

Cuba vs. Mexico

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This will be the 11th match in the history of the Concacaf Men's Under-20 Championship between these two teams, and Mexico has never lost to Cuba, with 8 wins and 2 draws, scoring 21 goals and conceding only 2.

Mexico won the last 6 encounters, scoring 19 goals and conceding only 2, keeping a clean sheet in 80% of those matches. Cuba was only able to score in 2 of the 10 previous matches: in Guatemala 1988 (a defeat in the last group match) and in Jamaica 2015 (a defeat in Group B).

Mexico's highest-scoring victory against Cuba was 9-1 with goals by Alejandro Díaz (2), Guillermo Martínez (2), Hirving Lozano (2), José David Ramírez (2), and Luis Márquez; at the Montego Bay Sports Complex in Montego Bay on January 10, 2015.

In addition to their encounters at the CMU20, they were also rivals at the Central American and Caribbean Games in Mexico 1990 (1-0) and Puerto Rico 1993 (2-0), both won by Mexico.

Matches:

CUB 0-0 MEX, Final Group - Cuba 1970 (Oct 9, 1970).

CUB 0-1 MEX, Semifinals - Mexico 1973 (Feb 25, 1973).

CUB 0-1 MEX, Final - Canada 1974 (Sep 1, 1974).

CUB 0-0 MEX, Group Los Angeles - United States 1980 (Aug 3, 1980).

CUB 0-1 MEX, Group B - Trinidad 1986 (Aug 23, 1986).

CUB 0-2 MEX, Group 2 - Guatemala 1988 (Apr 14, 1988).

CUB 1-2 MEX, Final Group - Guatemala 1988 (Apr 20, 1988).

CUB 0-2 MEX, Group A - Panama/United States 2003 (Oct 16, 2002).

CUB 0-3 MEX, Group D - Guatemala 2011 (Mar 28, 2011).

CUB 1-9 MEX, Group B - Jamaica 2015 (Jan 10, 2015).



Appearances in the Concacaf Men's Under-20 Championship: 15

Best Results in CMU20: 2nd place (Cuba 1970, Canada 1974), 3rd place (Mexico 1973), 4th place (2013).

Record in CMU20: GP-66, W-25, D-14, L-27 (GFor-84, GA-88).

Top Scorers in CMU20 since 2009: Geobel Pérez (5), Maikel Reyes (3), Jean Carlos Rodríguez (3), Rolando Oviendo (3), Rivaldo Ibarra (2), Christian Flores (2), Arichel Hernández (2), Frank López (2), Kevin Torriente (2), Samuel Rodríguez (2).

Penalty Shootouts: 2 (Wins 2, Losses 0).

Record in Mexico 2024: GP-4, W-1, D-2, L-1 (GF-5, GA-6).

Top Scorers in Mexico 2024: Samuel Rodríguez (2), Michael Camejo (1), David Pérez, Karel Pérez.

Assists in 2024: Aniel Casanova (1).

Saves: 16. Clean Sheets: 1. Goalkeeper: Yurdy Hodelin (16 saves).

Qualifications to the FIFA U-20 World Cup: 2 (Turkey 2013 and Chile 2015).

Best Result in FIFA U-20 World Cup: Group stage (Turkey 2013).

Cuba won 1 of the last 6 matches in regulation time at CMU20 (2 Draws-3 Losses), which was in the closing of Group A of Mexico 2024: 3-0 vs. Jamaica (Michael Camejo, David Pérez, and Karel Pérez).

Cuba achieved 8 wins in its last 15 matches in the history of the tournament. During this period, they only drew against Costa Rica at the start of Group A (1-1) and Honduras (1-1) in the quarter-finals, both in Mexico 2024.

Participation in semifinals lost the 2 semifinals it played, both on Mexican soil: 1-0 vs. Mexico in 1973 (Feb 25) and 2-0 vs. USA in 2013 (Mar 1).

Considering the editions with a final match, Cuba participated in the final of Canada 1974, where they lost 1-0 to Mexico, achieving one of their best performances in the history of the competition.

Players to Watch:

Samuel Rodríguez. He is the top scorer for the Cubans in the current edition of CMU20 with (2). He scored in the group stage and quarter-finals. He has made 10 shots.

