



POSTGAME TRANSCRIPT: August 8 vs. Houston Dynamo FC

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, F/W Jack Harrison, & F/W Diego Fagundez

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On forward/winger Jack Harrison's Revolution debut today:

Mitrović: "First of all, we are happy that Jack [Harrison] joined the team and made his debut today. Jack has only had one week with the team. It's very difficult for someone who came and had a few training sessions with the team to have high expectations in the first game. We have to remind ourselves that this almost like a preseason for Jack, even though he's in very good shape and I am very happy with the shape he came in and joined us on the first day. I actually think that he had some very good actions today. You can see that he's clean on the ball, he's sharp, but he's still learning our team and his teammates. We have to give him time to adapt to everything and then set, I cannot say higher expectations, but I think the expectations will grow game after game with him growing with the team."

On what he felt was missing from the attack in today's match:

Mitrović: "I'll start with, we always say that we play 90 minutes. I think we did open the game quite decently. We were on the front foot. I felt, at the first hydration break- and the hydration break has nothing to do with it, it kind of just happened, not as excuse. But I felt like we started to kind of make small, easy mistakes, and then now we're defending. We gave Houston an opportunity to breathe. This is a team that has quality and a lot of experience. They know when to put the foot on the ball and when they have space, they have enough quality. The game became more difficult for us. We conceded late in the first half. Maybe if we can get to halftime 0-0, we can regroup and keep going. But we came back many times this year after being down 1-0. I really had a strong belief that we could come back. Even after the second goal, I felt that we could come back. We just couldn't find our rhythm going forward with the ball."

On if it becomes more difficult to prepare for opponents with new players added to the roster in recent weeks:

Mitrović: "The group that started the game, the majority of those guys have been with us for some amount of time. I think, on one side, game after game, we're building who we are on the field. We're just trying to use every training session and every game to grow as a team, and to get better. And obviously, every team that we play against has certain tweaks that we have to adapt- the way they build with the ball, the way they finish the attack, or the way they defend. For every game, we are trying certain tools that we create in every training session. In a game, it's 'OK, those are the tools that we can use more in this game than others.' That's kind of the same approach for every opponent that we have, knowing that every opponent has certain strengths and certain weaknesses. And you always have that question of how you can expose your strengths, limit the strengths of the opponent, and expose the weaknesses of the opponent."

"And with the new players, we're trying to get them to understand everything we want to do as soon as possible. I feel like the team is advancing, and now to catch the team, you need a little bit more information or time. But I think that all those players have the talent to get there very quickly. I wouldn't take that as an excuse for the level of performance we had today."

On the injury statuses of forward/winger Luca Langoni and goalkeeper Matt Turner:

Mitrović: "Luca Langoni picked up an injury in the early stage of last week. I think Luca will be out for a couple of weeks for sure, unfortunately. And with Matt [Turner], I spoke with Matt now in the locker room. I think Matt is in a good spot. I don't think it's something serious. Always, in the next day there's something that you learn, a day after the game the best [about] how he feels. But it seems like he's in a good spot."

On what he has seen from forward/winger Diego Fagúndez and where he fits in moving forward:

Mitrović: "We were down 2-0 in the moment. In that moment we were looking for someone who can unlock a team that is defending with 10 players behind the ball, and that's a quality that Diego [Fagúndez] has. He had a couple of decent actions. To be honest, he had one very nice run in behind and he was trying to receive that ball, got an unlucky touch. But those are the [moments] when we expect that Diego can help us. Especially against the teams that sit in the low block where Diego can use his talent, gain between the lines, and unlock the opponent."

On losing at home today, where the Revolution have performed well this season:

Mitrović: "Listen, every time you lose a game, it's a tough loss. We play these games to win, and we try every game to play to win. We were really great the whole season at home, besides those two games against Nashville [FC] and today. Even during both games, I felt that we had certain moments where we could have gone in the other direction, but it didn't happen. We have nothing else to do other than recover and keep going next week. We always have that mindset, and I know those are the times when you lose the game, and then everybody's down. But I also know that this is an amazing group. This is a group that, I promise you, every day they come, they don't negotiate their work, they give their best, and I have nothing to say to the guys. They are doing their best, and we have to find a way to help them as well."

On Houston Dynamo FC's Guilherme and his strengths:

Mitrović: "In that particular moment [when Guilherme scored], it was a transitional situation, and the ball bounced and came to him. Then, when he's free, he has qualities to execute that [finish]. I don't think that in that particular situation, besides obviously a very high level of quality of execution, that he beat some guys. He's a very talented player. Very talented player. He's good at playing [either] facing back or facing forward. He can [create in] a one-on-one situation. He's also very clean on the ball [and can] connect. He has variety in his finishing. He can finish after [going] one-on-one, [from] short-distance, or [on] long-distance shots. He has had a high impact this year for Houston and their performances. [Guilherme is] one of those players who [is a] game changer for their teams. We didn't have some special approach to [defend] Guilherme. We [wanted to] defend him as a team. We have our way that we want to defend, and I don't think that we weren't successful today, besides that situation with [the ball] bouncing. He [just] executed [that chance] well."

