



TRANSCRIPT: Match Preview Press Conference (July 23)
Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Carles Gil

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On his expectations for Saturday's match against Atlanta United FC after securing a 2-1 victory over them back in April:

Mitrović: "I think [Atlanta United FC] look very different than they looked at the very beginning of the season when we met them the first time in Atlanta. They always have very good organization on the field, both attacking and defending, but I feel that they have a much more positive energy now on the field with togetherness, and they play with a higher intensity. In their game against Nashville [on July 17], they lost 1-0, they definitely earned a better result in that game. Then last night against Charlotte, they came back, [2-2], from being down, 2-0. It's the kind of good vibes that I can feel and see on their team, so that is something that is probably the bigger difference compared to the first game when we met them in Atlanta."

On supporting the Revolution Unified Team in their match against Toronto FC's Unified Team on Wednesday night:

Mitrović: "It's wonderful and I really want to thank the people that were part [of it] and involved in creating that event yesterday, seeing our Unified team play against Toronto. It means a lot to them, and it was a beautiful night after our game."

On how the team is approaching improving the roster during the transfer window:

Mitrović: "At the end of the first part of the season, after our last game against Charlotte [on May 23] and going into the summer transfer window, I said that we're not going to be in a sleepy mood and we're going to work to improve our roster. Also, with any potential new player coming into our environment, we just want to be sure that we are not making any reactive decisions. That we evaluate and feel strongly about any potential new player coming into our environment. That window is still open, and we are working to improve our team. Any way that we can improve our team works great for us."

On how the team is approaching the quick turnaround ahead of Saturday's match:

Mitrović: "It's very important, first of all, to recover the guys that played last night. Actually, that's something that we talked about today; how we can refresh our team in every direction and what kind of rotations we can also make to keep the same level of the quality in the game, while keeping the same intensity in the game, that is needed."

On the biggest challenge in defending Atlanta United FC's attack on Saturday:

Mitrović: "[Atlanta] creates a lot of uncertainty for the opponents when they are in possession. They have a different way of how they rotate on the field and they also have a tendency to play and be patient with the ball. Players like [Miguel] Almirón, [Aleksei] Miranchuk. They have very talented midfielders also, players that can move the ball. When they make those rotations, they can understand what the relationship is between them on the field. They put opponents in a very difficult spot with certain overloads that they create on the field."

“As a collective, as always, we have to be strong and together when we defend. We have certain ways that we want to defend and obviously there’s every team, like Atlanta, that have certain ways where we have to [make] certain tweaks toward that. At the end of the day, as a team, we have to behave in order to stop Atlanta.”

On his takeaways from Wednesday’s 0-0 draw and shifting the focus to preparing for Saturday’s match:

Mitrović: “We have to play the game, no matter who has the ball or where the ball is on the field. We know Atlanta is a team that has the tendency to have the ball. We also love to have the ball and that’s our tendency as well. But, I don’t think it’s going to be a competition of who is going to have the ball more. It’s going to be more a competition of who’s going to do the right things with the ball. Also, who’s going to do the right things without the ball.

“If we talk about last night, and we reflected this morning as a staff, maybe in the final third, we could have been sharper and had a little bit more clarity. In several instances we rushed with the ball, and we [could have] made better decisions. We felt that we got in good spots where we were missing one more pass to actually put us in very dangerous situations. That would be the biggest message is when we get in those situations, how we can be more patient with the ball and have more clarity. We love to say to be more ruthless in those moments.”

On how the team has gained confidence with strong defensive performances, following a clean sheet in Wednesday’s match:

Mitrović: “We can’t separate attacking or defending. Something that we are trying to do, is we have to learn how to behave, no matter where the ball is or who has the ball. When you know how to behave, it automatically puts you in a good spot where we feel confident about something. For me, the foundation of that is to have a great effort and to have our togetherness on the field, because if there is no effort – we can talk about tactics, certain things we want to do, but it’s never going to be present if effort is not there and if we are not together. For us, our foundation is that relentless effort that we put in every action and that we are together all the time through the game. That probably builds our confidence when we go into the games, kind of believing that we know how we have to behave in any given moment on the field.”

