



**Tuesday, February 2025**

**20:00 (21:00) \*EDT (local)**

## **Real Hope FA (HAI) vs. Cruz Azul (MEX)**

**Cibao FC Stadium (DOM)**



### **Head-To-Head**

This will be the first time they meet in the Concacaf Champions Cup.

Real Hope will be the 3rd club to debut in the Champions Cup against Cruz Azul. Previously, Valencia FC played in Group 3 of the 2013/2014 edition, where the Mexican club won both matches (1-2 in Haiti and 3-0 in Mexico), and Arcahaie FC in the Round of 16 of the 2021 edition, drawing the first match 0-0 in the Dominican Republic and losing 8-0 in Mexico City. Real Hope will be the 13th Haitian club to debut in the history of the Concacaf Champions Cup, following Arcahaie FC, which was the most recent Haitian club to debut in 2021.

Cruz Azul is undefeated in 4 matches against Haitian clubs (W-3, D-1). That one draw, 0-0, came against Arcahaie FC in the first leg of the 2021 edition's Round of 16 at Estadio Félix Sánchez in Santo Domingo (DOM). Of the 12 0-0 draws Cruz Azul has had in the history of the Champions Cup, this was the first and remains the only one against a Caribbean club.

Real Hope qualifies for the 2025 Champions Cup after finishing in 3rd place in the 2024 Caribbean Cup.

The Haitian club will make its debut in the 2025 edition. It will be the 6th Haitian representative to appear in the tournament since the format change in 2008/09, following Tempete, Valencia, Don Bosco FC, Arcahaie, and Violette AC.

Haitian teams in the CCC have a record of W-2 D-1 L-13 in 16 matches.

The best performance by a Haitian team in the modern era of the Champions Cup was achieved by Violette AC in the 2023 edition, reaching the quarterfinals after eliminating Austin FC in the

round of 16. Additionally, it was the only Haitian team to secure victories in the tournament (2). They won both of their home matches, and their elimination came against the eventual champion, Club León from Liga MX.

No Haitian team has ever earned points as a visitor in the history of the Champions Cup Era in 8 matches. The only club to score away was Valencia, who lost 4-2 to CS Herediano in Group C of the 2013/14 edition.

**Champions Cup participations (all formats included):** 1st (2025).

**Debut:** 2025.

**Players to watch:**

**Angelo Exilus (HAI):** He was the top scorer in the 2024 Caribbean Cup with 6 goals and the leader in shots with 16 for Real Hope, helping secure 3rd place.

**Daniel Saint-Fleur (HAI):** He was the leader in successful passes with 492 in the 2024 Caribbean Cup. He scored a goal in the final match against Moca FC in the 3rd place playoff. He finished the 2024 Caribbean Cup as the player with the most passes, totaling 562.

**Yveto Dort (HAI):** He was the leader in ball recoveries for Real Hope in the 2024 Caribbean Cup with 17. The defender achieved a passing accuracy of 90% in 8 matches.



Cruz Azul qualifies for the Champions Cup as runners-up of the Clausura 2024 of Liga MX.

It is the team with the most matches played (69) since the 2008/09 edition.

La Máquina Cementera has won the CCC 6 times (1969, 1970, 1971, 1996, 1997, and 2014) and was a finalist in 3 editions since the format change: 2008/09 (runners-up), 2009/10 (runners-up), and 2013/14 (champion).

Along with CF Monterrey, they are the teams with the most consecutive titles (3) in the history of the CCC (1969, 1970, 1971). Mexican player Javier Orozco is Cruz Azul's all-time top scorer in the tournament with 23 goals. The former player also leads the all-time top scorers table with 24 and was the only player in the club to score four goals in a single match (vs. Real Salt Lake USA in Group A of 2010/11).

Cruz Azul is three goals away from surpassing Santos Laguna of Liga MX to become the team with the most goals scored in the CCC since the format change in 2008-09.

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

**Debut:** 1969 (Champion).

**Last participation:** 2022 (semifinalist).

**Overall record in the CCC (all formats included):** W-63 D-23 L-23 (GF-251 GA-91).

**Titles:** (6) 1969, 1970, 1971, 1996, 1997, 2013/14.

**Best result in the CCC ERA:** Champion (1) 2013/14, Runners-up (2) 2008/09, 2009/10.

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

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

**Cruz Azul since 2008/09:** They have scored goals in 53 matches, kept 33 clean sheets, conceded goals in 36 matches, failed to score in 16 matches, and have drawn 6 times with a 0-0 scoreline.

**Players to watch:**

**Ángel Sepúlveda (MEX):** He scored 10 goals during the regular phase and the Liguillas of the Apertura 2024 of Liga MX. The forward has 13 appearances in the CCC as a player of Monarcas (2011/12) and Querétaro (2015/16), scoring 4 goals.

**Carlos Rodríguez (MEX):** The midfielder won the CCC trophy in 2019 and 2021 as a player for CF Monterrey. Before the 2025 edition, he has played 19 matches.

**Georgios Giakoumakis (GRE):** The Greek forward scored 7 goals and provided 4 assists in the last semester of 2024 in Liga MX.