



Houston (USA) vs. Columbus (USA)

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, Shell Energy Stadium, Houston (USA)

Houston Dynamo and Columbus Crew will face each other for the first time in the Concacaf Champions League (CCC).

In 27 MLS matches, the series is evenly matched between both teams with 8 wins each and 11 draws.

Playing at home, Houston Dynamo has 7 victories, 7 draws, and only suffered one defeat.

Houston has not lost in the last 3 MLS matches: 2-0 (Mauro Manotas and Tomás Martínez) in 2019, 1-1 (Memo Rodríguez; Víctor Cabrera own goal) in 2020, and 2-0 (Corey Baird and Ibrahim Aliyu) in 2023.

The last victory for Columbus was in the 2018 edition: 1-0 (Gyasi Zardes).

Columbus has been unable to win in their last 9 visits to Houston. Their only away victory was in 2011: 2-0 (Andrés Mendoza; Bernardo Añor) in Matchday 4 of the MLS.



Houston (USA)

Houston Dynamo won 5 out of their last 6 home matches in the CCC: 1-0 against Santos Laguna (QF 2012/13), 2-1 against Árabe Unido, 2-0 against W Connection (Group A 2013/14), 2-1 against Guastatoya (Round of 16 2019), and 1-0 against St. Louis City (R1 2024).

With their victory over St. Louis City, Houston Dynamo ended a streak of 3 consecutive losses in the CCC, marking their worst streak of consecutive losses in the tournament's history.

Houston Dynamo faced an MLS club in the CCC for the first time and secured their 4th qualification in two-legged matches (previously qualified against Puntarenas (CRC) in 2007, against Municipal (GUA) in 2008, and against Guastatoya (GUA) in 2019).

Houston Dynamo advanced to the next round of the tournament despite losing the first leg for the second time in their history; previously achieved in 2007 against Puntarenas from Costa Rica.

Houston Dynamo secured victory #186 for MLS clubs in the history of the CCC and reached 47 goals scored in the history of the CCC, remaining in 4th place historically among MLS clubs with the most goals scored, surpassing DC United (84), Seattle Sounders (76), Los Angeles Galaxy (73).

Houston Dynamo won the Round of 16 series in 2019 when they defeated Guastatoya in both matches (0-1 and 2-1). The 3 goals in this phase were scored after the 75th minute of play.

Houston Dynamo kept a clean sheet in the first half of their last 4 appearances at their stadium in Concacaf tournaments. The last 3 goals conceded at home were after the 70th minute of play.

They suffered 3 defeats in their 19 home matches, all against Mexican rivals: 1-3 against Pumas UNAM (Group B 2008/09), 0-1 against Pachuca (Group A 2009/10), and 0-2 against Tigres UANL (QF 2019).

Participations in the Concacaf Champions League (All formats since 1962): 8 (2007, 2008, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13, 2019, 2024).

Best Result: Semifinals (2) 2007, 2008, Quarterfinals 2008/09, 2012/13, 2019.

CCC Record (All formats since 1962): GP-38 W-15 D-10 L-13 (GF-47 GA-45).

Top Scorers in the CCC: Cam Weaver (USA) 4, Craig Waibel (USA) 3, Kaiansu Kamara (SLE) 3, Stuart Holden (ESC) 3, Robert Boswell (USA) 3, Brian Ching (USA) 3.

Players with the most appearances in the CCC: Robert Boswell (USA) 19, Brian Ching (USA) 15, Corey Ashe (USA) 13, Wade Barrett (USA) 12, Geoff Cameron (USA) 12, Ricardo Clark (USA) 12, Brad Davis (USA) 12.

Record in first-leg matches in the KO Phase (since 2008/09): GP-5 W-2 D-1 L-2.

Biggest Victory (since 2008/09): 5-1 against Árabe Unido (Eddie Robinson, Cam Weaver, Corey Ashe, and Stuart Holden x2), Group A - 2009/10; 4-0 against CD FAS (Giles Barnes, Robert Boswell, Cam Weaver, and Calen Carr), Group C - 2012/13.

