



Columbus Crew (USA) vs. CF Monterrey (MEX)

Lower.com Field, Columbus (USA)

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Columbus Crew and CF Monterrey will face each other for the third time in their history in the Concacaf Champions Cup after CF Monterrey won (5-1) on aggregate in 2021 and later went on to be crowned champions.

The series between Columbus Crew and CF Monterrey will be the 13th one between MLS clubs and Mexican teams. In the previous 12 semifinals, Mexican clubs qualified 10 times, while MLS clubs qualified only twice (DC United against Club León in 1998, with a score of 2-0, and Los Angeles FC against CF América in 2020, with a score of 3-1). Both qualifications of MLS clubs against Mexican rivals were in single matches due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CF Monterrey will play its 8th semifinal series in the history of the competition. Out of the previous 7, it qualified in 5 and was eliminated twice (against LD Alajuelense (CRC) in 2003-2004 and against Saprissa (CRC) in 2004-2005). Its top scorers in semifinals with 4 goals each are the Mexican Aldo de Nigris (2 against Pumas UNAM (MEX) in 2011-2012 and 2 against Los Angeles Galaxy (USA) in 2012-2013) and the Mexico-Argentinean Rogelio Funes Mori (2 against Sporting Kansas City (USA) in 2019 and 1 against Cruz Azul (MEX) in 2021).

Results in the series:

- Columbus Crew 2-2 CF Monterrey (Milton Valenzuela and Lucas Zelarayán; Aké Loba and José Alvarado), first leg quarterfinal, MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus (28-04-2021).
- CF Monterrey 3-0 Columbus Crew (Maximiliano Meza x2 and Miguel Layún), second leg quarterfinal, Estadio BBVA, Monterrey (5-05-2021).

Since the tournament format change in 2008/09, it will be the 112th match between rivals from the United States and Mexico in the Concacaf Champions Cup. Of those games, 87 were in the knockout phase, with Liga MX teams achieving 62 wins, 25 losses, and 24 draws.

In the CCC semifinals, there have been 7 two-legged series (home and away) between Mexican and American teams, with six wins for Mexican teams and one for American teams: Santos Laguna-Seattle Sounders (2012/13), Monterrey-LA Galaxy (2012/13), FC Dallas-Pachuca (2016/17), Guadalajara-New York RB (2018), Monterrey-Kansas City (2019), América-LAFC (2020), and Club América-Philadelphia Union (2021).

Los Angeles FC was the only American team to eliminate a Mexican rival in the semifinals of the tournament since 2008/09 onwards, and this was also the only single-leg series between these countries (vs. Club América in 2020) due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Columbus Crew has three consecutive draws in the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup (1-1 vs. Houston Dynamo in the round of 16, 1-1 and 1-1 vs. Tigres UANL in the quarterfinals). Additionally, they have failed to win in 4 of their last 6 matches in the tournament (W-1 D-4 L-1).

Playing at home, they have drawn three matches (2-2 vs. Monterrey, 1-1 vs. Houston Dynamo, and 1-1 vs. Tigres UANL). They are on a streak of 10 home matches without a loss (W-4 D-6), keeping a clean sheet in 5 of the 8 matches. Their last home defeat was in 2009 (0-2) against Cruz Azul in Group C of the 2019-10 edition.

Columbus Crew has faced Mexican rivals 10 times in the history of the tournament since 2008/09 and only managed to defeat Santos Laguna (1-0) in Group B in 2009/10. They have faced Cruz Azul, Toluca, Santos Laguna, Tigres UANL, and Monterrey, whom they will face again.

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (Since 1962): 5 (2003, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2021, 2024).

Best Result: semifinals (2024).

Record in the Concacaf Champions Cup (since 1962): GP- 28, W- 11, D- 8, L- 9 (GF 37, GA 38).

Top Scorers since 2008/09: Steven Lenhart (USA) 4, Andrés Mendoza (PER) 3, Emilio Rentería (VEN) 3, Diego Rossi (URU) 2, Guillermo Barros Schelotto (ARG) 2, Gyasi Zardes (USA) 2, Robbie Rogers (USA) 2.

Players with the most appearances (since 2008/09): Emmanuel Ekpo (NGA) 14, Eddie Gaven (USA) 13, Adam Moffat (SCO) 12, Eric Brunner (USA) 12, Andy Iro (ENG) 11, Steven Lenhart (USA) 11, Brian Carroll (USA) 10, Emilio Rentería (VEN) 10.

