

# **USA vs. Mexico**

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- The United States and Mexico national teams will face off for the 12th time in the history of the Concacaf Men's Under-20 Championship.
- Mexico has 8 wins and 3 losses. The last two times they met, the United States won 1-0 in 2017, and 2-0 in 2018.
- The United States team will play the CMU20 final for the eighth time, the first being in the 1980 edition, which they lost to Mexico 2-0. They won 3 of those 7 finals they played (42.8%), with the caveat that the last 3 they played they won: 5x3 on penalties in 2017 against Honduras, 2x0 against Mexico in 2018, and 6x0 against the Dominican Republic in 2022.
- The Mexican team will play the CMU20 final for the 11th time; the first was in 1973, defeating Guatemala 2-0 (March 4, 1973) with goals from José Luis Caballero and Víctor "El Tanque" Rangel.
- The Mexican team holds the record for having won 9 consecutive finals, an unprecedented record in the tournament's history. The only time Mexico lost a final was in 2018 against the United States 2-0 (a brace by Alex Méndez).
- The United States aims to be the first team since 1976 (the tournament started serving as a qualifier for the FIFA World Cup) to win the title 4 times consecutively, a record held by Mexico who won it 6 times consecutively, the first 3 titles were when the tournament was not yet a qualifier for the FIFA Under-20 World Cup (1970, 1973, and 1974).
- In final matches, they will face each other for the 4th time in CMU20 history, where Mexico achieved 2 titles to one for the United States; the first final was in 1980 in the United States, on August 17, 1980, at Giants Stadium in New Jersey, a 2-0 victory for Mexico, the second was in the 2013 edition in Mexico, on March 3, 2013, at the Cuauhtémoc Stadium in Puebla, a 1-3 victory for the Mexican team, with goals by Jesús "Tecatito" Corona, Julio Gómez, and Jonathan Espericueta for Mexico, Benji Joya scored for the United States; and the last time was in the 2018 edition, when the US team ended a streak of two defeats on November 21, 2018, at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, the United States won 2-0 with a brace by Alex Méndez.

## CMU20 Series: 11 games

- 3 wins for the United States
- 0 draws
- 8 wins for Mexico
- 11 goals for the United States
- 23 goals for Mexico
  - Mexico's National Team has won the finals the most times with 9 victories (1973, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1984, 2011, 2013, 2015), followed by the United States, the current three-time champion (2017, 2018, and 2022), and Costa Rica (2009).\*\*
  - The final with the most goals scored took place in the latest edition in Honduras 2022 when the United States defeated the Dominican Republic 6-0 (Tyler Wolff, Paxten Aaronson x2, Noah Allen, Jack McGlynn, and Nikolas Tsakiris) at the Metropolitan Olympic Stadium in San Pedro Sula (July 3).

- The final with the largest goal difference occurred in Trinidad & Tobago 2009 when Costa Rica defeated the United States 3-0 (Diego Estrada and Josué Martínez x2) at the Marvin Lee Stadium, Macoya (March 15).
- The two finals with the most goals scored by Mexico were 3-1 against Costa Rica (Ulises Dávila and Carlos Orrantía; Joseph Mora) in Guatemala 2011, Doroteo Guamuch Flores Stadium, Guatemala City (April 10) and 3-1 against the United States in extra time (Jesús Corona, Julio Gómez, and Jorge Espiricueta; Héctor Joya) in Mexico 2013, Cuauhtémoc Stadium, Puebla (March 3).
- Only 2 of the previous 14 finals ended goalless (0-0) in regular time, both against Honduras in penalties: Mexico 0-0 (4-3) vs. Honduras (Puerto Rico 1976), United States 0-0 (5-3) vs. Honduras (Costa Rica 2017).
- There were three penalty shootouts in the finals of the CONCACAF Under-20 Championship: Mexico 0-0 (4-3) vs. Honduras (Puerto Rico 1976), Mexico 1-1 (4-2) vs. Panama (Jamaica 2015), United States 0-0 (5-3) vs. Honduras (Costa Rica 2017).



