



TRANSCRIPT: Match Preview Press Conference (August 27)
Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, D Will Sands & M Judah Siqueira

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On Sunday's opponent, the Columbus Crew:

Mitrović: "First, I think that Columbus is a team that has a really strong identity in the way that they play. They are a team that is very strong in possession, and they try to control and dominate the game with the ball. I think that Leagues Cup has actually put them in a very good spot in terms of having a different experience and a different level of opponent to keep growing as a team and getting exposed to some different things. Every league is unique and provides us with different challenges, and when you play against the teams in Leagues Cup, it's a very good experience in my eyes for all teams."

"We are very aware that it's going to be a very challenging and demanding game. Maybe they don't have the results they want this year, but their performances have always been there. [We are] trying to prepare ourselves in the best possible way for that challenge."

On signing 17-year-old Easton, Mass. native Judah Siqueira to a Homegrown contract today:

Mitrović: "When we came to the club, obviously, we wanted to see what resources we had with the young players, with the second team and with the Academy. Judah is someone that we really like. We appreciate the way that he sees the game and his technical qualities. Even though he's young, he has a very strong [desire] to compete, and that's something that also shows a good level of maturity for where he's at. I'm very glad that some of the young players get the opportunity to keep growing, and I'm happy for Judah."

On defender Will Sands playing through a broken hand and what it reflects about his mentality:

Mitrović: "Will [Sands] is somebody that has a very strong competitive mindset. Something that we really appreciate is that he played with a broken hand, but he didn't give up. He showed a high level of relentless mentality and how great a teammate he is, pushing through those tough moments. I can [only] imagine just how painful that is."

"To be fair, during [Sunday's] game, there were a few times when you could see on his face that he felt the pain. But he just kept going, never said anything, never complained, and showed a very high level of [resilience], which is a good thing. We really appreciate everything Will is doing for the team. He has [played a high] number of minutes and games this season, but every training session he comes here, keeps doing what he has to do, keeps working hard. I believe he's showing that he's taking the right steps forward."

On managing players through injuries:

Mitrović: "Obviously, there are different types of pain. There is pain that, no matter how strong your mentality is, especially when we talk about muscle injuries, makes it impossible to keep going. But there are injuries, or pain, that are a normal part of an athlete's life. I don't think that a player would come into the locker room after a game and feel no pain, like everything is good. I don't think that's actually a feeling you're ever going to have in your career."

"So, it's about being smart. On one side, what kind of pain you have, what pain you should manage, and what pain you shouldn't. When you have players in your locker room who are ready to handle pain, that good pain, and keep going and pushing, as a coach and as a staff, we can only appreciate that."

On the availability statuses of forward Leo Campana, winger Luca Langoni, and defenders Ilay Feingold and Tylon Smith:

Mitrović: "I think with almost all four of them, they are kind of in preseason. We have to build their fitness, and I think that's the biggest task that we have right now. Some of them are in a little bit better situation, and some of them will need a little bit more time because all of them had an amount of time off for different reasons."

"Obviously, Tylon [Smith] had just finished his season. He didn't have a preseason and came here after a couple of months of break. Then Ilay [Feingold] had almost four months without playing. Then Luca [Langoni] had three setbacks - one situation at the end of the season, and then two small injuries during the summer where he missed more than 10 weeks of work."

"Those are the things where we just have to be smart, build their fitness, and try not to expose them too early. We want to be sure that once they are on the field, they can perform."

On Marc Orti-Esteban's departure and the club's approach with set piece responsibilities moving forward:

Mitrović: "Marc [Orti-Esteban] left us a couple of weeks ago. He expressed a desire to go, and that was something he wanted. He wanted to go back [to Europe] and this was a great opportunity for him. We are here to support people, and we didn't want to stand in his way."

"On the other side, even when Marc was here, we all worked together in whatever we did. There is always somebody who is leading a project, whether that's set pieces, if it's us attacking, or if it's us defending. Marc was leading the set piece project, but we would always sit and talk to make decisions on what we wanted to do on the field."

"Right now, we're really missing Marc, first as a human. He was a great asset for our technical staff. But now we have all taken on that responsibility together. We don't really have one leader for that project. We are all working together and continuing the way we worked before."

Revolution Defender Will Sands

On playing against his twin brother, James, in Sunday's match against NYCFC:

Sands: "I think it was very reminiscent of a lot of childhood battles, but it's a dream come true. I've spent a ton of time practicing and playing with [James], and we both dreamed of this for a very long time, so I think it means a lot to both me and him to see the other one succeed. He had to choose that game to score, which was a little unfortunate (*laughs*), but it was awesome to see, and I think my family is very happy."

