



TRANSCRIPT: Post-Training Media Availability (Oct. 8)

Soundbytes from Head Marko Mitrović & D Ethan Kohler

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On Leo Campana's status in working his way back from a long-term injury:

Mitrović: "I think we're getting closer and closer with Leo [Campana]. Unfortunately, he really had a very sensitive injury that was kind of coming back, and he is now in a good spot. Fingers crossed, but we are getting closer and closer with Leo."

On re-integrating players who returned from international duty:

Mitrović: "During this international break, we didn't just have Peyton [Miller] and Brooklyn [Raines], we had several guys. Dor [Turgeman] and Ilay [Feingold], were with the Israel National Team. Tylon Smith was with South Africa. We had Cristiano [Oliveria] and Judah [Siqueira] with the youth national teams. And we are very proud."

"I think that every player's dream, besides playing for their club, is to play for their national team. And when they get those invites, we see their happiness, and we are proud. At the end of the day, one part of our job is to try to develop as many players [as possible] for national teams around the world, because we have players from everywhere."

On the availability statuses of players returning from international duty for Saturday:

Mitrović: "They will all be in consideration for Saturday."

On Peyton Miller and Brooklyn Raines making their United States Men's National Team debuts:

Mitrović: "I think both [Peyton Miller and Brooklyn Raines] were very ready for the opportunity. Obviously, they have both played so many games this season, so if you speak about their form and current general technical, tactical, and physical status, they were in a very good spot. But as a young player going to play and make a debut for the national team, there is a part of uncertainty."

"Talking to them before the camp, I saw one clear mindset, a very strong belief that they were going to do well. I'm happy that they got a good amount of minutes and that they both performed well, together with all [the] other young players around the league that got the opportunity with the national team."

On the importance of having the full team back together as the team prepares for a postseason run:

Mitrović: "We don't talk about the playoffs. We talk about how we can make our day great, and having our group together, not just the players, but everyone in the building and all the staff around here, it's great."

"We just enjoy being together and [enjoy] pushing ourselves every day to be the best version of ourselves. That's what we are trying to do every day, and we are happy when we are all together to do that."

On Saturday's match against Seattle:

Mitrović: "Seattle Sounders is probably one of those teams in the league that nobody likes to play. They are a team that, somehow, over the last years, always has that end-of-the-season form where they kind of find their feet, start getting great results, and get into great form before the end of the season."

"I think they are a team that really accepts circumstances on the field. Whether they are with the ball or without the ball, or whatever is happening on the field, I think the team has good behavior and a lot of experience. And obviously, with experience comes quality and how to handle situations. I'm really happy and excited to see how we're going to face that challenge on Saturday."

On defender Ethan Kohler's valuable qualities on and off the field:

Mitrović: "We have spoken many times [about Ethan Kohler], and I like that people, including all of you guys, are really praising Ethan. When you score goals and assists, it's somehow easier to get in the spotlight. But having someone like Ethan, it's not just that he can play multiple positions, as you mentioned, but we can also speak about his mentality and the mindset of the group. I think Ethan is a great reflection of us, and he's somebody that if we speak about, coming in every day and maximizing every day that we have ahead of us, that's what Ethan does, and with a strong focus."

"Ethan is, as I love to say, one of those players that, if you need the right answer, you always go to Ethan with a question and you'll get that, because he's so focused and always aware of what he has to do. I think players like Ethan are always appreciated in the locker room from everyone, not just from the players and from the staff, but I think from the people as a club, because they set and then keep certain standards that are very valuable for environment."

On Ethan Kohler's potential path to a senior national team call-up and Brooklyn Raines's soccer IQ following the international break:

Mitrović: "With Ethan [Kohler], I think what is in Ethan's control is what we just spoke [about]; his actions. I think what Ethan can do is just do what he's doing and do his best day after day. There are other people that will have to make their decisions, and the only way you can impact those decisions is being at your best all the time. That's what Ethan does, and he just has to be patient with that. But also, if we speak about the long career that we all believe Ethan will have, this is just a very short period of time. You have to sustain the same level of focus, same level of mentality, same level of your performances, in order to get there. There is no shortcut. Now, I strongly believe if Ethan keeps doing [what] he's doing now, he'll get his opportunity and his time."

"Regarding Brooklyn, I love the question that you're asking, because if you purely watch Brooklyn just on the ball, he is obviously a very good player on the ball. But I think that small decisions that Brooklyn makes on the field, if you just watch the game, sometimes you might not see [them]. I didn't talk to people from the [United States Men's] National Team yet, but I believe that they saw that, because if you see the good amount of minutes that Brooklyn got, I think that those things were recognized. That's something that is a really high strength of Brooklyn, to understand and have great communication, but it's more like understanding what's going on the field and making right decisions in relationship with his teammates."

