



TRANSCRIPT (5/9): Postgame vs. Philadelphia Union

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, FW Luca Langoni & D Mamadou Fofana

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On how he helps keep the team poised when they are trailing during a match:

Mitrović: "I live in the moment. During the game what we are trying to do is read what is going on in the field, and what kind of support and help we can give to our guys. Obviously, when you get to the last few minutes and the score is 2-1, you are thinking 'Ok we are close to winning the game.' But during the game we are just focused on what we can do and how we can get the game in our favor."

On the mental and tactical adjustments made at halftime:

Mitrović: "[We made] small adjustments. I cannot say that we did not have a good first half. There were small things, simplicity on the ball that could have been a little bit better. We also felt that we were losing energy with the referee. Is this call right or wrong? Then we had two situations with [Philadelphia] players. We just had to stay focused on us and our game, from that perspective, and just keep going."

"[We made] small adjustments, but we felt we just had to keep going. The game is 90 minutes and it is not easy to break the team in 45 minutes. We felt that we were growing in terms of controlling the game and adjusting to the way [Philadelphia] plays. I cannot say that I felt comfortable at halftime that we were going to turn things around, but I felt that we were in a good spot to do those things. Obviously, we had that amazing block from Mamadou [Fofana] at 1-0. I think it added the next piece into our game, 'Ok, now we are going fully.' I'm really grateful to the guys, for everything they are doing."

On the play that led to Carles Gil's winning goal:

Mitrović: "With the way that [Philadelphia] plays and to have such a strong re-press moment, something that we were working on, something we always work on, is how we can get from that re-press zone in the fastest way possible and having the intention to play forward. Not that it always works, but on that second goal it was a really good intention to play forward, to secure the ball and get out of the re-press zone, then keep going forward with the mindset to finish the attack. And then we obviously got the goal from that situation."

On Carles Gil's run of strong performance with goals in three straight games:

Mitrović: "We have spoken about Carles [Gil] many times. Even before those three goals that Carles scored, that are decisive goals for us in our wins, I was standing here and saying that Carles was doing so many great things for us both in and out of possession. A player that has his quality can change the game at any given moment in any given game, [Gil] can do that. So now he has scored three times in a row. But I'm saying again, we are not looking at Carles through numbers. We are not here to create Carles' numbers. We are here to win the games, we are here to do our jobs. And the way that Carles is

taking it, he's taking it in the best possible way. He's helping the team in every sense, in and out of possession. I am happy that when you do the right things, you are awarded with goals like he did in these few occasions."

On Luca Langoni's strong start to the season and how he's gaining confidence:

Mitrović: "[Langoni] had a few tries in the first half. He had a few tries in the last game [against Charlotte]. Luca actually has a very nice curved shot. You can see that in set pieces also when he delivers those balls. I still think Luca can do better and play better. That is something that we will demand from Luca more. I think he is demanding that from himself more. We are happy that he is getting numbers, but he can still do better things for us."

On if he feels the Revolution are building an identity of being a difficult team to play against:

Mitrović: "We want to be a difficult team to play against no matter what. If we play against a team like Philadelphia that is strong in winning second balls, we have to be strong in winning second balls against them. There are things on the field that other teams have quality and strengths. We have to find a way to challenge those strengths. We have to understand how we have to behave on the field no matter where the ball is. In possession, out of possession, the ball can be in any part of the field. What are we doing in that moment?"

"Our fighting spirit always has to be present. It's something that I know is easy to say as a coach, but it's non-negotiable. You have to have a group of people that are ready to do that day after day. I am really positive about how everything has gone so far. I know that tomorrow morning when we get to the training session, players will forget this game. We'll just move forward and use tomorrow in the best possible way."

