



Concacaf  
UNDER-20  
CHAMPIONSHIP

# Costa Rica vs. Cuba - Group A

Estadio Miguel Alemán Valdés, Celaya.

All-Time Series: 4 games

- 3 wins Costa Rica
- 0 draws
- 1-win Cuba
- 14 goals Costa Rica
- 5 goals Cuba

Costa Rica and Cuba will face each other for the second time in the group stage of the tournament, with the previous encounter being on August 1, 1980, in the United States in Group A, a 3-1 win for Costa Rica. Since that game, Costa Rica has achieved a streak of three consecutive wins, including the final on April 24, 1988, in Guatemala, with a 4-1 win for Costa Rica.

Cuba's only win in the series against Costa Rica was 2-1 in the quarterfinals on February 26, 2013, in Mexico, with goals for Cuba by Aricheell Hernández (13', 80') and for Costa Rica by David Gerardo Ramírez (40').



## Costa Rica (CRC)

Absent from the FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup since 2017, Costa Rica will seek in Mexico to secure one of Concacaf's four tickets to Chile 2025.

Champions in the 1998 and 2009 editions, in addition to two runner-up finishes in 1994 and 2011, Costa Rica will be one of the strong contenders in the CMU20 in Mexico.

The top scorer for Costa Rica in the CMU20 is Joel Campbell with 6 goals.

In nine appearances in the FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup, Costa Rica achieved its best result when it finished fourth in Egypt in 2009.

Costa Rica's rivals in Group A will be the United States, Cuba, and Jamaica.

**Last appearance in the final round: Honduras 2022 (quarterfinals).**

**Appearances in the Concacaf Men's U-20 Championship: 22** (Panama 1962, Canada 1974, Honduras 1978, United States 1980, Guatemala 1982, Trinidad 1984, Guatemala 1988, 1990, Canada 1992, Honduras 1994, Mexico 1996, Guatemala/Trinidad 1998, Canada/Trinidad 2001, Honduras/United States 2005, Panama/Mexico 2007, Trinidad



2009, Guatemala 2011, Mexico 2013, Costa Rica 2017, United States 2018, Honduras 2022, Mexico 2024).

**Record in the CMU20C:** GP-96, W-53, D-19, L-24 (GF-201, GA-97).

**Best results in the CMU20C:** Champion (1988, 2009), runner-up (1994, 2011), 3rd place (1982). 1st place in group (1998, 2001, 2007).

**Top scorers in the final round since 2009:** Joel Campbell (6), Doryan Rodríguez (4), Josué Martínez (3), Mynor Miller (3), Randall Leal (3), Ronaldo Araya (3).

**Qualified for the final phase as:** 5th Place in the Concacaf U-20 Ranking.

**Appearances in the FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup: 9** (Saudi Arabia 1989, Qatar 1995, Malaysia 1997, Nigeria 1999, Argentina 2001, Canada 2007, Egypt 2009, Colombia 2011, Republic of Korea 2017).

**Best position in the FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup:** 4th Place (Egypt 2009).

#### **Footballers to watch:**

- **Claudio Montero.** The midfielder made 4 appearances in the 2023 Concacaf U-17 Championship in Guatemala and played in the Central American Cup where he won the title with LD Alajuelense.

- **Andry Naranjo.** The 17-year-old defender participated in the 2023 Concacaf U-17 Championship in Guatemala, scoring a goal in 4 appearances.



## **Cuba (CUB)**

After winning Group A of the qualifiers for the 2024 CMU20, Cuba will seek to advance to the knockout phase in Group A against the United States, Costa Rica, and Jamaica, aiming to return to the FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup, in which they have only participated once, in Turkey in 2013. David Pérez and Marcos Campos each scored three goals in the qualifiers for Mexico.

Cuba achieved two runner-up finishes in 1970 and 1974 and finished fourth for the last time in 2013.

The top scorer for Cuba in the CMU20 is Geobel Pérez with 5 goals.

**Last appearance in the final round: Honduras 2022 (round of 16).**

**Appearances in the Concacaf Men's U-20 Championship: 15** (Cuba 1970, Mexico 1973, Canada 1974, United States 1980, Trinidad 1984, 1986, Guatemala 1988, Canada 1992, Panama/United States 2003, Guatemala 2011, Mexico 2013, Jamaica 2015, United States 2018, Honduras 2022, Mexico 2024).



**Record in the CMU20C:** GP-62, W-24, D-12, L-26 (GF-79, GA-82).

**Best Result in the CMU20C:** 2nd Place (Cuba 1970, Canada 1974), 3rd place (Mexico 1973), 4th place (2013).

**Top scorers in Concacaf U-20 Final Rounds (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).

**Qualified for the final phase as:** Winner of Group A in the Concacaf U-20 Championship 2024 Qualifiers.

**Appearances in the FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup: 1** (Turkey 2013).

**Best position in the FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup:** Group stage (Turkey 2013).

**Footballers to watch:**

**David Perez:** He was the leader in shots with (4), the most shots (17), and goals scored (3) in the group stage of the Concacaf qualifiers for the 2024 Concacaf U-20 Championship against Nicaragua.

**Marcos Campos:** He scored 3 goals in 4 matches in the qualifiers for the 2024 Concacaf U-20 Championship (100% of plays and all in the first half). He had a shot accuracy of 43%.