Karel Pérez. He is the team leader in recovered balls with (17). He scored a penalty goal in the 3-0 victory against Jamaica in the closing of Group A of Mexico 2024.

Michael Camejo. Scored the first goal in the victory over Jamaica in the last round of the group stage. He made 112 passes and 3 shots and has started in every match.

Yurdy Hodelin. Made 5 saves against Honduras in the quarter-finals. Ahead of the semifinals, he has made 16 saves.



Mexico (MEX)

Appearances in the Concacaf Men's Under-20 Championship: 28

Best Result in the CMU20: Champion (1962, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1984, 1990, 1992, 2011, 2013, 2015), Runner-up (1988, 1996, 2018), 3rd place (2017), Group leader (1998, 2003).

CMU20 Record: GP-139 W-101 D-25 L-13 (GF-379 GA-81).

Top Scorers in the CMU20 since 2009: José Juan Macías (10), Daniel López (7), Ronaldo Cisneros (6), Hirving Lozano (5), Esteban Lozano (5), Ulises Dávila (4), Alejandro Díaz (4), Salvador Mariscal (4).

Penalty Shootouts: 4 (Wins 3, Losses 1).

Record in Mexico 2024: GP-4 W-3 D-1 L-0 (GF-9 GA-3).

Top Scorers in Mexico 2024: Amaury Morales (2), Diego Sánchez (1), Heriberto Jurado, Stephano Carrillo, Yael Padilla, Xavier Biscayzacú, Alexei Domínguez, Francisco Méndez.

Assists in 2024: Amaury Morales (2), Xavier Biscayzacú (1), Elías Montiel, Francisco Méndez, Heriberto Jurado, Mateo Levy.

Saves: 5. Clean Sheets: 1. Goalkeepers: Emmanuel Ochoa (3), Pablo Lara (2).

Qualifications for the FIFA U-20 World Cup: 17 (Tunisia 1977, Japan 1979, Australia 1981, Mexico 1983, Soviet Union 1985, Portugal 1991, Australia 1993, Malaysia 1997, Nigeria 1999, UAE 2003, Canada 2007, Colombia 2011, Turkey 2013, New Zealand 2015, Korea Republic 2017, Poland 2019, Chile 2025).

Best Result in FIFA U-20 World Cup: Runner-up (Tunisia 1977), 3rd place (Colombia 2011).

Mexico is unbeaten in 9 CMU20 matches with 6 wins and 3 draws. They lost 2 of the last 39 matches in the tournament against the United States: 1-0 in Group D of Costa Rica 2017 and 2-0 in the final of United States 2018.

Mexico was the leader in shots during the group stage with 45, with an efficiency of 15.6% (21 of those shots on goal, 15 deflected, 2 hit the posts, and 7 ended in goals).

Participations in semifinals: Mexico has played 7 semifinals with 100% efficiency (6 in regular time and 1 in penalties). The only definition from the penalty spot was against Canada 4-3 after a 1-1 tie in the United States 1980.

Mexico's 7 Semifinals: in Mexico 1973 (vs. Cuba), Puerto Rico 1976 (vs. Guatemala), Honduras 1978 (vs. Honduras), United States 1980 (vs. Canada), Trinidad 1984 (vs. United States), Guatemala 2011 (vs. Panama), and Mexico 2013 (vs. El Salvador).

Players to Watch:

Diego Ochoa. He scored a goal in the quarterfinals against Costa Rica to temporarily tie the match. He made 122 passes before the semifinals and was the Mexican player with the most passes (101) in the group stage.

Amaury Morales. He is the Mexican player with the highest goal participation in the tournament (2 goals and 2 assists) and has made 5 shots in his 4 appearances and completed 89% of his passes.

Yael Padilla. He is one of the players with the most shots (12), along with Santiago López (Canada), Roberto Osorio (Honduras). He was the leader in shots with 6 in the quarterfinals and scored the first Mexican goal in the current edition (vs. Haiti in the 4-0 victory).

César Garza. To date, he has made 120 passes in 3 appearances with an efficiency of 92%. In addition to 4 ball recoveries, he has received 7 fouls (2.3 per game).