



## CF Monterrey (MEX) vs. Columbus Crew (USA)

BBVA Stadium, Monterrey (MEX)

Columbus Crew won 2-1 in the first leg match on April 24, 2024, with goals from Juan Camilo Hernández and Jacen Russell-Rowe, while Maximiliano Meza scored for CF Monterrey.

### Post-first leg records

Columbus Crew reached five consecutive games without losing in the tournament (W-2 D-2) and with the victory, they ended a streak of three consecutive draws. Columbus Crew achieved the sixth victory of an MLS team against a Mexican rival in the tournament semifinals.

Previously, DC United won 2-0 against León in 1998 (August 14, 1998), Houston Dynamo won 2-0 against Pachuca in 2006-2007 (March 15, 2007), DC United won 2-1 against Pachuca in 2007-2008 (April 9, 2008), FC Dallas won 2-1 against Pachuca in 2016-2017 (March 15, 2017), and Los Angeles FC won 3-1 against CF América in 2020 (December 19, 2020).

With the victory, Columbus Crew ended a streak of 4 consecutive games without being able to defeat a Liga MX team in the history of the tournament (D-3 L-1). The last time Columbus Crew had defeated a Mexican rival in home and away matches was **21 years and 10 days** ago on April 16, 2003, when they beat Monarcas Morelia 2-0 in the second leg of the 2002-2003 quarterfinals. However, they couldn't advance to the next round after losing the first match 6-0.

According to historical records, whenever Columbus Crew won the first leg (any round), they secured qualification. They did so in the round of 16 in 2021 against Real Estelí (NCA) and in the round of 16 in 2024 against Houston Dynamo (USA).

With the defeat, CF Monterrey ended an impressive streak of 6 consecutive victories in semifinal matches. Rayados hadn't lost a semifinal match since 2003-04 when they were defeated by LD Alajuelense and failed to qualify for the final.

With the 1-2 defeat, CF Monterrey ended the best winning streak in the tournament for a Mexican team of 10 matches.

CF Monterrey suffered only their third defeat against an MLS opponent in 19 matches, which also ended a streak of 4 consecutive victories in semifinals against MLS teams.

According to historical tournament records, CF Monterrey lost a first leg match for only the third time in the entire history of the tournament. On the previous two occasions they lost, they failed to qualify: 4-1 in 1994 in the Group 1 Round 1 against CD Petrotela (HON) and 1-0 in 2003-2004 against LD Alajuelense (CRC) in the semifinals of that edition.

#### **CF Monterrey vs Columbus Crew Matches:**

- Columbus Crew 2-2 CF Monterrey (Milton Valenzuela and Lucas Zelarayán; Aké Loba and José Alvarado), quarter-finals (leg 1) - CONCACAF Champions League 2021, MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus (April 28).

- CF Monterrey 3-0 Columbus Crew (Maximiliano Meza x2 and Miguel Layún), quarter-finals (leg 2) - CONCACAF Champions League 2021, Estadio BBVA, Monterrey (May 5).

- Columbus Crew 2-1 CF Monterrey (Juan Camilo Hernández and Jacen Russell-Rowe; Maximiliano Meza), semi-finals (Leg 1) - CONCACAF Champions Cup 2024, Lower.com Field Stadium, Columbus (April 24).

Since the tournament format change in 2008/09, it will be the 113th match between rivals from the United States and Mexico in the Concacaf Champions Cup (88 of these matches were in the knockout phase). Mexican teams: W-62, D-24, L-26.

Up to date, 8 semi-finals have been played between teams from Mexico and the United States since 2008-09, of which Liga MX teams won 6 and MLS teams won 1.

#### **Liga MX vs MLS Series:**

- Santos Laguna-Seattle Sounders (2012/13)

- Monterrey-LA Galaxy (2012/13)

- FC Dallas-Pachuca (2016/17)

- Guadalajara-New York RB (2018)

- Monterrey-Kansas City (2019)

- América-LAFC (2020)

- América-Philadelphia Union (2021)

- Monterrey vs. Columbus Crew (2024).

Los Angeles FC was the only American team to eliminate a Mexican rival in the semi-finals since 2008/09 onwards, and this was also the only single-match series between these countries (vs. Club América in 2020) due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.



## CF Monterrey (MEX)

Since 2008/09, CF Monterrey has managed to overcome each of the semifinals they played and then went on to win the title (2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2019, 2021). They hold a streak of 20 consecutive series victories (two-legged) in the tournament's history.

