



MATCH PREVIEW PRESS CONFERENCE: September 3

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović, M Dániel Gazdag, & GM and CSO Chris Tierney

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On midfielder Dániel Gazdag joining the team:

Mitrović: "First of all, we're happy to have Dániel [Gazdag] with us. Clearly, Dániel has his strengths when we talk about final third and arriving in the box, that sense of being in the right spot at the right times. He has the technical abilities to execute those things. It's something that we really believe he can help us with, being more clinical when we're finishing the attack."

"Obviously, there are other parts in the game that are very important. How are we going to get there? To expose his strengths and how he can help us in that part of the game, but also in the defensive side. I would say we see the high strengths that Dániel has to help us on the field."

On acquiring defender Joshua Wynder earlier today:

Mitrović: "Regarding Josh [Wynder], he's another player that I can say I worked with and have known for a long time. Josh is someone who has a very high ceiling. He had a move to Europe in an early stage of his career. I think he gained great experience in the last couple of years in Portugal. He was part of our processes with U.S. Soccer. Josh is someone that we strongly believe is a great fit in terms of culture and how we want to play because he's a great person. He has great charisma, great energy about him, and he has a great ceiling."

On younger players on the roster stepping into key roles:

Mitrović: "Regarding young players, there are two ways we can speak about those things. If we purely talk about young players, we just have to really show them that we believe in them and that we trust them. I think as a young player, that's something that is most important to them- they feel there's belief and trust behind them, knowing that every player on the field can make a mistake. People many times think a young player makes a mistake and they connect that with youth. But I would say, when 'older guys' on paper make a mistake, where is that coming from? Before we talk about ages, we have to talk about quality and if the quality is present or not."

"The second part of the story is, if those young players don't get opportunities, then they will never develop. We are not doing this with the purpose of 'We're a club that wants to develop young players.' We want to play the best players that we can and those players are young players; it is what it is. That's the circumstance that we have."

On how Dániel Gazdag will fit into the team's culture:

Mitrović: "It's something that we really want as a club, to go into the direction where [culture] is our strong foundation. Before we analyze a player as a player, that we know that he fits culturally. The values that we share here day after day, that player will share the same values, same enthusiasm, same energy that everyone else has. We feel that's something that will make us strong in the long-term. If we don't have a good environment, we are very fragile."

“And then after that we go into, ‘What qualities on the field can that certain player bring us?’ But that culture piece is extremely important for us. We feel that if the culture fit isn’t right, then it doesn’t matter how good of a player you are.”

On the team’s depth at central defender and how Joshua Wynder could potentially fit into the backline:

Mitrović: “It’s always great to have a great competition. When you have good players around, then it’s to the coaches to figure out who and how we’re going to play. When Josh comes here, we’ll have to learn how he’s going to interact with this group. Every player, no matter how much I know about Josh, when you come into a different environment, you bring in a different dynamic. But I think this is a good thing to have because the older guys [on the roster as central defenders] that we already have here, we’re very pleased with all of them.

“Tylon [Smith] has only been here for a few weeks but if we connect with the previous question where we spoke about culture, he’s a really great fit. He’s a hard-working, very coachable player. We like his personality as well. He came into our locker room like he’s been there for a long time. What we have to do is just to show to all of them that we care about all of them, knowing that probably two or maybe three of them will play sometimes, depending on what positions we can use and utilize those players. But they have to feel a sense of belonging to our locker room. For me, that’s the biggest task that as a [coaching] staff we have to do.”

On availability updates for winger Luca Langoni and forward Leo Campana:

Mitrović: “With Luca [Langoni], he’s now building his fitness. We know with Luca, certain things happened in his life and then he picked up two injuries, one after another. It was a difficult few months for Luca. We knew, before that, how important Luca was to our team. We’re now at a stage where we have to build his fitness, that’s the most important thing so that Luca can perform. But he’s clear to go, from a health perspective.

