



TRANSCRIPT: Media Availability (September 1)

Soundbytes from Assistant Coach Michael Morris & M Matt Polster

Revolution Assistant Coach Michael Morris

On the team's response after conceding the opening goal in the 3-1 win over the Columbus Crew on Sunday:

Morris: "That [mentality to be able to come back] is very important. Obviously, you don't ever want to start a game going down. That's not the objective by any means. Credit to Columbus Crew, though. They created a good opportunity for themselves, and they finished it. But from that point forward, I don't believe they had a shot until much, much later in the half. I think it's a credit to the team spirit of the guys to make it a long game and then respond to adversity. There are two directions the game can go in that moment, and the direction it went was us being up 2-1 at halftime."

On the team's mindset during its current stretch of four consecutive road matches:

Morris: "I think 'resilience' is the right word to put it. You know, we could look at it as a crazy stretch of road games. I don't find it crazy. I find it quite enjoyable. We get to go play on grass surfaces, and we travel really well. I like road games because it's an opportunity for the team to always stay collected and cohesive. I think our performances on the road have also been very good. If you don't even think about the scoreline, that's the most positive thing about it. I also feel like we set ourselves up to have a lot of control whether we're home or away. It's almost irrelevant, because it matters, but it's just another enjoyable experience for us that we look forward to, rather than worry about it."

On the team's defensive identity on the road and tactical flexibility:

Morris: "Baseline is an important term to use because there are just some very core principles that we have defensively that carry us through any opponent or situation. I think a positive takeaway is that D.C. United plays a lot differently than Columbus Crew, and we had solutions for both teams- one that loves to control possession and one that loves to play direct and pick up second balls. I think we've shown a good level of tactical flexibility, but so much of that comes down to the players' ability to take information on the field and respond."

"Then also, I think what's been a very big differentiator for us is the intensity with which we've been defending on a consistent basis. There were moments against Columbus where they just couldn't breathe. If you stop the ability of the opponent to breathe, get out, or control the game, you also [turn] the fans against them as well because that's not what they want to see. I've been pleased with the way that we've defended for the most part, and then you just have to continue to build focus to make sure it's always as complete a performance as possible."

On the impact Head Coach Marko Mitrović has had on the team culture:

Morris: "It's hard not to fall in love with Marko [Mitrović] because he just has so much energy that it becomes infectious. But it's energy in a very clear, organized, and direct manner. Sometimes too much energy can lead to chaos, but his energy allows us to focus and move in the right direction. I think a lot of it translates to the training field. I like to say that our group trains with so much intensity and focus every day. They're just incredibly humble, and you can see it from every single player on the roster that they approach it in the same manner. If that can continue to bleed out or be shared with the fans, that's [one of]

the most important things. It's important because they give us energy as well, and we're here to provide a really good experience for the fans."

On the recent additions to New England's roster, including midfielder Dániel Gazdag, and how the team is coming together as a collective unit:

Morris: "I think whenever we add players, it's always intentional. I think the biggest positive so far is that the people we brought in are very good people. The references we got about Dániel [Gazdag] have been amazing. Jack [Harrison] has been a great addition, not just in terms of his quality, but his behavior as a person. Cody Baker has come in, and he's a great person and individual."

"We've got great reports about Dániel, like I said, and that just enhances the whole group. I'd say every individual on this team is so focused, humble, and hardworking that when we add those pieces, sometimes two plus two doesn't equal four. It's like two plus two equals five, as ridiculous as that sounds, but it makes the sum of the parts even bigger than what you could expect."

Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster

On making his 200th appearance for the Revolution last Sunday in Columbus:

Polster: "It's a great milestone. I had a little laugh with Marko [Mitrović]. I think it shows the ability to adapt over time but also I think it shows my age, which is what I think he said to me or something along those lines. But, I just want to say thanks to my wife and my family, obviously, supporting me throughout the entire process of my career and allowing me to pursue what I love. To come here and to play in this many matches for this club and the fans, I'm really happy to have done it here."

On scoring his first goal of the season in last weekend's win at Columbus:

Polster: "I've always said I'll play anywhere for this team or for Marko [Mitrović]. We'll leave Dor [Turgeman] up there for now (laughs), but if need be it looked like a good finish."

On the team showing resilience to record another come-from-behind victory:

Polster: "It's not ideal to go down early like that, but we have a game plan. The mentality is always there, and we stuck to that game plan. The [coaching] staff put that together, and I thought we executed from the first minute to the last minute. Again, the [Columbus] goal I think was unlucky, but we stuck to that game plan and followed through with it to get the three points."

On how much the team's mentality starts with Head Coach Marko Mitrović:

Polster: "I think [Mitrović] is a great leader, and a great motivational speaker before games as well. I think he gets us going in the right way. Again, you want that belief, and I think he gives that to us. From there, when he gives us that belief we believe in ourselves even more. As a group, we're able to push through those adversities."

On the team's road form following two straight away wins:

Polster: "No game on the road is easy. Going into those hostile environments can be difficult. But again with the performances and the game plans that we have going into the game, I think it allows us to adapt to those situations much better and come away with good points. I think the performances over the road games have been there, and maybe results haven't gone our way. I think when you look at the body of work that we've put into those games, results will happen."

On veteran midfielder Dániel Gazdag joining the Revolution and what he will add to the team:

Polster: "We've had some good battles. I've kicked [Gazdag] a few times, so I don't have to do that anymore (laughs). His time at Philadelphia was obviously the most time I've gotten to play against him. He's a difficult player to play against, and he's very good in the final third. To add that addition to the team, he seems like a great guy so far and I know his quality is there on the field, so I'm looking forward to playing with him as well."