# Alajuelense (CRC) vs. Real Esteli (NCA)

Estadio Alejandro Morera Soto, Alajuela

**Concacaf Club Tournament Series: Alajuelense wins the series:** GP-8 W-8 D-0 L-0 (GF-26 GA-3).

Alajuelense won 3-0 in the first-leg match of the Concacaf Central American Cup final on November 29 at Independencia Stadium in Estelí, Nicaragua, with goals from Joshua Navarro, Michael Barrantes, and Freddy Góndola.

**Alajuelense (CRC)**

**Record in the Concacaf Central American Cup:** GP-9 W-7 D-2 L-0 (GF-23 GA-6).

**Top Scorers:** Aarón Suárez (CRC) 4, Johan Venegas (CRC) 3, Michael Barrantes (CRC) 3, Joshua Navarro (CRC) 3, Freddy Góndola (PAN) 3, Alexander López (HON) 2, Joel Campbell (CRC) 2.

**How the goals were scored:** Open play (18), header shots (3), Penalty (1), Free-kick (1).

**Assists:** Carlos Mora (CRC) 4, Joshua Navarro (CRC) 3, Johan Venegas (CRC) 2, Carlos Martínez (CRC) 1, Michael Barrantes (CRC) 1, Freddy Góndola (PAN) 1, Alexander López (CRC) 1, Joel Campbell (CRC) 1, Edward Cedeño (PAN) 1.

**Goal-scoring opportunities (113). Shots on target (44).**

**Players with the most Appearances:** Joshua Navarro, Alexander López, Celso Borges (9 Matches), Joel Campbell, Giancarlo González, Michael Barrantes (8 Matches), Aarón Suárez, Freddy Góndola, Leonel Moreira, Yael López, Carlos Mora, Doryan Rodríguez (7 Matches).

**Saves: 33. Goalkeepers:** Leonel Moreira (CRC) 27 (5 goals conceded - 4 clean sheets), Miguel Ajú (CRC) 6 (1 goal conceded - 1 clean sheet).

**Fastest goal in the first half:** Joshua Navarro (04' 01'' vs. Motagua - Group Stage).

**Oldest goal scorer:** Michael Barrantes - 40 years, 55 days.

**Youngest goal scorer:** Doryan Rodríguez - 20 years, 225 days**.**

**International Titles:** Concacaf Champions Cup (1986, 2004), UNCAF Interclub Cup (2002, 2005), Grandes de Centroamérica Tournament (1996), Scotiabank Concacaf League (2020).

**Players to Watch:**

**Michael Barrantes (CRC).** Scored a spectacular free-kick goal in the (0-3) victory in the first-leg of the final in Ciudad Estelí. At 40 years and 55 days old, he is the oldest goal scorer in the CCAC. He has scored 3 goals and provided 1 assist in 8 appearances.

**Carlos Mora (CRC).** Provided the assist for Alajuelense's first goal to Joshua Navarro and reached (4) assists, tying with Antonio López (Comunicaciones) and Franklin Flores (Real España) as the players with the most assists in the CCAC 2023.

**Joshua Navarro (CRC).** Scored the opening goal in the first-leg of the final. He is Alajuelense's player with the most shots (16) in the CCAC 2023. He has scored 3 goals and provided 3 assists with 155 passes in the CCAC 2023.

**Aarón Suárez (CRC).** Is Alajuelense's top scorer in the Central American Cup (4). He has 12 shots on goal with 158 passes in 7 appearances. He scored goals against Olancho FC, Verdes FC, and a brace against Cartaginés.

**Leonel Moreira (CRC).** Was a defensive wall in the first leg of the final with 8 saves and one clearance. In the semifinals against CS Herediano, he made 6 saves, 4 clearances, and saved a penalty kick in the penalty shootout.

**Real Esteli (NCA)**

**Record in the Concacaf Central American Cup:** GP-9 W-5 D-2 L-2 (GF-11 GA-9)

**Top Scorers:** Juan Barrera (NCA) 2, Bancy Hernández (NCA) 2, Arley Bonilla (COL) 2, Abel Méndez (ARG) 1, Ewerton Bezerra (BRA) 1, Harold Medina (NCA) 1, Marvin Fletes (NCA) 1.

**How the goals were scored:** Open play (6), header shots (3), Penalty (1), own goal (1).

**Assists:** Abel Méndez (ARG) 2, Byron Bonilla (NCA) 2, Harold Medina (NCA) 2, Henry García (NCA) 1, Leyvin Balanta (COL) 1.

**Goal-scoring opportunities (111). Shots on target (52).**

**Players with the most Appearances:** Josué Quijano, Fabián Monserrat, Arley Bonilla, Ebert Martínez, Marlon López, Douglas Forvis (9 Matches), Harold Medina, Marvin Fletes, Juan Barrera, Byron Bonilla (8), Óscar Acevedo, Bancy Hernández (7), Ewerton Bezerra, Leyvin Balanta (6).

**Saves: 26. Goalkeepers: Douglas Forvis (NCA) 26 (10 goals conceded - 5 clean sheets).**

**Biggest Victory:** 0-2 vs. CD FAS (Juan Barrera x2), (Matchday 3), Las Delicias Stadium, Santa Tecla (August 15, 2023).

**Fastest goal scored in the first half:** Bancy Hernández (09’ 43’’) vs. Saprissa (Quarterfinals).

**Oldest goal scorer:** Juan Barrera - 34 years, 105 days**.**

**Youngest goal scorer:** Harold Medina - 21 years, 90 days.

**Players to Watch:**

**Josué Quijano (NCA).** Has played in all 9 matches. In the first-leg of the final, he made (5) shots, two on target, one hit the post, and two were off target against Alajuelense.

**Abel Méndez (ARG).** In the semifinals against CAI, he was a key player in securing a spot in the final by scoring a goal and providing two assists in the second-leg match. The Argentine player has 4 shots and 28 passes in 5 matches.

**Óscar Acevedo (NCA).** Was the player with the most ball recoveries (3) and passes (51) in the first-leg of the final against Alajuelense. He has 10 shots, 8 ball recoveries, and 275 passes in 7 appearances in the CCAC 2023.

**Douglas Forvis (CRC).** Is one of the goalkeepers with the cleanest sheets in the Central American Cup (5) alongside Esteban Alvarado (Saprissa). He kept a clean sheet in 5 out of 9 appearances with 26 saves and 20 clearances.

**Arley Bonilla (COL).** Is the player with the most shots (22) in Real Estelí and in the CCAC 2023. He scored 2 goals in 9 appearances. He scored the team's first and last goals in the CCAC 2023 (against Xelajú in the group stage and against CAI in the semifinals).