

## GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: BAK Condors

Date: Oct 11, 2024 7:00PM PST

### **Pre-Game**

This is the season opener for both teams, and the home opener for the Firebirds.

The Condors finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Pacific Division. They were swept out of the playoffs in the best of 3 series against the Ontario Reign. The big story is with their NHL club. The Edmonton Oilers went all the way to the Stanley Cup Finals. They were one win away from being the first team since the 1993 Montreal Canadiens to win the Stanley Cup, but the Florida Panthers made a historic comeback.

The Firebirds had an incredible second season in existence and second run at the Calder Cup. Unfortunately, the Hershey Bears prevailed in the finals best of 7 series. The Firebirds start the season with a new coach Derek Laxdal. Several players are returning from last seasons, and several new players from past Kraken draft classes are making their way to the AHL.

In head-to-head last year, both teams won 4 of the 8 meetings. The Firebirds had the better record of 4-1-2-1 to the Condors 4-4-0-0.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Period**

The game flow was back and forth throughout the whole period. A little nerviness to start the season. Condors had the early push and a flurry of scoring attempts down low. They worked the puck behind the net a spot up trailers coming to the net. Condors pounced on some sloppy puck decisions, and they got the first goal off the face off. Two minutes later, the Firebirds looked to have even the score with a shot from the point into a crowd in front of the net. The referees got together and ruled the puck had gone offsides. Firebirds found their stride later period with a sustained zone offensive the produce some of the best score chances.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Period**

The first 2/3 of the period, the ice tilted the Firebirds way. Any first game-of-the-season nerves were gone. Firebirds had several quality shots on goal. The push resulted in the game first penalty with the Condors getting the box for slashing. The Firebirds power play was solid, but was not reward with a goal. Using a strong forecheck, Condors took the play back in the later 1/3 of the period, but the Firebirds defense stood firm. The period ended with the Firebirds using their speed to create scoring chances. No goals in the period, but solid play from both teams made for an entertaining period.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Period**

A delayed penalty allows the Condors to pull their goaltender and setup a rush into the zone. A cross ice seem pass to a player sneaking behind the defense resulted in a goal. Condors put on the forecheck in spots, but the Firebirds made a push. Firebirds got their first goal of the season on a rush into the zone and snip into the top shelf. The period tilted to the Firebirds again with the Condors getting their chances. A Condor player made a hard check in the neutral zone. The Firebirds took exception and we witnessed the first fight of the season. For the most part the refs were not a factor in the game until this point. The refs gave a game misconduct and an instigation penalty to the Firebirds. Condors couldn't get their power play unit together on the ensuing power play. Firebirds hustle to get the puck and get it out of the zone before the Condor power play could even setup. The Firebirds pressed to get the tying goal and had their chances. Firebirds pulled the goalie in the last 2:30. Condors had a chance to finish with an open net, but Firebirds tenacious play prevented an attempt and turned the play into an opportunity. Condors survived the final push to win the game.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Total
<b>BAK Condors</b>	1	0	1		2
<b>CV Firebirds</b>	0	0	1		1

**Team Game Stats:**

	<b>Condors</b>	<b>Firebirds</b>
<b>Shots</b>	25	30
<b>PP</b>	0/2	0/1
<b>PIM</b>	7 min	19 min

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026476>

**Faceoff Wins:**

The following is an unofficial faceoff statistic. The AHL doesn't show faceoff wins on the score sheet. This year, I am tracking faceoff wins on my own so there is a margin of error.

	<b>Condors</b>	<b>Firebirds</b>
<b>Faceoff Wins</b>	32	27

The following is a breakdown of faceoff wins based on zone and player count.

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Condors</b>			<b>Firebirds</b>		
	<b>ES</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>ES</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>PK</b>
<b>Attack</b>	7	1	0	7	3	0
<b>Neutral</b>	8	0	0	2	1	0
<b>Defense</b>	16	0	0	14	0	0

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill