



TRANSCRIPT: Postgame vs. Toronto FC (July 22)

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, D Ethan Kohler & M Alhassan Yusuf

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On if tonight's draw felt like a lost opportunity to claim three points:

Mitrović: "Every game that you don't win you feel like it's a lost opportunity. I also think that our guys gave everything today, and you can see that it's our first game after the break. I really believe that we just gave everything that we had today. When I was a kid, I had coaches that always said, 'It's always great to add something after the game,' so we did it today, and I don't take this as a negative. We move forward and recover and prepare for the next game [against Atlanta on Saturday]."

On moving Homegrown Player Peyton Miller to the left wing and what his pace brought against Toronto's defensive approach:

Mitrović: "We know that the pace that Peyton [Miller] has is very difficult to defend and we felt that we got into dangerous [offensive] spots with Peyton. However, later in the second half, [Toronto FC] also brought so much speed higher on the field, and with some tired legs, we just made the decision to push Peyton down, which he still can go from the second line and join the attack. I think that Peyton did a great job. It's not easy for the first game [back from the break]. He finished with great numbers, running-wise, and he was a consistent threat, I believe, with his runs in behind."

On forward Dor Turgeman's performance tonight:

Mitrović: "I think when you do the right things, those goals will come. Dor [Turgeman] missed several weeks of this summer preseason, so he also needs time to get into routine. I believe that as long as he keeps doing the right things, we'll get him in a situation where he can score the goals. But he also has to keep doing the right things and being more consistent with that on the field."

On the team's performance on the attacking end tonight and how the attack can improve:

Mitrović: "I think we kind of missed a little bit. First of all, we created several situations where we could have scored, and covered situations in a better way. But also, if we speak about passing, before that last pass, I think in many situations we just rushed and didn't make the right decision, or kind of made a mistake where there was a forced mistake. Maybe that sharpness we were missing today, but however, it is what it is. I don't know if that's because it's the first game, or just if the game was as it was. We have to move forward."

On how newly-acquired forward Wilson Harris has integrated himself within the group:

Mitrović: "Wilson [Harris] is really working hard since he came and joined us. Wilson has those small actions that he's really trying to execute in the right way. He's a hardworking player that has the instinct for goal in the box, and we just felt that he can have constant support. And Dor [Turgeman], as I said, missed a good amount of this summer preseason, so it would be very difficult for Dor to sustain 90 minutes. But however, we have players on the bench that we trust, all of them, and any of them when they step on the field we believe they can help us."

On recording another clean sheet and Matt Polster moving to fullback for the match:

Mitrović: "I think that our backline is very important for us, and when you have a clean sheet you are very close to winning the game. Now you just have to score. So, as many as we can have of those games where we can have a clean sheet, it's better for us."

"I used to work with Matt [Polster] at the Chicago Fire. Matt had the one great season with us as a fullback. With certain roster issues that we have right now, we felt that the best situation for us was to play Matt there, and especially the way we want to play. It's not easy for Matt after so many years to get back from midfielder and then play fullback, but I think he did a very decent job today and gave his best. Very positive for Matt."

On the improvements the team needs to make moving forward in the second half of the season:

Mitrović: "I think that the most important thing for us is to get [back] into game fitness. We played our last preseason game [nearly] 10 days ago. We were in Philadelphia, and we didn't finish the game because of the weather issues that we had. When fatigue happens, that's the first cause for why you lose that sharpness. I think once we get into more games and get more of a game routine, that sharpness will get there. I am not worried about it."

On adjusting to the turf at Gillette Stadium:

Mitrović: "When you're not sharp, it's always easy to find the different reasons for why we haven't been as sharp as we wanted to be. Maybe the turf is one of the reasons, but we have to learn to play on this surface. We cannot change our surface, so we have to find a way to be as sharp as possible on this surface. That's what we have to do."

Revolution Defender Ethan Kohler

On New England's defensive performance tonight, with everyone contributing to the clean sheet:

Kohler: "I mean, I think 'defensive' is not just the back line. I think, collectively from back to front, we did a really good job. Obviously, there were a few moments where we were disorganized and we got a little lucky, and those are things we can clean up. But to start off, for me, as a center back, a clean sheet is really positive, and I'm excited to keep building on that moving forward."

On playing in front of the home fans again after the league's break for the World Cup:

Kohler: "It was amazing. I mean, the crowd was great. It was a little humid, but it was just really nice to be out there. And obviously, first time back on the new turf, which honestly I think was great. The ball was moving really well. So yeah, for me, it's exciting. It's exciting to compete and compete for points again."

On what made it difficult to find scoring opportunities tonight:

Kohler: "I think we did a really great job at getting to the final third. I think we combined well, but once we get there, we can be a little more clinical. I think it's that final pass that we need to work on to some degree, and obviously it'll come. The hardest part is getting there. So, the positive thing is it's not like we're not getting in the position to create chances - even against a pretty disciplined low block like Toronto. But once we start connecting that final pass, then we'll be really successful."

On the positive takeaways from tonight's match:

Kohler: "I mean, it was great. It kind of shows us where we're at, what we need to work on, and honestly, it gives us a lot of confidence moving forward. I mean, we had a lot of great actions, a lot of great moments. Getting back, playing 90 minutes with this group is, I think, unbelievable. I think we're leaving this game confident with our heads up, and really looking forward to the game against Atlanta [on Saturday]."

Revolution Midfielder Alhassan Yusuf

On how resume play following the league's break for the FIFA World Cup:

Yusuf: "Obviously, it's good to be back on the pitch in front of the home crowd, the atmosphere and everything. I think it was good."

On collecting a clean sheet and earning a point:

Yusuf: “I think we wanted to win, of course, and get three points. I think there are so many positive things like in the game we created so many chances. That’s something that we have to work on in training and then we go out in the game.”

On the team’s ability to sustain possession and improving in the final third:

Yusuf: “I think that’s something that we missed a lot today. I think we have to fix that, of course. But the good thing is we’re on the ball and we had good intentions to go forward. But that’s the piece we were missing today, and hopefully we can fix that.”

On using this match as a steppingstone to begin the second half of the season:

Yusuf: “I think it’s a builder, because it’s the first game after two months being away. We were playing well and had the chemistry coming together. So, I hope it will help in the next game to kind of put all the pieces [together] that we missed today and fix that.”