



TRANSCRIPT: Match Preview Press Conference (Sept. 24)

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & M Dániel Gazdag

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On the challenges of traveling to play against Real Salt Lake this weekend:

Mitrović: "If we look at their [Real Salt Lake] results and maybe their recent form, obviously they are probably not happy with the results they had in recent games. But watching their games, I would say that they have really good intentions both in and out of possession. Sometimes you're in those moments when things don't go your way or you don't get the outcome you want, but I can see a very consistent behavior of the team. It's actually a team that is very well coached."

"Then going to Salt Lake, there are always challenges in terms of travel, in terms of altitude, but it's not something that is different for us than for every other team. So, we know we'll have one very motivated team to prove that they are better than recent results show. And on the other side, it's that challenge of what I said about weather and altitude. Every game is challenging for itself, and we'll go there to face those challenges."

On how the team has looked in training this week:

Mitrović: "We are where we are. We had Sunday off, then started with Monday. As we always do, we use every day to work and to maximize in terms of everything. I don't see that our behavior has changed since day one. The guys are very consistent with, as I said, coming here and maximizing every day."

On maintaining momentum despite missing key starters to international duty:

Mitrović: "I just spoke about that, and I don't think there is a magic formula or if we do this, we're going to be guaranteed of success, or somebody will not be guaranteed of success. We have our approach, and we just have to keep doing what we are doing right now. Like I just said, maximizing every day here and just having very short objectives. How can we do the best every day, day-by-day, and then keep developing, keep improving, and keep having clarity on who we are on the field. That's the only way we believe we can get the outcome."

"Now, we have players who are not going to play in this game because of different reasons – some players because of injuries and some players because of international call-ups. We have a group of guys that really work hard every day. We believe and we trust each of them, and I think we've shown that through the whole season. Whoever is on the field has full trust from the staff and has full belief, not just from the staff, but from the rest of the team. The players that are going to step on the field are the best players for us. We strongly believe in them."

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

Mitrović: "Luca [Langoni] is in a very good spot. Luca will be in consideration for this game. I said a few weeks ago when I spoke about Ilay [Feingold] and Luca, I know people got excited because they were integrated with the team. But there are also psychological components of that because being off the field so long and away from the team, sometimes just being on the bench and being around the team helps a lot from a mental perspective. Now, with Luca, he has had several weeks of trainings, and he is getting to a stage where certain minutes he can play and he can perform. We feel positive about Luca, but still he

will need some time before we can talk of him playing the whole game and performing. With Leo [Campana], he is making steps forward. We hope that everything is going to be fine in the coming weeks and that we are going to have Leo back with us."

On central defender Ethan Kohler's emergence in his first MLS season:

Mitrović: "I think you summarized a lot of things that Ethan [Kohler] has actually [improved]. Like you said about dedicating certain things to Ethan that he can do and improve, you have players that are going to take it very seriously and work on it. You have players that are going to be very motivated but for a very short period of time. You might have a group of players that are never going to take that advice seriously. Ethan is one of those guys that takes everything so serious, and his mindset is just amazing. It's not just about him and his development, Ethan is also highly a team player. He is not just aware of himself, but also of the team, how our team can get better, and what our standard is. Ethan is one of those guys that actually keeps our standards high coming into this environment every day. I have only great things to say about Ethan. I'm not worried about saying that because, knowing his mentality, great words about him are not going to put him in sleep mode because Ethan is who he is and he'll just keep going."

On if younger players could potentially play a big role in Saturday's match:

Mitrović: "Regarding Judah [Siqueira], he is with the [U.S. Under-17] national team, so he is not going to be present in Salt Lake for the game. We'll have players, besides all the players that are not here with us or are injured, that are available. As I said, we really believe in all of them. Whoever is on the field, we strongly believe that that player can perform and help us. Now, if that player spent most of the time with the second team or most of the time with the first team, we believe in our processes and we kind of don't separate them in that way. We all belong to this club, and every player that is with us, again, we strongly believe in those guys."

Revolution Midfielder Dániel Gazdag

On settling into a new environment after arriving in New England in August:

Gazdag: "I'm actually really happy here. It's a good environment. I think they did a really good job creating this. I would say it's a place where nobody's really looking for problems but solutions, so it's a good place to work."

On the team's strengths:

Gazdag: "I think it's a really strong group of players. Really good results during the season, since I've been here, so that's a really good thing. I think we have a lot of positives when we are playing. We have quick guys, we're also good on the ball, can keep the ball for a longer time, and then hurt the opponent with our strengths. And as I said, [we have] really good individuals on the team as well, so I think there are a lot of different things we can do. The playoffs [are] coming, so we would like to be in good shape for that, obviously, getting the better seed as [best] we can. We will work, and we will fight for everything."

On the level of confidence he has in the team's potential:

Gazdag: "As I said, everyone was so helpful with me since day one, so it's a really good place for me to be at and to work. So, I was happy with that, and I think it's a really good team. They showed that during the season. I'm really positive about the future, and we're confident that we can beat anyone. I think we are confident about the season."

On the challenges in traveling to Utah for Saturday's match at Real Salt Lake:

Gazdag: "Obviously, there are some challenges. It's a long travel. The altitude in Salt Lake, we don't play them as much, so we don't know the team as much, but the staff did a good job showing [us] how they play. I think we will be ready for that, and obviously the challenge is part of the game. I think we are ready, and we go there to win the game."

On central defender Ethan Kohler's strengths and what he brings to the team:

Gazdag: "I think [Kohler] is a very good player on and off the ball as well. As you said, he can play different positions, and I think the most important [thing] is that everyone is confident on the ball, which

helps if somebody is in trouble on the field. [Then] everyone else is showing up and trying to get the ball and help each other. I think that's really important.

"I think the [positive] environment that I was talking about before helps in this, that everyone is confident, and nobody is scared to get the ball, to make mistakes. I think Ethan [Kohler] and also other young guys are having a really good season, and they show that they can be important pieces of a team that is going for everything this season."

On his preferred position on the field and his versatility:

Gazdag: "Obviously, I've been moved to different positions during my career. I like to play in the center [of the field], be on the ball a little bit more. But whatever it takes to be on the field and to help the team, I'm happy with that."