“With Leo [Campana], his injury is very tricky. It’s kind of very sensitive. We still want to give Leo time because it’s going to take some time for Leo to come back. But I know that our medical staff and Leo are working so hard day after day. It’s not easy for Leo because he has now been off the field for a period of time. But there’s going to be a period of time where we’re not going to have Leo with us.”

On how to integrate new players into the roster while maintaining the strong run of form:

Mitrović: “I believe certain things happen organically. When we have all those guys at the level where they can play for 90 minutes and compete for their starting spot, I think things will be there organically, decisions. We’re happy with the way the team’s progressing. We just have to be sure that as a team we keep developing. We have a sentence that we always say, ‘We never give up and we are never satisfied.’ We know we can do a better job. Those players [recently added to the roster] can help us be better. Competition, everything, their level of talent, qualities can help us. But I think talking about Starting XI, I think that organically it will end up how it should be.”

On traveling to the West Coast and what he expects from Saturday’s match at LA Galaxy:

Mitrović: “It’s an interesting trip. We fly all over the country. It’s a six-hour flight and we change three time zones. It is challenging. But it’s a challenge that every team in this league faces. It’s not something that’s more difficult for us than for the other teams. Yes, obviously playing LA Galaxy away and at home are very different because of everything we spoke about.

“They’re a team that, as we know, won MLS Cup two seasons ago. They still have a good core of those players, same coach. They’re a team that’s very good in trying to control the game with the ball. Very strong in defending to attacking transitions. They have talent all over the field, in all lines. We also have our strengths. We’ll try to expose certain weaknesses on their team and expose our strengths, like in every game. So, I think it’s going to be a great challenge for both teams and I expect a good soccer game.”

Revolution Midfielder Dániel Gazdag

On joining the Revolution after previously playing for one of the club's rivals, the Philadelphia Union:

Gazdag: "Thank you so much. Yeah, obviously, it's a good rivalry between the Philadelphia Union and New England. When I first got to Philly, my teammates there talked a lot about New England to me because, in the COVID year, I think they played five or six times against each other, even in the playoffs. I know New England won that game, so they were pissed. Obviously, I know about the rivalry. I played a lot of games against the Revolution. I know some of the guys pretty good as well. I'm really happy to be here, and I'm excited as well."

On joining New England's attack:

Gazdag: "I agree, I think the Revolution has a really good team this season. They play really nice football, so I'm excited to join. Obviously, that was one of the reasons for me to be here. I would like to help the team in any possible ways. There are great players in the team who have already proven themselves in the league. I'm happy to play with them and help the team."

On what he hopes to bring to the Revolution on and off the field:

Gazdag: "Yeah, as I said, I would like to help in any possible ways. Obviously, I'm an offensive player, so [helping] in the attacking part of the game, that's my job. Scoring goals, giving assists, but obviously in the defending part as well. The way the Revolution are playing, I think there is a big role for the midfielders to help in the defending part as well. So, as I said, [I want to help] any possible ways. Off the field, obviously it's a young group. I'm one of the older guys in the locker room right now, so with my experience, I can help the younger guys and be one of the leaders of the team."

On his conversations with New England Head Coach Marko Mitrović on his role:

Gazdag: "We talked about different positions. The first time he called me, we had a good 15, 20 minutes talking about the game, talking about the club. Obviously, I've only been here for three days, so it's not a long time, but I'm sure we'll find a spot for me. As I said, I don't mind playing anywhere, basically."

On playing alongside Carles Gil and Jack Harrison:

Gazdag: "Obviously, they are great players. I've seen it already in training, and before I was watching games, so I know how good they are. It's exciting to play with them. I think we will have a lot to offer each other."

On getting back to the production levels he had in Philadelphia:

Gazdag: "I scored a lot more goals in Philadelphia than in Columbus. Obviously, I'm working to get back to that form. I think I'm in a good spot right now and I'm where I want to be. If I'm mentally in place and I train hard on the field, everything can go in a good direction."

