



Columbus Crew SC (USA) vs. Houston (USA)

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, Lower.com Field, Columbus (USA)

Houston Dynamo lost 0-1 against Columbus Crew SC in the first match with a goal from Alexandru Matan at Shell Energy Stadium, Houston on March 6, 2024.

These two teams have faced each other 28 times in local and international competitions, with both having 8 victories and 11 draws.

Houston has not lost in the last 3 matches of the series in the MLS: 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.

Columbus's last victories against Houston Dynamo were in 2018 in the MLS: 1-0 (Gyasi Zardes) and on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 1-0 in the Concacaf Champions Cup.

Houston Dynamo fell for the 4th time (4L-1W) in their last 5 matches in the Concacaf Champions League (CCC), and it was the second defeat in their last 3 home games in the CCC (2D-1W).

Houston Dynamo suffered their second defeat in their last 3 encounters against MLS rivals, having previously lost to St. Louis City in the first round of the 2024 CCC.

In the defeat against Columbus Crew, it was the 3rd game out of their last 5 where Houston Dynamo failed to score in the CCC.

Alexandru Matan (ROU) of Columbus Crew (scored his 1st goal in the CCC, also becoming the 2nd Romanian footballer to score for an MLS club, the first being Andreas Ivan of New York Red Bulls, who scored against Atlético Pantoja (DOM) in 2019). Alexandru Matan's goal in the 90+6th minute is the latest goal scored by a European footballer for an MLS club since they entered the competition (since 1996).

Columbus Crew achieved their 4th consecutive victory in their first match of every tournament they played in the CCC and extended the streak of not conceding a goal in the first match whenever they achieved victory. 2-0 against Puerto Rico Islanders (PUR) in 2009, 1-0 against Municipal (GUA) in 2010, 0-4 against Real Estelí FC (NCA) in 2021, and 0-1 against Houston Dynamo (USA) in 2024.

For Houston Dynamo, it was the 4th time they lost a first-leg match in any round of the tournament. In the previous 3 series, they qualified twice (against Puntarenas (CRC) in 2007 and against St. Louis City (USA) in 2024), and only once were they eliminated (against Tigres UANL (MEX) in 2019).

For Columbus Crew, it was the 2nd victory in 7 first-leg games. The only times they advanced to the next round were when they eliminated Árabe Unido from Panama and Real Estelí from Nicaragua. In the rest of the series, they were Eliminated.



Columbus Crew (USA)

When Columbus Crew won the first leg game, they advanced to the next phase of the CCC. In 2021, they defeated Real Estelí 4-0 in Managua and won 1-0 in the second home game.

In the second match against Houston Dynamo, they will test an unbeaten streak of 8 home games in the CCC, where they won 4 and drew 4 times. Columbus Crew hasn't lost playing at home in the CCC since September 2009 when they lost 2-0 against Cruz Azul in Group C of the 2009/10 edition.

Playing at home, Columbus Crew kept a clean sheet in 5 of their last 6 matches in the CCC, only conceding 2 goals in their last home game (vs. Monterrey in the 2-2 draw in the first leg of the quarter-finals in 2021).

Participations in the Concacaf Champions Cup (Since 1962): 5 (2003, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2021, 2024).

Record in the Concacaf Champions Cup CCC (Since 1962): GP-25 W-11 D-5 L-9 (GF-34 GA-35).

Best Result: quarter-finals (2003, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2021).

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

Players with the most appearances in CCC (since 2008/09): Emmanuel Ekpo (NGA) 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 knockout stage second leg matches (since 2008/09): GP: 4 W-1 D-0 L-3.

Biggest victory (since 2008/09): 4-0 vs. Real Estelí (Gyasi Zardes x2, Jonathan Mensah, and Pedro Santos), round of 16 - 2021, Estadio Nacional de Fútbol UNAN, Managua (April 8, 2021).

Penalty shootouts: 0.



Hat-tricks: 0.

Participations in the round of 16: 2003 (vs Árabe Unido), 2021 (vs. Real Estelí), and 2024 (vs. Houston Dynamo).

Record in round of 16: GP-5 W-4 D-0 L-1.

