



TRANSCRIPT (5/21): Match Preview Press Conference
Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & GK Matt Turner

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On what Matt Turner has brought to the team and his future with the United States National Team as the World Cup is quickly approaching:

Mitrović: "I mean, for us it's great to have Matt [Turner] with us. Obviously, Matt coming back, he knows the environment, he knows the club, he knows the city. It's probably an easier adjustment than some other guys. But for us, having someone with Matt's quality and experience on our team is so beneficial. I think game after game, Matt proves how much he means to us."

"Talking about the World Cup, I still haven't seen the final [United States] roster. Hopefully, Matt's going to be there. Hopefully, Matt's going to have the opportunity to play and to continue the great form that he's currently having with us."

On Matt Turner's strengths and qualities that help make him a great goalkeeper:

Mitrović: "First of all, in order to be good or great, you have to have certain qualities. Matt has qualities as a goalkeeper to perform on the highest level. What Matt's doing so great is he's doing his best day after day, coming here always with a great working mindset, always focused on his work. Now working with Matt closely over the last four or five months, I haven't seen a single time where Matt is trying to take any shortcuts in his work. I think that's the only way you can expose your strengths and develop as a player, no matter how old you are or what experience you have."

On Luca Langoni's development this season:

Mitrović: "I felt very confident coming here, knowing about Luca [Langoni]. Before we started to work, we as a staff watched not just his games and performances with the Revolution over the last 18 months. Before that, we went all the way back and watched all his games with Boca [Juniors]. We were trying to understand what profile he is because he played certain different positions- what are his strengths and how can we expose those strengths?"

"One of our objectives when we came here was how we can put Luca more often in spots where he's good. Also something we noticed in January was that he's a very good setpiece taker, so how can we work more on that? Luca's someone who is willing to learn, very coachable. Still, sometimes language is a little bit. But he's improving with his English and we're improving with our Spanish, so communication is better. I've said many times, I still believe Luca has more inside to offer to us and our job is to unlock Luca even more."

On how Ethan Kohler has improved and progressed this season:

Mitrović: "I've known Ethan [Kohler] for four years. One thing that Ethan has, actually a super quality that Ethan has, is he's one of the players that culturally really goes with the environment I'd like to create. He's an unbelievably hard-working person and always so focused on his work. He's a natural winner. He loves to win every small action on the field- attacking or defending action. He has a high level of knowledge of the game. So, when you put all those things together he's in a very good spot to succeed as a player. I

think just those things, understanding the game, having strong commitment, and that competitive mindset that he has put him in situations where wherever he is on the field, he understands what's going on. I strongly believe his best position is still center back. But we've played him with the National Team and here with the Revs in many different positions and he's a very reliable player if he plays outside of his position."

On Matt Turner's leadership ability and the importance of having his voice in the locker room:

Mitrović: "Not to sound cliché, but it is very important. When I came here, we signed Matt Turner. I've had an opportunity to work with Matt Polster as well for several years, and then bringing in some of the young guys, they kind of know what they can expect from me and I know what I can expect from them. Then if you go back to Matt Turner, someone who has experience and has a presence and voice in the locker room, it means a lot because obviously we have to be on the same page. But when we are on the same page, these kind of players can be – actually, not can be – they are very helpful in terms of building the right environment, building the right culture, and moving the team forward with the coaching staff. I'm a massive believer in leadership in the locker room. I think we as coaches can get just until a certain point, but then it's up to the players. Having the right leadership in the locker room is a massive foundation for success."

On key observations from the previous meeting with Charlotte FC on May 2 for this Saturday:

Mitrović: "I don't think that there is something in those two weeks that is a big difference. [Charlotte FC] have a little bit different set up when they build up, but there's tendencies in their game that it's kind of similar. Defensively, also, I feel we know enough about them, and I also feel they know enough about us. That's a team that has, as I said, strong tendencies in the way they defend and the way they attack. They have a lot of talent higher on the field that, once you give them the space, they can use that space easily and create situations for them. We're just working toward that game and to be ready."

