



#51 Comunicaciones FC (GUA) vs. Dep. Saprissa (CRC)

Estadio Cementos Progreso, Ciudad de Guatemala, GUA
Wednesday October 23, 2024

Great rivals in the past, where they faced each other 30 times, with Deportivo Saprissa winning 14 times, drawing 6, and losing 10. They were rivals in 8 matches in the Concacaf Champions' Cup, twice in the Scotiabank Concacaf League, and in 20 games in the UNCAF (Union Centroamericana de Fútbol) Interclub Cup.

Deportivo Saprissa won 3-2 in the 2023 UNCAF Interclub Cup final with goals by (Esteban Santana and Álvaro Saborío x2; and for Comunicaciones Dwight Pezzarossi and Sergio Morales) at the LA Memorial Coliseum Stadium in Los Angeles, claiming their fifth Interclub Cup title.

The last two times they faced each other were in the quarterfinals of the 2021 Scotiabank Concacaf League, with Comunicaciones winning the series 5-5 on aggregate thanks to the away goals rule. That year, Comunicaciones went on to win the title.

- Saprissa 4-3 Comunicaciones (Orlando Sinclair, Mariano Torres, David Guzmán, and David Ramírez; Oscar Santis x3), Quarterfinals first leg, Estadio Ricardo Saprissa, San Juan de Tibás (21-OCT-2021).

- Comunicaciones 2-1 Saprissa (Rafael Lezcano and Juan Luis Anangonó; Kendall Waston), quarterfinal second leg, Estadio Doroteo Guamuch Flores, Guatemala City (3-NOV-2021).

Results in the Concacaf Champions' Cup:

- Comunicaciones 1-0 Saprissa (Félix McDonald), Second Round (first leg) - Estadio Doroteo Guamuch Flores, Guatemala City (3-AUG-1973).

- Saprissa 4-0 Comunicaciones (Wilberth Barquero, Hernán Morales, Gerardo Solano, and Carlos Solano), Second Round (second leg) - Estadio Ricardo Saprissa, San Juan de Tibás (10-AUG-1973).

- Saprissa 0-1 Comunicaciones (Oscar Sánchez), Third Round (first leg) - Estadio Ricardo Saprissa, San Juan de Tibás (6-AUG-1978).

- Comunicaciones 2-0 Saprissa (Oscar Sánchez x2), Third Round (second leg) - Estadio Doroteo Guamuch Flores, Guatemala City (13-AUG-1978).

- Saprissa 0-3 Comunicaciones (Eric Aremengor, Raúl Chacón, and Oscar Sánchez), First Round (first leg) - Estadio Ricardo Saprissa, San Juan de Tibás (4-MAY-1986).

- Comunicaciones 0-2 Saprissa (William Guardia and Rafael Solano), First Round (second leg) - Estadio Doroteo Guamuch Flores, Guatemala City (18-MAY-1986).

- Comunicaciones 1-0 Saprissa (Jewison Bennett), Second Round (Group 2) - Estadio Doroteo Guamuch Flores, Guatemala City (22-APR-1998).

- Saprissa 2-1 Comunicaciones, Second Round (Group 2) - Estadio Ricardo Saprissa, San Juan de Tibás (6-MAY-1998).



Comunicaciones FC (GUA)

In their previous participation in the Play-In, **Comunicaciones**** secured qualification for the 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup by defeating CS Cartaginés in a 5-4 penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw in both legs of the series.**

The Guatemalans are winless in their last three matches (1 draw and 2 losses, all against LD Alajuelense). They have lost 2 of their last 8 matches in the two editions of the CCAC (scoring in every match) and have conceded 7 goals in the 2024 edition, 6 of them in the second half.

Comunicaciones has never defeated Costa Rican teams in 8 encounters in CCAC history (D-4 L-4). They will face Saprissa after previously playing CS Herediano 3 times in 2023, CS Cartaginés 2 times in 2023, and LD Alajuelense 3 times in 2024.

CCAC Participation: 2 (2023 and 2024).

Best result: Quarterfinals in 2023 and 2024 (competed in the Play-In in both editions).

Record: GP-14 W-5 D-5 L-4 (GF-20 GA-16). *Includes Play-In matches.

Top scorers in the CCAC: José Corena (COL) 3, Jorman Aguilar (PAN) 3, Diego Casas (URU) 3, Erik González (GUA) 2, Carlos Mejía (GUA) 2, Jorge Aparicio (GUA) 2, Antonio López (MEX) 1, Lynner García (GUA), Gerardo Gordillo (GUA), Azarías Londoño (PAN).

Assists: Antonio López (MEX) 4, Azarías Londoño (PAN) 2, Jorge Aparicio (GUA) 2, José Contreras (GUA) 1, Jorman Aguilar (PAN), Anderson Ortiz (GUA), José Corena (COL), Carlos Mejía (GUA).

Players with the most appearances in the CCAC: Antonio López, Erik González (14 matches), José Contreras, Fredy Pérez, Stheven Robles (13), José Corena, José Carlos Pinto (12), Lynner García (11), Gerardo Gordillo (9), Juan Anangonó, Jorge Aparicio (8).

Saves: Fredy Pérez (GUA) 53 (32 in the 2024 edition), Arnold Barrios (GUA) 2.

Top scorers in the 2024 edition: Diego Casas (URU) 3, Carlos Mejía (GUA) 2, Azarías Londoño (PAN).

