



Cruz Azul and Tigres set for decisive clash after 1-1 draw in first leg

Cruz Azul and Tigres are ready to battle it out in the second leg of the 2025 Concacaf Champions Cup Semifinals, following a tightly contested 1-1 draw in the first leg on April 23 at Estadio Universitario in Monterrey, Nuevo León.

Carlos Rotondi opened the scoring in the 68th minute for Cruz Azul with his first-ever goal in the Champions Cup. But Tigres had the final word, as defender **Juan José Purata** rose to the occasion in the 84th minute with a powerful header — his second goal of the tournament — to bring the match level.

The 1-1 result marked the ninth draw between Liga MX teams in a Champions Cup semifinal, and notably, no such match-up has ever produced more than one goal per side. There have been five 1-1 draws (three in first legs, two in second legs) and four goalless ties.

First leg woes continue for Cruz Azul

This was Cruz Azul's eighth time playing a semifinal first leg — all away — and they've yet to win one. The draw against Tigres ended a six-match losing streak in this stage. Their only other draw in a semifinal first leg came way back in 1969, a 2-2 result against Deportivo Saprissa, which they ultimately won.

Ángel Sepúlveda continues to shine for Cruz Azul. With his assist on Rotondi's goal, he now leads the tournament with eight direct goal contributions — six goals and two assists.

Purata's header joins rare club

Tigres' **Juan José Purata** became the first Mexican to score a headed goal against another Mexican team in the Champions Cup since 2008/09. His goal was also Tigres' second-ever headed goal in a semifinal — the first came in 2019 from Enner Valencia. Intriguingly, every time Tigres has scored a header in a semifinal, they've reached the final.

Since 2008/09, Tigres has now scored 17 headed goals in the tournament, overtaking Santos Laguna (16) for fifth-most in history.

Tigres' semifinal first leg history

This was Tigres' third first-leg semifinal draw in Champions Cup history, but their first involving goals. They previously advanced in 2015/16 after a 0-0 draw at Querétaro and were eliminated in 1979 following a 0-0 draw at home to CD FAS.

Tigres on the road in second legs

When playing away in the second leg of a semifinal, Tigres has a mixed record: two qualifications (vs Vancouver Whitecaps in 2016/17 and Santos Laguna in 2019) and two eliminations (CD FAS in 1979 and Club León in 2023).

Cruz Azul at home in semifinal second legs

Cruz Azul will be hosting a second-leg semifinal for the eighth time. They've advanced four times — most recently in 2013/14 — but have been eliminated in the last two, both against Monterrey (2021) and Pumas (2022).

Drought at home

Cruz Azul hasn't won a home semifinal second leg in the last two attempts: a crushing 1-4 defeat to Monterrey in 2021 and a 0-0 draw against Pumas in 2022 that led to elimination.

More semifinal history for La Máquina

The 1-1 draw was Cruz Azul's fourth draw ever in a Champions Cup semifinal. Out of the previous three, they were knocked out twice (by Monterrey in 2010/11 and by Pumas in 2022) and advanced once — in 1969 against Saprissa.

Cruz Azul has now scored 265 goals in Champions Cup history — the most among Mexican clubs and second all-time behind Saprissa (284).

Semifinals milestone: 340 goals and counting

The April 23 showdown brought the all-time goal tally in Champions Cup semifinals to 340. Cruz Azul has 22 of those, good for third place, while Tigres sits fifth with 18.

Draw kings of the semis

With four semifinal draws now, Cruz Azul joins LD Alajuelense and Club América for second-most all time. Tigres, with three, shares third with Pumas, Santos Laguna, Toluca, and DC United.

Stats and trivia

- Cruz Azul committed 20 fouls in the match, a new high for the tournament's knockout rounds.
- Tigres was ruthlessly efficient — scoring with their only shot on target.
- The match produced 37 crosses, the second-highest tally since the quarterfinals.

Historical showdown resumes

This is Cruz Azul's ninth semifinal appearance — they've reached the final five times. Tigres, on the other hand, is playing their seventh semifinal and boasts a run of four straight qualifications from 2016 to 2020.



Top semifinal scorers

- Cruz Azul: César Villaluz and Adrián Cortés (2 goals each)
- Tigres: André-Pierre Gignac (5), Enner Valencia (3)

Biggest semifinal wins

- Tigres: 3-0 vs Santos Laguna (2019) and 3-0 vs Olimpia (2020)
- Cruz Azul: 5-0 vs Pumas UNAM (2010)