On the Seattle Sounders' recent strong performances and the challenges they could present in Saturday's home match:

Mitrović: "I would say that even when [Seattle] didn't have a good stretch of results, I think they stick to who they are. I think they also have a lot of injuries and obviously different personalities on the field, just like there are different levels and different outcomes, and you cannot hide from that. I think now they have so many players coming back from injury because they didn't give up on who they are, and now they have more quality on the field automatically. Their level of their game raised and then they got results from that. So, I think the biggest change is that they have players available to play."

On how the team handles "outside noise" to remain focused:

Mitrović: "I don't think there is any noise. I don't feel it. Everybody can say whatever they want. In today's world, somebody can put two sentences on social media, and then in one second, in another part of the world, somebody can read that. I would say that sometimes we have to be aware what kind of messages

and what power, like anything we say, has today, but I don't see that as noise. Different people have different opinions. Those are their opinions. I have my opinion. We didn't speak about that. To be honest, I don't want to say I don't care in terms of some arrogant way, but it's just not my business what other people will say about something."

Revolution Defender Ethan Kohler

On how the team is physically and mentally prepared for the final stretch of the regular season after an international break:

Kohler: "We had those four days off after our last game [at Real Salt Lake], but I wouldn't really qualify the intensive training, the videos, and the tactical overview we've had over the past international break as time off. So, I think we're very much so still in a rhythm, and I think that the staff did a really great job of making sure that there's not this stop-start and that we'll be able to flow smoothly into the upcoming sprint."

On teammates Brooklyn Raines and Peyton Miller making their senior international debuts with the USMNT:

Kohler: "Of course, it's great. We're one big family, so when people from the club go away for international duty and do so well as [Miller and Raines] both did, it's obviously super exciting for everyone and we're all super proud and happy for them. They absolutely deserve it. With the performances they've been putting in with us, I had no doubt that would translate over with the [United States] Men's National Team. It's great just having them back at training, even though it was a slightly de-load day [on Thursday] it was great having them here."

On how the team recognizes its players called up for international duty:

Kohler: "As much I as I would love to say we have a tradition [of recognition] or something, I think everyone is pretty focused on this game ahead. So, it's a congrats, a welcome back, and we're just excited to reintegrate them so they can hopefully help us continue making a difference in the games ahead."

On the importance of maximizing opportunities for points at home late in the regular season:

Kohler: "I'd say it's as important as it was in the beginning of the season and in the middle of the season. I think it has been a strength of ours that we approach every game, especially home or away, in the same way. So, of course, there's the added pressure and there's new challenges that come with it being towards the end of the season, but we're going to approach it with the same intensity and intent that we have every single home game this season."

On how rewarding his first season in MLS has been:

Kohler: "It has been a great season for me personally. I think a lot of the credit goes to the staff, and to Marko [Mitrović] especially, for having trust in me and for building me up because I came into this season not playing regularly at the club level. I think I'm very aligned with him tactically and from a philosophy standpoint, and he and the rest of the staff have guided me."

"I know I had a bit of a rough start in that first game, but since then, the staff, just their continued trust in me and playing alongside great players has allowed me to kind of come a little bit more into my own. I'm just very happy that I'm able to make an impact and help the team. I think, for me, that's what I've been most proud of from this season."

On how he builds calmness and confidence in possession:

Kohler: "On the ball, I think you're confident on the ball when you know you have good players around you that are going to make themselves available and they're always in the right spaces. That gives me a

lot of trust. Of course, through youth you work technically, but I think the biggest part is knowing that I have so much quality around me. There's always going to be a solution available."

On his aspirations for a senior international call-up after featuring for the U.S. at the youth level:

Kohler: "In terms of the national team, I'm so happy to see guys in our environment going and doing so well. Of course, that's a step I would love to take. I have a lot to learn, but it's good to see that guys in our environment are going there and thriving there."

On the importance of winning the midfield battle on Saturday and disrupting Seattle tactically:

Kohler: "[Seattle] is a very good side. They definitely like to play through the midfield. I think, not as much so but of course being switched on positionally is very important, but our overall cohesiveness is what's going to be our greatest strength. Our togetherness in this game, knowing that we all have each other's back throughout our lines and knowing that we're all on the same page tactically hopefully won't open us up to transition. And when there is that transition moment, we know we have a lot of players with a lot of quality one-on-one defensively. I think it's knowing the task we have ahead of us and all being on the same page of what we're going to do."