Assists: Azarías Londoño (PAN) 2, Carlos Mejía (GUA).

How the goals were scored in the 2024 CCAC: Play (3), Header (1), Penalty (2), Own goal (1).

Goal opportunities: 51. Shots on goal: 19.

Youngest scorer in the CCAC: Azarías Londoño (PAN) - 23 years, 1 month, and 24 days (vs. CD Marathón - Group B 2024).

Oldest scorer in the CCAC: Carlos Mejía (GUA) - 32 years and 317 days (vs. Alajuelense - quarterfinals - Leg 1 - 2024).

Fastest goal in the CCAC: Carlos Mejía (vs. Alajuelense - quarterfinals - Leg 1 - 2024): 2 minutes.

Top scorers in the Play-In: Gerardo Gordillo (GUA) 1, Jorman Aguilar (PAN).

Players to watch:

Diego Casas (URU): He has scored 3 goals on 15 shots. The Uruguayan forward scored 2 goals in the 2024 group stage and made 4 shots in the quarterfinals.

José Contreras (GUA): He is the passing leader for Comunicaciones FC with 230 passes and 11 ball recoveries. The 38-year-old player has 36 appearances in Concacaf club tournaments with Comunicaciones.

Fredy Pérez (GUA): He is the goalkeeper with the most saves in the 2024 CCAC with 32. Pérez has made 53 saves in CCAC history in 13 appearances (14 goals conceded and 3 clean sheets).



Deportivo Saprissa (CRC)

Deportivo Saprissa has won 4 of its last 7 matches in the CCAC: 4-0 vs. Motagua (in the 2023 Play-In), 5-0 vs. Guanacasteca, 3-2 vs. Managua, and 1-0 vs. Municipal in Group D of 2024. They did not win or score in the last two matches (vs. Antigua GFC in the 2024 quarterfinal series: 0-0 and 0-3).

Playing away, Deportivo Saprissa has 2 wins, 3 draws, and 2 losses, with their most recent away defeat being 1-2 against Real Estelí in Round 4 of Group D in the 2024 edition.

Deportivo Saprissa was the team that scored the most headed goals in the 2023 edition. In 2024, they have scored 10 goals and conceded goals in all 4 matches against Guatemalan teams in the CCAC (W-2 D-1 L-1). They faced Cobán Imperial in 2023, and Municipal and Antigua GFC in 2024.

CCAC Participation: 2 (2023 and 2024).

Best result: Quarterfinals in 2023 and 2024.

Record: GP-14 W-7 D-4 L-3 (GF-28 GA-12). *Includes Play-In matches.

Top scorers in the CCAC: Javon East (JAM) 6, Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 6, Orlando Sinclair (CRC) 5, Jefferson Brenes (CRC) 3, Michael Chirinos (HON) 2.

Assists: Javon East (JAM) 4, Jorkaëff Azofeifa (CRC) 2, Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 2, Ulises Segura (CRC) 2, Mariano Torres (ARG) 2, Orlando Sinclair (CRC) 1, Jefferson Brenes (CRC), Kendall Waston (CRC), Michael Chirinos (HON), David Guzmán (CRC), Jeffry Valverde (CRC).

Players with the most appearances in the CCAC: Esteban Alvarado, Javon East (14 matches), Jefry Valverde (13), Ariel Rodríguez, Fidel Escobar (12), Orlando Sinclair, Youstin Salas, Kendall Waston, Kliver Gómez (10), Pablo Arboine, Ulises Segura, Jefferson Brenes, David Guzmán (9).

Saves: Esteban Alvarado (CRC) 49 (15 in the 2024 edition).

Top scorers in the 2024 CCAC: Jefferson Brenes (CRC) 2, Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 2, Javon East (JAM) 2, Mariano Torres (ARG) 1, Luis Díaz (CRC), Orlando Sinclair (CRC).

Assists: Javon East (JAM) 2, Mariano Torres (ARG) 2, Jefry Valverde (CRC), Ariel Rodríguez (CRC).

How the goals were scored in the 2024 CCAC: Play (7), Penalty (1), Own goal (1).

Goal opportunities: 85. Shots on goal: 35.

Youngest scorer in the CCAC: Warren Madrigal (CRC) 19 years, 3 months, and 2 days (vs. Motagua - Play-In 2023).

Oldest scorer in the CCAC: Mariano Torres (ARG) 37 years, 2 months, and 12 days (vs. AD Guanacasteca - Group D 2024).

Fastest goal in the CCAC: Javon East vs. AD Guanacasteca (vs. AD Guanacasteca - Group D 2024): 13 seconds.

Top scorers in the Play-In: Michael Chirinos (HON) 1, Ariel Rodríguez (CRC), Warren Madrigal (CRC), Kendall Waston (CRC), Orlando Sinclair (CRC), Luis Paradela (CUB).

Players to watch:

Javon East (JAM): He scored 2 goals, provided 2 assists, and made 12 shots in 571 minutes played in the 2024 edition. The Jamaican has scored 6 goals and provided 4 assists in 14 CCAC games.

Esteban Alvarado (CRC): He has made 49 saves, 34 of them in 2023 and 15 in 2024, with 8 clean sheets, conceding 12 goals in 14 CCAC appearances.

David Guzmán (CRC): He is the team's passing leader with 167 passes in the 2024 edition. The midfielder finished the 2023 edition with 139 successful passes.