On how midfielder Brooklyn Raines has become more comfortable in his role:

Mitrović: "I know Brooklyn [Raines] very well. I also know that to find a profile like Brooklyn is very difficult, at least from my coaching perspective. Brooklyn is also an exceptional talent. He's coming here, he's still 20 years old, coming into a new environment, new city, new teammates. Brooklyn is someone who is very respectful toward his teammates. I think he needs time to unlock himself. Game after game, he is getting better and better, playing with more confidence. He looks more like the Brooklyn and what we expect from him. I think he's just going to keep growing as a player, because Brooklyn has a high ceiling and we are all here together with him to work on that, so he can achieve and reach his maximum potential."

On setting a club record with a sixth straight home victory to open the season and the importance of collecting results during the early stages of the season:

Mitrović: "We can't ignore if we are doing great things and [setting] records. That is something that will stay written there for some period of time. I wish that we can break those records more often, whatever they are. But I think we will be more aware about those records one day. Right now, we just don't have time for that. We have time to just keep working day-by-day and making the best version of ourselves on that day. Again, I don't want to sound like I am ignoring those things. They are amazing, unbelievable. We are kind of writing history in some way, but we will get there one day, [where] we can think about that."

On defender Will Sands' performance tonight:

Mitrović: "I think if you take out those three seconds, where I believe he was unlucky [with the own goal], [Sands] actually had a very, very good performance. Something that was very positive with Will is that the play didn't affect him in any way. I think that's the right approach that we have to have - even if you score

an [own] goal, that doesn't mean you are like, 'Coach, sub me off. I am done for today.' You have to keep doing your job.

"As long we are doing the right things, everybody is going to make mistakes, and everybody is going to make the right plays. We just have to make sure we are doing the right things on the field, and I don't think he had any wrong intentions. After that, he kept trying to do the right things, he was successful, and we were happy. He is doing really good. Game after game, he is growing, similar to Brooklyn [Raines] and unlocking himself more and more. With Will, I believe he has more inside to show and develop. Again, he is another one that we are looking forward to helping him reach his maximum potential."

Revolution Forward/Winger Luca Langoni

(Translated from Spanish)

On scoring the game-tying goal:

Langoni: "It was a nice goal. It made me very happy just to be able to help the team. I feel like I hadn't been playing so well to that point, so it just gave me a really good feeling to be able to contribute and help us get the win."

On the importance of him stepping up with the game-tying goal:

Langoni: "I'm very happy. We came out at halftime, and during the second half we played with a different mentality and a different perspective. For me to be able to just help do something in that moment just makes me feel really good."

On how he's gaining confidence:

Langoni: "[It comes from] the staff, the entire coaching staff. They're helping me gain a lot of confidence. That's where it comes from, so for me, I'm just focused on playing my best on the field."

Revolution Defender Mamadou Fofana

On setting a club record with a sixth consecutive home win to open the season:

Fofana: "I think it's important, when you play at home, to win. We have won six games in a row at home. I think it's important, but like [Marko Mitrović] says, we're never satisfied. Just keep going. We have a big game Wednesday, and we're going to continue to do the same, to win a lot of games at home."

On his game-saving blocked shot in the second half:

Fofana: "I can't say it's because of me, because we are a team. We work together, like the strikers to us, the defenders, and the goalkeeper. I think it was important. We work together, we'll take the three points. We're happy, and now we have to recover well, because we have a big game Wednesday, and we're going to continue to do the same."

On the team continuing to build confidence:

Fofana: "I think it's our mentality. It's our identity this year. We never give up. Like I said, we're never satisfied, we just continue to play and we believe until the end that we can win and we can score the goals. And now it's happened a lot of times. We just have to continue to believe, to take three points. I know it will not be like this in all the games, but we have to continue like this."

On the team's strong start this season and if he feels the team is in a good position to make the postseason:

Fofana: “I’m not surprised, because we have a good team. Now that things are going well, we just have to keep going and continue to do the same thing. But we cannot talk now about the playoffs. No, we just have to focus now, to play our game, to win a lot of games, and we will see.”