On finding a more consistent option at left wing:

Mitrović: "I think somehow, organically, we get in certain situations right now that Luca [Langoni], with his performances, we've talked about that, he kind of locked himself in on the right side. We get certain things from Luca, his relationship at the beginning of the season with Ilay [Feingold] and Charles [Gil]. We've got a great triangle there. Later, we had an unfortunate situation with Ilay and his injury. When Will Sands took that spot, we kind of kept the same dynamic. But then on the left side, we're trying to provide the best balance for our team and connect it with who the opponent is. It doesn't need to be the same copy and paste on the left and right. I know that game-by-game, we get a different outcome on the left side based on the opponent and certain things we want to balance in our game."

On keeping Matt Turner for the remainder of the season with his current loan deal expiring on June 30:

Mitrović: "I think every club in MLS would love to have Matt Turner for the long term. We are in the same spot. We would love to have Matt, not just until the end of the season but for them long term as well. But we'll see."

On if his messaging to the team changes the regular season pausing after Saturday's match:

Mitrović: "No. We don't talk about it. We don't talk about the future."

Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On how far he has come in his career since first joining the Revolution in 2016:

Turner: "It's a lot to reflect upon. I think I wouldn't have been able to dream it, but I've always had this desire within myself to want to be the best at whatever I'm doing with an ultra-competitive spirit. I was extremely fortunate to land in a place that really believed in me and allowed me to have the freedom to be myself on the field and off the field, and then just to blossom. No one likes an underdog story like the people of New England. So, I really fell into such loving and caring arms."

“From there, there were a lot of hard times as well as good times, probably an equal amount. But the one thing I’ve always been able to do is try to keep a level-headed approach every single day. My life really changed when [Revolution Goalkeeper Coach] Kevin Hitchcock came in 2019. After one training session, he looked at me and said, ‘You could play in the Premier League’. That was the first time somebody looked at me and believed in me on that level, and from there my confidence [grew].

“Sometimes when you’re a player, you just need that one person to really believe in you. Then you can really spread your wings and showcase everything that you’ve been working on. For me, there’s been so many great things in these last 10 years. The [United States Men’s] National Team is definitely at the forefront, and just to be in this position [and] be in the conversation is a huge honor. I know that I’m ready, and if my number is called, I’ll give everything to represent my country like I always do.”

On how his mental preparation has evolved ahead of potentially featuring on the United States Men’s National team for the 2026 FIFA World Cup:

Turner: “Leaps and bounds. I always had a strong mentality, and I was always the kind of person that was very self-aware, so I never really felt like I needed that extra push. But it became clear to me – and credit to the club here for having a sports psychologist just sort of on-hand. After one or two conversations, I realized how helpful that it was going to be for me to create boundaries within my life, to start getting back into my routines.

“The other part of that is being consistently relied upon as a number one; the pressure that comes with that, the joy that comes with that, and the responsibility that comes with all of that. Now, I’ve been able to get those feelings again, as well as now having been sort of in that darkness, working through [and] sorting my thoughts out in my head. Then, just controlling what I can on a daily basis, on a weekly basis, on a game-by-game basis, and being able to leave the past in the past and the future to the future.”

On what it would mean to him to be selected to the United States’ roster for the 2026 FIFA World Cup:

Turner: “It would mean everything. There’s no secret that the last few years have been challenging for my career. There’s been a lot of noise, but as I mentioned before, my self-belief never wavered. The things that I’ve always wanted to achieve have always been my North Star. Whatever roadblocks have presented themselves along the way, I’ve worked my way through them on the field, off the field. I’ve just kept that relentless mindset that the chips are going to fall where they may. I know that at this point, I’ve done everything that I possibly can in my power before the [roster] gets released. I’m at peace with everything that I’ve done. I think that especially this [MLS] season, I’ve put together many strong performances, and shown people that I can be somebody that’s relied upon at that National Team level.

“I always am extremely grateful. I think it’s important to show that gratitude, and I remind myself before every game how much of a privilege it is for me to be able to step on the field and share my gift with the world. Whether my gift is talent, whether my gift is relatability, the ability to communicate with others, or my ability to overcome downfalls, mistakes and things that other people probably have never been able to overcome, that I’ve been able to show that relentlessness and resilience throughout my career. So, I never take a single game for granted. I never take a single game where I step out on that field and I haven’t prayed to God and thought, ‘Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my gift and my platform with others’.”

