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# Young Canadian footballers begin their journey toward qualifying for the 2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup

## Description

With a profusion of affiliations spanning esteemed football clubs in Croatia, England, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, and the Netherlands, not to mention Canada and the United States, the propitious composition of the present assembly of the Canadian under-20 men's soccer team suggests an impressive lineage.

Despite their robust heritage, the pathway to the FIFA U-20 World Cup has always been an arduous journey, one that has witnessed Canada reach the soccer spectacular on eight occasions, an accomplishment that has eluded them since 2007 when they hosted this unparalleled tournament.

Their formidable journey towards the 2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup commences in earnest this Friday when they engage in a spirited face-off against Dominica in the preliminary stage of the revered CONCACAF Under-20 Championship Qualifiers, set in the picturesque locale of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Head coach Andrew Olivieri radiates optimism, expressing great commendation for his skilled team. "Canada has witnessed the emergence of extraordinary teams across numerous U-20 cycles. However, this particular ensemble secures its uniqueness from the fact that most of their remarkable players are made available by their respective clubs," observed Olivieri.

Forwards such as Oumar Diallo operating under Inter Milan's tutelage and Santiago Lopez, a standout player at Mexico's Pumas UNAM, constitute the team's fundamental components. Sergei Kozlovskiy, though merely 15, commanded the centre back position during CF Montreal's inaugural pre-season match against Minnesota United on Jan. 27. Additionally, centre back Lazar Stefanovic has already had the privilege of making his mark with the Toronto FC first team.

Midfielders Jesse Costa and Tiago Codinha hail from VFL Wolfsburg in Germany and Dutch side Twente Enschede respectively, the latter having the advantage of growing up in the Netherlands under the guidance of a Canadian parent. Codinha's multi-cultural upbringing and exposure enriched his footballer's acumen.

The CONCACAF U-20 qualifying stages proceed until March 2 at five locales in Central America and the Caribbean. Twenty-seven teams engage in a fierce competition grouped into either quintets or quartets, from which the victorious ones advance to the prestigious main CONCACAF tournament.

The U.S., Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic have been granted automatic entries into the main category of the CONCACAF tournament. The four semi-finalists secure their places to compete in the illustrious 2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Chile.

Dominica, situated in the heart of the Caribbean between Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago, boasts a populace of 76,650, equivocal to the population of Sarnia, Ont. Its senior soccer team ranks 180th globally and holds the 27th position within the CONCACAF overseeing North and Central America and the Caribbean.



'Our understanding of Dominica's styles and strategies is, regrettably, limited," Olivieri confessed.

Post the encounter with Dominica, the Canadians are slated to compete against St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Sunday, followed by Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday. All fixtures under Group D are scheduled to be played at the esteemed Hasely Crawford Stadium.

Olivieri affirmed, "Our first and foremost objective is to triumph over the initial two matches, and then focus on the formidable challenge posed by Trinidad. Capturing the group lead is of paramount importance."

Canada's history with the CONCACAF U-20 Championships stretches across 24 of the total 28 tournaments, where they emerged victorious in 1986 and 1996. In 2022, they made a powerful run to the round of 16 in Honduras, only to suffer a heart-wrenching loss to Guatemala.

Meanwhile, Trinidad and Tobago have marched to the U-20 World Cups in 1991 and 2009, achieving the status of CONCACAF runner-up in 1990.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Profusion** // (noun): An abundance or large quantity of something.
2. **Affiliations** // (noun): Connections or partnerships with organizations.



3. **Propitious** // (adjective): Favorable or promising.
4. **Assembly** // (noun): A group of people gathered for a specific purpose.
5. **Lineage** // (noun): Ancestry or the line of descent from a common ancestor.
6. **Robust** // (adjective): Strong and healthy; vigorous.

## **CATEGORY**

1. Uncategorized

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### **Author**

aimeeyoung99

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