



TRANSCRIPT: Match Preview Press Conference (Sept. 17)

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Carles Gil

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On midfielder Brooklyn Raines and defender Peyton Miller collecting their first senior call-ups to the United States Men's National Team:

Mitrović: "I'm really happy for all of our guys, not just Brooklyn [Raines] and Peyton [Miller], when they get call-ups for their national teams. I think every player has a dream to represent their country, and I'm super proud of all of those guys who make it. But we have a game in two days, so my focus is on that game. After that game, we'll have more time to celebrate individual successes."

On matching up against Orlando City SC on Saturday:

Mitrović: "Their strong form hasn't just been since [returning to play after] the World Cup. I think when they had that coaching change at the very beginning of the season, they started to change the way they play a little bit, and they already started to pick up points. Obviously, with some new additions they brought to their team, another level of quality, and ultimately started to earn more points. If we look purely at recent form, they are one of the best teams in the league."

"They had that unfortunate result last night in the [U.S. Open] Cup semifinal, where I believe they wanted to go all the way to the Final. As I said, they are a team with a strong identity and a strong way of playing. They're in very good form, and we expect a very difficult game."

On midfielder Alhassan Yusuf and winger Jack Harrison sustaining long-term injuries last week:

Mitrović: "Talking purely about [Alhassan] Yusuf and Jack [Harrison], it is unfortunate, both the way the injuries happened and the [severity of them]. They are two guys who are very important to our game. That's not a secret. But the most important thing for them now is to recover and approach that recovery process in the best possible way."

"We're not going to rush players back from injury. When they come back, [we want them to be] strong and ready, and that's the next objective for every injured player, including those two."

"On the other side, we have a very hard-working group, and we always talk about being ready to perform. I strongly believe the guys who are now going to get more minutes because of Jack and Yusuf will use those opportunities to perform."

On preparing to defend against Orlando City SC's attack, which features Antoine Griezmann and Daryl Dike:

Mitrović: "With [Antoine] Griezmann, we're talking about a proven forward who has played in a Champions League semifinal and won a World Cup. He has had an amazing career, and you can see his impact on the team immediately, not just through goals and assists, but also through his performances. I actually appreciate how much of a team player he is and how willing he is to work for the team."

"Daryl Dike took a great step forward before he left MLS and then had two major injuries while playing abroad. From a human perspective, I wish him all the best, and hopefully that's behind him so he can keep [the level] he had before.

"They are two very different player profiles that challenge opponents in very different ways. They would be a massive addition to any MLS team, and that's what they're doing for Orlando, helping the club become better. As I said, with [Orlando's] new coaching staff, they have a different identity in the way they play, and when you add quality players on top of that, things become easier. We're not going to give special treatment to stopping Griezmann or stopping Dike, but we do have to be aware of the different qualities each of them brings to the field."

On how Peyton Miller and Brooklyn Raines have developed throughout the season to earn senior call-ups to the United States National Team:

Mitrović: "Both of them have taken the next steps in their careers this year, but if you look at their overall journeys, this is just one part of them. They have to keep going, keep developing, and keep getting better. I know this is a great opportunity for them and maybe a confirmation of where they are currently, but I also believe they're not going to take it for granted. This isn't just about receiving a call-up. It's about becoming a consistent national team player and taking the necessary steps to stay there.

"As a starting point, being on the roster is a great achievement for them, and I'm very happy. To be fair, I'll talk with them more about it after the game against Orlando [City SC] because right now we have our game and we have things to do in the next two days. After that, I can switch my focus and root for them even more with the national team."

On if he feels Raines and Miller can potentially feature on the United States roster for the FIFA World Cup in 2030:

Mitrović: "I think having high ambitions is amazing, and we all have the right to dream big. On the other hand, we have to understand what we have to do to make those big dreams real. Do I believe both of them can be part of the 2030 World Cup? I do. I think both have very high ceilings and are national team-profile players. They have the talent and potential to get there. But, as I said, they still have a long way to go to become consistent national team players.

"What I love and appreciate is the way they approach every day, how they take care of themselves, and how they're trying to become the best versions of themselves. That's what gives me confidence that we'll root for them in U.S. jerseys in four years at a World Cup."

On New England finding different ways to win at an important point of the season"

Mitrović: "We are in a performance environment, and I understand that the highest outcome is winning games, or getting a result on the field. Something that we are really trying to do, and we are still growing as a team, is how we can control the game in the way we want. That's what we're striving for. At the same time, we're still growing as a team and learning how to consistently control games in the way we want.

"But on the other side, we also have to accept and embrace when games don't go the way we wanted them to go. That doesn't mean we don't know how to behave in those moments. Maybe we only attack for one moment, or have three attacks in a game, but it's about how we can convert most of those attacks. Or maybe we have to defend three times in a game, but we have to be successful. Or maybe we attack 30 times or defend 30 times, but we are going to approach to be efficient in those moments.

"That's something we're continuously working on from a technical and tactical perspective, but also from a mindset and mentality [standpoint]. Whatever happens on the field, we have to embrace it because it's part of the game. A challenge in front of us is always going to be a challenge. Even if it's an empty net and you have to put the ball in that empty net, it's still a challenge. [The key is] how you embrace that challenge and make the most of a situation, whatever situation it was on the field."

