



Thursday, Feb 27, 2025 22:00 (19:00) *EDT (Local Time) Estadio BC Place (CAN)

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

Deportivo Saprissa pulled off a stunning comeback in the first leg, securing a 2-1 victory with a stoppage-time goal from Ariel Rodríguez. Vancouver Whitecaps had taken the lead through Ryan Gauld, but Mariano Torres netted the equalizer on February 20, 2025, at Estadio Ricardo Saprissa, San Juan de Tibás, Costa Rica.

Argentine midfielder Mariano Torres reached 5 goals in the Concacaf Champions Cup, all with Deportivo Saprissa, and scored his first goal against a Canadian club. Meanwhile, Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) tallied his 8th goal for Saprissa and netted his second consecutive goal against Canadian teams in the tournament, making him the all-time leading scorer against Canadian clubs since the 2008/09 season.

Deportivo Saprissa ended a streak of two consecutive draws against Canadian clubs in Champions Cup history, securing their first-ever win against these teams in the competition. In their second historical series against Canadian opposition, they were previously eliminated by CF Montréal in the 2020 Round of 16.

Saprissa also snapped a nine-match winless streak in the Concacaf Champions Cup (L-5 D-4). However, they have won just 2 of their last 16 matches in the tournament (W-2 D-7 L-7) and had not won at home since a 1-0 victory over Tigres UANL (MEX) in the first leg of the 2019 Round of 16, with Johan Venegas scoring in the 73rd minute on February 19, 2019.

Ryan Gauld (SCO) of Whitecaps FC scored his first-ever Champions Cup goal, becoming only the second Scottish player to find the net in the competition since the 2008/09 season, following Adam Moffat (1 goal) for Houston Dynamo in 2012. Additionally, Gauld is now the oldest Scottish player to score in the tournament since the format change in 2008/09, doing so at 29 years, 2 months, and 4 days.

Whitecaps FC are now winless in six consecutive Concacaf Champions Cup matches and have suffered five defeats in their last six games in the competition (D-1 L-5). This was also their second loss in a first-leg away match, having previously recorded 1 draw and 2 losses. In their last two knockout series, they advanced after drawing 1-1 in the first leg against NY Red Bulls (USA) in the 2017 quarterfinals but were eliminated by Tigres UANL (MEX) in the 2017 semifinals.



Vancouver Whitecaps FC will have to overturn the series after losing the first leg. They have won 5 of their last 8 home matches in the Concacaf Champions Cup, keeping a clean sheet in 50% of those games. The Canadian side recorded the highest passing accuracy (90.9%) in the first leg of Round One.

Vancouver Whitecaps are on a six-match winless streak in the Concacaf Champions Cup (D-1 L-5). Their last three tournament wins came at home, and in their last 16 Champions Cup games, they have only trailed at halftime once.

Vancouver Whitecaps failed to advance past Round One in 2024, getting eliminated by Tigres UANL in the series: 1-1 (Damir Kreilach; André-Pierre Gignac) and 3-0 (Luis Quiñones, Ozziel Herrera, and Juan Pablo Vigón).

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

Best Result: Semifinalist (1) - 2016/17.

Concacaf Champions Cup Record (all formats included): GP-19 W-7 D-3 L-9 (GF-25 GA-27).

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

Most Appearances: Timothy Parker (USA) 11, Russell Teibert (CAN) 10, Kendall Waston (CRC) 8, Matías Laba (ARG) 7, Alphonso Davies (CAN) 7, Sebastian Berhalter (ENG) 7, Tristan Blackmon (USA) 7, Pedro Vite Uca (ECU) 7, Brian White (USA) 7.

Since 2008/09: recorded 13 matches with goals, 6 matches without scoring, 5 clean sheets, 14 matches conceding goals, and no matches ending in a 0-0 draw.

Penalty Shootouts (since 2008/09): 0.

Hat-tricks: 0.

Round of 16 Appearances: 1 (2023 vs. Real España).

Top Scorers in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Ryan Gauld (SCO) 1.

Assists in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Ali Ahmed (CAN) 1.

