



TRANSCRIPT (5/19): Media Availability

Soundbytes from Assistant Coach Blair Gavin & D Mamadou Fofana

Revolution Assistant Coach Blair Gavin

On if there's added significance to Saturday's match at Charlotte FC being the final game before MLS pauses the regular season for the FIFA World Cup:

Gavin: "We take it day-by-day, and week-by-week. So, it's very important for us as a group to continue to build on what we're putting together as a team. We're looking to take every day, make it our best, and building up to a very difficult team in Charlotte."

On what the team can take from its previous match against Charlotte FC on May 2:

Gavin: "I think there are a lot of similarities from both teams. Based on the proximity of when we played each other, not too much is going to change, but there are going to be subtle differences that we can expect from them to make that they thought they could've improved. Then also, for us, what we can improve in the game. We're expecting it to be a very good game. They're very difficult at home. We're looking to give our best effort and earn three points."

On the Revolution's mentality in closing out wins:

Gavin: "Minnesota provided a lot of difficulties; a team who has a lot of quality in the attacking phase of the game and a lot of difficult set piece moments. You saw at the end of [last Saturday's] game the amount of crosses and numbers that they threw into the box, and the guys' resilience to win first, second, and third balls at times, and sticking to the game as long as possible to win the game. It was really nice to see the unity of the team, people coming off the bench, everything to assist and give us the victory. It was really nice to watch."

On the how the team sticks together to push through difficult moments and environments:

Gavin: "I think the word that we use a lot is togetherness, and the group has really bought into that – not only on the field but off the field. You see in these games with difficult circumstances, whether it's home or on the road, the group is sticking together and it has been nice to watch. It gives you an extra little motivation to make a further run, or get a tackle, or win the ball. Those moments add up throughout a match, and it has been great to see."

On the team getting offensive contributions from multiple players throughout the roster:

Gavin: "We try and implement a lot of rotations to make sure that the team isn't predictable in what we're doing, so there are a lot of rotations, a lot of movement, and we ask a lot of the players to understand what position they're in and what role pertains to that. So, you'll see a lot of guys in different spots but they need to know how to execute what they're executing. I think that really leads to different guys getting on the scoresheet, whether it's assists or goals, and it has been nice to watch."

On how the team can maintain its momentum and build on its success when resuming the season after the World Cup:

Gavin: "Each day, like I said earlier, we're going to try and improve. Today was a good day. Then, we'll work through this Charlotte game and after that they'll be a rest period. But there will be a reflection period as well to understand how we can still improve as a staff, as a team, as everything. For us, it's about finding those improvements. We'll have some time to kind of dissect everything that's happened. We had a lot of midweek games, we've had a lot of time spent on the field, and so now it's an opportunity to step away and digress what we have. Then from there, we can now keep getting back to the surface and keep going again."

On the opportunity to watch soccer at the highest level during the FIFA World Cup this summer:

Gavin: "I love the game. It's always nice when you have such a spectacle come here and more attention on the game. But also as a coach, I love playing and watching our guys do what they do. It's going to be bittersweet, where you get to watch really high-caliber World Cup games but also I really love working with this group, the time on the field, and that constant improvement we want to achieve. So, it's going to be bittersweet, but I'm enjoying where we're at."

Revolution Defender Mamadou Fofana

On playing against Charlotte FC for the second time this season:

Fofana: "We played against them [three games ago]. It was not easy because they are a very good team. They play together, they are compact, and it is always difficult to play against them. We know we will go to Charlotte, with fans and everything. But the most important thing is we have to trust ourselves and keep doing what we are doing now, and I think we will take what we need."

On what it meant for him to deliver a post-match speech in the locker room:

Fofana: "For me, it's important. Marko [Mitrović] is a coach who asks a lot, and we have to give more. I spoke because it was something special for me, but it's teamwork. We worked together and took the three points. It was good. I said something that everybody loved. I think it was OK."

On the team's mindset heading into Saturday's match at Charlotte, the last game before the league pauses the regular season for the FIFA World Cup:

Fofana: "We know it's the last game. It's very important for us to finish well, because now we are third [in the Eastern Conference] and we want to keep the same level. We have to stay together and work, and like I said, we will get what we need."

On if he'd prefer to continue the regular season given the team's run of positive results or pause it for the FIFA World Cup:

Fofana: "I can't decide. We are winning now, and if you ask me, I will say we have to continue to play. But the World Cup, and the national teams have to play, so we will take a rest and come back stronger. I know we will keep the same [level]."

On the what the environment in the locker room has been like:

Fofana: "Like it always is. Even last year, everyone in the locker room was amazing. Everyone is nice, we all talk together, and we help each other. I think that's why this year things are going well, so we have to keep it the same way. Like I said, we have what we need."

On how the team can carry its positive energy into Saturday's match on the road:

Fofana: "Now, especially at home, we have won a lot of games. So, if you win the games, you keep the

same [energy]. I think it will give us a lot of trust and we have to keep going the same way to get three points to finish."