On Harrison's success on the dribble and whether that's something Mitrović felt was missing before his arrival:

Mitrović: "That's actually a great analysis. I think something that we were missing in the first half of the season was more of those [dribbling] actions, and when we are on the ball one-on-one, that we have the ability to break the opponent. We have great runners in behind, but also sometimes when you [are facing a team that's] sitting in a low block, or in [one at] that moment, we have to expose ourselves one-on-one."

"I actually think that since the break, Peyton [Miller] was doing a great job in wide areas, beating players one-on-one and putting himself in great spots. We also believe that other players can do the same. Obviously, Luca [Langoni] didn't get enough minutes because [he was] coming back from an injury, and now he has a small setback from another injury as well. Then Marcos [Zambrano] and Griffin [Yow], we're trying to expose those guys when they're in those [one-on-one] moments, and they have to trust that they can do those things. We just encourage them to go for it. We're going to live with the outcome, because that's the way you can change the game for us. This is one of the qualities that, going to back to your question, we expect Jack to bring us more of on the field and to change the game for us."

Revolution Forward/Winger Jack Harrison

On making his Revolution debut in front of the home crowd today:

Harrison: "It was amazing to get back on the pitch. Obviously, it has been a while for myself being in a game but getting out there in front of the fans I feel like it was a really good reception that I received. I was super grateful to just get minutes. It was a difficult game, but it was good for me to just get that out of the way, hopefully push on now and continue improving in the performances."

On his current level of match fitness:

Harrison: "I think it's always difficult when you're coming back. In preseason, I feel like those first few minutes are always difficult to replicate in training. I tried to push as much as I could throughout the week, and it didn't feel as bad as I thought. I'm still working on the fitness side of it, and I'm sure it will come quickly."

On completing all four dribbles in today's game and his ability to take on opponents one-on-one:

Harrison: "From the moment I got here, Marko [Mitrović] just said 'Play freely.' I feel like the way I like to play, I like to go at guys dribbling, it's something I've always had since I was young. Trying to get that out on the pitch and trying to enhance that a little bit under Marko within his system and within the structure to help improve the team, that's what I'm going to try to do."

On getting acclimated in New England and his anticipation for the rest of the season:

Harrison: "It's a great group of guys. From the moment I stepped in here, everyone has been so welcoming and really kind of helped me feel comfortable here. A lot of guys asking questions about overseas and things like that, it's nice to give a little bit of insight to something they haven't experienced yet, especially because it's such a young squad as well. Everybody is eager to learn and eager to improve. It's nice to be part of a youthful, energetic squad that just wants to improve and are very motivated to do that as well. So yeah, just excited to continue working with these guys. I definitely want to build up my fitness and build up to full fitness as soon as possible. I think Marko [Mitrović] has had a huge impression on me since I arrived, so continuing to learn his methodology and how I can fit into his system."

Revolution Forward/Winger Diego Fagundez

On his takeaways from today's match:

Fagundez: "The result wasn't there today. I thought we had a couple of good chances that we should finish. Sometimes when that happens in the game, you get punished. I don't remember exactly the first goal, how it happened, but the second one was on a set piece. I think we just need to be better. Overall, we've been really strong this year, so today was one of those [games where you say], 'OK, it happened'. Now, we just need to make sure we forget about this game and focus on the next one. MLS is a pretty hard [league], so you need to just turn around again and deal with what's coming."

On the team's mindset in shifting focus to next weekend's match at Toronto FC:

Fagundez: "I think everybody is ready for what we want to do. After the break, we came in, we went at home, we go and tie, and now we lose a game. So, we just have to make sure that we're prepared for what's coming. We know where we want to get to, we want to get to playoffs. Little by little, we're going to be making mistakes, but we need to be better. Overall, you see in this locker room, no one's happy with the result and that's a good thing. We were in Montreal [on Aug. 1], no one was happy with the result so, that's a positive. At the end of the day, we just need to make sure we're more clinical with our chances, and defenses need to be a little better."

On what forward/winger Jack Harrison brings to the team:

Fagundez: "Jack [Harrison] is amazing. You saw him today, he went into the game and changed it a little bit, taking people one-on-one. I had known Jack when he played in the league, so we know what kind of player he is. He's full of energy, good guy in the locker room, outside of the locker room. He's only going

to help us get better. I think he's still developing the way we want to play and getting little by little with his fitness. But once he's ready to go, it's going to be a big help.”