

REVOLUTION

MEDIA RELEASE

Revolution Media Assets & Transcript: Dave van den Bergh and Matt Polster (March 18, 2022)

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The New England Revolution are on the road Saturday for the first-ever meeting with 2022 MLS expansion side Charlotte FC at Bank of America Stadium. The match kicks off at 7:00 p.m. ET on WSBK-TV38, myRITV in Rhode Island, and Cozi TV in Western Mass. The contest is also available on the radio at 98.5 The Sports Hub (English) and 1260 AM Nossa Radio (Portuguese).

On Friday, Revolution Assistant Coach **Dave van den Bergh** and midfielder **Matt Polster** met with the media via video press conference from Charlotte. View the links below to access today's interviews, a complete transcript, game notes for Saturday's match, and other media assets.

Revolution Media Assets: March 18, 2022

- [SOUND: Revolution Assistant Coach Dave van den Bergh](#)
- [SOUND: Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster](#)
- [GAME NOTES: Revolution at Charlotte FC \(3/19\)](#)
- [VIDEO: Training B-Roll](#)
- [Additional Revolution Media Assets](#)

Revolution Media Schedule: March 18-19		
Date	Media Availability	Notes/Links
Friday, March 18	Virtual Press Conference feat. Revolution Assistant Coach Dave van den Bergh and midfielder Matt Polster	VIDEO HERE
Saturday, March 19	7:00 p.m. ET – Kickoff at Charlotte FC TV: WSBK-TV38, myRITV & CoziTV Radio: 98.5 The Sports Hub & 1260AM Nossa Radio ~9:00 p.m. ET – Postgame Press Conference	CLICK HERE to participate
<i>Subject to change; Spanish translation available</i>		

Revolution Assistant Coach Dave van den Bergh

On the mood in the locker room and shifting focus to Charlotte:

van den Bergh: "Well, first disappointment obviously after Wednesday night's game, but we need to start focusing on Charlotte. We accomplish it by getting into market pretty quickly, and then it was pretty

quickly where the players realize we've got another opportunity to make this right, to avenge ourselves and the results and so the mood is pretty good. It's, I don't know how else to put it, but combative and ready to go for another game."

On what he makes of 2022 MLS expansion side Charlotte so far this season:

van den Bergh: "They're getting closer to getting a result. Obviously the first game was three to zero and they lost one to nothing at home to an LA Galaxy side who needed a bomb from Efrain Alvarez in the upper 90 [minutes] to lose the game. And then, obviously last weekend, they fell in the, what was it, 97th minute I believe and so obviously they're getting closer to getting a result. They're back in front of their home fans, so they're doing well. They're growing, but they're going through the growing pains of every new expansion team, but they have some quality players, and we just can't take this lightly. And coming off these two games it's going to be an interesting battle for both teams."

On the team's level of fitness:

van den Bergh: "The fitness I would say is pretty good. I don't think that there's a question that it's difficult to play in altitude of Mexico City. That's just a known fact. It's not just our team that had to deal with that. It's every team that is not used to playing in altitude has to deal with, especially with Mexico City, but I feel like we're ready to go again on Saturday. As far as rotations go, we haven't really made a decision as to who's playing yet. We're still trying to figure out how everybody is coming out of this past week as the travel and who's ready to go, but I can assure you that whoever steps on that field will be ready to play."

On how the team is dealing with recent challenges:

van den Bergh: "Obviously there's a lot more games. I think our preseason was a little challenging without those two games against Cavalry. That was a big part of our preseason, so we kind of had to play ourselves into shape the first couple of games of the season. I think we did a reasonable to good job with that, but obviously when you're traveling cross country to Portland when you're traveling to Mexico, those are long flights and you're playing in altitude. Yeah, it poses a new challenge that we didn't have last year because we didn't play on the West Coast, and we didn't play in altitude or in Champions League. So yeah, those are those are new experiences, but I think we've dealt well with it. Even though the result in Mexico City might have suggested otherwise, I think we did deal well with it. The next challenge now becomes how do we deal with a little bit of adversity? Are we going to let this define us? And let me give you the answer- no, it doesn't. It shouldn't and so we're here to prove that we're still the Revs of last season as far as that goes and yeah, challenges, but challenges are there to be overcome, so hopefully we can do just that."

