent, and every opponent has certain strengths. Sometimes those strengths become weaknesses as well. That's our job, how we can keep going, improving ourselves. But, knowing that we have another team that we can play that has certain qualities on the field, and we can match those qualities.”

On availability updates for defender Brayan Ceballos, forward Leo Campana, and midfielder Matt Polster:

Mitrović: “Both Matt [Polster] and Brayan [Ceballos] had a full week of training with the team. They're good to go this weekend. With Leo [Campana], just because of the type of injury he had, he's still not full to go, but progressing. But he's in a good spot and very soon he'll be back with the team.”

On the importance of mental health and creating a supportive environment:

Mitrović: “I think it's important for each of us, no matter what we do —on the street, with our families, or with the club in a working environment. Something that we cannot forget is that this is a people business. We work with people. Before we go to the professional part of this, we always have to start with the human part of everything we do, and it's something that matters to us a lot. I think it's something that is a foundation for us, how we are going to treat people here in this organization. And not as a professional, first as people. We are all very aware that we have to do our job, but never ignore that human perspective.”

On the role he has played in the team's strong start to the season:

Mitrović: “I don't think it's the Marko effect here. First of all, we have so many people in this organization that work. The other thing is, I don't know how it was in the past. When I came to the club, I said that I am not a fixer in my life. I don't know how to fix. As a head coach, obviously, you are in charge of the environment and how I would personally love this environment to look like. Then what kind of team I want us to look like on the field and then going into style of play. I think every leadership has its uniqueness, but I don't think it's anything me. This is not cliché, we have such a great group of people here, ready to go in the same direction. I appreciate them for everything they are doing on a daily basis.”

On the importance of establishing the right culture and environment:

Mitrović: “It's important. I say that for me, environment is a fundamental thing. We just spoke about mental care. We can put whatever objectives on the sports side we want to put in front of us. But we have one life and nobody can take from us that we enjoy coming here day after day, working. I personally wouldn't allow anyone to take that enjoyment from us. As I said, we have one life and we have to enjoy. On top of that, we have to do our jobs. So that's foundational for me, the environment, before we go into any system, any tactics, anything.”

On how he feels about the recognition the team is receiving for its strong start to the season:

Mitrović: “I just think we have to take care of our job, of our business. I know that the more consistent we are, people will not recognize that. We have one sentence here that says, ‘We never give up.’ Until they recognize in the way they want to recognize, that's not in our control. Our control is to give our best, day after day. But I can see that more and more people are coming to the games. We really appreciate that. It's actually a wonderful part of the game, that you have people coming and watching the games. That's why the games exist.”

Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil

On how the team has progressed since preseason back in January through now:

Gil: “We are looking at our results now and from what we did in the preseason, we had a slow start to the [regular] season. We knew there were many new things, with Marko [Mitrović], with the ball, without the ball. Some new players, too. We're a young group. But right now, we feel very good. Obviously, winning games at home is very important and we want to continue like this.”

On what he has enjoyed most about playing for Head Coach Marko Mitrović:

Gil: “I've said it. When [Mitrović] arrived, it started with the mentality, trying to give us a winning mentality. To be a winning team, you need to start with [a winning mentality]. Then we worked a lot in training tactically, with the ball and without the ball. It's many things that we're showing now on the pitch and in the results. But I think we can be better. We have many young players, and they're doing better and better. That's what we want – to finish these next four games [before the World Cup break], try to win, and continue after the World Cup.”

On what New England expects from Saturday's opponent, the Philadelphia Union:

Gil: “It has been a difficult start to the season for [Philadelphia], but we know them. Since I arrived here in the league [in 2019], I think they're maybe one of the top three best teams in the league. They're always

competing for first place. Like I said, it has been a difficult season for the moment. But they still have good players and they're a physical team. It's never easy to play against them, so it will be hard for sure."

On defender Braylan Ceballos and midfielder Matt Polster nearing their returns from injuries:

Gil: "It's difficult when we have injuries. Now we have four games in two weeks, a little more, so these are two important guys [returning]. Obviously, Matt [Polster] and Braylan [Ceballos] are very important players for us. It's good because it's more options for Marko [Mitrović] to decide to have a player starting or on the bench. Hopefully we can be as full as possible."

On how he prioritizes mental health:

Gil: "I love playing football. For me, every time I go on the pitch or in training, I try to give my best in all senses, also mentally. During the season, during careers, we have ups and downs and we need to manage that. For me, I try to not just in games but also in training, always do similar things to be as focused as possible."

On if there's a different feeling at Gillette Stadium this season with the team's 5-0-0 start at home:

Gil: "Yeah, starting with the pitch. It's different. We've had very good feelings in the last [home] games. Winning at home is key for us. For the fans, too. We had, together, a difficult last two seasons. Giving them these types of wins like we've had in the last weeks is important for everyone – for us, for the fans, for the club. We want to continue like this."

On if the team feels any added pressure given its strong start to the season:

(Translated from Spanish)

Gil: No, there's no pressure. If anything, we have more motivation and more desire. But we still have many games to go. We want to be as high [in the standings] as possible. But we focus a lot on how the team is improving in all the areas we need to improve on, which are many. We have a lot we want to improve on and we focus more on that."

On how the team will approach Saturday's match against Philadelphia, who has had a slow start to the 2026 season:

(Translated from Spanish)

Gil: "It's impossible to approach any game in a relaxed manner. Like I said, Philadelphia is at the bottom of the standings at the moment, but it has been a few games. They're still a dangerous a team. I think in this league, it has been shown that anyone can beat anyone at any given moment. It would be stupid for us to relax. I think it's the other way around. I think it's a game where we must be focused for all 90 minutes because Philadelphia will exhaust you. They're a team that will force you to give 100 percent. They're a very physical team that always competes. It will be tough. I have no doubt that it will be tough and we will have to be at our best."