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

Estadio Independencia, Esteli NOV-28

**All-Time series:** Alajuelense lead the all-time series: GP-7 W-7 D-0 L-0 (GF-23 GA-3).

**SCCL/SCL series:** 5 games. Alajuelense lead the series: GP-5 W-5 D-0 L-0 (GF-15 GA-2).

**Concacaf Champions Cup (1998):**

* **Alajuelense 8-0 Real Estelí**, Group B, Estadio Alejandro Morera Soto - Alajuela (14-2-1998).
* **Real Estelí 1-3 Alajuelense**, Group B, Palmares, Alajuela (17-2-1998).

**Scotiabank Concacaf Champions Cup (2012/13):**

* **Real Estelí 0-1 Alajuelense** (Allen Guevara), Group 6 (Match Day 3) Estadio Independencia, Ciudad Estelí (28-8-2012).
* **Alajuelense 1-0 Real Estelí** (Álvaro Sánchez Alfaro penalty), Group 6 (Match Day 5) Estadio Alejandro Morera Soto, Alajuela (26-9-2012).

**Scotiabank Concacaf League (2020):**

* **Alajuelense 2-1 Real Estelí** (Bryan Ruiz y Alonso Martínez; Juan Barrera), Quarter Final - SCL 2020, Estadio Alejandro Morera Soto, Alajuela (2-12-2020).

**UNCAF Interclub Cup (1999-2000):**

* **Alajuelense 6-0 Real Estelí** (Essinho, Luis Antonio Marín, Harold Medina, Alexander Castro, Alejandro Alpízar, Pablo Izaguirre), Group A, Estadio Alejandro Morera Soto, Alajuela (3-2-2000).
* **Real Estelí 1-2 Alajuelense** (Carlos Alonso; Heriberto Quirós x2), Group A Estadio Independencia, Ciudad de Estelí (13-FEB-2000).

**Real Esteli (NCA)**

**Record in the Concacaf Central American Cup**: GO-8 W-5 D-2 L-1 (GF-11 GA-6)

**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 he scored the goals**: Open play (6), header (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.

**Record in Knockout Stage**: GP-4 W-2 D-2 L-0 (GF-6 GA-4)

**Scoring Opportunities** (94). Shots on target (44).

**Players with most Appearances**: Josué Quijano, Fabián Monserrat, Arley Bonilla, Ebert Martínez, Marlon López, Douglas Forvis (8 Games), Harold Medina, Marvin Fletes, Juan Barrera, Byron Bonilla (7), Ewerton Bezerra Óscar Acevedo, Bancy Hernández (6), Leyvin Balanta (5).

**Saves**: 25. Goalkeepers: Douglas Forvis (NCA) 25 (7 goals conceded- **5 Clean Sheets**).

**Victory with more goals**: 0-2 vs. CD FAS (Juan Barrera x2), Group B (Match Day 3) Estadio Las Delicias, Santa Tecla (15-8-2023).

**In the Concacaf Central American Cup**: He has scored goals in 8 matches, failing to score in only one, he has kept 5 clean sheets, and did not concede any goals in three matches.

 **Record in knockout stage**: GO-2 W-2 D-0 L-0 (GF-2 GA-0)

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

**Veteran player to score a goal**: Juan Barrera - 34 years, 105 days.

**Youngest player to score a goal**: Harold Medina - 21 years, 190 days.

**International Titles**: 0

**Players to Watch:**

**Abel Méndez (ARG):** He was a key player in the semifinals against CAI, directly contributing to all 3 goals in the series (1 goal in the first leg and 2 assists in the second leg). The Argentinean has 3 shots and 23 passes in 4 appearances in the CCAC.

**Juan Barrera (NCA):** He is the only Real Estelí player to score a brace in a CCAC 2023 match (against CD FAS in the group stage). To date, he has 7 shots and 143 passes.

**Douglas Forvis (CRC):** He is one of the goalkeepers with the cleanest sheets in the Central American Cup (5), along with Esteban Alvarado of Deportivo Saprissa. He kept a clean sheet in 5 out of 8 appearances with 25 saves and 19 clearances.

