



# Saprissa (CRC) vs. Guanacasteca (CRC)

GROUP D

Estadio Ricardo Saprissa, San Juan de Tibás

31-JUL

They will face each other for the first time in Concacaf club competitions.

The last time Deportivo Saprissa faced a Costa Rican rival in a Concacaf club tournament was in Group A of the inaugural edition of the Central American Cup (2023) when they defeated CS Cartaginés 1-0 on August 3, 2023, with an own goal by José Vargas (63').

The last time they faced each other in the Costa Rican League, Deportivo Saprissa won 4-1 on April 28, 2024, at the Ricardo Saprissa Stadium with goals from Ariel Rodríguez (8', 45+1'), Luis Paradela (27', 57'), and for AD Guanacasteca, José Pablo Córdoba (18').



## Deportivo Saprissa (CRC)

Deportivo Saprissa qualified by winning the Apertura 2023 title and will play for the second time in the Concacaf Central American Cup. Deportivo Saprissa finished the group stage unbeaten in the 2023 edition and was then eliminated in the quarterfinals by the eventual finalists, Real Estelí. They scored the most headers (5) in the 2023 edition. After being eliminated in the quarterfinals, Deportivo Saprissa had to play a Play-In to qualify for the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup, defeating FC Motagua from Honduras 6-2 on aggregate.

Deportivo Saprissa won the Concacaf Champions Cup in 1993, 1995, and 2005, and the Scotiabank Concacaf League in 2019.

**Qualification:** Champion of the Apertura 2023 and Clausura 2024 Tournaments in Costa Rica.

**Participations in the CCAC:** 2 (2023 and 2024).

**Best result in the CCAC:** Quarterfinals 2023.

**Record in the CCAC:** 8 games played, 4 wins, 3 draws, 1 loss (18GF-5GA). \*Includes Play-In matches.

**Top scorers in the CCAC:** Javon East (JAM) 4, Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 4, Orlando Sinclair (CRC) 4, Michael Chirinos (HON) 2, Warren Madrigal (CRC) 1, Jefferson Brenes (CRC) 1, Kendall Waston (CRC) 1, Luis Paradela (CUB) 1.

**Assists in the CCAC:** Jorkaeff Azofeifa (CRC) 2, Ulises Segura (CRC) 2, Orlando Sinclair (CRC) 1, Jefferson Brenes (CRC) 1, Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 1, Kendall Waston (CRC) 1, Michael Chirinos (HON) 1, David Guzmán (CRC) 1, Javon East (JAM) 1.

**Players with the most appearances in the CCAC:** Orlando Sinclair, Fidel Escobar, Javon East, Jorkaeff Azofeifa, Esteban Alvarado (8 games), Ulises Segura, Ariel Rodríguez, Gerald Taylor, Jefry Valverde (7 games), Youstin Salas, Pablo Arboine, Warren Madrigal (6 games).

**Most saves in the CCAC:** Esteban Alvarado (CRC) 34.

#### **Players to watch:**

**Esteban Alvarado (CRC).** He was the goalkeeper with the most saves (34) in the 2023 edition of the CCAC. He played 760 minutes, achieving 5 clean sheets (out of 8 possible) and conceded only 5 goals.

**Orlando Sinclair (CRC).** He had the best shooting accuracy (50%) in the 2023 edition (4 goals in 8 matches). He scored 10 goals in 40 matches in the last season of Costa Rican football.



#### **AD Guanacasteca (CRC)**

AD Guanacasteca will make its debut in a Concacaf club tournament after qualifying due to its third-place finish in the overall standings in Costa Rica. The Pamperos will be the fifth Costa Rican team to participate in the Central American Cup. Among their national titles are four from the Second Division in 1975, 1985, 1995, 2002, 2020, and 2021. They also won from the third category in 1972 and were runners-up in the Cup Tournament in 1977.

**Qualification:** Third best in the accumulated table for the 2023/24 season in Costa Rica.

**Participations in the Concacaf Central American Cup:** 1 (2024).

#### **Players to watch:**

**Johnny Leverón (HON).** The defender had a great season with CD Marathón in Honduras, helping them to a runner-up finish in the Clausura 2024. The 34-year-old Leverón has 26 international appearances in Concacaf club tournaments as a former player for CD Olimpia, FC Motagua, and Real España.

**Johan Venegas (CRC).** He was a champion of the 2023 Concacaf Central American Cup with LD Alajuelense (3 goals in 5 appearances), and also won the Scotiabank Concacaf League in 2019 with Deportivo Saprissa, where he finished as the top scorer of the tournament (17 goals in 20 matches).