



TRANSCRIPT: Match Preview Press Conference (Oct. 22)

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & D Josh Wynder

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrovic

On what he expects from Saturday's match against the Philadelphia Union:

Mitrović: "Philadelphia Union are really in a great [rhythm], because this is now like [15] games that they are really performing great. I think that they found their identity. I know that they had some struggles at the beginning of the season with injuries and everything, but they are very back into who they are and their style of playing. They also have a lot of young guys that bring great vibes and energy on the field. The results that they [achieved] in the last few months just [show] what form and what kind of team they are."

On the progress the Revolution's defense has displayed in recent matches:

Mitrović: "I think there were a couple of games where we were overexcited about winning the ball so early, when maybe we hadn't been set to do that. I love that mentality that we want to recover the ball as soon as possible and as high as possible, but we also rushed in certain moments. What was really encouraging was that in the last two games on the defensive side, we went back to who we are. I don't want to say that in the two games before that we didn't work hard, but it was kind of like impatience to wait for the right opportunities. I think against Cincinnati [on Oct. 14] and Chicago [on Oct. 17], the teams that actually had more possession against us, we were more patient to defend, kind of going back into our mindset, and to be a very difficult team to break."

On defender/winger Peyton Miller's development playing as a wide forward this season:

Mitrović: "There are steps forward that Peyton [Miller] makes throughout the whole season. Obviously, this is probably the first season that he has had such an amount of games and minutes playing higher on the field. I don't think in the past he played that much time [at a higher position], so we can't compare things. Obviously, when he was with us with the [United States] Under-20s, he always played higher on the field, and I can see that he has his strength, which is his speed. But number one, he starts to use his speed more and more. Sometimes I felt that he kind of didn't expose himself enough with what is very exceptional about him. But then, there is not always space to run into, so there are also other parts as a wide forward that you have to do."

"His link-up play creates some diversity that one wide forward has to have. This is something that we see more and more from Peyton, and that goes with the amount of time that you spend somewhere. A year ago, he didn't have much time and much experience in that position. Now, training after training, he works on certain things that he has to develop or implement in his game, and then he has a lot of games where he can test those things. So, he showed a great level of learning ability, and that's important for one player."

On Philadelphia's Cavan Sullivan, a rising star in MLS and the United States National Team:

Mitrović: "I actually love that we have players like Cavan Sullivan in our landscape and that we can develop that type and profile of player. I think that if he keeps going, I can see right now that he has a very good mentality and is a very committed and competitive player. But what matters now is how consistent he can be, because he shows that he can have a very high ceiling and a great soccer career ahead of him. But for us, every team has its strengths and weaknesses, and it's not something that we're specifically preparing for like, 'Okay, this is how we play against one individual.' I think that Philly, as a team, has its strengths and weaknesses, and that's how we approach this game."

On Matt Polster shifting back to the midfield and Ilay Feingold returning to the Starting XI at right back last weekend:

Mitrović: "With Matt [Polster], I think Matt playing as a fullback gives us a lot of flexibility because Ilay [Feingold] was out for a significant amount of time, and we were trying to solve that situation. Luckily, Matt, whose natural position is being a midfielder, could really perform as a right fullback as well. I'm very appreciative about the way that he took it and then he played. Obviously, there is always the team need, and if we need Matt in the middle of the field, Matt will play there. If we need him as a right fullback, he'll play there, and we are happy that he can perform in both positions."

"Ilay, his organic position is right fullback. I know that sometimes he can play on the left side as well. We haven't tried that with Ilay so far, but Ilay gives us flexibility on the team, because now if he's right fullback, we can unlock Matt in some other positions and with some injuries that we have. Right now, those flexibilities have high value that we can use some players in different positions."

On Philadelphia's current 15-game unbeaten run and if he views Saturday's match as a potential preview of the postseason:

Mitrović: "There are two things. I like the record that they have; that's amazing. It's impressive. But I think I've spoken a lot here about how the records are there, but I really don't pay much attention to them, whether it's the opponent or us. I think that every next game is a game in itself."

"When talking about playoffs and potential matchups, it's not really something that I'm thinking about. It's not in my head right now. I'm just thinking about the next game on Saturday. As I said, we have one team that it's not [about] results, but the way they play. I always say I love to play teams like this because there's going to be an amazing challenge. It's going to be a great opportunity for us to keep growing as a team. Philly will challenge us differently than some other opponents in previous games, where we had different kinds of great challenges. How we're going to face and embrace, those challenges. That's how I see the game. That's what we are thinking about, nothing else."

Revolution Defender Josh Wynder

On the team's mentality ahead of the final four matches of the regular season:

Wynder: "I think everyone is staying the same as we always have been. Day-to-day, just focusing on those little things and we'll see the greater outcome when it comes."

On how he's acclimating to the club and building chemistry with his teammates since arriving in September:

Wynder: "Everyone made it pretty easy for me. I did the simple things. With Marko [Mitrović] being here and the guys I knew before, I think it has been an easy transition for me. Of course, there's difficulties, but everyone has helped me through that, so it has been amazing."

On this weekend's match at Philadelphia and playing against the Union's Cavan Sullivan:

Wynder: "[Sullivan] is a great player. He's got a lot of hype around him. I think it's cool to see young kids in America go up through the system and keep excelling. I think it's not just about the league or the games,

I think it's about U.S. Soccer in general. I think it's amazing to see. It's awesome to see young players anywhere excelling, so it's amazing."

On if the younger players on the team motivate one another, and Peyton Miller's taste in music:

Wynder: "I mean first of all, about the young players, like I said it's awesome to see. Obviously, we have some great ones too, so it's cool. And Peyton's [Miller] playlist, I've got no comment. I think it needs some work (laughs)."

On what he feels he's been able to prove so far in MLS, and what aspects of his game he's continuing to improve:

Wynder: "First of all, I'm here to help the team, as anyone would say. Obviously, for me personally I want to keep improving and keep learning every day from the players around me. I think there's a great group of guys here and obviously a great coaching staff, so it's perfect for me to keep developing because I need to continue my career and keep getting better."

On how he prepared for last weekend's match against Chicago and how the team defended against Fire FC's Robert Lewandowski:

Wynder: "I think it was a good game for the team in general. For me and Ethan [Kohler] personally, we focused on things in training before the game. We knew what we were going up against. Obviously, [Robert] Lewandowski is an amazing player and one of the best strikers of all time, so we knew it would be a challenge, but I think we worked well together. We're starting to get our rhythm back as a duo, so I think it was a good game for both of us to build that confidence."