Prior to the defeat in the first leg of the 2024 semifinals, Monterrey had lost only 2 first-leg matches in the tournament's history, both of which resulted in elimination at the end of the series (against Petrotela from Honduras in the first round of 1994 and LD Alajuelense in the semifinals in 2004).

CF Monterrey has played 28 matches (home and away) in the tournament's history, advancing in 23 (82%) and being eliminated only 5 times (three by Central American teams and two by Mexican rivals).

CF Monterrey has not lost a knockout round in the Concacaf Champions Cup since the semifinals in 2005 (against Deportivo Saprissa on penalties).

Playing at home, CF Monterrey has won their last matches, including the final against Club América in 2021. They achieved 11 victories in their last 12 home games, with only one draw (1-1 against Tigres UANL in the 2019 final). The last time CF Monterrey lost at home was (3-2) against Árabe Unido from Panama in Group D on August 17, 2016.

Monterrey has 10 victories in their last 11 matches in the Concacaf Champions Cup.

CF Monterrey is the team with the most wins (6) and points (18) in the current edition. They hold the record for the most victories in the knockout phase of the tournament since 2008/09 (28).

The team coached by Argentine Fernando Ortíz leads in shots with (103) in the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup. Brandon Vázquez (USA), the team's top scorer with (4) goals, leads in shots with (15).

**Participations in the Concacaf Champions Cup (Since 1962):** 12 (1975, 1987, 1994, 2004, 2005, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2016/17, 2019, 2021, 2024).

**Best Result:** Champion (5) 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2019, 2021.

**Record in the Concacaf Champions Cup (Since 1962):** GP-80 W-51 D-18 L-11 (GF-156 GA-65).

**Top Scorers in the tournament's history:** Humberto Suazo (CHI) 16, Aldo De Nigris (MEX) 16, Abraham Carreño (MEX) 9, Neri Cardozo (ARG) 7, Maximiliano Meza (ARG) 6, Rogelio Funes Mori (MEX) 5, Nicolás Sánchez (ARG) 5, Jesús Gallardo (MEX) 5.

**Players with the most appearances in the history of the tournament:** Aldo de Nigris (MEX) 30, Walter Ayoví (ECU) 30, Neri Cardozo (ARG) 28, Jonathan Orozco (MEX) 27, Jesús Zavala (MEX) 27, Hiram Mier (MEX) 26, José María Basanta (ARG) 26, Humberto Suazo (CHI) 26.

**Record in second-leg matches in the KO Phase:** GP-19 W-13 D-4 L-2.

**Penalty Shootouts:** They were eliminated on penalties in the 2005 Concacaf Champions Cup semifinal by Deportivo Saprissa 5-3 after a 3-3 draw on aggregate.

**Hat-tricks:** Abraham Carreño (vs. Herediano - group stage 2011/12), Ángel Reyna (vs. Universitario - group stage 2012/13).

**Semifinal Appearances:** 2004 (vs. Alajuelense), 2005 (vs. Saprissa), 2010/11 (vs. Cruz Azul), 2011/12 (vs. Pumas UNAM), 2012/13 (vs. LA Galaxy), 2019 (vs. Sporting Kansas City), 2021 (vs. Cruz Azul), and 2024 (vs. Columbus Crew).

**Final Qualifications:** 5 qualifications and 2 eliminations. They were eliminated twice before the format change in 2008/09. First in 2004 by Alajuelense in extra time (1-0 and 1-1) and in 2005 by Saprissa on penalties 5-3 after a 3-3 draw on aggregate.

**Semifinal Record:** GP-15 W-8 D-5 L-2.

**Top Scorers in Semifinals:** Rogelio Funes Mori (MEX) 4, Aldo de Nigris (MEX) 4, Maximiliano Meza (ARG) 3, Avilés Hurtado (COL) 2, Humberto Suazo (CHI) 2, Dorlan Pabón (COL) 2.

**Top Scorers in the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup:** Brandon Vázquez (USA) 4, Germán Berterame (ARG) 2, Jesús Gallardo (MEX) 2, Maximiliano Meza (ARG) 2, Jorge Rodríguez (ARG) 1, Alfonso González (MEX) 1, Rodrigo Aguirre (URU) 1, Héctor Moreno (MEX) 1, Jesús Corona (MEX) 1, Luis Romo (MEX) 1.

