

POSTGAME TRANSCRIPT: Oct. 28 vs. Red Bull New York

Soundbytes from Marko Mitrović, F Dor Turgeman, D Ilay Feingold, & D Will Sands

Revolution Head Coach Marko Mitrović

On New England's performance in countering New York's pressure and the playoff-like intensity of tonight's match:

Mitrović: "I think we opened the game very well, actually. I felt very positive. We can talk about the very short period of the time, the first 10 minutes and I felt when we scored the goal, we kind of took the foot from the gas a little bit. Then we regrouped in the second half, and we scored that quick second goal. Then again, [we] take the foot from the gas. Then when [Red Bull New York] came back 2-2, we really started to play like the way we started the game, and I felt that's how we finished. Obviously, besides the last four or five minutes where they pushed us in a low block.

"They are one very, very challenging team. In those moments where I felt that we kind of took the foot from the gas, it kind of reopened the field and made the game more transitional and with the pace that they have, it kind of suits them very well. And those were the moments where I didn't feel that we had control of the game and that's something that in the coming games ahead of us, we have to do a better job of."

On midfielder Carles Gil recording his 100th MLS assist:

Mitrović: "Congratulations to Carles [Gil]. It's a great achievement. Carles is someone who the team really knows and believes that he can help us to change the game with numbers, with goals and assists. But there are so many small things that Carles does on the field outside of goals and assists that help us so much to perform. He has massive trust from his teammates, from our team, and I think that's just who he is as a person. He has earned and deserves these things to happen to him. I'm really happy for Carles."

On the team's second-half adjustments to help create more opportunities:

Mitrović: "We had many situations in the first half where we would break [Red Bull's] initial pressure, which they are very aggressive, and then kind of advance the ball and then come back. It kind of became fun for us, just like 'Oh can we just do that first line of pressure and just go over and over again?' Kind of like a training session. I think we found, as the coaching staff, that we have to give them more clarity. Once we advance the ball, what are we doing now? Because they are so good in an intense high press, so you kind of feel relief when you break that initial pressure and we kind of have time to enjoy, but they are coming again.

"They are a very aggressive, intense front foot team defensively. We showed a couple of clips of when we advance the ball and how we expose certain areas on the field, especially on the weak side, because they commit so many numbers around the ball. And once we break that initial pressure, how can we get to the weak side? I think they kind of got the picture in their heads, 'Oh, okay, this is what we have to do'. And in the second half, we had so many of those situations that helped us to get into the box and create those touches."

On midfielder Dániel Gazdag and forward Dor Turgeman contributing in multiple ways:

Mitrović: "It's kind of a similar situation with Carles [Gil]. I think that if we speak about Dor [Turgeman], and obviously we talk a lot about Dor, how much he's improving and growing. I would say it connected with our team, and then what we want to do as a team. Same like with Carles, I'm always happy when

players get rewarded with goals for doing the right things on the field, and I actually loved the second goal that [Turgeman] scored. The first goal is something that Dor has. He has exceptional finishing skills, and his shooting technique is very good. But that second goal, those small goals that we can talk like tap-ins, this is something that Dor has to integrate in his game and he's starting to score those goals because you are taking hundreds of goals from your career if it's too simple for you. And this is part of [his] game that I feel that Dor is really growing.

"With [Gazdag], I think that Danny's finding rhythm with us. At the beginning, we always love, and I spoke about that, for every player to expose their strengths and to learn about the players within your environment. Sometimes it really needs time, and I think we're learning about Danny and Danny is learning about us. I think the last game that we played [at Philadelphia Union] was probably his best performance so far, small steps forward. And today, he keeps adding those steps forward. Again, great for players that love scoring goals like Danny and Dor that they got rewarded with goals."

On the partnerships between the team's central defenders:

Mitrović: "I think through the whole season, that partnership first between Ethan [Kohler] and [Mamadou Fofana] really strengthened, and they have become strong partners there. And somehow, Josh [Wynder] came, and then [Wynder's] first game, Mamadou got injured. And I know some of you guys ask me 'How are we going to play?' And sometimes, life gives you organic decisions, and I was like, 'Okay, we have to play Josh and Ethan.'

