Seattle Sounders FC (USA) vs. Cruz Azul (MEX)

Lumen Field (USA)

Seattle Sounders FC and Cruz Azul will face each other again in the Concacaf Champions Cup after 28 years. Their last encounter took place on July 20, 1997, when Cruz Azul secured an 11-0 victory in Group A with goals from Francisco Palencia, Carlos Hermosillo (3), Julio César Yegros (3), Héctor Adomatis, Benjamín Galindo, an own goal by Kieran Barton, and Francisco Ramírez.

*Seattle Sounders' participation in the 1996 Concacaf Champions Cup is recognized as part of the club's history before its expansion into MLS as a franchise.

SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC

Seattle Sounders will compete in the Round of 16 for the fourth time in their history. In their previous three appearances, they were eliminated only once, against CD Olimpia (HON) in the 2020 edition.

All of Seattle Sounders FC's Round of 16 opponents have been Central American teams. In 2018, they eliminated Santa Tecla (SLV), in 2020, they were eliminated by Olimpia (HON), and in 2022, they knocked out FC Motagua (HON) on their way to winning their first title.

Seattle Sounders FC have won their last five home matches (5-0 vs. FC Motagua, 3-0 vs. León, 3-1 vs. New York City, 3-0 vs. Pumas UNAM—all in the 2022 edition—and 3-1 vs. Antigua GFC in 2025).

Seattle Sounders remain unbeaten in 11 home games (G-9 E-2), having lost just once in their last 16 matches at home, a 1-0 defeat to Santos Laguna (Hérculez Gómez) in the first leg of the semifinals in the 2012-13 edition.

The 2022 champions recorded the best goal efficiency percentage (26.1%) in the 2025 Round One. With six goals, they are among the top-scoring teams, trailing only their upcoming opponent, Cruz Azul (7).

Concacaf Champions Cup appearances (all formats): 9 (1996, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2015-16, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2025).

Best result: Champion 2022.

Concacaf Champions Cup record (all formats): GP-52 W-23 D-11 L-18 GF-93 GA-77.

Top scorers: Fredy Montero (COL) 9, Nicolás Lodeiro (URU) 7, Michael Fucito (USA) 5, Brad Evans (USA) 4, Lamar Neagle (USA) 4, Jordan Morris (USA) 4, Álvaro Fernández (URU) 4.

Most appearances: Fredy Montero (COL) 25, Cristian Roldán (USA) 22, Osvaldo Alonso (USA) 22, Leonardo González (CRC) 21, Zach Scott (USA) 20.

Since 2008-09: 39 matches with goals, 9 scoreless matches, 11 clean sheets, 37 matches conceding goals, 1 goalless draw.

Penalty shootouts (since 2008-09): 1 defeat (4-2 vs. Olimpia (HON), Round of 16 in the 2020 edition after a 4-4 aggregate draw).

Hat-tricks: 0.

Round of 16 appearances: 4 (2018 vs. Santa Tecla, 2020 vs. Olimpia, 2022 vs. FC Motagua, 2025 vs. Cruz Azul).

Concacaf Champions Cup 2025 record: GP-2 W-2 D-0 L-0 GF-6 GA-2.

Top scorers in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Pedro De La Vega (ARG) 3, Paul Arriola (USA) 2, Albert Rusnak (SVK) 1.

Assists in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Jesus Ferreira (USA) 2, Joao Paulo (BRA) 1, Obed Vargas (MEX) 1, Georgi Monoungou (CIV) 1.

Saves in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: 7. Goalkeepers: Stefan Frei (SUI) 3, Andrew Thomas (USA) 4. (2 goals conceded - 0 clean sheets).

Goal types: open play (6).

Goals by foot: right foot (5), left foot (1).

Goals by distance: inside the box (4), outside the box (2).

Goal attempts: 23. Shots on target: 11.

Fastest goal in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Paul Arriola (2' 37" vs. Antigua GFC - Round One - first leg).

Players to watch:

Pedro De La Vega (ARG). Scored three goals in Round One against Antigua GFC. The Argentine forward led the team in shots (6), fouls won (6), and total passes (131). His goal in the 24th minute of the second leg against Antigua GFC was the 800th goal for U.S. clubs in Concacaf Champions Cup history, dating back to the first goal scored by Andrew "Andy" Mate of New York Hungaria in the 18th minute against Deportivo Oro (MEX) at Estadio Jalisco (MEX) on March 18, 1963, 61 years, 11 months, and 8 days ago.

Jesús Ferreira (USA). Provided assists in both matches against Antigua GFC in the 2025 Round One. The forward, who won the Concacaf Nations League 2022-23 with the U.S., took four shots and completed 59 successful passes in 146 minutes on the field.

Paul Arriola (USA). Scored in both legs against Antigua GFC. He has four goals in his seven Concacaf Champions Cup appearances, having netted twice with Tijuana in the 2013-14 season. Arriola became the first American player to score in two consecutive matches in Seattle Sounders history.

