#

# Herediano (CRC) vs. Alajuelense (CRC)

Estadio Ricardo Saprissa, San Juan de Tibás

• Taking into account Concacaf's official competitions, this will be the first time in history that a semifinal between Costa Rican clubs will be contested. Two finals were played, the 2004 Champions Cup final between Saprissa and Alajuela, and the 2020 Scotiabank Concacaf League final, also between Saprissa and Alajuela.

• LD Alajuelense will play their 11th semifinal in Concacaf's official competitions, qualifying 6 times (54.5%). In the last 2 semifinal series, they secured qualification (2020 against Olimpia and 2022 against Real España, both in the Scotiabank Concacaf SCL).

• CS Herediano will play a semifinal in Concacaf's official competitions for the 3rd time, having been eliminated once (Champions Cup 2015 against America from Mexico) and qualified once (against Árabe Unido from Panama in the 2018 Scotiabank Concacaf League).

**LD Alajuelense wins the historical series in Costa Rica** GP-392 W-158 D-105 L-130 (GF-595 GA-524).

They contested the Costa Rican Provincial Classic in 9 finals for the National Championship of the Costa Rican First Division, with 5 victories for Alajuelense (National Championship 1980, Winter Tournament 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013) and 4 for Herediano (National Championship 1985, Summer Tournament 2015, 2016, and Opening Tournament 2019).

**They also faced each other in 2 finals for cup tournaments.** The first was in the 1937 Guatemala Cup, won by Alajuelense with a score of 5-1. The other final was won by Herediano in the 1947 Great Britain Cup with a score of 2-1.

**They were rivals in the final of the 2012 Supercopa, with a result of 2-0 in favor of Liga Deportiva Alajuelense.**

**Top scorers in the Alajuelense vs. Herediano series:** Errol Daniels (12), Jonathan McDonald (12), Salvador Soto (11), Alejandro Morera (10), Juan Gómez (10), Álvaro Solano (10).

**Top scorers in the Herediano vs. Alajuelense series:** Manuel Zamora (20), Yendrick Ruiz (13), Claudio Jara (12).

**Last 5 matches - Costa Rican First Division:**

**Herediano 2-3 Alajuelense** (Jesús Godínez, Andy Rojas; Johan Venegas x2, Alexander López), Apertura 2023, Colleya Stadium, Guadalupe (August 27, 2023).

**Alajuelense 1-1** Herediano (Aarón Suárez; Anthony Contreras), Clausura 2023, José Rafael Fello Meza Stadium, Cartago (April 16, 2023).

**Herediano 0-4 Alajuelense** (Alexander López, Yael López, Aarón Suárez, Ángel Tejeda), Clausura 2023, Colleya Stadium, Guadalupe (February 11, 2023).

**Alajuelense 2-2 Herediano** (Freddy Góndola, Johan Venegas; Gerson Torres x2), Apertura 2022, José Rafael Fello Meza Stadium, Cartago (August 28, 2022).

**Herediano 3-0** Alajuelense (Anthony Contreras, Yeltsin Tejeda, Jewison Bennette), Apertura 2022, Colleya Stadium, Guadalupe (July 30, 2022).

**Matches in SCCL/SCL: They have never faced each other.**

** Herediano (CRC)**

**Record in the Central American Cup:** GP-6 W-4 D-2 L-0 (GF-11 GA-6)

**Top Scorers:** David Sayago (ARG) 2, Fernán Faerron (CRC) 2, Jesús Godínez (MEX) 2, Alejandro Bran (CRC) 2.

**Assists:** Haxzel Quirós (CRC) 2, Gerson Torres (CRC) 2, Miguel Basulto (MEX) 1, Aarón Salazar (CRC) 1, Ronaldo Araya (CRC) 1, Kennedy Rocha (BRA) 1, John Ruíz (CRC) 1, Elías Aguilar (CRC) 1.

**Record in the Quarter-finals:** GP-2 W-1 D-1 L-0 (GF-3 GA-2)

**Saves: 20. Goalkeeper:** Aarón Cruz (CRC) 20.

**Biggest Wins:** 2-0 vs. Águila (Jesús Godínez x2), Alejandro Morera Soto Stadium, Alajuela (August 9, 2023); 3-2 vs. Comunicaciones (David Sayago x2 and Fernán Faerron; José Corena and Erik González), Quarter-final second-leg match, José Rafael Fello Meza Stadium, Cartago (October 4, 2023).

**Players to Watch:**

**Jesús Godínez (MEX).** Scored 2 goals in his 6 appearances and is the player with the most shots on the team with (17). The Mexican forward scored a goal the last time he faced Alajuelense.

**Aarón Cruz (CRC).** Kept a clean sheet in 1 match in the group stage (2-0 vs. Águila) and in the first leg of the quarter-finals (0-0 vs. Comunicaciones). Completed 10 saves in the group stage and 10 in the quarter-finals.

**Miguel Basulto (MEX).** Played in every one of Herediano's matches in the 2023 CCAC and was the leader in passes (256) on the team. Completed 89% of his passes in the competition.

**David Sayago (ARG).** Was Herediano's top scorer in the quarter-finals with his brace against Comunicaciones in the second-leg match. The Argentine made 4 shots in his 2 appearances in the 2023 CCAC.

** Alajuelense (CRC)**

**Record in the Central American Cup:** GP-6 W-6 D-0 L-0 (GF-16 GA-2).

**Top Scorers:** Aarón Suárez (CRC) 4, Michael Barrantes (CRC) 2, Johan Venegas (CRC) 2, Joshua Navarro (CRC) 2, Freddy Góndola (PAN) 2, Alexander López (HON) 2.

**Assists:** Carlos Mora (CRC) 3, Johan Venegas (CRC) 2, Joshua Navarro (CRC) 2, Carlos Martínez (CRC) 1, Michael Barrantes (CRC) 1, Freddy Góndola (PAN) 1, Suhander Zúñiga (CRC) 1.

**Record in the quarter-finals:** GP-2 W-2 D-0 L-0 (GF-6 GA-1)

**Saves: 19. Goalkeepers:** Leonel Moreira (CRC) 13, Miguel Ajú (CRC) 6.

**Biggest Victory: 5-1 vs. Motagua** (Joshua Navarro x2, Doryan Rodríguez, Michael Barrantes, Johan Venegas; Agustín Auzmendi), Alejandro Morera Soto Stadium, Alajuela (August 31, 2023).

**Players to Watch:**

**Johan Venegas (CRC).** Scored 10 goals in 22 matches against Herediano (2015, 2018, 2019 x2, 2020, 2021, 2022 x2, and 2023 x2). The all-time top scorer in the Scotiabank Concacaf League (17). He has scored 2 goals, provided 2 assists, and made 4 shots in the current 2023 CCAC.

**Celso Borges (CRC).** Leads in passes (411) in the entire 2023 Central American Cup and was the leader in passes in the group stage with (272) with a 91% passing accuracy.

**Aarón Suárez (CRC).** Was Alajuelense's top scorer in the quarter-finals against Cartaginés (2 goals). The 21-year-old forward has scored 4 goals from 10 shots in 5 appearances. He has scored goals against Herediano in 2 of the 3 matches in 2023 (Costa Rican First Division).

**Alexander López (HON).** Has played 24 matches against Herediano and scored (4 goals). In the CCAC, he has scored 2 goals, attempted 9 shots, completed 172 successful passes (91% accuracy), and recovered 3 balls in 6 appearances.