



POSTGAME TRANSCRIPT: August 15 at Toronto FC

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & GK Matt Turner

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On his takeaways from tonight's match at Toronto FC:

Mitrović: "I felt that the whole game, we had full control and I think we played some very good soccer tonight. There were two moments, where I would say I feel [like] in the last couple of games, certain things go against us. We just have to work hard to keep pushing, to turn luck back on our side. As I said, I have nothing [negative] to say to the guys. They played great soccer, they gave everything tonight, and we are walking off the field with no result. But that is soccer, we just have to keep going and keep moving forward. That's what we have been doing the whole season and that's what we're going to do starting now."

On defender/winger Peyton Miller's status after exiting the match in the 40th minute:

Mitrović: "Regarding Peyton [Miller], he had that collision. He feels good. Obviously, that's a [concern of] a concussion. We'll see what's going to be the recovery process, but in general, he feels good."

On what needs to improve in the final third to convert opportunities into goals:

Mitrović: "If we speak purely about putting the ball in the net, that is something in soccer, that is no matter what, the most difficult part of the game. Sometimes things go well for certain teams, and then they take the shots from 25-30 yards out and score beautiful goals. Sometimes you have those situations where you just cannot put the ball in the net. I don't think we did anything wrong. I would say, what is very encouraging, is that we are [getting] there. I was told after the game that we had 25 shots in the game, and I think they had a few clearances on the goal line, where both [of our shots] didn't want to go inside of the net. It's very difficult to tell the players, 'You have to put the ball in the net', because that's what they wanted. They had the right intention, and sometimes things go your way, sometimes not."

On forward/winger Jack Harrison's 90-minute performance in his first Revolution start tonight:

Mitrović: "I think you saw a lot of [Harrison's] qualities today. First of all, Jack is in the attacking phase of the game. He's a very clean player. He helps us in the build-up, but also when he gets higher on the field, he is very good in those small combinations and playing one-v-one. I also think he had several very good crosses. I think he [had] an assist on [Harris's] goal. Jack was very unlucky in certain moments, because [his shots] just didn't want to go in the goal."

"Also, regarding Jack, we have to know that this is his first 90 minutes after a long time. First of all, I'm proud that he pushed himself and played 90 minutes, but once he gets in a better game rhythm, we can expect even more from him, but I'm very happy and very pleased with his performance tonight."

On his takeaways from the performances of the midfielders tonight:

Mitrović: "I think the dialogue that we have in our midfield with [Alhassan] Yusuf, Brooklyn [Raines], and Carles [Gil] is really great. They have a lot of freedom to make certain rotations on the field and they just compensate for each other in a very good way. I actually think they help us a lot to bring the ball often to

the final third. I'm very positive with their performances. Also, we have to understand that they work so hard off the ball and help us pick up second balls to win duels. I think that the three of them found their way playing together and I'm happy with that."

On how deploying several second-half substitutes impacted the offensive push:

Mitrović: "With Marcos [Zambrano] and Wilson [Harris], we wanted to drive another presence into the box, and I think that helped us to score that goal. With Diego [Fagundez], even the last game when we played him, his highest level of talent is when teams are sitting in the low block, and his ability to break them down. Unfortunately, Diego couldn't find that extra pass or finishing opportunity for himself, but we believe that is really Diego's strength. With Brooklyn [Raines] going off the field, because when you are man up, and you chase the game, there are a lot of spaces in transitions that we have to cover, and Brooklyn was on a yellow card. If he had to make the tackle, we just didn't want him to get a red card, and we felt with [Alhassan] Yusuf, Carles [Gil], and Diego, we can still be dangerous going forward."

On Matt Polster's performance at right back tonight and his chemistry with Jack Harrison on the right flank:

Mitrović: "I think that triangle on the right side was very strong tonight with Matt [Polster], Carles [Gil], and Jack [Harrison]. Matt was very good, he was coming into the final third many times. He had crosses, he even had some opportunities. When you are a midfielder, and you go and play in the wide areas, it's a very different type of running that you make and you expose different stamina. For Matt, it's not easy and you get fatigued, but I think he had a very good game for those 80 minutes that he was on the field."