CRUZ AZUL

Cruz Azul advanced to the Round of 16 after defeating Real Hope from Haiti (0-2 and 5-0).

Cruz Azul holds the record for the most matches played in Concacaf Champions Cup history (71) and is the team with the most goals scored (146) **since the 2008-09 edition**.

The six-time champion (1969, 1970, 1971, 1996, 1997, and 2014) has won every Round of 16 matchup they have played (3), with a record of 5 wins, 1 draw, and a goal tally of 18 for and 2 against. In 2020, they eliminated Portmore United (1-2 and 4-0), in 2021, Arcahaie (0-0 and 8-0), and in 2022, Forge FC (0-1 and 3-1).

Concacaf Champions Cup appearances (all formats): 18 (1969, 1970, 1971, 1980, 1981, 1988, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2025).

Best result: Champion (6) 1969, 1970, 1971, 1996, 1997, 2013-14.

Overall Concacaf Champions Cup record (all formats): GP-111 W-65 D-23 L-23 GF-257 GA-91.

Top scorers: Javier Orozco (MEX) 23, Emanuel Villa (ARG) 11, Pablo Zeballos (PAR) 9.

Most appearances: Julio César Domínguez (MEX) 44, Alejandro Castro (MEX) 40, Manuel Vela (MEX) 35, Rogelio Chávez (MEX) 34, Gerardo Torrado (MEX) 33.

Since 2008-09: 55 matches with goals, 16 scoreless matches, 35 clean sheets, 36 matches conceding goals, 6 goalless draws.

Penalty shootouts (since 2008-09): 1 win (4-2 vs. Puerto Rico Islanders - semifinals 2008-09).

Hat-tricks: 8 (Javier Orozco (MEX) x4, Jaime Lozano (MEX), Emanuel Villa (ARG), Mariano Pavone (ARG), Achille Edzimbi (CAM)). Additionally, Javier Orozco (MEX) scored four goals in the 2010-11 edition.

Round of 16 appearances: 4 (2020 vs. Portmore United, 2021 vs. Arcahaie, 2022 vs. Forge FC, 2025 vs. Seattle Sounders).

Round of 16 record: GP-6 W-5 D-1 L-0 GF-18 GA-2.

Top scorers in Round of 16 (since 2008-09): Walter Montoya (ARG) 2, Lucas Passerini (ARG) 2, Juan Marcelo Escobar (PAR) 2.

Concacaf Champions Cup 2025 record: GP-2 W-2 D-0 L-0 GF-7 GA-0.

Top scorers in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Ángel Sepúlveda (MEX) 3, Gabriel Fernández (URU) 2, Andrés Montaño (MEX) 1.

Assists in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Mateusz Bogusz (POL) 2, Ignacio Rivero (URU) 1, Ángel Sepúlveda (MEX) 1, José Suárez (VEN) 1.

Saves in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: 5. Goalkeepers: Andrés Gudiño (MEX) 5. (0 goals conceded - 2 clean sheets).

Goal types: open play (5), own goal (1), header (1).

Goals by foot: right foot (2), left foot (3).

Goals by distance: inside the box (3), outside the box (3).

Goal attempts: 40. Shots on target: 16.

Fastest goal in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Ángel Sepúlveda (20' 24'' vs. Real Hope - Round One - second leg).

Players to watch:

Ángel Sepúlveda (MEX). Scored three goals and provided one assist in Round One against Real Hope. He also led the team in shots (11) across 174 minutes on the field. Sepúlveda has now scored seven goals in Concacaf Champions Cup history, equaling his best goal tally with a single club (3) from his time at Monarcas Morelia in 2011-12. His header goal (21') made him the second-oldest player to score a header for Cruz Azul since the 2008-09 season, at 33 years, 11 months, and 27 days, surpassed only by Gerardo Torrado (MEX), who scored against CS Herediano in 2013 at 34 years, 3 months, and 23 days.

Mateusz Bogusz (POL). Registered two assists in the current edition in just 57 minutes on the field. The forward has five appearances in Concacaf Champions Cup, having previously played in the 2023 edition with LAFC.

Gabriel Fernández (URU). Scored two goals from eight shots against Real Hope in Round One of 2025. Alongside his compatriot Ignacio Rivero, he was one of the most fouled players on the team (4). Fernández became only the second Uruguayan player in history to score two goals for Cruz Azul in a single match in this tournament, following Nicolás Vigneri, who did so against Hankook Verdes (BLZ) in 2008.

Andrés Montaño (MEX). Scored his first-ever goal in Concacaf Champions Cup, becoming the 30th Mexican player to score for Cruz Azul since the 2008-09 season. At the same time, he netted the 149th goal by a Mexican player for Cruz Azul in the entire history of the tournament (since 1962).