Columbus Crew since the 2008/09 edition: They have scored goals in 19 matches, failing to score in only 5 of those encounters. They have conceded goals in 15 games, kept 9 clean sheets, and only once ended in a goalless draw (0-0).

Record in first leg matches in the KO Phase (since 2008/09): GP 5, W-2, D- 4, L- 0.

Most goals in a single victory (since 2008/09): 4-0 vs. Real Estelí (Gyasi Zardes x2, Jonathan Mensah, and Pedro Santos), round of 16 - 2021, UNAN National Football Stadium, Managua (April 8, 2021).



Penalty shootouts: 1. Defeated (4-3) Tigres UANL in the quarterfinals of the 2024 edition after a draw (2-2) on aggregate (1-1 and 1-1).

Record in the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup: GP- 4, W- 1, D- 3, L- 0 (GF 4, GA 3).

Top scorers in the 2024 CCC: Diego Rossi (URU) 2, Alexandru Mățan (ROU) 1, Juan Camilo Hernández (COL) 1.

Most assists in the 2024 CCC: Aidan Morris (USA) 2, Christian Ramírez (USA) 1, Mohamed Farsi (CAN) 1.

Saves in the 2024 CCC: 15. **Goalkeeper:** Patrick Schulte (USA) 15 (3 goals conceded - 1 clean sheet).

How goals were scored: From open play (4).

Goal-scoring opportunities: 40. Shots on target: 17.

Fastest goal in the first half of the 2024 CCC: Juan Camilo Hernández (39' 05" vs. Houston Dynamo - second leg round of 16).

Players to Watch:

Juan Camilo Hernández (COL): He was instrumental in the play leading to the equalizing goal against Tigres UANL in the second leg of the quarterfinals. The forward is the team leader in shots with 10, in addition to scoring a goal in the round of 16 against Houston Dynamo.

Diego Rossi (URU): He scored both goals in the series against Tigres UANL (the first player to score in both legs for his club). The Uruguayan forward has made 9 appearances in the history of the tournament and scored 4 goals.

Darlington Nagbe (USA): He was the player with the highest number of passes (265) and balls recovered (11) for Columbus Crew in the previous 4 matches (251 of those passes were successful). The team captain has a passing accuracy of 95%.

Patrick Schulte (USA): With two saves in the penalty shootout against Tigres, he was a key piece in Columbus Crew's first-ever qualification to the tournament's semifinals. To date, he has made 15 saves and kept a clean sheet in the 2024 edition of the tournament.



CF Monterrey (MEX)

Monterrey is the only team that has won all the matches in the current edition of the tournament and holds the record for the most wins in the knockout phase with 28 since the 2008-09 edition.

Out of the 28 series (home and away) they have played in the history of the tournament, CF Monterrey managed to advance in 23 of them and was only eliminated five times, three by Central American rivals and two by Mexican teams.

Since the 2008/09 edition, Rayados managed to overcome each of the semifinal series they played, subsequently winning the title in 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2019, and 2021.

CF Monterrey has 10 consecutive victories in the tournament. In addition to winning all 6 matches in the current edition (against Comunicaciones in Round One, Cincinnati in the round of 16, and Inter Miami in the quarterfinals), they achieved 4 victories in 2021 when they won their last title.

The team coached by Argentine **Fernando Ortíz** leads in shots with 92 in the 2024 tournament. Brandon Vázquez (USA), scorer of 4 goals in 6 appearances, leads in shots with 13.

Participations in the Concacaf Champions Cup (Since 1962): 12 (1975, 1987, 1994, 2004, 2005, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2016/17, 2019, 2021, 2024).

Best result: Champion (5) 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2019, 2021.

Record in the Concacaf Champions Cup (Since 1962): GP 79, W 51, D 18, Lost 10 (GF 155, GA 63).

Top scorers in the CCC: Humberto Suazo (CHI) 16, Aldo De Nigris (MEX) 16, Abraham Carreño (MEX) 9, Neri Cardozo (ARG) 7, Rogelio Funes Mori (MEX) 5, Nicolás Sánchez (ARG) 5, Jesús Gallardo (MEX) 5, Maximiliano Meza (ARG) 5.

Players with the most appearances in the history of the tournament: Aldo de Nigris (MEX) 30, Walter Ayoví (ECU) 30, Neri Cardozo (ARG) 28, Jonathan Orozco (MEX) 27, Jesús Zavala (MEX) 27, Hiram Mier (MEX) 26, José María Basanta (ARG) 26, Humberto Suazo (CHI) 26.

