



MATCH PREVIEW PRESS CONFERENCE: August 6
Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Brooklyn Raines

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On preparing for Western Conference opponent Houston Dynamo FC:

Mitrović: “Regarding Houston, I think they maybe didn’t start the season well, but I think they found their way to succeed. I actually think that they have a lot of talent on the field and they have a lot of experience. They are one of the oldest teams in the league. With their talent and experience, they created circumstances for them that really work well. It’s a team that is very dangerous when they are on the ball and has a lot of talent especially going forward and have players that can change the game at any given moment.

“Playing against Western Conference teams, I mean we still haven’t played against some of the teams from the Eastern Conference. So yes, it’s kind of like a first game this year against Houston but I believe we know a lot about Houston and enough to be ready and prepared for the game.”

On Jack Harrison’s first week of training with the team:

Mitrović: “Jack [Harrison] is a great professional. For someone who missed the whole preseason and played his last game more than two months ago, he came in very good shape. Obviously, this is still preseason for Jack. We have to understand that for the last 10 years, the summer and this time of the year he probably only played friendly games and had training sessions. So, we are trying to build Jack into his game fitness and also get him going with the group to understand what we are trying to achieve on the field and the way we are trying to achieve that. But I can see great progress from Jack, and I’m actually very happy with the way everything has gone so far with Jack.”

On Harrison’s skillset in and out of possession, and if he’ll be available for selection on Saturday:

Mitrović: “I think Jack [Harrison] is someone that, if we divide a game in and out of possession, Jack has a lot those small, successful actions and he knows how to behave in every moment of the game. Wherever the ball is, he is very clean on the ball. I think he has an amazing work ethic and also understanding of the game. I think in general Jack will help us just to grow as a team and kind of push us to raise our level.

“Now, what about playing time? We’ll still see. We have one more day [Friday], and it gives more time to both ourselves and Jack to see where we are and what kind of approach we will have for Saturday.”

On how Harrison will fit in among the team’s wingers:

Mitrović: “I think we’ll get organic answers when it comes to that. Right now, we have a game in two days and have players available for that game. We’ll try to play the best lineup in terms of having a successful game, and then from that game we’ll move forward. I really don’t have that in my head now. Where Luca [Langoni] is going to be, where Peyton [Miller] is going to be, where Jack [Harrison] is going to be, I think some things happen in life organically and that decision will be present there when it comes to that.”

On if there are any availability updates for Leo Campana and Ilay Feingold, and how close the team is to playing the way he had envisioned:

Mitrović: "Regarding injuries, we have no updates. Then regarding where we are, I think we are actually growing game-by-game. Yes, there is always a result as a final product, but sometimes the result is not always in correlation to certain moments where we want to be as a team. I am actually very positive. I think we are growing week-after-week. We are still not where we want to be, but I feel like we are in much better control of the game when we have the ball or when we don't have the ball. We have more clarity on how we can advance the ball and be dangerous when we are getting in the final third. But also, having more clarity in how we want to defend. There are two things that we have [to do]; to keep growing, that's number one, and number two is we have to find a consistent level. When we get to a certain level, how can we be consistent with that? Those are two challenges that I see ahead of us, but challenges not in a bad way. Those are normal things, and I think this group is ready to go and face those challenges."

Revolution Midfielder Brooklyn Raines

On playing against his former club, Houston Dynamo FC, on Saturday:

Raines: "I've already been talking to a few of my teammates already just about the game, and other stuff. For me, it's really exciting just to kind of get to see old faces, but then again get to go up against some of my best friends. To be honest, I can't really say anything bad about Houston. They've given me everything, from starting with a second team and being able to make my debut, and then kind of just go up from there. Then obviously being a starter last season. So, for me it's both excitement and just wanting to go out there and have fun, but also win."

On if playing against his former club adds any extra motivation:

Raines: "I try to treat every game kind of the same, but obviously since it's [against] a few of my old teammates, it's a little bit more motivation. I'm sure they probably feel the same. We both want to go out there and dominate. Obviously, we're friends off the field, but once we cross that line then it's go time."

On what he has learned from playing next to midfielder Alhassan Yusuf:

Raines: "[Alhassan] Yusuf is a really cool guy. This is the first year that I've met him, so I've definitely learned a lot. I would say a lot of the things I've learned just include trying to be confident on the ball and going forward, as well as just trying to find certain spaces in the middle and kind of combine with him. So, I'm still trying to work on that chemistry, but I think as far as we've gotten so far, it's been showing, so it's trying to continue doing that."

On newly acquired Designated Player Jack Harrison's presence on and off the field:

Raines: "Jack [Harrison] is really cool. I know he's only been here for a few days, but I've definitely been learning a lot from him both on and off the field. For one, he's a really humble guy. He really shows respect, and he's not a cocky player or anything like that. I think that's good, especially in this environment."

"And on the field, day one, you could already see how much his presence has [added to our team]. I've already gotten to do a few reps with him [in training], so I think he is a great addition to the team. I'm excited to continue to play with him."

On his experience participating in the Revolution Foundation's Bowl for a Goal fundraiser on Tuesday night:

Raines: "I had a really good time. It was a really cool event, getting to connect with people and the Unified Team. I think moments like that are really something special."

"The worst bowler I heard was Marcos [Zambrano] . I don't know what he was doing, but apparently before the ball even got close to the pins, it was already in the gutter. I think he just needs the [bumpers] on the side to help him. The best bowler, I'd probably say Griffin [Yow]. I think he hit three strikes in a row."

On the Revolution's identity under Head Coach Marko Mitrović and how far the team can potentially go:

Raines: "I think the sky is the limit for this team, especially with how we've been doing recently. Obviously, we've been wanting to win more games, but I think you can just tell from the beginning of the season to

now how much this team has grown both on and off the field. Just continuing to do the small things in training, [and with] everyone being tied in, I think again the sky is the limit for this team."