On if he feels his strong 2026 season with New England has earned him a spot both on the United States’ roster and as its starting goalkeeper:

Turner: “I hope so, I really do. I think my play has been strong and those moments can be defining. There have been quite a few of them this year. To be honest, I’m not making a save like that and thinking, ‘Oh yeah, that’s going to boost my chances’. For me, it’s always just been about competing, the joy that I have on the field when I’m competing at that level, and [when] my teammates look at me with that relief on their faces, that I just bailed them out or whatever it is. That’s a great feeling for me. That’s the feeling, the high that I want to chase, and I feel that love and that confidence from my teammates here.

“It’s definitely important to play well at your club to showcase yourself and get yourself a foot in the door. But also, at the National Team, they do care about the training when you get there, how you do on the field. There’s no spot on that pitch or on that roster, even still, that’s set in absolute stone. The competition is fierce for spots and there’s a lot on the line. So, I look forward to when that [roster] drops and hopefully my name is on it. From there, I’ll just take it one step at a time and try to do everything I can to be on that pitch.”

On what it’s been like working with Revolution Goalkeeper Coach Kevin Hitchcock again:

Turner: “It’s been amazing working with [Kevin Hitchcock] again. He’s really just kind of peeled back the layers of the onion in terms of my goalkeeping, stripped things back and rebuilt things in a confident way for me. The support, the belief that he has in me is tremendous. It’s great to be in an environment where every day you are being challenged, because Kevin knows the level that I can play at. He’s driving me to try and be there. Then the feeling of when the saves and things happen on the field in the way you want them to go, and that feeling that the work you’re putting in is so validating, and it comes out onto the field as well.

Every goalkeeper that steps foot here in New England and has crossed paths with him in the entirety of his coaching career, I think we’d all say the same thing – he genuinely wants what’s best for the goalkeeper. If we didn’t have to name him by name, I don’t think he would really care about that. His end-all-be-all is to see your smile on a matchday after you have a good performance. He gets such a buzz off seeing things that you work on come out on the field and [seeing] you make the most of the moment. I think that’s the mark of an extremely intelligent and strong coach- emotional intelligence and understanding of the game. It’s all intertwined, especially in goalkeeping, so it’s been great to be back with him.”

On what he has learned and taken over the last few months that can help prepare him to potentially join the United States for the World Cup:

Turner: “It’s been great to have been on a team and have a preseason. I think I mentioned it in preseason, but I haven’t had a real preseason in a long time. So, to have literally start from scratch, build through a body of work, go through the ebbs and flows through preseason of finding your form, finding your rhythm, the feelings within your body and mind, the establishment of routine. It’s just so many things. To have that whole cycle, it feels different. It has felt great for me.

“Also, I think from a leadership side, we stayed in a hotel together for almost 30 days [in preseason]. People get to understand you a little bit. For me, having the playing experiences in my career, also the off the field life experiences, I am an open book. If you ask me a question, I am going to answer it. If I feel like you can do something better on the pitch or you’ve done something really great on the pitch, I am either telling you to do better or pump you up for doing well. It all comes from a place of love and care, and overall competitiveness. I want what’s best for everybody on my team because I want to win. I think when you start winning games, that’s when people start taking note. For me in my career, I know that everything good happened for me once the team here started winning a lot of games.

“It’s been great to be in the position that we are in right now, and to feel those moments of coming up big when the lights are the brightest. Those are the things that I will probably take with me to the National Team. Just be myself, and everything else will take care of itself.”

On returning to New England last season and the role his family played in making that decision:

Turner: “I think it was a big part of it because I could be completely present and focused on just the soccer side. Obviously, I have moved around a lot in the last couple of years and it’s challenging. Moving is literally the worst thing ever, it’s tough. You have to pack up everything. I have two kids now and you lose stuff along the way, you have to deal with the movers, cleaning the house, and stuff is everywhere, it’s stressful. Oh, and by the way, you also have to perform when you are on the field, so don’t forget about that. Oh, and also, spend enough time with your family. There are just a lot of things that go on. Coming back here, it was just a home run situation because I could be in the comfort of a place I was familiar with.

I had so many people nearby that I could rely upon and then I could just be totally focused on what I had to do.”

On potentially remaining with New England after his current loan expires:

Turner: “I think it’s just something that I am going to have to deal with later on. I think we’ll just have to wait until all the ducks are in a row, gather as much information as we can, and then make the best decision for all the parties involved.”

On if he’s interested in remaining with New England after his current loan expires:

Turner: “Yeah, of course. Why would I not be? Again, there are a lot of things that have to happen between now and then, and a World Cup, so I’m going to take things one day at a time.”