



MATCH PREVIEW PRESS CONFERENCE: September 7
Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M and Brooklyn Raines

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On his takeaways from the first meeting between New England and New York City FC on August 23:

Mitrović: "I respect New York City a lot. I respected them before the game [on Aug. 23]. I think I respect them even more after that game. They are a team that is very well coached and has a lot of quality on the field. When you put those things together, you always have a high level of challenge ahead of you. I also think playing them [on Aug. 23], it puts a lot of certainty in both teams. I feel maybe the players know each other even better than we maybe know what challenges are on the field. I'm looking forward to the game [on Wednesday]."

On how the roster's depth will help the team through a two-game week:

Mitrović: "Every player helps, not just when it's a stretch like the schedule that we have now, it helps during the whole season because there are always setbacks with injuries. Every player has to be ready to perform when they play. It's great that we have some additions, but also, we are very happy with the guys that we had from the beginning of the season and the work that they put in every day. So, I know that whoever is on the field will be ready to perform for the minutes that they get."

On how the attack has performed in recent away matches:

Mitrović: "If we look at the last five away games, if we name it by order, it was Montreal, Toronto, D.C., Columbus, and LA Galaxy. I think if we speak purely about attacking and then in general stats, the team performed in every game. If we go purely by stats, I believe we deserve more. I think we had, in all those games, very strong attacking performances. I don't think that our defensive performance was something that put us in a bad spot. It was just the circumstances, but there are certain moments that are just decisive in games, and you have to do everything to have those moments on your side."

"Unfortunately, some of those games that I just named, the [results] haven't been on our side. But again, there were positives. We have to believe in those positives. We have to keep going and have the right intentions on the field. We believe, in the long term, we'll get the right outcome."

On the challenges of playing New York City FC at Citi Field on Wednesday:

Mitrović: "I will stay with this, we will play against a team that is very well coached and has a lot of talent. We spoke before the first game when we played New York City FC [on Aug. 23]. They are a team that played in the final of the [Eastern] conference last year, and that have clarity in what they are doing in any given moment on the field, with talent to expose that. There is a unique circumstance when you play at their field, even though we're not going to play at Yankee Stadium, we're going to play at Citi Field."

"But, I would say that every team that played against them had the same circumstance. Every away game that we have played, there is a very unique circumstance. You can talk about the LA Galaxy trip, where you have a six-hour flight and a three-hour time zone difference, but it is what it is. It's just the circumstance and for every team it's the same, and maybe that's their advantage because they're more used to it than others. But I don't want that to be any excuse, because at the moment, we'll have the same circumstances they have for the game."

On defender Ilay Feingold and forward/winger Luca Langoni returning to full fitness with both seeing minutes in last weekend's match at LA Galaxy:

Mitrović: "First of all, we have to be patient with Ilay [Feingold] and Luca [Langoni]. I would say that the minutes that they got in [recent] games, we are happy about that, but they are still in 'preseason time'. And they would need several weeks more to get somewhere where you can say, 'OK, they can perform for longer minutes'. Because we have this stretch of games, and when you have this stretch of games, it's very difficult to build their game fitness through the training sessions. We're trying to use those games as much as we can to put them in the right spot. I can't say we don't have expectations, but it would be very selfish if we put [those] expectations on both Ilay and Luca [too soon]. We have to understand Ilay has two weeks of training after a five-month [injury absence]. He had the surgery six weeks ago. So, as I said, I'm very happy to see that they are healthy and back. But also, I don't want to put any high expectations on the both of them in the next few weeks."

On his preference between Chicago deep-dish and New York-style pizza:

Mitrović: "I prefer like very Italian pizza. So, I wasn't a big fan of that Chicago deep-dish pizza. I like regular pizza. So, I bet you can find some of those spots in both cities."

Revolution Midfielder Brooklyn Raines:

On Saturday's match at LA Galaxy:

Raines: "Obviously, it was an unfortunate result, but at the end of the game, [Head] Coach [Marko Mitrović] was just explaining that I don't think we necessarily did anything wrong. Sometimes, that's just how games go. Obviously, it wasn't a great performance from us, but I think Wednesday is another opportunity for us to kind of have a quick turnaround. But yeah, at the end of the day, I think everyone did their job, but again, it's just unfortunate how it went. But you can definitely see that we're still continuing to make progress and everyone's tied into that. So, I think as long as we continue to just keep pushing for results, then we'll finish really strong."

On facing New York City FC and if he got a unique perspective watching the seasons' first meeting when he was suspended for yellow card accumulation:

Raines: "Yeah, I'd say a little bit. Obviously, I was up in the suite with some of the other guys just watching the boys. Yeah, I'm excited. I think I've only played New York, I think, maybe once. I think definitely going over there will be another test for ourselves as a team. I'll be happy to get to play against them and hopefully help the team. But yeah, we all know that New York's a really good team. We're just going there for a win."

On how he complements Jack Harrison, Carles Gil, and Dániel Gazdag:

Raines: "I think all three of them are extraordinary players. I think especially with Jack Harrison on the wing, just his ability to go 1v1. I think he already has like [six] assists in five games, so yeah, he's doing an excellent job as well as Carles. Like I said before, there's not really much communication there [with Gil], but it's just like chemistry. We can both just read each other's minds and kind of just go off that. Then with everything, I'm just trying to learn from these guys, how to be more professional day in and day out. I've spoken to Dániel. He's actually my locker buddy, so we're kind of getting to know each other more."

I've seen a few of his clips at Columbus, and he is, again, an extraordinary player, and I'll be very happy to get to know him more and then hopefully share more of the field."

On what Ilay Feingold and Luca Langoni can bring to the team as they return from injuries:

Raines: "For Luca, he's just a very direct winger. I think for one, he brings pace, and then I think just his work rate as well. Even most wingers, I'd say, are not really prone to wanting to defend, just kind of wanting to attack. But I think Luca can do both sides of the ball. Then Ilay, I'd say the same, a very direct fullback [who can] get up and down the field. Obviously, both of them will bring assists to us, so I'm very excited to see them back in the team."

On Joshua Wynder and the Revolution adding multiple young American internationals like himself:

Raines: "Yeah, it's pretty cool. I was speaking to Matt Polster earlier and he was like, 'How many 21-year-olds are we going to bring to the squad?' But no, he's cool. He's a great guy, both on and off the field. I think he can definitely give us some depth. I think he has a great connection with Ethan [Kohler] just in terms of being with the national team and kind of growing up with each other. I'm very excited to see him here and hopefully he can help us get results."

On playing at Citi Field with the unique pitch dimensions:

Raines: "For us as a team and for me personally, I think we just approach it the same way as we would any other game. Not to [focused] on the conditions or anything like that. I think just go out there and do what we've been doing, just sticking together, sticking to our principles. Obviously, like you said, like the field can come into play, but I think as a whole, we're not really worried about that. I think we're just going to go out there and do our thing."