

The logo for the Concacaf Gold Cup Prelims. It features the word "Concacaf" in white, "GOLD CUP" in large yellow letters, and "PRELIMS" in white letters, all set against a dark blue background.

# Concacaf GOLD CUP PRELIMS

## COSTA RICA vs. BELIZE

Estadio Nacional de Costa Rica.

Cuba suffered their second defeat in the Gold Cup Prelims, having previously been handed a forfeit loss against French Guiana in 2021 after failing to show up due to visa issues with their players.

Yasniel Matos (CUB) scored the first goal of the Gold Cup Prelims and netted his third career goal in 31 international appearances.

Cuba are now winless in their last five matches against Trinidad & Tobago across all competitions (2 draws, 3 losses). The last Cuban win over the "Soca Warriors" dates back to December 16, 2012, in the Final of the Caribbean Zone qualifiers for the 2013 Gold Cup, with a 1-0 victory thanks to a goal from Marcel Hernández in the 113th minute.

Trinidad & Tobago recorded their second-ever victory on Cuban soil, the first coming on August 20, 2008, during the qualifiers for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, when they won 3-1 (Jeniel Márquez 88' / Keon Daniel 22', 61', Cornell Glen 69') – 16 years, 7 months, and 1 day ago.

This was the 8th meeting between the two sides in Gold Cup qualifying matches. It marked Trinidad & Tobago's third win in this type of contest:

- 3-1 on January 20, 2007, in the semifinal in Port of Spain (own goal by Jenier Molina 41', Gary Glasgow 57', Densill Theobald 73' / Leonel Duarte 76')
- 1-0 on November 18, 2012, in Group 8 play in Scarborough (Ataullah Guerra 67')
- 2-1 on March 21, 2025, in the first leg of the Prelims in Santiago de Cuba (Yasniel Matos 6' / Isaiah Lee 20', Steffen Yeates 53')

Trinidad & Tobago remain unbeaten in Gold Cup Prelims (2 wins, 1 draw). They previously defeated Montserrat 6-1 and drew 1-1 with French Guiana, both in 2021.

Isaiah Lee (TRI) scored his first-ever Gold Cup Prelims goal, which also marked his first international goal. His teammate Steffen Yeates also opened his Prelims scoring account.

This was Trinidad & Tobago's fourth 2-1 victory over Cuba in their head-to-head history. The last time the Soca Warriors defeated Cuba by that scoreline was in a friendly on November 19, 2003, in Port of Spain. On that day, Aurtis Whitley (12') and a

Jeniél Márquez own goal (23') gave the home side the win, while Maykel Galindo (47') scored for the Cubans – 21 years, 4 months, and 2 days ago.



**Gold Cup Appearances: (16)** (1991, 1993, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023) – only missed the 1996 edition.

**Gold Cup Record:** 68 GP: 26-W-18-D-24-L (110 GF – 82 GA).

**Best Gold Cup Result:** Runner-up (2002).

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

**Most Appearances in the Gold Cup:** Celso Borges (29), Bryan Ruiz (23), Álvaro Saborío (21), Harold Wallace (21), Joel Campbell (21), Walter Centeno (19).

**Most Saves in the Gold Cup (2009–2025):** Keylor Navas (23), Leonel Moreira (22), Dany Carvajal (21).

**Most Assists in the Gold Cup (2009–2025):** Joel Campbell (4), Álvaro Saborío (3), Bryan Ruiz (3), Cristian Bolaños (2), Armando Alonso Rodríguez (2), Adrián Alonso Martínez (2).

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

**Manfred Ugalde.** One of the standout performers in the 7-0 win over Belize in Belmopan. He netted the first two goals at FFB Stadium and struck the post with another shot. Back in 2019, he played in the Concacaf U-17 Championship, scoring 3 goals in 5 matches.

**Álvaro Zamora.** Came off the bench and bagged a brace in the first-leg clash against Belize. The striker is aiming to make his first group stage appearance at a Gold Cup, after logging 29 minutes at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

**Adrián Alonso Martínez.** The New York City (USA) forward delivered two assists and led all players in shots (3) in the 7-0 triumph over Belize. He featured in the 2021 Gold Cup, playing in four matches.

**Jeyland Mitchell.** In addition to scoring in Belmopan, the defender stood out in the first leg. The Feyenoord (NED) player completed 33 passes (97% accuracy), made 2 recoveries, and recorded 2 clearances.



**Gold Cup Appearances: 1 (2013)**

**Gold Cup Record:** 4 GP: 0-W-0-D-4-L (1 GF – 18 GA)

**Best Gold Cup Result:** Group stage (2013)

**Top Scorers in the Gold Cup:** Ian Gaynair (1)

**Most Appearances in the Gold Cup:** 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)

**Most Saves in the Gold Cup (2009–2025):** Woodrow West (19), Shane Orio (10)

**Most Assists in the Gold Cup (2009–2025):** Elroy Smith (1)

### **Players to Watch:**

**Carlos Bernárdez.** The striker is the team's main scoring threat. He was instrumental in the Play-In series against French Guiana, finding the net in both matches. Bernárdez has tallied 6 goals in 17 appearances across Concacaf Qualifiers, CNL, and Gold Cup Prelims.

**Darrel Myvett.** The midfielder was one of the bright spots against Costa Rica. The 31-year-old delivered 2 ball recoveries and completed 29 passes with an impressive 90% accuracy rate.

**Angello Capello.** In 8 appearances, he scored once against French Guiana in Group C of the 2023/24 edition, with an assist from Carlos Bernárdez.

**Eugene Martinez.** The right back was flawless in his passing during the 2025 Gold Cup Prelims. The 27-year-old also made 2 clearances in the first match against Costa Rica.