



TRANSCRIPT: Jack Harrison Introductory Press Conference (August 3)

Soundbytes from F/W Jack Harrison & GM/CSO Chris Tierney

Opening statement from General Manager and Chief Soccer Officer Chris Tierney:

Tierney: "Thank you all for being here today. Today's a really exciting day for our club, as we officially welcome Jack [Harrison] back to MLS and to the Revolution. When we thought about how we wanted to approach this summer transfer window, and the type of players that we wanted to add that we feel would be a lift to our group, it became clear in our early conversations with Jack that he met all of the requirements that we were looking for."

"I think Jack's playing experience and playing resume speaks for itself, 180 appearances in the Premier League between Leeds United, Everton, and most recently in Serie A with Fiorentina. I think equally as important as Jack's on-field abilities is the type of character, the type of experience that Jack brings to our group. We feel like those qualities will really be additive to the environment that we're trying to create here at this club."

"We're really excited to get Jack going, looking forward to seeing him on the field soon, and look forward to his contributions for many years to come."

Opening statement from Jack Harrison:

Harrison: "I'll just keep it brief, but a huge thank you to Chris [Tierney] and the club for providing this opportunity. Something that I've always wanted to do is come back to MLS, and after speaking with these guys and getting a good feel for the club, it just felt right, and the right opportunity. I'm excited to come back to the and hopefully bring a title back to Boston."

On how it feels to return to the New England area, where he played at the prep school level:

Harrison: "I definitely feel like it's a homecoming. I think from the start, I always said that I always wanted to come back to the MLS at some point. After coming back to Massachusetts, being here at Berkshire School and everything, and having a lot of friends in this area, it definitely feels like a homecoming."

"Like Chris [Tierney] said, it was probably a tough decision at the start. It took me a while to get there, but after speaking with the guys and realizing that the decision to leave Europe and come back to the U.S. was definitely the right decision. Looking at the project that they're trying to build here and speaking with the manager [Marko Mitrović], it's the place that checked the most boxes for me and the one that felt most aligned with what I wanted to do, what I wanted to achieve, and how I wanted to be in life, not only on the pitch but off it as well. For me, it just felt like the right place, and I'm really excited just to get going."

On what Harrison will add to the team, both on and off the field:

Tierney: "Just from an on-field perspective, I think we identified the wide forward position as one that we thought was the best leverage point to take us to the next level. I think the combination of how dynamic Jack is in attacking moments will be really good for our group. I think Jack is going to combine really well with the other pieces that we have."

"Then, equally as important, and I think that's plain to see for anyone that's watched Jack play, is how he fits into our group culturally. I've spoken a lot about us being intentional about the characters that we bring

to the club and how important that is, especially in the high-leverage spots like that of a Designated Player. Again, Jack really checked both boxes for us from a playing and character perspective. I know his conversations with Marko [Mitrović] in terms of what his goals are personally and professionally really made us feel like this was the right decision and the right move for us going forward.”

Harrison: “I feel the same way. Hopefully, I can add some goals and assists on the pitch as well. But seeing the squad, it’s a very young squad. It feels weird saying this, but coming back as an older player and adding some experience would be ideal. I think what Chris [Tierney] and Marko [Mitrović] are building here at the club is an incredible club to be a part of. I’m just hoping to come in and add to that growth on and off the pitch.

“There are a lot of young guys here, a lot of talented young guys that have a lot of potential. If I could help them in their journey in one way or the other, that would be a bonus too. I’m definitely trying to get the results on the pitch and adding what I can to the club.”

On the factors in his decision to return to MLS:

Harrison: “After being [in the New England area] in high school, from the age of 14 to 21, I spent my formative years here. I really think that that time period helped to define who I am today. The people that I’ve met, I have always been grateful for that opportunity and loved every second of it. It wasn’t easy leaving England at that moment in time, but I look back now and I have no regrets at all. What it’s given me in life has been more than anything I could ask for, anything that I could have imagined. I’ve always felt at home here in the U.S., so that was a big reason why I wanted to come back.”

On how MLS has changed since he last played in the league with New York City FC:

Harrison: “Watching from afar, you can see the type of players that are in the league. I feel like you have the older generation of players that are coming back to help improve the league, but then also the younger players that are coming through now as well. There’s a lot more on both ends. Obviously, the addition of the World Cup this last summer can only help to grow the league even more with the attraction of young players coming through the U.S.

“One thing is we’re not flying commercial flights anymore, so that’s a bonus. I think the league has definitely grown and I’m still learning the ways of that, but it’s a great place to come back to.”

On his first impressions of Revolution coaches, teammates, and supporters:

Harrison: “The fans were incredible. I’ve never [been recognized on the field] like that before. I said to my agent the other day that this has been the best signing that I’ve done in my career so far. It’s so nice to just get out in front of the fans, to go and meet some of them over on the far side and get a real feel for the club and for the fans here, because they have a big part of it.