**Assists in the 2024 CCC:** Maximiliano Meza (ARG) 5, Germán Berterame (ARG) 2, Jesús Gallardo (MEX) 2.

**Saves in the 2024 CCC: 24.** Goalkeeper: Esteban Andrada (ARG) 24. (6 goals conceded - 2 clean sheets).

#### **Players to Watch:**

**Maximiliano Meza (ARG):** Scored the goal in the first leg against Columbus Crew. He leads the team in assists with (5). The Argentine has been involved in 6 of the last 9 goals (2 goals and 4 assists). He has scored 3 goals against Columbus Crew in their 3 encounters between 2021 and 2024.

**Jesús Gallardo (MEX):** Has scored two goals and has two assists in 6 appearances. He was involved in the play leading to Maxi Meza's goal. He has won two titles with Rayados (2019 and 2021). In the first leg, he had a shot, completed 52 passes, and made one clearance.

**Esteban Andrada (ARG):** Leads the tournament in saves with (24). In the first leg, he made 6 saves. Andrada has six appearances, 2 clean sheets, and has conceded 6 goals. In total, he has made 31 saves in 10 appearances in the tournament.



## Columbus Crew (USA)

Columbus Crew is undefeated in the current edition with W-2 D-3 and conceded 4 goals in 5 matches (2 from open play, 1 header, and 1 penalty). They advanced in the previous 2 rounds when they won the first leg (against Real Estelí in the 2021 round of 16 and Houston Dynamo in the 2024 round of 16). However, they were eliminated in 3 out of 4 knockout series where they didn't lose their home leg.

The MLS team has faced Mexican rivals 11 times in the tournament's history since 2008-09, managing to defeat Santos Laguna (1-0) in 2019-20 and Monterrey (2-1) in 2024.

Columbus Crew lost only one of their last 7 matches in the tournament (W-2 D-4). They also lost only one of their last 4 away matches (W-2 D-1), which was against CF Monterrey in the quarter-finals in 2021, where they lost 0-3.

The strong point of Columbus in the 2014 tournament is their midfield with 85 balls recovered, 511 passes, and an average of 17 ball recoveries per match. The other teams with the most balls recovered are New England Revolution with 88 and CS Herediano with 85, tied with the latter.

**Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (Since 1962):** 5 (2003, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2021, 2024).

**Best Result:** Semi-finals (2024).

**Record in the Concacaf Champions Cup (Since 1962):** GP-29 W-12 D-8 L-9 (GF-39 GA-39).

**Top Scorers in the Concacaf Champions Cup since 2008/09:** Steven Lenhart (USA) 4, Andrés Mendoza (PER) 3, Emilio Rentería (VEN) 3, Diego Rossi (URU) 2, Guillermo Barros Schelotto (ARG) 2, Gyasi Zardes (USA) 2, Robbie Rogers (USA) 2, Juan Camilo Hernández (COL) 2.

**Players with the most appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (since 2008/09):** Emmanuel Ekpo (NIG) 14, Eddie Gaven (USA) 13, Adam Moffat (SCO) 12, Eric Brunner (USA) 12, Andy Iro (ENG) 11, Steven Lenhart (USA) 11.

**Penalty Shootouts:** Defeated Tigres UANL (4-3) in the quarter-finals of the 2024 edition after a 2-2 draw on aggregate (1-1 and 1-1).

**Top Scorers in the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup:** Diego Rossi (URU) 2, Juan Camilo Hernández (COL) 2, Alexandru Mățan (ROU) 1, Jacen Russell-Rowe (CAN) 1.

**Assists in the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup:** Aidan Morris (USA) 2, Christian Ramírez (USA) 1, Mohamed Farsi (CAN) 1, Sean Zawadzki (USA) 1, Jacen Russell-Rowe (CAN) 1.

**Saves in the 2024 CCC: 20. Goalkeeper:** Patrick Schulte (USA) 20. (4 goals conceded - 1 clean sheet). Schulte saved two penalties in the shootout against Tigres UANL.

**Players to watch:**

**Jacen Russell-Rowe (CAN):** Directly involved in both goals against CF Monterrey (1 goal and 1 assist) along with two shots in 90 minutes. He is the third Canadian-born player to score in semifinals or finals in the tournament, following Asghtone Morgan and Jonathan Osorio with the Toronto FC in 2018.

**Juan Camilo Hernández (COL):** Scored the opening goal and had (4) shots in the first match. The Colombian forward is the team's leader in shots (14) and is 2 goals away from equaling Steven Lenhart (USA) as the team's all-time top scorer in the tournament. He became the second Colombian to score in the semifinals after Jámison Olave of Real Salt Lake in 2011.

**Darlington Nagbe (USA):** Completed 53 passes in the first match. The midfielder leads in passes with (323) and has a 94% pass success rate, as well as in ball recoveries (13) with a 94% success rate in the current tournament.