Appearances in the Concacaf Under-20 Championship: 26

**Best Result in CMU20:** Champion (Costa Rica 2017, USA 2018, Honduras 2022), Runner-up (1980, 1982, 1986, 1992, 2009, 2013), 3rd place (1976, 1988, 1990, 1996, 2015).

**Record in CMU20:** GP-135 W-86 D-21 L-28 (GF-325 GA-104).

**Top Scorers in CMU20 since 2009:** Álex Méndez (8), Ayo Akinola (7), Ulysses Llanez (7), Paxten Aaronson (7), Quinn Sullivan (6), Roman Gall (5), Nikolas Tsakiris (5), Brooks Lennon (4), Justin Rennicks (4), Anthony Fontana (4), Juan Pablo Torres (4).

Penalty Shootouts: (4). Won (3), Lost (1).

**Record in Mexico 2024:** GP-5 W-5 D-0 L-0 (GF-17 GA-1).

**Top Scorers in Mexico 2024:** David Vazquez (3), Pedro Soma (2), Ruben Ramos (2), Nikolas Tsakiris (2), Marcos Zambrano (2), Cruz Medina (1), Nimfasha Berchimas, Zavier Gozo, Ethan Kohler, Taha Habroune, Brooklyn Raines.

**Assists 2024:** Taha Habroune (2), Nikolas Tsakiris (2), David Vazquez (2), Zavier Gozo (2), Marcos Zambrano (2), Nimfasha Berchimas (1), Sergio Oregel Jr.

Saves: 12. Clean Sheets: 4. Goalkeepers: Adam Beaudry (10), Julian Eyestone (2).

Qualifications for the FIFA U-20 World Cup: 18 (Australia 1981, Mexico 1983, Chile 1987, Saudi Arabia 1989, Australia 1993, Malaysia 1997, Nigeria 1999, Argentina 2001, UAE 2003, Netherlands 2005, Canada 2007, Egypt 2009, Turkey 2013, New Zealand 2015, Republic of Korea 2017, Poland 2019, Argentina 2023, Chile 2025).

Best result in the FIFA U-20 World Cup: 4th place (Saudi Arabia 1989).

USA has remained unbeaten in 25 matches in the Concacaf Under-20 Championship, with 23 wins and 2 draws in regulation time. Their last defeat in the tournament was against Panama by 1-0 on the opening day of Group B in Costa Rica 2017.

### Players to watch:

**Ruben Ramos.** He was the leader in shots (7) in the final stage for the USA. He had the most shots (4) against Panama in the semifinals. Scored the goal that led the United States to a 1-0 victory over Guatemala in the quarterfinals.

**Marcos Zambrano.** Scored 2 goals and 2 assists in his 4 appearances. Made 3 shots in the tournament and completed 82% of his passes.

**David Vazquez.** He is the top scorer for the United States in CMU20 2024 (3 goals in 4 appearances). He was the runner-up of the Concacaf Under-17 Championship in Guatemala 2017. Scored 1 goal in the FIFA U-17 World Cup Indonesia 2023.

**Nikolas Tsakiris.** Was the champion of the 2022 edition in Honduras, scoring 1 goal and 1 assist in the final against the Dominican Republic (6-0). In the 2024 edition, he has scored 2 goals, made 2 assists, and taken 8 shots. In total, he has played 10 matches, scored 5 goals, and made 3 assists in the history of the tournament.

**Noah Cobb.** He is the leader in passes (213) in CMU20 2024 with an accuracy of 95%. He is the only football player who has made over 200 passes in the current competition (202).

#### Results of the finals in the CMU20 of the United States:

- 0-2 vs. Mexico United States 1980 (Aug 17).
- 0-1 vs. Guatemala Guatemala 1982 (Sep. 5).
- 0-3 vs. Costa Rica Trinidad and Tobago 2009 (Mar 15).
- 1-3 vs. Mexico Mexico 2013 (Mar 3).
- 0-0 (5-3) vs. Honduras Costa Rica 2017 (Mar 5).
- 2-0 vs. Mexico United States 2018 (Nov 21).
- 6-0 vs. Dominican Republic Honduras 2022 (Jul 3).