Penalty shootouts: 0. Hat-tricks: 0

Participations in the Round of 16: 2019 (vs. Guastatoya).

Record in Round of 16: GP-2 W-2 D-0 L-0.

Top Scorers in Round of 16: Mauro Manotas (COL) 2, DaMarcus Beasley (USA) 1.

Top Scorers in CCC 2024: Sebastian Kowalczyk (POL) 1, Erik Sviatchenko (DEN) 1.

Assists in CCC 2024: Ibrahim Aliyu (NGA) 1, Daniel Steren (USA) 1.

Saves in CCC 2024: 6. Goalkeepers: Steven Clark (USA) 6. (2 goals conceded - 1 clean sheet).

How the goals were scored: From play (2).

Goal-scoring situations (18). Shots on target (9).

Players to watch:

Erik Sviatchenko (DEN). Scored the goal against St. Louis City that sealed the qualification for the round of 16. The defender came on at the start of the second half and did not miss any of his 12 passes.

Sebastian Kowalczyk (POL). The Polish attacker scored the first goal for Houston against St. Louis City. He made 3 shots, completed 87 passes, recovered 2 balls, and took 5 corner kicks.

Steven Clark (USA). Kept a clean sheet in the second match against St. Louis City. The 37-year-old goalkeeper made 5 saves in the two games. He has played 5 matches in the history of the CCC and has 2 clean sheets.



Columbus Crew (USA)

Columbus Crew SC qualified for the 2024 Concacaf Champions League as the third-place team in the Supporters' Shield standings. This will be their 5th appearance in the CCC and their first since 2021.

When they played in the Round of 16 of the Concacaf Champions League, they managed to advance. They eliminated Árabe Unido in 2003 and Real Estelí in 2019. They won their last 3 matches they played.

They have gone 7 away matches without drawing in the history of the CCC. Their last away draw was in Group C of 2009/10 (1-1 vs. Puerto Rico Islanders). Since then, they have accumulated 2 victories and 4 losses on the road.

Appearances in the Concacaf Champions League (All formats since 1962): 5 (2003, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2021, 2024).

Best Result: Quarterfinals (2003, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2021).

Debut: 2003 (Quarterfinals).

Record in the Concacaf Champions League (All formats since 1962): GP-24 W-10 D-5 L-9 (GF-33 GA-35).

Top scorers since 2008/09: Steven Lenhart (USA) 4, Andrés Mendoza (PER) 3, Emilio Rentería (VEN) 3.

Players with the most appearances (since 2008/09): Emmanuel Ekpo (NIG) 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.

Record in first-leg matches in the KO Phase (since 2008/09): GP: 4 W-1 D-3 L-0.

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

Penalty shootouts: 0

Hat-tricks: 0

Participations in the Round of 16: 2 (2003 vs. Árabe Unido and 2021 vs. Real Estelí).

Record in Round of 16: GP-4 W-3 D-0 L-1.

Top scorers in Round of 16: Edson Buddle (3), Gyasi Zardes (2), Kyle Martino (1), Bradley Wright-Phillips (1), Jonathan Mensah (1), Pedro Santos (1).

Players to Watch:

Darlington Nagbe (USA). The midfielder will play again in the Concacaf Champions League with Columbus after doing so in 2021. Additionally, he played in the CCC with Portland Timbers in 2014/15 and 2016/17 where he scored his only goal (vs. Dragón) and in 2019 with Atlanta United.

Juan Camilo Hernández (COL). The forward with experience in LaLiga and the Premier League, scored 21 goals in 33 matches in his last participation in Major League Soccer in 2023. Additionally, he scored 3 in 3 games in the Leagues Cup 2023.

Diego Rossi (URU). He was a runner-up in 2020 as a player for Los Angeles FC. He scored 2 goals in 5 matches in 2020, including a goal against Tigres UANL in the single-match final in Orlando.