Saves in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: 1. Goalkeeper: Yohei Takaoka (JAP) 1 (2 goals conceded - 0 clean sheets).

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: 7. Shots on target: 4.

Fastest goal in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Ryan Gauld (20' 44" vs. Deportivo Saprissa - Round One - Leg 1).

Players to Watch

Sebastian Berhalter (USA). The midfielder led the rankings for shots (4) in the first leg (accounting for 57% of his team's total against the Costa Rican side, with 3 shots on target). Completed 76 accurate passes and 9 inaccurate ones.



Ryan Gauld (SCO). Scored the opening goal in the first-leg match in Costa Rica. The team captain was a key player in the last MLS season, netting 15 goals in 34 appearances in 2024.

Andrés Cubas (PAR). The Argentine-born Paraguayan was the leader in ball recoveries (5) and accurate passes (81) at Estadio Ricardo Saprissa in San Juan de Tibás.



Deportivo Saprissa will look to qualify for the Round of 16 for the first time since 2022 when they faced Pumas UNAM, the eventual finalists of that tournament. From 2018 to 2022, they reached the Round of 16 in consecutive editions.

In 2024, Deportivo Saprissa failed to advance past Round One, getting eliminated by Philadelphia Union: 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).

El "Rey de Copas" has won just 1 of their last 10 Concacaf Champions Cup matches: 2-1 vs. Vancouver in the first leg of Round One 2025 (D-4 L-5).

El "Monstruo Morado" will look to break a 15-match winless streak on the road (L-9 D-6). Their last away victory came against CD Olimpia (2-1) in the 2010/11 quarterfinals.

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions Cup (all formats included): 38 (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).

Best Result: Champion (3) - 1993, 1995, 2005.

Concacaf Champions Cup Record (all formats included): GP-172 W-74 D-46 L-52 (GF-291 GA-210).

Top Scorers: Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 8, Jairo Arrieta (CRC) 5, Mariano Torres (ARG) 5, Marvin Angulo (CRC) 4, Armando Alonso (CRC) 4.

Most Appearances: David Guzmán (CRC) 28, Jairo Arrieta (CRC) 21, Armando Alonso (CRC) 20, Marvin Angulo (CRC) 19, Walter Centeno (CRC) 18, Mariano Torres (ARG) 18, Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 17, Daniel Colindres (CRC) 17.

Since 2008/09: recorded 37 matches with goals, 14 matches without scoring, 12 clean sheets, 39 matches conceding goals, and 3 matches ending in a 0-0 draw.

Penalty Shootouts (since 2008/09): 0.

Hat-tricks: (1) Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) vs. Real Estelí NCA (Group 2 - 2014/15).

Round of 16 Appearances: 6 (2002 vs. Morelia, 2018 vs. Club América, 2019 vs. Tigres UANL, 2020 vs. CF Montréal, 2021 vs. Philadelphia Union, 2022 vs. Pumas UNAM).



Top Scorers in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Ariel Rodríguez (CRC) 1, Mariano Torres (ARG) 1.

Assists in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Fidel Escobar (PAN) 1.

Saves in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: 4. Goalkeeper: Esteban Alvarado (CRC) 4 (1 goal conceded - 0 clean sheets).

Goal Type: Open play (2).

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

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

Goal chances: 10. Shots on target: 1.

Fastest goal in Concacaf Champions Cup 2025: Mariano Torres (50' 58" vs. Vancouver Whitecaps FC - Round One - Leg 1).

Players to Watch

Mariano Torres (ARG). The Argentine captain scored the equalizer that set up Saprissa's comeback in the first leg. He was the player with the most passes (49). Torres has 18 appearances and 5 goals in Concacaf Champions Cup history.

Ariel Rodríguez (CRC). The forward was the most active in front of goal with 3 shots and became Saprissa's hero with his last-minute winner. He has 15 goals in 33 international appearances and is the club's top scorer (8) in the Champions Cup since 2008/09.

Eduardo Anderson (PAN). The Panamanian defender recorded 4 ball recoveries, completed 28 accurate passes in the first leg, and had a passing accuracy of 88%.