

Alajuelense (CRC) vs. Marathon (HON)

GROUP B

Estadio Alejandro Morera Soto, Alajuela

1-AGO

They will face each other for the first time in the 2024 Central American Cup.

In general, they have met four times with three wins and one draw for LD Alajuelense.

The last time they met was a 0-0 draw in Group 3 of the 2003 Interclub Cup on November 9, 2003, at the Morazán Stadium in San Pedro Sula (HON).

LD Alajuelense defeated CD Marathon 2-1 on October 30, 2002, in Group C of the Interclub Cup at the National Stadium in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with goals from Steven Bryce (64') and Luis Santamaría (86'), while Marathon's goal was scored by Elvis Scott (22').



LD Alajuelense (CRC)

The reigning champion LD Alajuelense clinched the title in the inaugural 2023 edition by defeating Real Estelí in the final (4-1 on aggregate) at the Alejandro Morera Soto stadium in Alajuela.

LD Alajuelense had the most points (24), goals scored (24), victories (7), and passes (4155) in the 2023 tournament, also achieving a perfect record in the group stage and remaining undefeated.

LD Alajuelense won the Concacaf Champions Cup in 1986 and 2004, and the Scotiabank Concacaf League in 2020.

This is how they qualified: Second best overall in the 2023/24 Costa Rican season table.

Concacaf Central American Cup appearances: 2 (2023 and 2024).

Best result in the CCAC: Champion in the 2023 edition.

CCAC record: 10 games played, 7 wins, 3 draws, 0 losses (24GF-7GA).

Top scorers in the CCAC: Aarón Suárez (CRC) 4, Johan Venegas (CRC) 3, Michael Barrantes (CRC) 3, Joshua Navarro (CRC) 3, Freddy Góndola (PAN) 3, Joel Campbell (CRC) 3, Alexander López (HON) 2.

Most assists in the CCAC: Carlos Mora (CRC) 4, Joshua Navarro (CRC) 4, Johan Venegas (CRC) 2, Carlos Martínez (CRC) 1, Michael Barrantes (CRC) 1, Freddy Góndola (PAN) 1, Alexander López (CRC) 1, Edward Cedeño (PAN) 1, Joel Campbell (CRC) 1.

Players with the most appearances in the CCAC: Joshua Navarro, Alexander López, Celso Borges (10 games), Joel Campbell, Giancarlo González, Michael Barrantes (9 games), Aarón Suárez, Freddy Góndola, Leonel Moreira, Yael López, Carlos Mora, Doryan Rodríguez (8 games).

Most saves in the CCAC: Leonel Moreira (CRC) 32, Miguel Ajú (CRC) 6.

Players to watch:

Leonel Moreira (CRC) was a key player in the quarterfinals of the 2023 Concacaf Central American Cup (9 saves and 4 clearances, keeping a clean sheet in the return match vs. CS Cartaginés), semifinals (6 saves, 4 clearances, and saved a penalty in the shootout vs. CS Herediano), and in the final made 13 saves, 3 clearances, and kept a clean sheet in the first leg vs. Real Estelí. For his performances, he was selected in the Best XI of the tournament.

Celso Borges (CRC) was one of the standout midfielders in the last continental competition. The experienced midfielder led in passes (530) and effective passes (477).



CD Marathon (HON)

CD Marathón will make its debut in the Central American Cup after finishing as the runner-up in Honduras.

The CD Marathón, coached by Argentine Hernán Medina, had 3 appearances in the Scotiabank Concacaf League (2019, 2020, and 2021), recording 4 wins, 2 draws, and 5 losses over 11 matches. Its best performance in the tournament was reaching the quarterfinals in 2020 and 2021.

In the Concacaf Champions Cup, it has participated 6 times: 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2012/13, 2019, and 2021. In its debut year in the tournament, it qualified for the quarterfinals, as well as in the following edition, 2009/10, marking its best performances in the competition.

How they qualified: Not Champion but the team with the most points in the 2023/24 season in Honduras.

Concacaf Central American Cup appearances: 1 (2024).

Players to watch:

Alexy Vega (HON). He finished the 2023-24 season in Honduras as the top scorer with 14

goals and 5 assists, helping CD Marathón to finish as the runner-up. At the start of the 2024 season, he scored a goal in a 2-2 draw against Victoria.

César Samudio (PAN). He was a key player in CD Marathón's great season, achieving 7 clean sheets in 22 matches.