



Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 20:00 (20:00) *EDT (local Time)

Inter Miami CF (USA) vs. Sp. Kansas City (USA)

Inter Miami and Sporting Kansas City will face off for the second time in the Concacaf Champions Cup. Inter Miami defeated Sporting Kansas City 1-0 in the first leg of Round One with a goal from Lionel Messi at Children's Mercy Park in Kansas City on February 18, 2025.

Sporting Kansas City suffers its third consecutive defeat in the CCC, marking its worst losing streak in tournament history. The club has now recorded 11 losses in 29 matches played and, for the first time, has fallen to another MLS team in the competition.

They previously met twice in Major League Soccer (MLS) during the 2023 and 2024 seasons, with Inter Miami winning both matches:

Inter Miami CF 3-2 Sporting Kansas City (Leonardo Campana x2, Facundo Farías; Dániel Sallói, Alan Pulido)

Matchday 8 - Major League Soccer 2023, DRV PNK Stadium, Fort Lauderdale (September 9, 2023).

Sporting Kansas City 2-3 Inter Miami CF (Erik Thommy x2, Diego Gómez, Lionel Messi, Luis Suárez)

Matchday 8 - Major League Soccer 2024, Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City (April 13, 2024)



INTER MIAMI CF

Inter Miami will seek to advance to the Round of 16 for the second consecutive time. In this stage, they eliminated Nashville SC in their 2024 debut, advancing with a 5-3 aggregate score where Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez contributed to every goal in the series.

The Herons have won 2 of their last 4 matches in the Concacaf Champions Cup and, for the first time, secured a first-leg victory in a knockout stage of the tournament. They earned 50% of their home points in their first Champions Cup appearance (3-1 win vs. Nashville SC in the Round of 16 and a 2-1 loss vs. CF Monterrey in the quarterfinals).

The Florida-based team has scored in each of its 5 previous Concacaf Champions Cup matches. They found the net and conceded in both home games of the 2024 edition, opening the scoring within the first 20 minutes of each match (vs. Nashville SC and CF Monterrey), while conceding 3 second-half goals.

A total of 88% of Inter Miami's goals in the tournament have been scored by South American players: Paraguayan Diego Gómez (1), Uruguayan Luis Suárez (2), and Argentinians Lionel Messi (3) and Tomás Avilés (1).

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (all formats included): 2 (2024, 2025).

Best Result: Quarterfinals (1) - 2024.

Concacaf Champions Cup Record (all formats included): GP-5 W-2 D-1 L-2 (GF-8 GA-8).

Top Scorers:

Lionel Messi (ARG) 3, Luis Suárez (URU) 2, Robert Taylor (FIN) 1, Tomás Avilés (ARG) 1, Diego Gómez (PAR) 1.

Most Appearances: Tomás Avilés (ARG) 5, Luis Suárez (URU) 5, Sergio Busquets (ESP) 5, Lionel Messi (ARG) 4, Diego Gómez (PAR) 4, Drake Callender (USA) 4, Julian Gressel (USA) 4, Nicolás Freire (ARG) 4, Noah Allen (USA) 4.

Since 2008/09: recorded 5 matches with goals, no scoreless games, 1 clean sheet, 4 matches conceding goals, and no 0-0 results.

Penalty Shootouts (since 2008/09): None.

Hat-tricks: 0.

Round of 16 Appearances: 1 (2024 vs. Nashville).

Assists in the Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Sergio Busquets (ESP) 1.

Saves in the Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: 3. Goalkeeper: Óscar Ustari (ARG) 3 (0 goals conceded - 1 clean sheet).

Goal Type: Open play (1).

Right-footed goals: 1. Left-footed goals: 0.

Goals inside the box: 1. Goals from outside the box: 0.



Goal chances: 11. Shots on target: 3.

Fastest goal in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Lionel Messi (55' 03" vs. Sporting Kansas City - Round One - Leg 1).

Players to Watch

Lionel Messi (ARG). Scored 1 goal from 3 shots in the win against Sporting Kansas City. The global star has scored 3 goals and provided 2 assists in his 4 tournament appearances. He has contributed to goals in every match and leads the team in shots (14) for the Herons. Messi reached three goals in the CCC, becoming the oldest player to score for the Florida club in tournament history at 37 years, 7 months, and 26 days. Additionally, he is the second-oldest Argentine player to score in the competition since the 2008/09 season, trailing only **Gabriel Caballero**, who found the net for CF Pachuca (MEX) against Deportivo Jalapa (GUA) in 2009 at 38 years, 5 months, and 30 days.

Luis Suárez (URU). Has played in all 5 matches for Inter Miami in the Concacaf Champions Cup. The Uruguayan forward has directly contributed to 50% of the team's goals in tournament history (2 goals and 2 assists).

Sergio Busquets (ESP). Had a direct impact on Lionel Messi's goal in the first leg against Kansas City. He led in passes (102) and ball recoveries (4) in the first match. He boasts a 92.5% passing accuracy in his 5 Concacaf Champions Cup appearances.



SPORTING KANSAS CITY

Sporting Kansas City will seek to qualify for the Round of 16 for the third time in Concacaf Champions Cup history, a stage they have successfully advanced from in both previous appearances (2002 vs. W Connection and 2019 vs. Toluca FC).

Sporting Kansas City has not earned points in its last two away matches in the Champions Cup (2-1 vs. CAI and 5-0 vs. CF Monterrey, in the 2019 quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively).

Kansas City will reach 30 matches in Champions Cup history. They have played 4 second-leg knockout matches, with a 50% success rate (W-2 L-2).

They have won 1 of their last 8 away matches in the Concacaf Champions Cup, a 2-0 victory over Toluca FC in the 2019 Round of 16 (Gerso and Krisztián Németh). All 4 of their home victories in the tournament's history came with a clean sheet.

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (all formats included): 6 (2002, 2005, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2019, 2025).

Best Result: Semifinalist (2) - 2002, 2019.

Concacaf Champions Cup Record (all formats included): GP-29 W-12 D-6 L-11 (GF-40 GA-42).

Top Scorers: Krisztián Németh (HUN) 4, Gerso Fernandes (GNB) 4, Antonio Rodríguez (ESP) 3, Soony Saad (USA) 2, Claudio Bieler (ARG) 2, Ilie Sánchez (ESP) 2, Dominic Dwyer (ENG) 2.

Most Appearances: Seth Sinovic (USA) 16, Matt Besler (USA) 13, Graham Zusi (USA) 13, Benny Feilhaber (USA) 9, Charles Sapong (USA) 9, Dom Dwyer (ENG) 9.

Since 2008/09: recorded 16 matches with goals, 5 matches without scoring, 8 clean sheets, 13 matches conceding goals, and 1 match ending in a 0-0 draw.

Penalty Shootouts (since 2008/09): 0.

Hat-tricks: 0.

Round of 16 Appearances: 2 (2002 vs. W Connection and 2019 vs. Toluca FC).

Saves in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: 1. Goalkeeper: John Pulskamp (USA) 1 (1 goal conceded - 0 clean sheets).

Goal chances: 7. Shots on target: 4.

Players to Watch

Robert Voloder (GER). Registered 2 ball recoveries, 5 clearances, and was Sporting Kansas City's top passer (77) in the first leg against Inter Miami.

Dejan Joveljic (SRB). Partnered with Dániel Sallói in attack during the first leg of Round One in 2025. The forward was a key figure in LA Galaxy's MLS Cup triumph, scoring in both the semifinals and final.

Memo Rodríguez (ESP). Took 2 shots against Inter Miami in the first leg of Round One. Completed 91% of his passes in the match at Children's Mercy Park.