



Wednesday February 19, 2025

18:30 (17:30) *EDT (local time)

#13 CS Herediano (CRC) vs. Real Salt Lake (USA)

Estadio Nacional (CRC)

In the 2012-13 edition, they were rivals in Group 2 of the Concacaf Champions Cup, which also included Tauro FC from Panama. CS Herediano won the group with 10 points, and in the quarterfinals, they were eliminated (1-4) on aggregate by Los Angeles Galaxy.

They will face each other for the third time in the Concacaf Champions Cup. CS Herediano achieved one win and one draw in the 2012-13 edition.

CS Herediano 1-0 Real Salt Lake (Elías Aguilar), Group 2, Estadio Nacional de Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica (July 31, 2012).

Real Salt Lake 0-0 Herediano, Group 2, Rio Tinto Stadium, Sandy, USA (October 23, 2012).

CS Herediano has played 8 matches against U.S. clubs in the history of the CCC, winning 3 times, drawing 2, and losing 3. However, in the last 3 encounters, the Costa Rican club lost 2 and won 1. That last win was 3-1 against Atlanta United in the first leg of the Round of 16 in the 2019 edition, on February 21, 2019, at Estadio Eladio Rosabal Cordero in Heredia (CRC), with goals from José Guillermo Ortíz, Randall Azofeifa, and Óscar "Lagarto" Granados for the Costa Ricans. Julian Kurt scored for the MLS team.

Real Salt Lake has faced Costa Rican clubs 4 times in the history of the CCC, winning only once, losing 2, and drawing 1. Real Salt Lake has not beaten a Costa Rican club in the last 3 matches (L-2, D-1). The only time this club managed to beat a Costa Rican club was in the first leg of the 2010/2011 semifinals, with a 2-0 win against Deportivo Saprissa on March 15, 2011, at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy (USA). The goals were scored by Costa Rican Álvaro Saborío and Fabián "Loquillo" Espíndola. More than 13 years have passed since that match.



Club Sport Herediano qualified for the first round as a semifinalist in the 2024 Central American Cup. This will be the club's 17th appearance and its second consecutive.

CS Herediano's best performance in the CCC came in the 2014/15 edition when it reached the semifinals after defeating CD Olimpia in the quarterfinals (1-1 and 2-0).

CS Herediano scored in every match during its last CCC appearance, with 7 of its 8 goals coming in the second half. In the 2024 edition, the team advanced past Round One by eliminating Liga

MX's Toluca on away goals after a 4-4 aggregate score. A notable statistic from CS Herediano's 2024 campaign is that it always conceded first within the opening 20 minutes of each match.

CS Herediano has scored in 14 of its last 15 home matches in the CCC (0-5 vs. Pachuca in the 2024 quarterfinals).

The club has faced U.S. opponents twice in knockout rounds since 2008/09, failing to advance both times (vs. LA Galaxy in the 2012/13 quarterfinals and vs. Atlanta United in the 2019 Round of 16).

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (including all formats): 17th (1962, 1975, 1980, 1987, 1989, 1994, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018, 2019, 2024, 2025).

Debut: 1962 (Second Round).

Last participation: 2024 (Quarterfinals).

Champions Cup record (including all formats): GP-74 W-30 D-18 L-26 (GF-120 GA-121).

Best result in the CCC: Semifinals (1) 2014/15.

Top scorers: Yendrick Ruiz (CRC) 10, Jorge Barbosa De Lima (BRA) 6, Víctor Núñez (CRC) 4, Allen Guevara (CRC) 4.

Players with the most appearances: Pablo Sálazar (CRC) 26, Elías Aguilar (CRC) 26, Esteban Granados (CRC) 25, José Sánchez (CRC) 24, Christian Montero (CRC) 24, Yendrick Ruiz (CRC) 20.

CS Herediano since 2008/09: Scored in 33 matches, failed to score in 13 games, recorded 8 clean sheets, conceded goals in 14 matches, and played to a 0-0 draw three times.

Players to watch.

Elías Aguilar (CRC). He registered the most shots in the series against Toluca (4). Additionally, he scored the winning goal against Real Salt Lake in their first-ever CCC meeting in 2012/13 (1-0). The Heredia-born midfielder has 41 international appearances (3 goals).

John Jairo Ruíz (CRC). One of CS Herediano's top scorers in the 2024 Central American Cup (2). The forward played in 4 matches in the 2024 Champions Cup.

Fernán Faerron (CRC). Played all 6 matches in the 2024 CCC. The defender has 26 international appearances with LD Alajuelense and CS Herediano, scoring 2 goals.



Real Salt Lake qualified as the second-best club in the overall standings of the 2024 Major League Soccer (MLS) season. This will be the club's fourth appearance and its first since the 2015/16 edition. Its best result came in its debut season in 2010/11 when it finished as runner-up.

RSL has won 2 of its last 5 matches, both at home (2-1 vs. Santa Tecla and 1-0 vs. Municipal in

Group G of 2015/16). The club has not won an away match since defeating Municipal 1-0 in Group G of 2015/16. Additionally, it has failed to score in its last 2 road matches (0-0 vs. Santa Tecla and 2-0 vs. Tigres UANL in Group G and the first leg of the 2015/16 quarterfinals, respectively).

Real Salt Lake has played four first-leg matches since its first tournament appearance in the 2010/11 edition, recording 1 win, 2 draws, and 1 loss. Its only victory in a series opener was a 2-0 triumph against Deportivo Saprissa in the 2010/11 semifinals.

The club has faced Central American opponents 12 times. Its only knockout round victory against a Central American club came against Deportivo Saprissa in the 2010/11 semifinals. RSL is winless in its last three meetings against Costa Rican clubs (1 draw and 2 losses: 2-1 vs. Saprissa in the 2010/11 semifinals and 1-0 vs. Herediano in Group B of 2012/13).

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (including all formats): 4th (2010/11, 2012/13, 2015/16, 2025).

Debut: 2010/11 (Runner-up).

Last participation: 2015/16 (Quarterfinals).

Champions Cup record (including all formats): GP-22 W-11 D-6 L-5 (GF-34 GA-22).

Best result: Runner-up (1) 2010/11.

Qualification for the 2025 edition: One of the next two best clubs in the 2024 Supporters' Shield standings.

Top scorers: Álvaro Saborío (CRC) 10, Javier Morales (ARG) 4, Will Johnson (CAN) 3, Jámison Olave (COL) 3, Paulo Júnior (BRA) 3.

Players with the most appearances: Javier Morales (ARG) 20, Nick Rimando (USA) 19, Kyle Beckerman (USA) 19, Tony Beltran (USA) 17, Will Johnson (CAN) 16, Jámison Olave (COL) 15, Ned Grabavoy (USA) 15, Chris Wingert (USA) 14, Álvaro Saborío (CRC) 14.

Real Salt Lake since 2008/09: Scored in 16 matches, failed to score in 6 games, recorded 8 clean sheets, conceded goals in 14 matches, and played to a 0-0 draw three times.

Players to watch.

Diego Luna (USA). Scored 8 goals in the 2024 Major League Soccer season. The Sunnyvale native won the Concacaf U-20 Championship in Honduras 2022 and played in the FIFA U-20 World Cup Argentina 2023.

Cristian Arango (COL). The Colombian striker netted 17 goals in 32 MLS 2024 appearances. He returns to the Concacaf Champions Cup after his only previous participation with Pachuca in 2023.

Zac MacMath (USA). The goalkeeper will return to the Champions Cup after his only appearance with Colorado Rapids in 2018. He kept a clean sheet in the Round of 16 (0-0).