



Tuesday February 18, 2025

20:00 (19:00) *EDT (local time)

11 Sporting Kansas City (USA) vs. Inter Miami CF (USA)

Children's Mercy Park (USA)

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

In MLS, they have faced each other twice (2023 and 2024), with Inter Miami securing two victories.

Sporting Kansas City will face another MLS club for the first time in the history of the CCC and will try to match its best performances in the competition after reaching the semifinals twice. In the 2002 edition, they played against Monarcas Morelia (now Mazatlán FC) and lost with an aggregate score of 2-7. In the 2019 edition, they faced CF Monterrey (MEX) and lost the series 2-10 on aggregate (Sporting Kansas City holds the record for the largest aggregate loss in a semifinal series, with 10 goals conceded).

As for Inter Miami, they will face another MLS club for the second time in their history. They previously played against Nashville SC in the 2024 edition, in the Round of 16. The Florida club won the series with an aggregate score of 5-3. In the first leg, they drew 2-2 on March 7, 2024, with Jacob Shaffelburg scoring twice for Nashville, while Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez scored for Inter Miami. In the second leg, Miami won 3-1 on March 13, 2024, with goals from Luis Suárez, Lionel Messi, and Robert Taylor for Miami, while Sam Surridge scored for Nashville.



SPORTING KANSAS CITY

Sporting Kansas City qualified as the runner-up of the 2024 U.S. Open Cup. This will be its 7th appearance and the first since reaching the semifinals in 2019, where it was eliminated by eventual champion CF Monterrey.

It has played 20 matches since the format change in 2008/09, securing a 45%-win rate. The team has suffered two defeats in its last two first-leg matches of a knockout round: vs. CAI (2019 quarterfinals) and CF Monterrey (2019 semifinals).

It has won 6 of its last 8 home matches in the CCC, with the only losses coming against Vancouver Whitecaps (2016/17 Group C) and CF Monterrey (2019 semifinals). It has scored 3 goals per match in its last 5 home victories.

It will face a U.S. opponent for the first time in the CCC. Previously, it has played against teams from Trinidad & Tobago, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Canada, and Panama.

Appearances in the Champions Cup (including all formats): 6th (2002, 2005, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2019, 2025).

Debut: 2002 (Semifinals).

Last participation: 2019 (Semifinals).

CCC record (including all formats): GP-28 W-12 D-6 L-10 (GF-40 GA-41).

Best result: Semifinals (2) 2002, 2019.

Top scorers: Krisztián Németh (HUN) 4, Gerso Fernandes (GNB) 4, Antonio Rodríguez (ESP) 3, Soony Saad (USA) 2, Claudio Bieler (ARG) 2, Ilie Sánchez (ESP) 2, Dominic Dwyer (ENG) 2.

Players with the most CCC appearances: Seth Sinovic (USA) 16, Matt Besler (USA) 13, Graham Zusi (USA) 13, Benny Feilhaber (USA) 9, Charles Spong (USA) 9, Dom Dwyer (ENG) 9.

Sporting Kansas City since 2008/09: has scored in 16 games, failed to score in 4 matches, recorded 8 clean sheets, conceded goals in 12 matches, and played to a 0-0 draw once.

Players to Watch.

William Agada (NIG). The Nigerian forward scored 10 goals, provided 3 assists, and registered 77 shots in the last Major League Soccer (MLS) season across 32 matches.

Erik Thommy (GER). He netted 7 goals and recorded 4 assists in 30 appearances during the 2024 MLS season. Scored a brace against Inter Miami CF in their last meeting (2-3 loss).

Dániel Sallói (HUN). Scored the opening goal against Inter Miami CF in MLS (3-2 loss, 2023 edition). Played in 5 matches during SKC's historic 2019 CCC campaign.



Inter Miami qualified for the first round after securing a spot among the next two best clubs in the MLS Supporters' Shield standings. This will be the club's second appearance after debuting in 2024, when it reached the Quarterfinals.

The Florida-based team recorded all three possible results in the 2024 edition (1 win-1 draw-2 losses) in its CCC debut. It both scored and conceded goals in all four matches of that campaign.

The Herons will be seeking their first away victory in the CCC. They managed 1 draw and 1 loss in their previous two road matches, with all three of their goals coming in the second half.

Led by Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez, the team advanced past a U.S. opponent in the previous edition, eliminating Nashville SC (2-2 and 3-1) in the 2024 Round of 16, where both South American stars made their mark in every match.

Appearances in the Champions Cup (including all formats): 2nd (2024, 2025).

Debut: 2024 (Quarterfinals).

CCC record (including all formats): GP-4 W-1 D-1 L-2 (GF-7 GA-8).



Best result: Quarterfinals (1) 2024.

Top scorers: Lionel Messi (ARG) 2, Luis Suárez (URU) 2, Robert Taylor (FIN) 1, Tomás Avilés (ARG) 1, Diego Gómez (PAR) 1.

Players with the most CCC appearances: Drake Callender (USA) 4, Julian Gressel (USA) 4, Tomás Avilés (ARG) 4, Nicolás Freire (ARG) 4, Luis Suárez (URU) 4, Sergio Busquets (ESP) 4, Diego Gómez (PAR) 4, David Ruiz-Ochoa (HON) 3, Lionel Messi (ARG) 3, Jordi Alba (ESP) 3, Noah Allen (USA) 3.

Inter Miami since 2008/09: Scored and conceded goals in all four matches. Has never recorded a 0-0 draw.

Players to watch.

Lionel Messi (ARG). The global icon scored 2 goals and provided 2 assists in his 3 CCC appearances. He contributed to a goal in every match of Inter Miami's first CCC campaign in 2024. He led the team in shots (11) and recorded 21 goals with 12 assists in the 2024 MLS season.

Luis Suárez (URU). Played all 4 matches in 2024 and had a direct impact on 4 of Inter Miami's 7 goals (2 goals and 2 assists in the Round of 16). The Uruguayan also registered 8 shots across matches against Nashville SC and Monterrey. He scored 21 goals and provided 9 assists in the 2024 MLS season.

Sergio Busquets (ESP). The legendary midfielder delivered 227 accurate passes and recovered 5 balls in his 4 CCC 2024 appearances, boasting a 92% passing accuracy.