



POSTGAME TRANSCRIPT: October 24 at Philadelphia Union

Soundbytes from Head Coach Marko Mitrović & D Ethan Kohler

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On the adjustments made to help the team respond to Philadelphia's high pressure:

Mitrović: "We play a game for 90 minutes, and you can start great for 10-15 minutes, but at the end of the day, what matters is the whole performance. During the game, teams always have moments where they are maybe struggling more or dominating more. Philly is a team that is in amazing form and plays with a lot of confidence. One part of their identity is to play with a lot of intensity, especially when they play at home – that intention to push the ball forward. We can define it as 'we struggled' if you see the outcome, but I actually like that the guys were brave and trying to play because otherwise, we would get into a game that works for [Philadelphia]. We knew that we would find our time and momentum and build through the game."

"Obviously, I would love that those first 10-15 minutes we could have had more control with the ball or maybe push them back to try to find a way, but again, the adjustment we [made] – Our plan was to try to push Philly back, and then one moment we just found our small successes and then got going through the game."

On captain Carles Gil's stellar form this season after a goal-and-assist performance tonight:

Mitrović: "Not just in the attack. I think if you talk [about] the whole season, there were moments where, at the beginning of the season, maybe Carles [Gil] didn't contribute in terms of numbers. Numbers are easy to see; everybody can see the numbers, but to see his actions on the field both in and out of possession, and how great Carles was. Then, there was also a period after the World Cup break where he had a few games where, again, he didn't contribute in terms of goals and assists, but I think it's, for me, too naive to evaluate players just based on their goals and assists. We have to see the overall performance, and I think that Carles has had an amazing season and his commitment in and out of possession is great."

"He's our captain, he's our leader, and that's how one captain or leader has to behave. I'm glad that he's adding numbers because, obviously, his goals and assists are helping us to win games, but we don't want to look at our players through the lens of just pure numbers. So, it's [not just] goals or assists, but there are other things that they have to do on the field as well."

On the team's defensive strategies to limit Philadelphia's attack tonight:

Mitrović: "I think we were ready to press Philadelphia as high as possible. Philly is very good when they bring the ball in the final third and start to make those crosses, pick up the second balls, and then go again. But I think that Philly also pushed us and kept us up to our limits. They are great team, and it's not easy to stop Philly. As I said, they're in a great [rhythm] and I think these kind of games actually really help us to grow as a team. Part of that is to have a great defensive performance, and I think guys did a great job on the possession today."

On forward Dor Turgeman's recent form after scoring his 10th goal of the season on Saturday:

Mitrović: "I would start with [Dor Turgeman's] defensive commitment. I know he's a forward, but the amount of work and commitment that Dor has [shown] in the last few months are incredible, and he showed how great of a teammate he can be. On top of that, I would still stay with the small actions. He had two or three

times where he didn't execute simple passes, but he helped us a lot to hold the ball, to connect passes, so we can keep having our flow in possession. I strongly believe when you do the right things, that you can get the right outcome at the end of the day. When you push hard, it will pay off. He found himself in the right spot to score the goal. At the end of the day, he's a forward, and I know that that makes him happy. What makes me happy are his small actions that he does and I'm happy that he got awarded with a goal."

On the team's ability to hold strong and preserve the lead in tonight's win:

Mitrović: "I actually really like these kind of games. Philadelphia is a very tough opponent, tough not just in terms of their strength, but they're tough. I personally love when we play those games when there is a tough team, because we are tough team as well. They have their strength, they have their size, they are great in aerial duels, and they're great in picking up second balls. If we look at the last several games that we played, every opponent challenges us in a very different way, and they are very good at what they are doing. I actually love these kind of challenges and I always say that before the games as well to our media, because they really help us to grow, and we need games like this today where there is a physical opponent."

"But I don't want to say that Philly is just a physical team. Philly is also good on the ball, but when it comes to physicality, they are a very tough team. For us to grow, we need this type of opponent as well. I think we were ready in terms of expectations for the game, and I'd like that to be challenged, because it's easy to say, 'Oh this is what can happen in a game, do this or that.' But at the end of the day, you have to execute. I love the way that when there was a situation that we had to confront them, we did it."

Revolution Defender Ethan Kohler

On how much confidence Saturday's win gives the team for the final three matches of the regular season:

Kohler: "It's a great feeling. Obviously, it's a tough place to get an away win. It's my first time here, but I've been told by guys in the locker room that [Subaru Park] is a tough place to walk away with three points, especially given they [Philadelphia] had such a good record going into this. Before this game, we knew who we were as a group. Continuing to have these tight games where we grind through it and we work as one defensive unit and one offensive unit, it gives us so much confidence not only going into this final stretch but also going into the playoffs."

On the team's defensive performance and what it shows about the team's chemistry:

Kohler: "Philadelphia possess a unique challenge as in they send a lot of balls into the box. There are a lot crosses and a lot of pressure. They're not going to look necessarily to play out of the back. They're going to want everything direct, and to create as many chances as possible. I think the staff prepared us well for that. Then you just have to make that switch that the game might not always be pretty. What helped us withstand that was not just the backline defending but the entire unit, from forwards all the way down. Everybody worked to give us cover and to have the best performance."

"As far as it goes for chemistry, when there is so much going on and there is so much pressure, you have to consistently be talking and be aware of the players around you. I think we have this fluidity, not only offensively but now defensively, that has been really great."

On Peyton Miller's development throughout the season:

Kohler: "[Miller] has been an invaluable asset to us. I think seeing him grow from the beginning of this season into the player he is right now has been amazing. He obviously possesses a unique speed that gives him the opportunity to create. This season, once he has gotten into the places to create, he has always picked the right pass or the right moment to find a teammate. So, that development has been a credit to him and obviously a credit to the staff."

On the challenge of playing against physical, difficult opponents like Philadelphia:

Kohler: "We knew this was going to be a test and it was. I think we've shown throughout this season that we're a team that has no problem with being tested. This is just another example to prove that. I think just the mentality from everyone going in is people are ready to fight and ready to go altogether into the test or into the challenge, and I think that really showed tonight."

On Matt Turner's ability to make game-changing saves and the confidence that gives the team:

Kohler: "He [Turner] is quite literally our last line of defense. For the backline knowing that if they do get a shot off or a chance, there is still a very, very high chance that that's not going in. That gives us confidence to defend on the front foot and to defend fully knowing that he has our backs. And he obviously has this incredible amount of experience that gives comfort to everyone in front of him, so he's been extremely vital this season and continues to be."