



MATCH PREVIEW PRESS CONFERENCE: August 17
Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & D Mamadou Fofana

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On how the team aims to limit one of the league's top scorers in D.C. United striker Tai Baribo on Wednesday:

Mitrović: "Tai [Baribo], as you said, is a really great forward. He's someone who has that hunger to score goals but also is a player that provides a lot of actions for his team on and off the ball. He's a very important piece for D.C. and the way they play. They have two forwards. It's not just Tai, they always play with two players higher on the field. Playing against players like [Baribo], you have to stay on your toes for 90 minutes. We have to have our focus on knowing that these kind of players don't need much time and space to put themselves into great spots. Also, he is a great finisher and just having that awareness and focus through 90 minutes of the game is kind of our starting position. Obviously, there are certain things as a team that we have to do, not just players that are playing directly against the forwards. So, we'll be ready for that."

On the challenges of playing against D.C. United:

Mitrović: "It's a team that has their identity in the way they play. They're a team that doesn't hesitate to finish their actions, whether it's crosses or stray balls in behind. They play with two forwards that provide a lot of moments in behind or when the ball is in the crossing areas into the box. It's a team that is very strong on set pieces as well, so they have their identity and they just keep going from game to game. We played them in the beginning of the season and had one friendly game against them this summer, so I think both teams know each other very well. I don't think there are going to be a lot of new things for both teams, just more how are we going to challenge each other."

On forward Wilson Harris tallying his first MLS goal last weekend in Toronto and what he has provided to the team:

Mitrović: "One of the reasons why we brought Wilson [Harris] here was we felt that he has that feeling in the box to be in the right spot at the right time and has the tools to finish those actions. I would also say that Wilson is a very hard-working player who is trying to execute actions that we expect forwards in that moment to do. He integrated with the group very well. He carries the same values that we carry as a group, and maybe because of that it was easier for him to interact with everyone else. We really appreciate everything that he is doing so far with us."

On winger/defender Peyton Miller exiting Saturday's match with a head injury:

Mitrović: "I think Peyton [Miller] will be good for the game [on Wednesday]. We will have the final review, but it seems very positive and I am optimistic."

On Wilson Harris providing actions in the attack that the team had been missing:

Mitrović: "I actually like that question a lot. It's something that we are working on with our guys, to make and to time those runs into the box. It's really not easy. If we speak about the way we want to play, I think we are getting closer and closer to the, I would say, game model or style that we want to expose game-by-game. And then obviously there are going to be pictures that are going to be more and more present for us and something that, as you said, a good amount of balls arriving in the box. For that, we need certain kinds

of moments. We have to provide players with clarity on how they can do that in the box. But also sometimes they bring that naturally with them and have the instincts of making the right moments and the right timing. I think that's something that actually Wilson has, and when he is on the field I think he actually understands that. That's kind of his strength and that's the way that he put himself into that sport to score a goal against Toronto."

On defender Ethan Kohler continuing to establish a significant role on the backline:

Mitrović: "Ethan [Kohler] is someone that, number one, I've known really for a long time. I kind of love the trajectory and, in general, his development over the last four or five years. If we speak about aspects of the game, I think his tactical understanding of the game is on a very high level, whether that's in possession or out of possession. I also am very confident that if you put Ethan in this chair and asked him to talk about our game and anything that is happening, he will give you as much information as I have because he is, first of all, so focused but also understands what we are talking about."

"The one other thing that I would really like to emphasize with Ethan is that he is someone who is a natural winner and somebody who loves to compete and who is really, really brave. I think those things will help him separate himself from the others in his career. He is obviously having his first good amount of professional experience of games in his career after that spell in Germany that he had for one season. With the amount of games, certain actions will repeat for him on the field, and that's experience. And with experience, Ethan will get better and better. But overall, we are really happy with not just the product on the field, but what Ethan brings in the locker room every day, the habits and the mentality, it's just great to have Ethan around."

On balancing tactical adjustments with player's minutes over a multi-game week with matches on Wednesday and Sunday:

Mitrović: "There are two things that you have to really [look at], I think you phrased it great. One is a tactical approach. In this short turnaround between games, how much you can really work toward the opponent and how much certain things that you are on the field can help you to better prepare for the game. And that's something, again for us, we have to emphasize our strengths and have to emphasize things that we have and can do better. Obviously, there are small tweaks that we'll bring on the field that are different from any other opponent."

"On the other side, we have to manage players' minutes, but it's more for maybe some players that are in high risk of injury or need more time to recover because they had a different preseason. But I believe that we are in a business that our players are ready to go and play a midweek game. I don't think that's going to have a high impact on us that we have that midweek game. We'll recover and get going after that for Sunday's game as well."

Revolution Defender Mamadou Fofana

On the team's mentality in moving past disappointing outcomes and focusing on the next match:

Fofana: "In our job, we don't have time to think a lot. We do the right thing, but sometimes doing the right things don't pay off. We just have to continue. We are doing good things, so I think it will pay off. We just have to continue to work, we can never give up and keep going."

On Head Coach Marko Mitrović's message to the team following Saturday's loss in Toronto:

Fofana: "[Mitrović said] that we have to stay together mentally. We never give up. We just have to stay together and keep going. I know the things we are doing will pay off and we just have to continue, but I am not worried about that."

On what stands out about Marko Mitrović as a head coach:

Fofana: "Since the first day, he gave us the idea of how we want to [play]. He is a coach who demands a lot. Like I said, we are together and we follow what he says. It will pay off. We just have to continue and work hard, and we know it will pay off."

On playing alongside Ethan Kohler in central defense:

Fofana: "I think [Kohler] is a very good player. He is a young player. It's his first season in the MLS, but he is doing very well. Unfortunately, we lost the last two games, but like I said he's very good. We have to stay together. I am very happy to play with him, and I hope he will continue [playing] like this."

On how the team remains positive and confident after consecutive defeats:

Fofana: "It's not easy. We lost the last two games, but like I said, we do the right things. Some goals, there is just nothing you can do about it. I think, in the last game, if [Toronto FC's Niklas Dorsch] tried 100 times, he would just score two or three times. We can't control all of those things. We just have to continue and keep working, and I know things will go the way we want."