“When I was speaking with Marko [Mitrović] in the early stages, I knew how important it was at this point in my career to find someone who really aligned with myself. Speaking to him about his methodology and how he is as a person, it really gave me a good perspective on what he’s like. He’s very open, honest, direct, and demanding from his players, but he’s humble at the same time and demands the best from his players and from himself as well. He takes responsibility. I had a really good chat with him, and that really opened my eyes. It was a big turning point for me in making that decision to come back.

“Just meeting the guys, Chris [Tierney] and his recruitment staff have done a good job of recruiting the right players. [Chris] has spoken a lot about the character and what they’re trying to build here. You can really see it off the pitch, but also getting the results on the pitch, performing together and playing for each other. It’s crucial for any club to succeed, really. Another big reason why I wanted to come here and be a part of that is that the character that they’re trying to build really matches who I am as well. If I can come into that environment and try to add to that, it can not only help me succeed, but also for the club too.”

On looking forward to playing alongside midfielder Carles Gil in New England’s attack:

Harrison: “[Gil] scored a banger from outside the box [against Atlanta United on July 25], so you can definitely see what he adds to the pitch and the influence he has within the group as well just from being

around the environment here. He's a very talented player, and I'm definitely excited to be playing with him. But like I said, it's a good group that they've built here. I feel like it's not just about the one player, but the young guys that are coming through as well, having that experience on the pitch and showing what they can do. I think there is a great balance within the group. At the end of the day, it's about playing together as a team. That's going to be the most important thing for us."

On if his prep school experience in Massachusetts played a factor in his decision to return to the New England area:

Harrison: "Yeah, definitely. I think it feels like a bit of a homecoming coming back here. A lot of my friends have been in this area. I'm familiar with the culture, the lifestyle, and the demands of the Boston people as well. I love being around that type of energy. I was definitely happy to make the decision to come back."

On if the club is approaching the remainder of the transfer window:

Tierney: "We're certainly always looking. Back to the old cliché that any executive will sit up here and say, we're always looking to improve the team in any way we can. We have the ability and room to do so. We do have some targets identified that we're still working on. Those deals need to make sense for us and need to check boxes in terms of the things I've spoken about before, the on-field performance of the players but also what they add to our culture. We are engaging with a couple of targets currently, and we hope to make one, possibly two, more additions this window."

On the Revolution capitalizing on Carles Gil's next years with the club by building a potent attack around him:

Tierney: "We don't look at the age of the players in terms of evaluating where they are. We look at the performance of the players on the field. I think Carles has shown that, at 33 years old, he's on it in a way that he's been doing for the last few years in the prime of his career. I think Carles has plenty of years left to contribute."

"But like I said, we're always thinking about the short and long-term health of this club. Those are things that we're always conscious of. We'll be planning ahead multiple windows to make sure that when players' contracts expire or players move on, that we have the next player ready to move in and contribute in the same way that Carles Gil has over a long period of time. He'd be a player that's very difficult to replace, but we're not thinking about that currently. We think Carles still has plenty of good years left."

On his fitness ahead of a possible Revolution debut this weekend:

Harrison: "Fitness wise, I'm obviously coming off the offseason in the Premier League. I've been trying to do what I could the last few weeks of the season, trying to build up my fitness. I feel like I'm in a good spot at the minute. Obviously, it's still very early and a preseason-vibes type of thing, but I'm working very hard to build that fitness up. If I can make my debut this weekend, that would be amazing."

On his hopes for the remainder of the season, both individually and for the club:

Harrison: "I think, firstly, getting fit and trying to get back on the pitch to contribute where I can. It's a bit strange coming in at this point of the season, there's not a whole lot of games left. So, I'm trying to get back as quickly as I can and have an impact right away, that's going to be the main goal. How I do that, I'll have to sit down with Marko [Mitrović] and see how I can work myself into the team."

"Then overall as a team, I think we're in a really good position at the minute. The playoffs are something new to me again. It's been a while since I've been in the playoffs, so putting ourselves in the best position to do that. I feel very strongly about the talent and the squad that we have. Just seeing already some of the players that we've had in the last couple games and how we've been playing, I feel really strongly about making a good run in the playoffs and hopefully we can bring a title back."

On his long-term goals and if he feels he can establish an MLS legacy with the Revolution:

Harrison: "Absolutely. I think it was another key factor to the decision to come back. I think this idea of settling down, I feel like the last 10 years, I think seven or eight of those years I've been on loan and

moving. So, this was an option that really provided that stability and just kind of put my mind a little bit at rest when it came to that side of it. Off the pitch, I know I'm going to be here for the next few years, and I can, just for my mindset, put myself into that position and set myself up for the best way to succeed. What that looks like these next few years, that was essential for me really after not having that for so long. It was something I was looking for."

On his message to the Revolution supporters ahead of his club debut:

Harrison: "I think I'm going to be someone who comes in and gives everything that he can on the pitch. I'm always going to do that. But also, for an ambitious club and an ambitious city, for a city full of champions in other sports, the Revolution is one team that has not been able to bring a [MLS Cup] trophy back to the city. For me, I'm going to do everything I can to bring a trophy back, whether it's in the next six months or anything over the next four years. That's going to be my ambition and it's a huge part of why I wanted to come here. So, I'm going to do everything I can to bring a title back to Boston."