Revolution Midfielder Carles Gil

On the team's mentality after a successful road stretch, winning three of four away games:

Gil: "Yeah, I think something we wanted to improve from the first half of the season is the away games. Obviously, playing away is always a little more difficult than at home, and like I said, we wanted to be the same team away and home, and we showed that in the last four games. Maybe our best game or best performance, maybe attacking, was in LA and we lost the game. Football is like this. But yeah, I think we are improving every game. We are a better team and it's what we want – to continue like this and get to the playoffs."

On playing in front of the home fans for the first time in a month on Saturday:

Gil: "Yeah, we're very excited, obviously. Like I said, it's easier to play at home with your fans. I think they are excited too with the season so far. We play against Orlando, it's a very difficult team. They are also having good results in the last two months, so it will be difficult."

On contending for the postseason and the team's goals for the rest of the season:

Gil: "Obviously, the last two years were difficult years not making the playoffs. We want to play this type of game. These type of games are special and different, and we are here for that. So yeah, we are happy with the place we are in right now. We want to continue getting better, even if we can make second place. Obviously, [catching] Nashville is almost impossible, but we will try to be there and try to play the first game at home in playoffs, so be in the first four places in the East. But you know it's very tight, so first try to continue winning games, make the playoffs, and then try to be the highest possible [seed]."

On how injuries to Alhassan Yusuf and Jack Harrison will affect the team:

Gil: "Yeah, it's very hard for the team. They are both keys for us. [Alhassan] Yusuf, since he arrived here, he performs every game. Even this year scoring goals, he's a player that makes many things for the team. And yeah, we are going to miss him, and Jack [Harrison] too. Jack, since he arrived, he showed what type of player he is, an amazing player. We are sad, obviously, because also when we are full or almost full, we are better because we are competitive in many senses."

"Also on the bench, it's harder for Marko [Mitrović] to make the XI, the bench, everything, so it's difficult. But also, I think it's a moment for other guys to maybe make a step and have an opportunity. I think, for example, Jackson [Yueill] is having a difficult season because when you don't play, it's difficult. And the last two or three games, he did amazing. It's why everyone is important here. This type of thing can happen, and you need to be right."

On the atmosphere within the team following its recent victories:

Gil: "Yeah, obviously we were coming from long travel and many games away. So, I think after the Chicago game, we felt that the job was done in those four games. We wanted, like I said obviously, to win also in LA, but I think overall it's very good results and the way we won the games. And yeah, for me, Marko [Mitrović] is the best. Not just the results, he arrived here in a difficult moment for the team and for the club. And I said from the first day, he changed everything starting from the mentality. I think he doesn't care much about [individual credit], but for sure he deserves it."

On all players across the roster stepping up and contributing:

Gil: "I think it's what we want – to be a team. And like I said before, it's not just 11, 12, 13 players, but 23, 24, 25 players. Everyone is having their moment this season. It's a long season and we're having injuries. So yeah, I think this team is building from Marko [Mitrović] to be a team. Everyone has his own role. Every game is different. The way we approach the game depends on the [opponent]. So yeah, it's key that everyone has his role in every moment, and I think everyone feels very good."

On the team's motivation ahead of Saturday's home matchup with Orlando City SC:

(Translated from Spanish)

Gil: "The motivation is the same, which is to keep winning games. We don't want to lower the [standard]. I think the last games at home weren't as good as we would have liked; the one against Houston and the

one against New York City. So, there we have to take a step forward. Orlando is a complicated team that, as I said, has been improving in the last few months. And it's going to be difficult, it's not going to be easy. But, like I said, if we want to stay in the top spots [in the Eastern Conference], which is obviously our goal, we're going to have to win out of the nine that are left, many of them. And I hope we start with Saturday."

On what he would attribute the team's success in the last four road matches to:

(Translated from Spanish)

Gil: "I think we are a team that has worked a lot since the preseason. I think it was clear that we were going to need time, because the arrival of Marko [Mitrović] and his staff, with many new concepts for the team, would require time. Also, we have many young players. Now, I think we are seeing the team that we want to be, that we have been working on all this time. I think we still have room for improvement. And well, I think it's important. We are almost reaching the final stretch and arriving in this situation, obviously, for the playoffs, is good. But well, just like us, there are several teams, as they say, 'With the little arrow up.' And we must continue, not relax. We are prepared for this Saturday to try to win the game."

On Alhassan Yusuf and Jack Harrison sustaining injuries last week:

(Translated from Spanish)

Gil: "[Yusuf and Harrison] are very, very important for us. Obviously, we are sad about it. In the end, the more we are available for the team, in this case for Marko [Mitrović], to make his lineups much better, without a doubt. But as almost always in football, it helps you, in this case, that there are other players who play those positions, because they normally aren't playing, to take a step forward and to have their moment. I have said before that Jackson [Yueill] is a clear case in these last games, with the performances he has given, that he has been training, being ready and prepared to have this opportunity. It is important that we are all ready for when this kind of thing happens, to take a step forward."