



### **Cruz Azul and Tigres set for first-ever Champions Cup clash in the semifinals**

Cruz Azul are headed to their ninth semifinal in the history of the Concacaf Champions Cup. The Mexico City giants have advanced to the Final on five occasions: 1969 vs. Comunicaciones FC, 1997 vs. Chivas, 2008/09 vs. Puerto Rico Islanders, 2009/10 vs. Pumas, and 2013/14 vs. Tijuana. They've been eliminated three times, twice by CF Monterrey (2010/11 and 2021) and once by Pumas (2022).

Tigres UANL, meanwhile, are preparing for their seventh semifinal appearance in the tournament. The Nuevo León-based club has reached the Final four times: 2015/16 against Querétaro FC, 2016/17 vs. Vancouver Whitecaps, 2019 vs. Santos Laguna, and 2020 vs. CD Olimpia. They were knocked out just twice, by FAS in 1979 and Club León in 2023. Tigres come in with an impressive run of four straight semifinal victories between 2016 and 2020.

This will mark the first-ever showdown between Cruz Azul and Tigres in the Concacaf Champions Cup.

Their last home-and-away series took place in the 2022 Clausura quarterfinals of Liga MX, where Tigres advanced on higher seeding. The first leg, played on May 12 at Estadio Azteca, saw Tigres grab a 1-0 win with a 44th-minute strike from Jesús Dueñas. Cruz Azul responded with a 1-0 victory in the return leg on May 15 at Estadio Universitario, thanks to a 19th-minute goal from Christian Tabó.

### **Cruz Azul and Tigres: A knockout rivalry with history on Tigres' side**

Since the Invierno 1997 tournament, Cruz Azul and Tigres have met four times in Liga MX knockout rounds, with Tigres holding the edge: they've advanced three times, while Cruz Azul has moved on just once.

#### **- Invierno 2001 Semifinals**

First leg: Cruz Azul 1-0 Tigres (Dec. 5, 2001) – Goal by Marinho (29')

Second leg: Tigres 1-0 Cruz Azul (Dec. 8, 2001) – Goal by Claudio Suárez (51')

Tigres advanced on better seeding after a 1-1 aggregate.

#### **- Apertura 2003 Quarterfinals**

First leg: Cruz Azul 0-1 Tigres (Dec. 3, 2003) – Goal by Walter Gaitán (27')

Second leg: Tigres 1-2 Cruz Azul (Dec. 6, 2003) – Goals: Andrés Silvera (6') for Tigres, Marcelo Delgado (10') and César Delgado (17') for Cruz Azul

Aggregate 2-2, Tigres advanced on higher table position.

#### **- Apertura 2020 Quarterfinals**

First leg: Tigres 1-3 Cruz Azul (Nov. 27, 2020) – Goals: Guido Pizarro (46') for Tigres, Juan Escobar (30'), Jonathan Rodríguez (54'), and Luis Romo (71') for Cruz Azul  
Second leg: Cruz Azul 0-1 Tigres (Nov. 30, 2020) – Goal by Luis Quiñones (83')  
Cruz Azul advanced 3-2 on aggregate.

#### **- Clausura 2022 Quarterfinals**

First leg: Cruz Azul 0-1 Tigres (May 12, 2022) – Goal by Jesús Dueñas (44')  
Second leg: Tigres 0-1 Cruz Azul (May 15, 2022) – Goal by Christian Tabó (19')  
Aggregate 1-1, Tigres advanced on higher seeding once again.

#### **Semifinal standouts: Gignac leads Tigres, Villaluz tops Cruz Azul**

When it comes to Concacaf Champions Cup semifinals, these are the players who've delivered when it matters most:

#### **- Cruz Azul's top scorers in CCC semifinals:**

César Villaluz (2 goals)  
Adrián Cortés (2 goals)

#### **- Tigres UANL's top scorers in CCC semifinals:**

André-Pierre Gignac (5 goals)  
Enner Valencia (3 goals)

#### **Tigres' biggest semifinal wins came in 3-0 victories:**

- Against Santos Laguna on April 3, 2019 – Goals from Eduardo Vargas (8') and Enner Valencia (27', 37')  
- Against CD Olimpia on December 19, 2020 – Gignac scored twice from the penalty spot (45+4', 57') and Elvin Casildo added an own goal (78')

#### **Cruz Azul's most dominant semifinal display?**

A 5-0 rout of Pumas UNAM on April 6, 2010, with goals from Cristian Riveros (36'), Horacio Cervantes (74'), Adrián Cortés (76'), Rogelio Chávez (83'), and Édgar Lugo (90').

#### **Quarterfinal milestones and records: Cruz Azul and Tigres make history**

#### **Tigres UANL (MEX) 3-2 LA Galaxy (USA) | Aggregate: 3-2**

Tigres secured their sixth quarterfinal series win in tournament history (6 out of 9) and have now advanced in four of their last five appearances at this stage. This was their fourth qualification from a quarterfinal series (out of six played) against MLS clubs:

- 2015/16 vs. Real Salt Lake
- 2019 vs. Houston Dynamo
- 2020 vs. New York City FC
- 2025 vs. LA Galaxy

For the Galaxy, it marks a third straight quarterfinal exit, following eliminations by Club Tijuana (2013/14) and Santos Laguna (2015/16). This ties their worst streak of eliminations at this stage, previously recorded from 2002 to 2012 (vs. Necaxa, Saprissa, and Toronto FC).

## **Cruz Azul (MEX) 2-1 Club América (MEX) | Aggregate: 2-1**

This was Cruz Azul's 50th all-time win over Club América, and just their second in international competition — the previous one was a 1-0 victory in the 2000 Copa Pre-Libertadores, with a goal from Joaquín Moreno on Sept. 6, 2000.

### **Ángel Sepúlveda hits 10 in Champions Cup play**

Cruz Azul striker Ángel Sepúlveda now has 10 career goals in the Concacaf Champions Cup — 6 with Cruz Azul, 1 with Querétaro, and 3 with Monarcas. He notched his second brace in the tournament, and his header in the 85th minute was the 395th headed goal in CCC since the 2008/09 season. At 34 years, 1 month, and 24 days, Sepúlveda became the second-oldest player to score a brace for Cruz Azul in the quarterfinals, behind only Benjamín Galindo (36 years, 8 months, and 5 days vs. Comunicaciones FC on Aug. 16, 1997).

### **Cruz Azul joins elite company in quarterfinal scoring**

With 30 goals scored in quarterfinal matches, Cruz Azul became just the fifth club to reach or surpass the 30-goal mark at this stage. Only Tigres UANL (32), CF Monterrey (32), D.C. United (34), and Club América (46) have more.

### **Fidalgo scores Club América's 200th CCC goal**

Spanish midfielder Álvaro Fidalgo tallied his second Champions Cup goal, which also happened to be Club América's 200th goal in CCC history. América joins Cruz Azul (264 goals) as the only Mexican clubs to reach 200 goals in the tournament and becomes the sixth club overall to do so, matching Club Olimpia (HON).

### **A rare international triumph over América**

This marks the first-ever two-legged international series win for Cruz Azul over Club América. Excluding finals, they hadn't eliminated their rivals in home-and-away play since the 1999 Invierno semifinals, when a 2-1 aggregate score sent Cruz Azul to the final. That series saw goals from Braulio Luna (América), Juan Francisco Palencia and Diego Latorre (Cruz Azul) on December 12, 1999.