

Concacaf GOLD CUP PRELIMS

M# 1 BELIZE vs. COSTA RICA

FFB Stadium, Belize.

This will be the 3rd historical encounter between these two teams in Gold Cup qualifying matches. The first time was for the 2013 edition (UNCAF National Team Tournament) on Matchday One of Group A, on January 18, 2013, at the National Stadium (CRC), with Costa Rica winning 1-0 thanks to a goal by Jairo Arrieta (55'). The second time was for the 2017 edition (UNCAF National Team Tournament) on January 15, 2017, at the Rommel Fernández Stadium (PAN) on Matchday Two of the Final Hexagonal, where Costa Rica secured a 3-0 victory with goals from José Guillermo Ortíz (25', 64') and Johan Venegas (51'). This was the most recent match between both teams.

The Costa Rica national team has faced Belize six times in its history, winning all official matches. Belize has only managed to score one goal against Costa Rica, netted by David McCauley on December 1, 1995, more than 29 years ago.

All-Time record:

6 matches

6 wins for Costa Rica

18 goals for Costa Rica

1 goal for Belize



Belize is aiming to qualify for the Gold Cup group stage for the first time in 12 years. Their only participation came in 2013, when they competed in Group C against the United States, Costa Rica, and Cuba.

Ian Elvis Gaynair scored Belize's only goal in Gold Cup history during their 2013 debut, netting in a 6-1 loss to the United States at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland, USA (July 9, 2013).

Belize secured a spot in the 2025 Gold Cup Prelims after defeating French Guiana 4-3 on aggregate in the Play-In.

Gold Cup Record: GP-3 W-0 D-0 L-3 GF-1 GA-11

Gold Cup Top Scorers: Ian Gaynair (1).

Most Gold Cup Appearances: Ian Gaynair (3), Trevor Lennon (3), Evan Thomas Mariano (3), Deon McCauley (3), Tyrone Pandy (3), Michael Salazar (3), Evral Trapp (3), Elroy Smith (3).

CNL Record: GP-24 W-9 D-3 L-12 (GF-26 GA-32).

CNL Top Scorers: Jordy Polanco (6), Orlando Velasquez (2), Deon McCauley (2), Eugene Martinez (2), Carlos Bernárdez (2), Krisean López (2).

CNL Assists: Krisean López (2), Jordy Polanco (2), Evral Trapp (1), Nahjib Guerra, Kyle Flowers, Amilton De Santana, Norman Anderson, Carlos Bernárdez, Angelo Capello, Naim Wilson, Eldon Reneau, Orlando Velásquez, Rene Leslie, Horace Avila (1).

CNL Saves: 95. Goalkeepers: Charles Tillet (80), Woodrow West (15).

Players to Watch:

*(Subject to change upon the release of official rosters).

Carlos Bernárdez. Played a key role in the Play-In against French Guiana, scoring in both legs. The forward has scored 6 goals in 16 appearances across Concacaf World Cup Qualifiers and the Nations League.

Krisean López. Has 2 goals and 2 assists in 16 CNL appearances. Played in the 2018/19 Concacaf Qualifiers, scoring 2 goals in 4 matches. Also featured in the Concacaf Qualifiers for the 2022 and 2026 FIFA World Cups.

Jordy Polanco. Belize's all-time top scorer in the Concacaf Nations League with 6 goals and 2 assists in 14 matches. Has won 10 Premier League of Belize titles and participated in the last three Concacaf World Cup Qualifiers.



Costa Rica has competed in 16 editions of the Concacaf Gold Cup (1991, 1993, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2023).

They reached the semifinals of the inaugural 1991 edition, while their best finish came in 2002 when they finished as runners-up, falling 0-2 to the United States in the final.

Costa Rica secured a spot in the 2025 Gold Cup Prelims after a 3-2 aggregate loss to Panama in the 2024/25 Concacaf Nations League quarterfinals.

Gold Cup Record: GP-67 W-25 D-18 L-24 GF-103 GA-82

Gold Cup Top Scorers: Walter Centeno (9), Paulo César Wanchope (7), Celso Borges (5), Joel Campbell (4), Rolando Fonseca (4), Bryan Ruiz (4), Marco Ureña (4).

Most Gold Cup Appearances: Celso Borges (29), Bryan Ruiz (23), Álvaro Saborío (21), Harold Wallace (21), Joel Campbell (21), Walter Centeno (19), Luis Marín (17), Francisco Calvo (17).

CNL Record: GP-18 W-5 D-8 L-5 (GF-20 GA-19).

CNL Top Scorers: Francisco Calvo (7), Warren Madrigal (3), Joel Campbell (2), Johan Venegas (1), José Guillermo Ortíz, Aarón Suárez, Anthony Contreras, Orlando Galo, Jefferson Brenes, Josimar Alcócer, Kenneth Vargas, Alejandro Bran, Adrián Martínez.

CNL Assists: Manfred Ugalde (3), Johan Venegas (2), Joel Campbell (2), Randall Leal (1), Bryan Oviedo, Óscar Duarte, Dylan Flores, Ricardo Blanco, Suhander Zúñiga, Álvaro Zamora, Juan Pablo Vargas, Adrián Martínez, Ariel Lassiter, Julio César Cascante.

CNL Saves: 53. Goalkeepers: Patrick Sequeira (20), Keylor Navas (10), Kevin Chamorro (9), Leonel Moreira (6), Esteban Alvarado (4), Aarón Cruz (4).

Players to Watch:

*(Subject to change upon the release of official rosters).

Francisco Calvo. The Costa Rica captain is the top scorer in CNL history (7 goals). The defender has 17 Gold Cup appearances, scoring twice (vs. Canada in 2017 and Martinique in 2023).

Joel Campbell. Led Costa Rica in shots (8) and assists during the 2023 Gold Cup. The forward has 21 appearances, 4 goals, and 6 assists in Gold Cup history.

Adrián Alonso Martínez. Scored in the 2024/25 Concacaf Nations League quarterfinals against Panama. The forward also made 4 appearances in the 2021 Gold Cup.