



Thursday February 20, 2025

20:00 (19:00) *EDT (local time)

#16 Dep. Saprissa (CRC) vs. V. Whitecaps FC (CAN)

Estadio Ricardo Saprissa (CRC)

This will be the first time they meet in the Concacaf Champions Cup and in their history.

The only time Deportivo Saprissa faced a Canadian opponent in the Concacaf Champions Cup, they drew 2-2 against CF Montreal in the Round of 16 of the 2020 edition at Estadio Ricardo Saprissa in San José (CRC) on February 19, 2020. Goals from Orji Okwonkwo and Romell Quioto were scored for the Canadian club, while Johan Venegas and Ariel "Pitus" Rodríguez scored for the locals. The return match ended in a 0-0 draw on February 26, 2020, at the Olympic Stadium in Montréal (CAN), and on that occasion, the Canadian club advanced on the away goals rule.

Vancouver Whitecaps have faced Central American clubs 4 times, winning 2 times and losing 2. The last time Vancouver Whitecaps faced a Central American club was against Real España from Honduras in the return leg of the Round of 16 of the 2023 edition on March 15, 2023, at Estadio Olímpico Metropolitano in San Pedro Sula (HON). The Hondurans won 3-2 with goals from Getsel Montes (2) and Ramiro Rocca, while the Canadian club scored through Brian White and Simon Becher. However, Vancouver Whitecaps advanced to the quarterfinals after winning 5-0 in the first leg with goals from Tristan Blackmon, Ryan Raposo, an own goal by Devron García, Pedro Vite, and Brian White, ultimately winning the series with an aggregate score of 7-3.



Deportivo Saprissa will participate in the Concacaf Champions Cup for the 38th time. The Costa Rican club secured its spot in the 2025 CCC by winning the Play-in series against Comunicaciones FC with a 4-2 aggregate score.

The Monstruo Morado will seek redemption after being eliminated in the 2024 Round One: 2-3 (Jakob Glesnes [own goal] and Gerald Taylor; Julián Carranza x3) and 3-3 (Julián Carranza, Quinn Sullivan, and Mikael Uhre; Luis Paradela, Warren Madrigal, and Mariano Torres) vs. Philadelphia Union.

The Rey de Copas will aim to end a nine-match winless streak in the Concacaf Champions Cup (4D-5L). Its last victory came against Tigres UANL in the 2019 Round of 16: 1-0 (goal by Johan Venegas).

Saprissa's last eight CCC victories have all been at home.

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (including all formats): 38th (1963, 1965, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025).

Debut: 1963 (Third Round).

Last participation: 2024 (Round One).

Champions Cup record (including all formats): GP-171 W-73 D-46 L-52 (GF-289 GA-209).

Best result: Champion (3) 1993, 1995, 2005.

Top scorers: Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 7, Jairo Arrieta (CRC) 5, Marvin Angulo (CRC) 4, Armando Alonso (CRC) 4, Mariano Torres (ARG) 4.

Players with the most appearances: David Guzmán (CRC) 27, Jairo Arrieta (CRC) 21, Armando Alonso (CRC) 20, Marvin Angulo (CRC) 19, Walter Centeno (CRC) 18.

Deportivo Saprissa since 2008/09: Scored in 36 matches, failed to score in 14 games, recorded 12 clean sheets, conceded goals in 38 matches, and played to a 0-0 draw three times.

Players to watch.

Mariano Torres (ARG). The Argentine midfielder registered the most passes in the first leg of the 2024 Round One. The team captain has 17 CCC appearances and 4 goals, scoring in four different editions.

Ariel Rodríguez (CRC). The experienced forward has netted 14 goals in 32 international appearances and is the club's top CCC scorer since 2008/09, with 7 goals.

Deyver Vega (CRC). The 32-year-old forward has made 9 CCC appearances. He scored once in the tournament as a CS Herediano player (vs. Toluca). He also featured in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 editions with Deportivo Saprissa (1 goal).



VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC

Vancouver Whitecaps qualified by winning the 2024 Canadian Championship. The club will be making its third consecutive appearance (2023, 2024, and 2025) and its fifth overall. Its best result came in the 2016/17 edition when it reached the semifinals.

Vancouver Whitecaps were eliminated in the 2024 Round One by Tigres UANL: 1-1 (Dimir Kreilach; André-Pierre Gignac) and 3-0 (Luis Quiñones, Ozziel Herrera, and Juan Pablo Vigón).

The Canadian side is currently on a five-match winless streak in the CCC (1D-4L). Its last three victories have all come at home. The team has earned just one point from its last 15 possible in away matches.

Vancouver Whitecaps have lost their last four road matches in the CCC (2-0 vs. Tigres UANL in the 2016/17 SF, 3-2 vs. Real España in the 2023 R16, 3-0 vs. LAFC in the 2023 QF, and 3-0 vs.



Tigres UANL in the 2024 Round One).

The club has not won an away match since its 2-1 victory against Sporting Kansas City (Diego Rubio; Erik Hurtado and Alphonso Davies) in Group C of the 2016/17 edition.

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (including all formats): 5th (2015/16, 2016/17, 2023, 2024, 2025).

Debut: 2015/16 (Group Stage).

Last participation: 2024 (Round One).

Champions Cup record (including all formats): GP-18 W-7 D-3 L-8 (GF-24 GA-25).

Best result: Semifinals (1) 2016/17.

Top scorers: Cristian Techera (URU) 5, Alphonso Davies (CAN) 2, Erik Hurtado (USA) 2.

Players with the most appearances: Timothy Parker (USA) 11, Russell Teibert (CAN) 10, Kendall Waston (CRC) 8, Matías Laba (ARG) 7, Alphonso Davies (CAN) 7.

Vancouver Whitecaps since 2008/09: Scored in 12 matches, failed to score in 6 games, recorded 5 clean sheets, conceded goals in 13 matches, and has never played to a 0-0 draw.

Players to watch.

Brian White (USA). The forward delivered standout performances in the last two MLS seasons, scoring 16 goals in 34 matches in each campaign. He netted 2 goals in the 2023 Concacaf Champions Cup Round of 16 against Real España.

Pedro Vite (ECU). Led Vancouver in both shots (3) and passes (42) in the first leg of the 2024 Round One series against Tigres UANL. The Ecuadorian midfielder has played in the last two CCC editions (4 matches in 2023 and 2 in 2024).

Ryan Raposo (CAN). Led the team in ball recoveries (4) in Vancouver's 2024 CCC debut against Tigres UANL. The Hamilton native has 6 CCC appearances and scored 1 goal against Real España in the 2023 Round of 16.