Revolution General Manager and Chief Soccer Officer Chris Tierney

On the addition of Dániel Gazdag:

Tierney: "Speaking on Dániel [Gazdag], I think you're looking at a player who has really good experience in our league. He fits a lot of the requirements we're looking at and looking for in terms of his on-field abilities, his ability to combine, combination play. We think he'll be a really good complement to the other pieces that we have in place already. You look at his goal scoring record as an attacking midfielder in our league, he has goals in him. He has flexibility in terms of where you can play him. You can play him in a number of different spots. So, it's just another good option to raise the overall level of the team, provide competition in our attacking spots. You've heard me talk about it a lot, but the cultural fit is a huge part of it as well. Daniel checked all the boxes for us and we're happy to have him here."

On the addition of Joshua Wynder:

Tierney: "In terms of Josh [Wynder], Josh is a player that we've been tracking for a long time. Marko [Mitrović] and I have had conversations about Josh's abilities since Marko took the job. He's obviously had experience working with him up close. He's a very high-potential player who made a move early from

the USL to Benfica, has featured a number of times for Benfica B, and was kind of in the mix to start getting minutes with the first team, but I think it was the right time for him to take on a project where he can take his development to the next level. So, we're excited to provide that opportunity for him here. We expect him to be a key contributor for us, and we're excited to start working with him."

On the club's summer transfer activity in light of next year's sprint season and calendar change:

Tierney: "I think it's important to know, with these loan deals for Tylon Smith and Josh Wynder, part of the consideration for us was them being able to help us for the remainder of this year, but you also end up getting them for a full competitive season with the sprint season next year. So, that was certainly part of our thinking in structuring those deals that way. In terms of what the new roster investment model looks like, there's been discussions amongst the CSO group with the league about what that looks like. Those talks are still in the early stages, so I can't really provide any details on exactly what it looks like, but it does seem like the new commissioner is very interested in opening things up a bit to allow teams to spend more and have a little bit more flexibility in how they spend that money. It's going to be an ongoing process at the league level to determine the best way to move forward, but we're excited to explore how to best navigate the changes that come, and we think we've put ourselves in a position to have some flexibility when those changes do come."

On the team's cultural transformation under Head Coach Marko Mitrović and his staff:

Tierney: "I spoke about it last time I talked to you guys, but coming off the last few seasons, I think the number one trait that we were looking for in our leader going forward was someone who was going to set a new culture for us. Marko [Mitrović] has certainly done that. He did that at the Under-20 level with the U.S. National Team. It's a very important part of what Marko is all about. A good culture at the club, a good environment, is key to having a high-performing team. Over the course of my playing career, I've been in environments that were really good working environments with a great culture, and ones that weren't. You always see better results in a good environment, a good working environment. So, credit really goes to Marko and his staff. They've been transformational in terms of the way that we approach our work every day, and we're lucky to have Marko and his staff here."

On how Josh Wynder fits into the club's center back depth:

Tierney: "That remains to be seen. Our thinking in bringing these players in is that we want to provide competition in all positions on the field. The more quality you have amongst the center back group from one to five, the better it's going to be for the health of the team overall. We play a relatively congested schedule in the second half [of the season] here. We have a bunch of midweek games coming up, so I'm sure there's going to be opportunities for everyone to contribute. So, when the squad has to be rotated because of the demands of the schedule, we feel like we're in a good spot to have quality come in and replace those players that are starting at the time. Basically, the idea is more competition in the squad raises the overall quality. That's what we're trying to do in the window, and we felt like we've done that."

On making roster decisions while considering next season and future transfer windows:

Tierney: "We're certainly always thinking not just what's good for us in the short term, but we map out multiple transfer windows ahead and how we expect to use the resources that we have. Flexibility is always going to be a key part of it for us. We want to retain the flexibility to be able to add players in positions where we need to strengthen the team. Things evolve over the course of the season. There are always injuries. There's interest in players from other clubs, and you have to be adaptable and ready to fill the holes that might present themselves. So, we're certainly conscious of the impact of the signings that we've made this window and how they affect our ability to do the things we want to do in January and next summer. That's certainly a big part of our thinking with all of these moves."