On what type of leadership the coaching staff looks for in players:

van den Bergh: "We have a couple of really good leaders on the field, whether it is vocally, whether it's by example, whether it's in the locker room, we have them all over the place. Even Matt Turner when he's not there, he's still a leader of this team. And so we're looking for players to stand up and whether you're a rookie, whether you're a 10-year pro in this league, leadership can come in many different shapes and forms. It's just, can you overcome an adversity that we have faced with the travel and with the result and come back here and get a result? And I think we have more than enough experience in this locker room and on this roster to make sure that we do just that and grind out a result in Charlotte, which will not be an easy task. They'll have a lot of fans. They'll be excited to play in front of their home fans. And again, they're chasing their first point, their first win and so they'll be ready to go."

On recently becoming an American citizen:

van den Bergh: "I think it's great. I've been in this country for 17 years almost now and I got my green card a year in and with my three kids being dual citizens and my wife obviously being American, it was time for me to get this done. The reason why it took so long is because the Dutch government wouldn't allow dual citizenship, so that was the reason for the delay on my end. Once that was lifted, I was pretty sure that I wanted to be an American. This is where my life is. This is where my kids are. This is who my kids are. This is who my wife is and so even though it was a shoo-in for me to do it, it was still nice. It was an emotional moment for me, for my family, and it's been good, so to be able to travel on that American passport was kind of nice."

Revolution Midfielder Matt Polster

On the team's mood following consecutive losses:

Polster: "Obviously, you look back on the last couple results, you know, and we're a little bit frustrated and disappointed with that. But this team is extremely motivated and excited to have a game against Charlotte tomorrow. I think that's the best feeling, you know, when you have a disappointing result, you're able to bounce back quickly and that's what we're going to try to do against Charlotte."

On advice to younger players about turning the page on disappointing results:

Polster: "Yeah, as a younger player you have to move past things quickly. Even for me, it's tough at times. Obviously, that was a disappointing result. We wanted to move further in that competition, and we had a great chance to do that. We weren't up to the task. For the group itself, even the young guys, you have to now shift your focus quickly to a game against Charlotte which will be extremely difficult. They're looking for their first win of the season. I don't know what the fans will look like, but I'm sure they're going to have a pretty sold-out crowd again. It's going to be another great atmosphere and we're going to have to be up for it because this will be a tough game."

On the challenges in playing against an opponent looking for its first win:

Polster: "I think when you're new into the league you want to try to impress your fans and that's what Charlotte's going to try and do again tomorrow. They're going to put everything into this game. I'm sure they're thinking we're coming off a game in Mexico City that they're going to try and capitalize on. Their mentality is to try and get three points and our goal is to do the exact same. We need to come with the right mindset, the right intensity. I know this team can get three points. We have a lot of quality players on this side. If we do what we have to do, I know we can achieve that goal."

On completing a stretch of five matches within 15 days:

Polster: "It's typical. We had these situations last year where we had a lot of games in a short spell. So it's nothing that we're not used to. Obviously travel can play a factor. The staff, yesterday pretty much gave us the day off, short recovery and I'm sure we're going to do a short recovery today as well. The boys will be fine. We just need to come with the right attitude and mindset, push this game and make them frustrated as much as possible, and annoy them as much as possible, and we'll find our moments to capitalize and find a way to get three points."

On the approach moving forward and the upcoming international break:

Polster: "You try and have a short mindset, quick mindset, because you don't have time to really think about the game too much. Obviously, it's a disappointing result against RSL and a disappointing result against Pumas. You know, it is frustrating, but you have to shift focus quickly. I think talking about it for more than 24 hours is probably the wrong thing to do. We discussed it, we went over it. Now the mindset is all about Charlotte, so that's where our heads are at. Yeah, obviously the break is always going to be nice. You know, we've played a lot of games in a short spell. But we're just focused on three points against Charlotte and then we'll sort ourselves out from there."

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