"And then with Josh, we had circumstances where Josh didn't play for a long time, and you can see game after game that his performance is improving, improving, and Josh is showing that he really has a high ceiling. Now Mamadou is back. We had a certain progression with the minutes. He played 15 minutes last game, now 30 minutes, and a decision on who is going to play will be there. I'm not thinking [about that] right now, but we are happy that we have players. Not just me, we have other defenders that are very reliable, and we believe and trust in all of them."

On working with forward Dor Turgeman to help him reach his potential:

Mitrović: "It's an interesting question. First of all, they all have their uniqueness, not just as a player, but also as people. You can't approach all of them in the same way. I was actually trying, the first couple of months, to learn, not just who Dor [Turgeman] is, but how can I get to Dor, or how we can get to Dor. He's a fantastic human being. Dor is very enthusiastic, has a great charisma. However, the message you want to send, of what is the best way that he can accept that message, and I think we found success in communication with Dor. The only reason why I'm saying that is because we see that the outcome is better and better from Dor. But I still think, and something that I said at the very beginning before the season started, is that he has a high ceiling, and we still have a lot of work to do to get Dor where he can really connect with his potential."

On the messaging ahead of Sunday's game against Inter Miami CF:

Mitrović: "To be honest, that's too far for me right now. I'm still very into the game we played [tonight]. Tomorrow, we still have to analyze today's performance, recover, and then Friday we will refocus to Sunday."

On winger Luca Langoni and defender Ilay Feingold back in rhythm and contributing in the attack after returning from long-term injuries:

Mitrović: "I think with [Langoni and Feingold], they're game-after-game better and better. I think for Luca, after a long time we can see that his game fitness is much better. Before you perform, you have to have the ability to run in this game. Otherwise, no chance. That's something that makes us happy about both of them, they're getting more and more into their game fitness."

"We still have to be very aware with the minutes about them and not overload them. For example, with Ilay after his injury he was with the [Israel] national team. Now, playing after that, we still have to be cautious to not forget how long they were off the field. We're happy with the timing. I mean, the whole season is important. But now that we get to the end of the season, we have more and more players available."

Revolution Defender Ilay Feingold:

On his takeaways from tonight's 3-2 win over Red Bull New York:

Feingold: "I don't think we played very well today. We have to be honest. But the most important thing is that we got these three points against a very good team, and we move on to Sunday against Miami."

On how teammate Dor Turgeman has improved his form since the World Cup break:

Feingold: "That's a very good question. I think Dor [Turgeman] just had to be confident to try and get into the rhythm of scoring goals, because I knew his potential and what he can do to help the team, and contribute to the team. Now, we can see he's in great form and I really hope that he can keep this form up. I'm really sure that there is more to come from him."

Revolution Forward Dor Turgeman:

On his recent strong form after scoring two goals in tonight's 3-2 win over Red Bull New York:

Turgeman: "I'm very happy to [have] scored, for the team to win. And like Ilay [Feingold] said, we need to continue on Sunday [against Inter Miami CF]."

On developing the ability to be in the right place at the right time:

Turgeman: "Almost every week, Marko [Mitrović] and I watch some videos. It's really helped me and I'm very happy that I transferred that to this game."

Revolution Defender Will Sands

On the team's ability to pull out a victory in Wednesday's match:

Sands: "I don't think it was our sharpest game. I think there were moments in the game where we could definitely have been cleaner, and I think that's something that everyone knows and everyone wants to improve upon. That being said, I think the mark of a great team is just finding ways to win, and this team has proven over and over that they can do that. So yeah, I'm excited to see what playoffs hold, but definitely, we need to improve a little bit upon today."

On the biggest challenges of defending Red Bull New York:

Sands: "It was good. I think there were some issues. A lot of the chances we conceded were of our own making, especially giving the ball away higher up the field. I think actually when we were in our deep block, we handled it very well and I was very comfortable with the backline in those situations. I think it's when the game gets stretched and we kind of give the ball away in bad areas, that's when the pace of New York really kind of showed. So, I think it's more of our own making and it's something we definitely have to improve upon."

On evaluating his individual development throughout this season:

Sands: "I think especially with the ball moving up the field is something I'm still working on. One of Mark's [Mitrović] big things is putting yourself into uncomfortable situations and trying to learn and grow. I think

there's still definitely room for improvement, but we're happy with where the team is right now and hopefully it translates."