



TRANSCRIPT: Media Availability (July 28)
Soundbytes from Assistant Coach Sean Hughes & M Matt Polster

Revolution Assistant Coach Sean Hughes

On Head Coach Marko Mitrović's message to the team about remaining humble following Saturday's victory:

Hughes: "I think it's reflective of who we are as people. It's always good to win, but at the same time, it's one game. We have another important game coming up and the maximum focus goes to the next game. Enjoy it, then move on quickly and back to work."

On carrying the winning momentum into the match at CF Montreal this weekend:

Hughes: "I think one of the things, as a group, we know we need to improve is our away record. We finished at Charlotte [on May 23] with a result that we weren't pleased with, so it's a good chance for us to bounce back. We know it's going to be difficult. [Montreal] had two of their last three games against number one [Nashville SC] and number two [Inter Miami CF] in the [Eastern Conference] standings, so I'm sure they're hungry as well, and we have to be fully ready to go."

On midfielder Carles Gil's qualities that earned him his fifth MLS All-Star selection:

Hughes: "Speaking of humility, I think [Gil] personifies it – somebody who continues every single day to earn every accolade that comes his way, and he really sets the tone for the group. He has special talent, but more importantly, his work ethic every single day in his application. We have a lot of young players within our group, and I think for them to see somebody up close and personal every day putting in the effort – and obviously he gets the rewards – but it doesn't go unnoticed from the staff side for sure."

On Matt Polster's leadership after deputizing at the right back position in the last two games:

Hughes: "Matt [Polster] also played right back at some point in his career before, and he's a very good soccer player. I think we know he has the IQ. He has the quality on the ball that we're looking for, and [most] importantly for us, it's about the team. It's not about one individual. Matt buys into that, and whatever he can do to help the group he's doing, and we're proud of that."

On what makes midfielder Brooklyn Raines a 'special player':

Hughes: "It's like anything, right? [Raines] is a young player as well, so whenever he arrived, although we knew him for a period of time, we still put a lot of expectation on [him as] a young person. Like anybody, it took a moment just to find his feet, and I think we're all starting to see the real quality Brooklyn has. He is a tremendous person, first and foremost. Again, a person that works hard every single day, and then his quality in possession for us is a real difference maker."

On Raines celebrating his first MLS career goal during Saturday's match with his family in the crowd:

Hughes: "Yeah, we were wondering what [Raines] was doing there (*laughs*). It's great for him to get his first career goal. I think it's a special moment for him and his family. Hopefully the first of many. Whoever scores, it's nice, but maybe a special moment for the first one."

On Gil's best skill as he participates in tonight's MLS All-Star Skills Challenge:

Hughes: "With Carles [Gil], it's not about skill in terms of maybe the definition of what you look at, but his decision making on the ball, his timing of pass, weight of pass, the way he moves the ball. He's not going to do 15 step-overs or a bicycle kick, but I think what you get with Carles is an elite level of IQ and decision making, and his final pass is excellent."

On the status of midfielder Alhassan Yusuf after coming off the pitch with an injury during Saturday's match:

Hughes: "[Yusuf] came off obviously in the game [on Saturday] and was just recovering today, so fingers crossed he'll be back on the field tomorrow, and we expect him to be with us this weekend."

On attacker Luca Langoni working his way back from injury:

Hughes: "[Langoni] is getting back. He came back from an injury through the break and we're excited for him to join the group more. He's played a few minutes these last two games and we have to just keep building him forward."

Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster

On Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović preaching humility after a 4-1 win last Saturday:

Polster: "I think it was with our play. Even with being up 4-0, I thought we still kept the same principles. [We] tried to execute the same game plan and still add to the scoresheet, but to do it in the right fashion. Then obviously coming off two days [off], coming back here and working hard with the same mindset, I think that's what [Marko Mitrović] is referencing."

On carrying momentum from a successful homestand into a road game Saturday at CF Montréal:

Polster: "I think there's a lot of things that we did really well in. We had a lot of goals, but I thought there were certain things that we could improve on. We still gave up a goal at the end, so still carrying out that game plan and mindset through 90 minutes is very important. Going to Montréal is always difficult."

On playing right back in the last two matches:

Polster: "Unfortunately or fortunately, Marko [Mitrović] knows that I play right back (*laughs*). I played that for him in Chicago for a couple of years. I've always said I'll do whatever the team needs and help in any way I can. So, I like it – kind of like it. It's good."

On the difference of playing at right back compared to playing in the midfield:

Polster: "I mean everything's in front of you. You can see the whole game. I think it's easier in terms of being able to communicate to try and maybe fix anything that might be going wrong defensively. As opposed to the midfield, you only see what's in front of you. So, not much really changes for me. It's the same Matt Polster at right back that it is in the midfield."

On playing a more inverted full back role on the right side under Marko Mitrović:

Polster: "I think that's Marko's [Mitrović] principle. You see Will [Sands] do the same thing on the left side. It's not really changing because I'm at right back, Ilay [Feingold] has done that when he was in that position. [Marko] wants certain positions picked up on the field. It doesn't matter who's in those positions."

On Revolution midfielder Brooklyn Raines getting his first MLS goal and assist on Saturday:

Polster: "From the start, I thought [Raines] was a very mature, talented kid, and he has a really high ceiling. I think he understands the game really well and plays very simple. He can create on the dribble, his passing range is very good, and he can put on a couple of good tackles. So, I rate him pretty highly."

On Revolution midfielder Carles Gil competing in the MLS All-Star Skills Challenge on Tuesday and his best skill:

Polster: "I think you saw it on Saturday. I've been in that position defensively in training many times, so his goal, I kind of saw that coming. I would say his skills are just with anything on the dribble and one-on-ones."