On if he's frustrated with the team's recent performances:

Mitrović: "I don't see things like that. Since day one, when we were talking about the team breaking records [at home] or winning, we just don't move that way. We have the next game, and everything behind us is our experience and are things that we have to use to make ourselves better. This is a marathon and we have to get to the end line in the best possible way. Those are situations where I really don't count those stats, like when we have whatever number of wins in some period of time or losses. We just have to keep going forward, because I really think the team is performing very good and finding its identity. We just have to push luck on our side, because in certain moments, we are missing a little bit to get better results."

Revolution Goalkeeper Matt Turner

On his takeaways from tonight's match:

Turner: "It's frustrating. Obviously, we've lost two games in a row, but I wouldn't go as far as saying we're having current struggles. We're still in third place in the Eastern Conference, but we know that we're leaving points out there on the table. In October and November, the business end of the season, every point that you can get along the way really matters. Of course, we're happy with some of the moments in the game, but similar to last weekend it's two moments out of the blue. In the Houston game, it was similar - the one attacking set piece and the one defensive set piece. We just have to be ready at all moments to make the plays that we need to make."

"Obviously, the own goal [on] the first goal is unlucky. It comes off Will [Sands] and then I'm close to making a play on it as well. Then, the second goal is where we really needed to level the game out. We just handed them the ball twice and they punished us. All around the league, there are good players, and Toronto FC is no exception even if we dominated the majority of the game."

On forward/winger Jack Harrison's quality:

Turner: "Jack [Harrison] is a professional. For us, we were happy to see that he was ready to hit the ground running and ready to put it all out there for 90 minutes. As much as he offered on the offensive side, I think it was one of those nights where he's doing so much and hitting good shots - one just over and [hitting off] the crossbar on the other, and Josh Sargent makes a block on the third, and he gets the assist in the end. He had a really great game, and it frees up other areas of the pitch. We're

grateful to have him here and that he's getting going, but in the end, when somebody plays as well as that, we want to be in a position to get points."

On the team's response after falling behind 2-0 in the first half and what New England could have done to find the tying goal:

Turner: "The response was great. We really limited [Toronto's] chances throughout most of the game. I don't think I had an actual recorded save probably for the first time all season in a game. We played well defensively, limiting chances. We did that by keeping the ball and dictating the tempo of the game. I think for us, the only thing that kept us from scoring the second goal in the end was time. I think if the game was a little longer [we find the tying goal], but soccer's 90 minutes. I think we got the first goal too late. We really pushed hard, and for the first 15-20 minutes it didn't quite come. Then the red card changes the game. Then again, another 10 minutes when the game shifted, and it took us another 15 [minutes] to get the goal. So, just everything just took too long, I'd say."

On New England dominating possession and shot attempts in tonight's loss:

Turner: "Sure, but it's also alarming as well. On the defensive side, we have to be ready to make more plays in our own box as well to keep the game scoreless, to give our team a chance to keep it going and fight hard to get the goal that puts us ahead. We're going to keep doing what we're doing. I think it's working. I think we're getting into good positions on the field, but in the end, the only thing that matters when the final whistle goes is the final score. We have a lot of disappointed and frustrated guys in our locker room. We're looking at ourselves and we're trying to get better every week on the training ground. We work so hard. The next three points that we get, it's going to feel mighty, mighty good."

On Matt Polster stepping in at right back and the value of his versatility:

Turner: "Matt [Polster] has done very well transitioning into different roles on the pitch. Guys look to him as a leader and he's not a complainer. Of course, he's just going to go out there and he's going to play. He competes and he pushes other guys to be better, so I'm glad that the transition over there has gone well for him so far."

It was nice, especially in the first half, the amount of times he's getting forward, and the relationship between him, Jack [Harrison], and Carles [Gil] just seemed seamless tonight. We wish we could have done more. He obviously had the shot on goal, the shot that just missed in the second half, so he's creating chances. He's getting into really good areas on the pitch, and he's working hard defensively. I think he's a coach's dream as a player because of how hard he works and he always shows up. Hopefully he continues on the upward trajectory over [at right back] and then we can reward all our hard work with getting results. Because I know for him, that's all he really cares about."