**Arley Bonilla (COL):** He is the player with the most shots for Real Estelí (19) and is among the top five players in the entire CCAC 2023. He scored 2 goals in 8 appearances. Bonilla scored the first and last goals for the team in the CCAC 2023 (against Xelajú in the group stage and against CAI in the semifinals).

**Bancy Hernández (NCA):** Scored decisive goals in the knockout round (against Saprissa in the quarterfinals and against CAI in the semifinals), both from open play and with his right foot (1 inside the box and 1 outside the box).

**Marlon López (NCA):** He is the outfield player with the most minutes played in the CCAC 2023 (776'). The defender is also the leader in passes with 305 and a 92% passing accuracy.

**Alajuelense (CRC)**

**Record in the Concacaf Central American Cup**: GO-8 W-6 D-2 L-0 (GF-20 GC-6).

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

**How he scored the goals**: Open Play (16), Header (3), Penalty (1).

**Assists**: Carlos Mora (CRC) 3, 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.

**Record in Knockout Stage**: GP-4 W-2 D-2 L-0 (GF-10 GA-5)

**Scoring Opportunities** (106). Shots on Target (43).

**Players with most Appearances**: Joshua Navarro, Alexander López, Celso Borges (8 Games), Joel Campbell, Giancarlo González, Michael Barrantes (7), Aarón Suárez, Freddy Góndola Leonel Moreira, Yael López, Carlos Mora, Doryan Rodríguez (6), Daniel Chacón, Iam Lawrence, Juan Luis Pérez, Johan Venegas (5).

**Saves**: 25. **Goalkeepers**: Leonel Moreira (CRC) 19 (5 goals conceded - 3 **Clean sheets**), Miguel Ajú (CRC) 6 (1 goal conceded - **1 clean sheet**).

**Victor with more goals**: 5-1 vs. Motagua (Joshua Navarro x2, Doryan Rodríguez, Michael Barrantes, Johan Venegas; Agustín Auzmendi), Grupo D (Match Day 5), Estadio Alejandro Morera Soto, Alajuela (31-AUG-2023).

**In the Central American Cup:** He has scored goals in 8 matches, kept 4 clean sheets, and conceded goals in 4 matches.

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

**Penalty Shoot-outs definition**: 1 (W): 4-4 (5-4) vs. Herediano (Semifinals).

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

**Veteran player to score a goal**: Michael Barrantes - 39 years, 331 days

**Youngest player to score a goal**: Doryan Rodríguez - 20 years, 225 days

**Players to Watch:**

**Aarón Suárez (CRC):** He is the team's top scorer in the Central American Cup (4 goals). Additionally, he has 11 shots, 146 passes in 6 appearances. He scored goals against Olancho FC, Verdes FC, and a brace against CS Cartaginés.

**Johan Venegas (CRC):** He has scored 3 goals and provided 2 assists. He is the all-time leading scorer in the Scotiabank Concacaf League with 17 goals. In the CCAC 2023, he has attempted 8 shots. In total, he has 24 goals in 47 international club appearances in Concacaf competitions.

**Celso Borges (CRC):** He is the leader in passes with 481 and a 90% passing accuracy throughout the Central American Cup of Concacaf. He has also scored a decisive goal, attempted 8 shots, and made 7 ball recoveries.

**Joel Campbell (CRC):** He has scored 2 goals (against Cartaginés and Herediano) and provided 1 assist (against Herediano). In the CCAC 2023, he has attempted 9 shots, completed 165 passes, made 7 recoveries, and is the player with the most fouls against him (13).

**Joshua Navarro (CRC):** He is the player with the most shots in LD Alajuelense with 15. He has scored 2 goals, provided 3 assists, and completed 143 passes.

**Leonel Moreira (CRC):** Thanks to his 6 saves, 4 clearances, and 1 saved penalty in the penalty shootout against Herediano in the semifinals, Alajuelense advanced to the final. He was the champion of the Scotiabank Concacaf League in 2018 (with Herediano) and 2020 (with LD Alajuelense).