Appearances in the Concacaf Under-20 Championship: 28

Best Result in CMU20: Champion (1962, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1984, 1990, 1992, 2011, 2013, 2015), Runner-up (1988, 1996, 2018), 3rd place (2017).

**Record in CMU20:** GP-140 W-102 D-25 L-13 (GF-381 GA-81).

**Top Scorers in CMU20 since 2009:** José Juan Macías (10), Daniel López (7), Ronaldo Cisneros (6), Hirving Lozano (5), Esteban Lozano (5), Ulises Dávila (4), Alejandro Díaz (4), Salvador Mariscal (4).

Penalty Shootouts: (4). Won (3), Lost (1).

**Record in Mexico 2024:** GP-5 W-4 D-1 L-0 (GF-11 GA-3).

**Top Scorers in Mexico 2024:** Amaury Morales (2), Diego Ochoa (1), Diego Sánchez, Heriberto Jurado, Stephano Carrillo, Yael Padilla, Xavier Biscayzacú, Alexei Domínguez, Francisco Méndez, Mateo Levy.

**Assists in 2024:** Amaury Morales (3), Xavier Biscayzacú (1), Elías Montiel, Francisco Méndez, Heriberto Jurado, Mateo Levy.

**Saves:** 7. Clean Sheets: 2. Goalkeepers: Emmanuel Ochoa (3), Pablo Lara (3), Javier Orantes (1).

Qualifications for the FIFA U-20 World Cup: 17 (Tunisia 1977, Japan 1979, Australia 1981, Mexico 1983, Soviet Union 1985, Portugal 1991, Australia 1993, Malaysia 1997, Nigeria 1999, UAE 2003, Canada 2007, Colombia 2011, Turkey 2013, New Zealand 2015, Republic of Korea 2017, Poland 2019, Chile 2025).

**Best Result in the FIFA U-20 World Cup:** Runner-up (Tunisia 1977), 3rd place (Colombia 2011).

## Players to Watch:

**Amaury Morales.** He is the team's top scorer in CMU20 2024 (2 goals). The Cruz Azul player is the top goal contributor in the tournament (2 goals and 3 assists). He made 7 shots in his 5 appearances.

**Yael Padilla.** He is the Mexican player with the most shots (12) in this edition, following Gustavo Herrera (Panama) and alongside Santiago López (Canada), Roberto Osorto (Honduras), and Rafael Mosquera (Panama).

**Mateo Levy.** He directly participated in the goal in the last 2 matches for the Mexican national team (1 assist vs. Costa Rica in the quarterfinals and 1 goal vs. Cuba in the semifinals).

**Elías Montiel.** He is the leader in passes (153) in the Mexican national team in the tournament after 4 appearances (1 goal assist). He was a champion of the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup with Pachuca, made 7 shots, and had a 92% passing accuracy.

**Stephano Carrillo.** Scored 1 goal after 10 shots in his 5 matches. The Santos Laguna forward was a champion of the Concacaf Under-17 Championship in Guatemala 2023.

## Results of the finals in the CMU20 of Mexico:

- 2-0 vs. Guatemala Mexico 1973 (Mar 4).
- 1-0 vs. Cuba Canada 1974 (Sep. 1).
- 0-0 (4-3) vs. Honduras Puerto Rico 1976 (Oct 6).
- 1-0 vs. Canada Honduras 1978 (Nov 17).
- 2-0 vs. United States United States 1980 (Aug 17).
- 2-1 vs. Canada Trinidad and Tobago 1984 (Sep. 7).
- 3-1 vs. Costa Rica Guatemala 2011 (Apr 10).
- 3-1 vs. United States Mexico 2013 (Mar 3).
- 1-1 (4-2) vs. Panama Jamaica 2015 (Jan 24).
- 0-2 vs. United States United States 2018 (Nov 21).