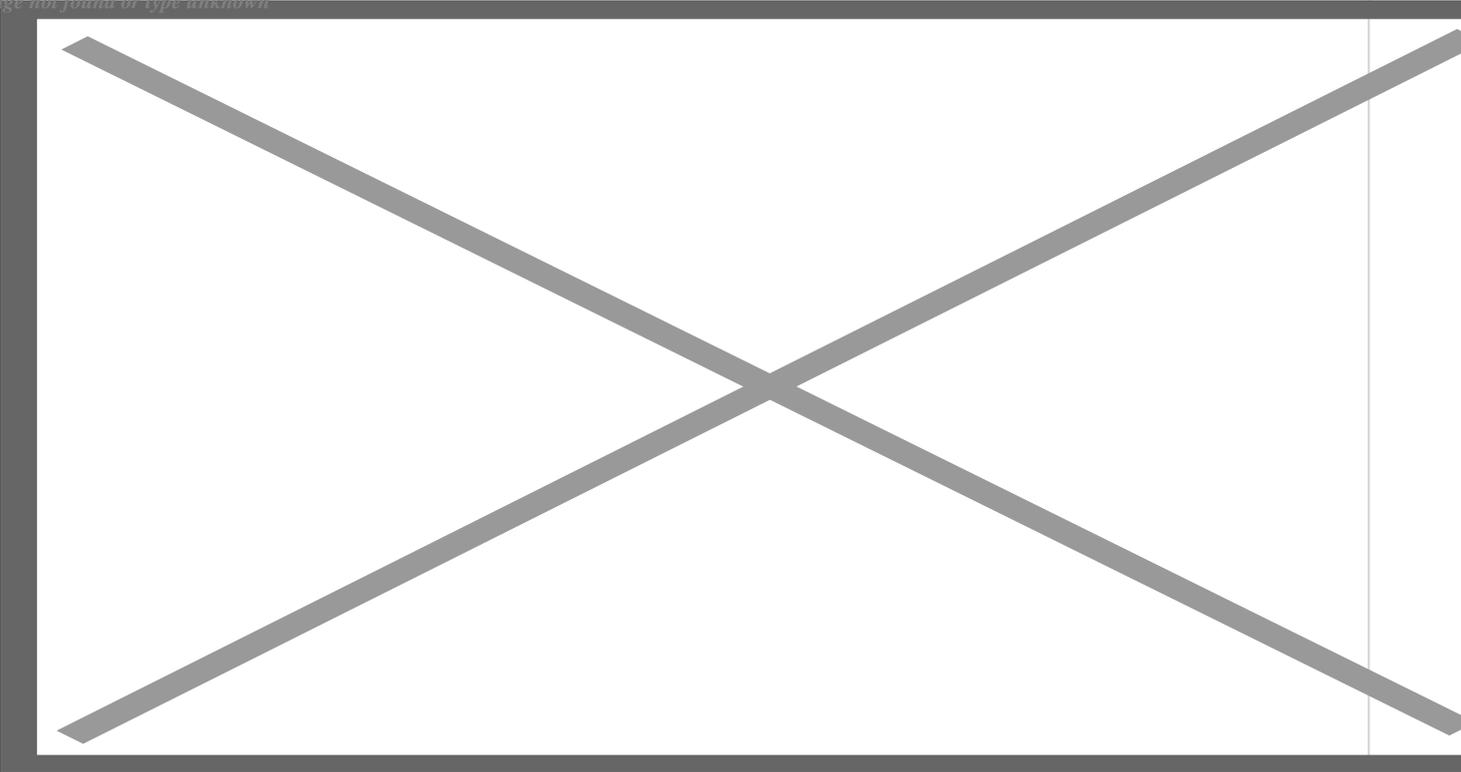


# *Nantes begins French Cup title defense*

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**Photo: Prensa Latina.**

Havana, January 7 (RHC)-- Ligue 1 club Nantes will visit today the discreet Vire in its debut in the round of 32 of the French Cup, while runner-up Nice will do the same with Puy Foot 43 Auvergne.

The Canaries will start as clear favorites at the Michel d'Ornano stadium against a Vire team that plays in the Championnat National 3, the fifth level of French soccer, a day after the start of the phase with the 3-1 victory of the favorite PSG over Châteauroux, despite the rest given to the star players Kylian Mbappé, Lionel Messi and Neymar.

For their part, Nice, last year's victims of PSG in the direct elimination tournament, will play at the Charles Massot pitch against Puy Foot 43 Auvergne of the third division.

Fifteen matches will be played on the second day of the round of 32, with another 11 tomorrow.

Ligue 1 clubs Olympique de Marseille, Olympique de Lyon, Lens, Rennes and Monaco will also be favorites on Saturday.

The Cup is France's premier knockout competition, with professional and amateur clubs taking part every year. This is the 105th edition.

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