On New England’s “Next Match on Us” campaign drawing a large crowd for Saturday’s game and how Major League Soccer can grow following the excitement of the World Cup:

Mitrović: “That’s amazing if we have 30,000 people in the stands [for Saturday’s game]. I think that’s why we play this game. I would love to have our stadium packed every game and we are working toward that. We have to earn our crowd, it’s not going to be given to us, and if people start believing in us more and what we are doing, then the cause of that is having more people in the stands. I just feel very happy and proud of that, and we’re welcoming those people. It’s great, that’s a part of our game that we cannot separate. We play this game for the fans, and having such a big crowd there, it’s beautiful and I’m very happy with that.”

Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil

On his takeaways from yesterday’s 0-0 draw with Toronto FC:

Gil: “Obviously, we prepared well for [resuming the MLS season] with five weeks of training, [summer] preseason. We’re good, we’re very excited to be back home with our fans. We wanted to win the game. We couldn’t, but we kept a point.”

On how he celebrated Spain winning the World Cup:

Gil: “I celebrated it a lot at home with my family. I think it was an amazing tournament by Spain. I think it was a team performance, maybe not with a big star. Amazing players, obviously, but the way they won, controlling [matches]. Everything was happening on the pitch- with the ball, without the ball. It feels easy when you’re watching, but it’s very difficult to do that.”

On if he tries to learn from any players on Spain’s roster and if the dominant performance in the win over Argentina surprised him:

Gil: "Spain has many attacking midfielders, quality players that I try to learn many things from. I can say Pedri. Maybe he did not have the best World Cup, but every time he's on the pitch he's different.

"[The win over Argentina] surprised me a little because I think Argentina also has the type of players to try to control the game with the ball. But Spain was amazing in this game. They didn't give them any chance to control the game, to keep the ball. You need to try to have Messi far from the last third of the pitch and they did, so it was a perfect performance."

On Spain's style of play during the World Cup:

Gil: "For me, the most important [aspect] from Spain was they did more without the ball than with the ball. The pressing was amazing. They played against France and you feel or think it's impossible that they won't create chances with the guys they have up top. And [France] didn't. [Spain] did it together, everyone working for the team. It's what every team and every coach wants, a team that works like this, with the ball and without the ball. But it's difficult. In the end, it's also quality the players- the way they are, the IQ, the type of movements they do. It feels easy, but it's every difficult."

On how MLS and the World Cup can help the growth of soccer in the United States:

Gil: "I think the World Cup helps the country in many things. For example, yesterday I saw some guys from Spain. They were here for the World Cup, but they stayed in Boston for yesterday's game. So, hopefully it can help the country have more fans. I think MLS has very good fans. In almost every stadium you go to, they're pushing for the team. We're in a good point, but for sure we will keep going."

On remaining motivated to add more career accolades while helping the team reach it's objectives:

Gil: "I still feel that I have many more things to do for this club, for this team every day. And not just All-Star [selections] and these things. Every day, I try to be the best Carles in training. When I lose small [sided] games or when I don't have a good training [session], I am mad at myself. I have continued to be in the same spirit since I arrived here. This year, I think is a good year because we're in a good place. I think we're doing good things. I feel we can improve. Yesterday's game, we can do much better in the last third of the pitch with the ball. I am still feeling that I can do better and continue learning from everyone here."

On how the team can potentially improve by adding new players during the transfer window:

Gil: "I think this is more for Marko [Mitrović] and the front office. I think Chris [Tierney] talked about attacking players. We need to improve in the last third. If we have some good players to come help us improve as a team, it would be amazing. We have, also, some injuries and it's difficult. You can see how almost every team is trying to improve in this transfer window. If we will have new signings for the club, who can help us, it would be good. We're in a good year, trying to do good things. And with new players who can help us, it would be easier."

On Spain winning the World Cup and earning his fifth All-Star selection:

(Translated from Spanish)

Gil: "Well, like the whole country, I was very happy and proud. It's something that doesn't come around often and I was fortunate to have lived to see it twice, in 2010 and this year. The way they won it, to play in such dominant fashion against top opponents, is something to be proud of. We celebrated it a lot.

"And to be selected to the All-Star game again, it makes me happy because it shows that I'm doing things well. I think it represents the first half of our team's season, which was a good one. I will try to have my best performance [at the All-Star game] and then return to the team to continue our good season."