CF Monterrey Since 2008/09 has scored goals in 54 matches, with 30 clean sheets, conceded goals in 29 games, failed to score in only 5 matches, and has drawn twice with a scoreline of (0-0).

Record in first leg matches in the KO Phase: GP- 19, W- 15, D- 4, L- 0.

Biggest victory (since 2008/09): Universitario 0-6 Monterrey (Abraham Carreño, Humberto Suazo x2, Jesús Corona, Neri Cardozo, Luis Madrigal), group stage 2012/13.

Penalty shootouts: They were eliminated in the semifinal of the Concacaf Champions Cup 2005 by Deportivo Saprissa (5-3) after drawing (3-3) on aggregate.

Hat-tricks: Abraham Carreño (vs. Herediano - group stage 2011/12), Ángel Reyna (vs. Universitario - group stage 2012/13).

Semifinal appearances: 2004 (vs. Alajuelense), 2005 (vs. Saprissa), 2010/11 (vs. Cruz Azul), 2011/12 (vs. Pumas UNAM), 2012/13 (vs. LA Galaxy), 2019 (vs. Sporting Kansas City), 2021 (vs. Cruz Azul), and 2024 (vs. Columbus Crew).

Record in semifinals: GP- 14, W- 8, D- 5, L- 1.

Top scorers in Semifinals: Rogelio Funes Mori (MEX) 4, Aldo de Nigris (MEX) 4, Avilés Hurtado (COL) 2, Humberto Suazo (CHI) 2, Maximiliano Meza (ARG) 2, Dorlan Pabón (COL) 2.

Final qualifications: 5 and 2 times eliminated before the format change in 2008/09. First in 2004 by Alajuelense in extra time (1-0 and 1-1) and 2005 by Saprissa in the penalty shootout (5-3) after drawing (3-3) on aggregate.

Record in the 2024 CCC: GP- 6, W- 6, D- 0, L- 0 (GF- 15, GA- 3).

Top scorers in the 2024 CCC: Brandon Vázquez (USA) 4, Germán Berterame (ARG) 2, Jesús Gallardo (MEX) 2, Maximiliano Meza (ARG) 1, Jorge Rodríguez (ARG) 1, Alfonso González (MEX) 1, Rodrigo Aguirre (URU) 1, Héctor Moreno (MEX) 1, Jesús Corona (MEX) 1, Luis Romo (MEX) 1.

Most assists in the 2024 CCC: Maximiliano Meza (ARG) 5, Germán Berterame (ARG) 2, Gerardo Arteaga (MEX) 1, Stefan Medina (COL) 1, Jesús Gallardo (MEX) 1, Jordi Cortizo (MEX) 1, Rodrigo Aguirre (MEX) 1.

Saves in the 2024 CCC: 18. Goalkeeper: Esteban Andrada (ARG) 18. (4 goals conceded - 2 clean sheets).

How goals were scored: From open play (11), headers (4).

Goal-scoring opportunities: 92. Shots on target: 43.

Fastest goal in the first half of the 2024 CCC: Héctor Moreno (09' 37" vs. Comunicaciones - second leg Round One).

Players to Watch:

Jesús Gallardo (MEX): He has scored two goals, made 233 passes, and provided one assist in 5 appearances (410 minutes) in the 2024 tournament. Overall, he has made 24 appearances with 7 goals scored and has been a two-time champion with Rayados (2019 and 2021).

Maximiliano Meza (ARG): He is the tournament's assists leader with 5. The Argentine has contributed to the last 8 goals (one goal scored and 4 assists). He has played in 17 matches in the tournament, scoring 5 goals, providing 8 assists, and winning 2 championships with Rayados (2019 and 2021). He scored a brace against Columbus Crew in the quarterfinals in 2021.

Brandon Vázquez (USA): He is Rayados' top scorer (4 goals) and has attempted the most shots (13) in the 2024 edition of the tournament. Columbus Crew is the opponent he has faced the most in his career, having encountered them 13 times and scored 4 goals against them. He scored a brace against them in the 2019 Open Cup.

Gerardo Arteaga (MEX): He is the team's leader in passes with 301. He has played in all matches of the current edition and was involved in the play leading to Germán Berterame's goal in the quarterfinals against Inter Miami.