Top Scorers in Round of 16: Edson Buddle (USA) 3, Gyasi Zardes (USA) 2, Kyle Martino (USA) 1, Bradley Wright-Phillips (ENG) 1, Jonathan Mensah (GHA), Pedro Santos (POR), Alexandru Mățan (ROU).

Assists in CCC 2024: Aidan Morris (USA) 1.

Saves in CCC 2024: 4. Goalkeepers: Patrick Schulte (USA) 4. (0 goals conceded - 1 clean sheet).

How the goals were scored: From open play (1).

Chances to score goals (31). Shots on target (15).

Players to watch:

Alexandru Mățan (ROU). Scored the winning goal in the first leg match. The Romanian forward had three appearances in the 2021 and 2024 editions. Aidan Morris, who provided the assist, was the player with the most passes (62).

Juan Camilo Hernández (COL). The forward, who scored 21 goals in 33 matches in the Major League Soccer in 2023, was the player with the most shots (5) coming off the bench in the second half in the first game in Houston.

Steven Moreira (CPV). Made 4 ball recoveries and 35 successful passes in Houston. The French-born defender, an international with Cape Verde, had an 85% passing accuracy.



Houston (USA)

Houston Dynamo managed to advance to the next round in the CCC in 2019 when they defeated Guastatoya in both games (0-1 and 2-1).

Houston Dynamo has scored 3 goals in the round of 16 in the second half after the 75th minute of play.

Houston has only won 1 of their 12 away matches against Columbus Crew in their entire history. The only victory was in Matchday 3 of the Major League Soccer 2007: 2-1 (Alejandro Moreno; Joseph Ngwenya and Chad Marshall own goal). Since then, they have had 3 draws and 7 losses. They couldn't score goals in their last 4 away matches (all in the MLS).

Houston lost their last 2 away matches in the CCC (1-0 vs. Tigres UANL in the quarter-finals in 2019 and 2-1 vs. St. Louis City SC in Round One in 2024).

Houston Dynamo only has 2 victories in their 19 away matches in the history of the CCC: 3-1 vs. CD FAS in Group 3 of 2012/13 and 1-0 vs. Guastatoya in the round of 16 of 2019.

Participations in the CCC (Since 1962): 8 (2007, 2008, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13, 2019, 2024).

Record in the Concacaf Champions Cup CCC (Since 1962): GP-39 W-15 D-10 L-14 (GF-47 GA-46).

Best results: Quarter-finals 2008/09, 2012/13, 2019, semifinals (2) 2007, 2008.

Top Scorers in the CCC: Cam Weaver (USA) 4, Craig Waibel (USA) 3, Kaiansu Kamara (SLE) 3, Stuart Holden (SCO) 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 knockout stage second leg matches (since 2008/09): GP-5 W-2 D-0 L-3.

Biggest victory (since 2008/09): 5-1 vs. Árabe Unido (Eddie Robinson, Cam Weaver, Corey Ashe, and Stuart Holden x2), Group A - 2009/10; 4-0 vs. 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) and 2024 (vs. Columbus Crew).

Record in round of 16: GP-3 W-2 D-0 L-1.

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

Record in the CCC 2024: GP-3 W-1 D-0 L-2 (GF-2 GA-3).

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

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

Saves in the CCC 2024: 10. Goalkeeper: Steven Clark (USA) 10. (3 goals conceded - 1 clean sheet).

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

Scoring opportunities (25). Shots on target (14).

Players to watch:

Aliyu Ibrahim (NIG). The 22-year-old forward made (2) shots in the first match against Columbus Crew SC. The Nigeria-born player has appeared in all three matches in the CCC 2024.

Ján Gregus (SVK). He has played in all 3 matches in the CCC 2024 and was the player with the most passes with (52) with an 88% accuracy, and two ball recoveries in the defeat against Columbus Crew SC.

Steven Clark (USA). The 37-year-old goalkeeper has 9 saves in the CCC 2024 and kept a clean sheet in 1 of the 3 matches (vs. St. Louis City in Round One). He has played in five matches in the CCC and has 2 clean sheets.