



## Club Atletico Independiente (PAN) vs. Port Layola (BLZ)

Group C, Estadio Rommel Fernández, Panama City, August 21, 2024

First time they will face each other in the Central American Cup and their history

For the Panamanian club, it will be their first historic encounter against a Belizean team, just as it will be for Port Layola against a team from Panama.

In Concacaf club tournaments, Panamanian and Belizean clubs have faced each other 9 times, with six wins for the Panamanian teams, 2 draws, and one loss. The only victory was achieved by Verdes FC, winning 2-1 against San Francisco in the 2015 Concacaf Champions Cup on September 22, 2015, with a brace from Deon McCauley for Verdes FC and a goal from Daniel Morán for San Francisco FC.



### CA Independiente CAI (PAN)

Club Atlético Independiente has 4 matches without a win in the tournament (1 draw and 3 losses). This will be their first home game after losing the first two away matches.

CAI has only managed one point from the last 12 possible and hasn't won since they defeated FC Motagua 2-0 with a brace from Carlos Small (now a player for Real España of Honduras) in the second leg of the 2023 quarterfinals.

CAI is unbeaten in 4 home matches with 3 wins and one draw, scoring 11 goals and conceding 3 (they kept a clean sheet in 2 of the last 3 matches at their stadium).

**CCAC Appearances: 2 (2023 and 2024).**

**Best result in CCAC: Semifinals 2023.**

**CCAC Record:** GP-10 W-4 D-3 L-3 (GF-17 GA-12).

**Top scorers in CCAC:** Carlos Small (PAN) 5, Jorge Serrano (PAN) 2, Rafael Águila (PAN) 2, Víctor Ávila (PAN) 1, Gilberto Hernández (PAN), Héctor Hurtado (PAN), Anthony Stewart (PAN), Martín Ruíz (PAN), Jefferson Murillo (COL), Ángel Valverde (PAN), Davis Contreras (PAN).

**Assists in CCAC:** Marlon Ávila (PAN) 2, Víctor Ávila (PAN) 2, Jorge Serrano (PAN) 1, Rafael Águila (PAN), Sergio Cunningham (PAN), Jefferson Murillo (COL), Carlos Small (PAN), Eddie Roberts (PAN).

**Saves in CCAC:** Eddie Roberts (PAN) 38 (6 in the current edition).

**Top scorers in the 2024 edition:** Martín Ruíz (PAN) 1.

**Assists in CCAC 2024:** Eddie Roberts (PAN) 1.

**Goal-scoring opportunities: (11). Shots on target: (5).**

**Players to watch:**

**Eddie Roberts (PAN):** So far, he has made 5 SAVES and 4 clearances. One of his passes led to CAI's first goal after Martín Ruíz sent it into the back of the net. He was the second goalkeeper with the most saves (33) in the 2023 edition.

**Martín Ruíz (URU):** He scored CAI's first goal and was the player with the most shots (2) in the last match against Antigua GFC. He has made 2 appearances and recovered 7 balls.

**Breinner Paz (COL):** He is the CAI player with the highest pass accuracy (89%) and ball recoveries (8). He completed 40 passes in 2 tournament appearances



## Port Layola FC (BLZ)

Port Layola FC has suffered 3 defeats in their CCAC debut against Antigua GFC (1-4), Olimpia (1-6), and CD Águila (5-1) in Group C.

They have scored one goal in each of the matches. René Leslie scored against Antigua GFC, Colombian Andrés Orozco against CD Olimpia, and Miguel García against CD Águila. They have always started losing each match before the 20th minute and scored all 3 goals in the first half.

The current champion of the Belize Premier League will seek to become the first team from their country to win a match in the Central American Cup after Verdes FC's 4 defeats in the 2023 edition.

**Carlos Slusher (BLZ)** became the coach of a Belizean club with the most goals conceded in 3 matches, with 15, surpassing the 12 goals conceded in the same number of matches by Verdes FC under José Migallón (ESP).

Coaches who conceded 15 or more goals in the group stage in the history of the tournament: 17 goals conceded by Alberto Castillo (PER) with Jocoro FC (SLV), 15 goals by José Migallón (ESP) with Verdes FC (BLZ), and 15 goals by Carlos Slusher (BLZ) with Port Layola (BLZ), still in competition.

**CCAC Record:** GP-3 W-0 D-0 L-3 (GF-3 GA-15).

**Top scorers in the CCAC:** René Leslie (BLZ) 1, Andrés Orozco (COL), Miguel García (COL).

**Assists in the CCAC:** Latrell Middleton (BLZ) 1, Enfield Nunez (BLZ), Norman Anderson (BLZ).

**Saves in the CCAC:** Oscar Palomino (COL) 24.

**Players to watch:**

**Oscar Palomino (COL):** He is the goalkeeper with the most saves (24) in the group stage of the 2024 CCAC. The 38-year-old goalkeeper made 9 saves and 2 clearances in the match against CD Águila in Santa Tecla. Palomino became the goalkeeper with the most goals conceded in the history of the tournament, surpassing the 14 goals conceded by Jonathan Rougier (ARG) of FC Motagua. Additionally, Palomino is the goalkeeper with the most goals conceded in a single edition of the Central American Cup with 15 goals, surpassing the 12 goals conceded by Óscar Sánchez (SLV) of Jocoro FC in 2023.

**Latrell Middleton (BLZ):** He was the player with the most shots (8) and passes (69) in the three matches. He provided the assist for the team's first goal in the tournament.

**Miguel García (COL):** He scored the goal against CD Águila. The Colombian defender also made 64 passes (47 of them completed) in his 3 appearances in the CCAC.