On the keys to New England's defense solidifying itself as one of the best in MLS this season:

Sands: "I think it's kind of a building of chemistry that has helped us a lot. We're really trying to get better at communicating a lot across the backline and kind of building that understanding. I still think there are ways to go, but the mentality of the group has been very good, and hopefully we can carry that on to the road stretch ahead."

On playing through a broken hand and how he has managed the injury to remain on the field:

Sands: "It happened early in the New York City game [Sunday]. Thankfully, I'm a soccer player. I don't really need my hands all that much. So, we're just wrapping it up tight, and I just take a couple of Advil and hope for the best (*laughs*). But it doesn't really change much. I think the focus is still all with the team and looking forward to the games ahead."

On how the team's intensity and selflessness have helped shape its culture:

Sands: "It kind of shows two fundamental aspects of this team. I think the first is intensity. Everyone has really strong intensity and desire to win. We especially pride ourselves on that in the backline, like putting your body on the line for the team."

"The second value that I think really lends itself to that is selflessness. I think you have to be willing to do what you can for your teammates, and we all want to win, and we want to do our best for our teammates. So, I think it kind of builds that trust in each other, and it's a positive aspect of our team so far."

On competing against his former club, the Columbus Crew, on Sunday:

Sands: "Most of my most competitive games come against my friends and I guess my family at this point. So, it's really awesome to see my old friends in Columbus do what they're doing, but it kind of adds a little bit of intensity to that game. We're all very competitive and I think these are the games you kind of live for as a player. It makes it different going on a road trip to a place where you know a lot of people, you know the fans. But I think it adds an edge to the game that I'm really looking forward to."

On the importance of pressing as a unit against an opponent that can create width through its wing backs:

Sands: "It requires a unique way to press and defend. I think the main point that we have to be really sure about is when we go, we go as a team. You start to open up gaps when you go one by one, but if we're very strong communicating with one another and have a really decisive mentality of when to go and when not to go, I think it can be very beneficial for us. So, if we go, we go as a team."

Revolution Midfielder Judah Siqueira

On signing an MLS contract with his hometown club:

Siqueira: "It's a dream come true to be able to sign my first professional contract with the Revolution. Ever since I was a kid, like I've said, I've been watching games, coming with my parents and my brother, and I have always been a big fan. Me and my family are very grateful for this opportunity, and I'm going to take it well."

On the excitement and support from his family:

Siqueira: "They've all been pumped and super excited. Their reactions, it's really happy to see how supportive they are of me and with my decision. They all have my back with everything I've been working hard for, and I'm very grateful to have all of them supporting me."

On which Revolution players he has looked up to during youth:

Siqueira: "Someone that I always looked up to was Carles [Gil]. For me, the way he plays is somewhat how I want to play in the first and how I try to play when I play with the first team. Just being able to train with him now and see how it is in person is a really good experience and it's a really good way for me to learn from him and grow my abilities."

On what it's been like learning from Head Coach Marko Mitrović:

Siqueira: "My relationship with [Mitrović] is very good. I'm very grateful for him for trusting me at such a young age. I know it's very difficult for some coaches to do that, and I'm very grateful for him to have trust in me. I think that he's very talkative. He lets me know when I'm doing things right, and he helps me improve every day in training. I feel like that's the easiest way for someone my age to grow. So, I'm very grateful to him for helping me grow as a player and as a person."

On how he's adjusting to the speed and physicality at the MLS level:

Siqueira: "For the past three months, I've been training with the first team. I feel like that's all been leading up and helping me prepare myself. The level, it's a lot more physical and a lot faster yeah, but I feel like once you get used to it and you're in the environment for so long, you adapt to it really quickly. I'm a really quick learner, and a very good learner, so I think I adapted to it pretty quickly."

On beginning his career by developing in the Brazil Elite Soccer Academy and a message he'd share to his younger self:

Siqueira: "I started with [Brazil Elite Soccer] when I was three years old, so I started at a very young age. My parents put me in just to distract me. I feel like my coach, his name was Bresley [Pascoal], he helped push me at a young age. I feel like a lot of coaches kind of don't take it as seriously with younger kids, but he took it seriously with me. He saw something in me that a lot of people didn't, and he pushed me to become the person I am today.

"Something I would tell myself when I was younger is to just never stop believing. Anything is possible and just putting in the work and always trying hard is the most important thing. And just have fun."