



## **TRANSCRIPT (5/23): Postgame at Charlotte FC**

*Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & D Ethan Kohler*

### **Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović**

#### ***On his takeaways following tonight's loss at Charlotte FC:***

**Mitrović:** "I think we had certain ideas when we had been up [a player, after Charlotte's red card], on the way we wanted to do it. I felt maybe we rushed to create better situations or to bring more numbers higher in the box. But I would also say that Charlotte was defending very well, they were still very dangerous in those moments in transition. And all of our backline almost [had] yellow cards, and kind of hesitated to step higher and to squeeze spaces even more so that we could recover those second balls, which I understand would take a lot of risk. But, it is what it is."

#### ***On if he feels he has a good understanding of the team and what the team needs in the transfer window:***

**Mitrović:** "I think we have a better understanding of who we are as a team, the certain strengths of the team and the dynamic we can create on the field, but also about certain weaknesses. I said on my very first day when I came to the club, if we have the opportunity to improve our team, we'll do it. Obviously, every transfer window is an opportunity to do that. So, we're not going to sit and wait for something to happen. We'll work on that and we'll see."

#### ***On the first three months of the season and what he expects when the regular season resumes after the FIFA World Cup:***

**Mitrović:** "Something that I said to the guys right now in the locker room is that I really appreciate them coming in and giving their best day after day, having the right mindset and the right approach. That's something that is very positive in reflecting [on the first three months of the season]. I think that helped us to grow as a team. Again, I am repeating myself saying that we still have a long way to go, but I am happy with the progression we've made so far. I know that the second part of the season will be very difficult, because I think a lot of teams will go to strengthen their teams to try to bring in additional pieces. Every game after the World Cup will be, I feel, even more intense, with more urgency played by every team, and I know that. I strongly believe after the World Cup that competition will be even higher."

#### ***On how the team will prepare players for the remainder of the regular season following the World Cup break:***

**Mitrović:** "I think we have to keep doing what we are doing so far. We will work very intensely. We will work first from a mental and physical perspective to be ready for that. The other thing is we still have certain areas in our game that we have to improve, but also, I believe there is a certain dynamic that this team is kind of creating that is positive. Then, we have to reinforce that, and we have to use those five

weeks when we come back from time off and the break to kind of keep strengthening our strengths and keep working on certain areas that we have to improve.”

***On players, coaching staff, and technical staff coming together for a group photo with Luca Langoni's jersey before tonight's match:***

**Mitrović:** “We are together in everything and that’s why we did that photo for Luca [Langoni]. That is all I can talk about right now.”

**Revolution Defender Ethan Kohler**

***On what we've learned about the team through the first three months of the season:***

**Kohler:** “I think this is absolutely a team with a lot of togetherness, a lot of grit, a lot of quality. As I always say, we have a ton of things to learn, we have a lot of room to grow. In the moment, that’s tough because we know we can do so much better. But it’s also this amazing feeling to know that we’re doing well and we have so much space to improve. So, just imagine once we’ve had that time with such a talented staff over these next two months and can really hone in. I think we’ve learned that this is a group that’s really special and can achieve really big things.”

***On what made it difficult to score an equalizer after Charlotte went down to 10 players:***

**Kohler:** “I mean, [Charlotte] is a well-structured team. They’re a team with a willingness to defend. They came together, in all fairness, when they got that red card and sat deep, and won their duels. I think that’s always going to make it difficult. Of course, we can do better in moments and we will do better. But they were organized. They were blocking shots, playing headers. They did a good job of making things difficult.”

***On moving on from tonight's defeat and preparing for the MLS regular season pause:***

**Kohler:** “I think today doesn’t summarize the entirety of our work and everything we’ve put in. Of course, you’re going to have nights like these. But I think what we’re going to take from today is, like I said, we have a lot to learn. Luckily, we’re a group of guys that are talented enough to continue to grow. So, from today we’re going to take the good, learn from the things we need to learn from, and do absolutely everything we can to prepare for the next part of the season.”

***On how defender Peyton Miller contributes to the attack:***

**Kohler:** “Yeah, Peyton is a tough one for opponents to handle. Obviously, his pace and willingness to run forward, I think, made it very difficult for [Charlotte] today. He’s a great kid and I’m super happy for him, that’s he’s continuing to put in good performances. I think he’ll just continue to grow as our season goes on.”

***On how he feels he has performed and developed in the first three months of the season:***

**Kohler:** “First, I have to thank the staff for not only putting the trust in me but putting confidence in me and allowing me to continue to grow under them in these matches. I’m happy with my performances. I think I’ve looked to control what I can control. I think the beauty of it is I’m still learning so much. I have great players around me that I can continue to learn from, and a great staff as well. I’m happy with the way I’ve played but I still think I can do much better. That’s what I’m excited about. That’s why I’m excited for this second ‘preseason’ [during the regular season pause] coming up to really hone in on some things that I want to work on and continue to build myself as a player because for me this is just the beginning.”