



MATCH PREVIEW PRESS CONFERENCE: August 21

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

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On Revolution fans traveling to Washington D.C. to support the team during Wednesday's 3-0 victory over D.C. United:

Mitrović: "I think we've spoken many times about what the fans mean to every team. I believe these things. It's very difficult to separate it at any moment. We love the game on one side, and I think every player plays because he loves the game, or whoever participates does so because of the love. Also, fans are there because of their love for the game and for their teams."

"Once you are on the field, you actually get to that stage where you need support. Anytime we see people supporting us and having our fans there, obviously when we play at home, we always have a good crowd, but when we go away, it's not easy with the travel and distances to have our people there supporting us. So, when we see that amount of fans and then you hear that they root for us and they're singing for us, I think it's a great boost for the guys."

On throwing the ceremonial first pitch at tomorrow's Red Sox game:

Mitrović: "I have never played baseball in my life. Coming here, I started to learn about the game. I don't have much experience or knowledge about the game. It's very uncertain for me [what that pitch] is going to look like, but I'll survive."

On the availability statuses of Ilay Feingold, Leo Campana, and Luca Langoni:

Mitrović: "Regarding Ilay [Feingold], we are in a very good spot. Ilay is building his fitness, knowing that the last game that he played in was four months ago. Hopefully, in the next couple of weeks, he'll show good progress in his fitness, and he'll be more game-ready. He's clear, in regard to the injury. It's more about getting him ready now, not just to play, but to perform as well."

"With Leo [Campana], there are good, positive steps going forward. He might need a couple more weeks compared to Ilay. I feel very positive right now with Leo. Same with Luca [Langoni]. Our medical department is doing a great job getting Luca ready. I hope Luca will be somewhere in between Ilay and Leo in coming back."

On Matt Polster's versatility as a right back:

Mitrović: "I think and believe that we are playing Matt [Polster at right back] because he can play that. I think that Matt has a very good understanding of the game. No matter where he is, he understands what's happening on the field."

"What I said was that when Matt plays as a midfielder, he has a tendency to open in wide areas, in those pockets where usually a fullback is, and then have the game in front of him and play from there. And that's something that is kind of a starting position as a fullback. Obviously, that's one part of the game. There are so many other things as a fullback that are very different than as a midfielder. There is no real connection between these two positions. But, credit to Matt that he can play both positions at a very good level."

On the team being without midfielder Brooklyn Raines, who is suspended for Sunday's match due to yellow card accumulation, and who can fill the void in the Starting XI:

Mitrović: "It's something that we are also talking about, and we just want to make the right decision. Going back to Matt Polster, Matt can play there as well. So now we're trying to find the right balance for the team over 90 minutes and how we want to fill that spot that is now open with Brooklyn [Raines] having yellow cards."

"We still have not made a decision. We are talking about that. We are in the process because it's not a [snap] decision where we just throw one player there and then let's see what's going to happen. We are trying to predict scenarios that will happen on the field and then determine what's the best balance for us. Hopefully, we'll make the right decision."

On his assessment of Sunday's opponent, New York City FC:

Mitrović: "I think New York City FC has followed a certain game model since I came to the league in 2016. They've had the same way that they want to play. They are a team that wants to play, that is very possession-oriented, that always has a high level of talent higher up the field. This is maybe a different generation than if I spoke about 10 years ago. They have a very good coach. They are a very well-coached team. As I said, they want to have the ball and kind of control the game with it, but on the other side, they have very good defensive behaviors."

"They have some additions to their team with a new [Designated Player] wide forward [Bénie Traoré], and some players coming back from injuries. For me, it's a very strong and solid team, and that team played in the conference final last season. I would say they are one of the highest challenges that you can face in this league."

Revolution Forward/Winger Jack Harrison

On how he has adapted to his new club with four assists in his first three matches:

Harrison: "One of the things that attracted me most about coming here was Marko [Mitrović] and his style of play. I think I can fit really well into the system, and it has been working the last couple of games. The guys have made it really easy for me to feel comfortable here and to settle in with them. There are a lot of good guys on the team. You see the way we've been playing, especially the last game that we combined really well, and it makes it easy to play with. So, a lot of the guys have been helping me out. It's probably a lot of them who have helped me to be in the position."

On his first victory with New England on Wednesday at D.C. United:

Harrison: "It's definitely good to get a win. I feel like the Toronto game was a little bit frustrating not coming away with three points, but I feel like the team played really well. We did a lot of good things on the pitch, just weren't able to capitalize on certain moments. The game against D.C., it really helped to put us on the front foot and capitalizing on those chances really helped us out early on in the game. If we can continue doing that, I think we'll be okay. I'm really confident in this team and what we're capable of doing, and hopefully we can continue going forward."

On how having a passionate coach like Marko Mitrović affects him as a player:

Harrison: "It's good. I think you definitely need that at times from the manager. [Mitrović] does a really good job of managing the team and each individual and driving some players at the right time. When he brought that emotion after the game, it's really encouraging as a player. You want to get behind him, and I know he's really big on building a big culture here – the right culture and the right environment with the right players and the right mindset. All of that plays into it, and I think he's done a good job so far."

On what Alhassan Yusuf provides to the team both on and off the pitch:

Harrison: "You see the way he [Yusuf] plays. He's always putting everything he can on the pitch. Like you said, he's a very humble guy and he's quite funny behind the scenes. He comes up with some funny comments, but he's a great team guy. He's always laughing and always smiling from what I've seen so far. All the guys are very fond of him and enjoy being around him, so bringing that good, positive energy helps on the pitch, and you could see it in the last game. I'm really happy he was able to get his hat trick."

On playing against his former MLS club, New York City FC, for the first time:

Harrison: "Yeah, there has always been a place in my heart for NYCFC. It'll be all business this weekend. I'm going to treat it like any other game, go out there, and do what I need to do. Hopefully, we'll come away with three points."

On his chemistry with Matt Polster on the right side, and combining with Carles Gil in midfield:

Harrison: "[Matt Polster] has filled in the spot very well. I know he's not usually a right back, but seeing what he does on the pitch, it's like he's been playing there for years. The chemistry that we have on that right side with Carles [Gil] as well is like we've been playing together for a long time. That's what I was saying at the start of the interview – when you play with guys like that it makes it easy to come into a team and fit in. The communication from Matt, he's a great leader on the pitch and throughout the locker room as well, he's done a great job stepping into that role. He's always trying to help out his teammates, whether it's me, or Carles, or whoever. He's a great, great guy to be around."