

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: ONT Reign

Date: Oct 25, 2024 7:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The Reign and Firebirds are going into this game with the same 1 -2 record. The Reign are coming off of a loss to the Bakersfield Condors last Friday. The Firebirds are coming off their first win of the season over the San Diego Gulls on the road. The Firebirds took a commanding 6-1 lead late into the third period, but the Gulls fought back to make it interesting. The Firebirds played really well through most of the game, but the lack of puck control and missed shots at the empty net kept the Gulls hope alive.

Head-to-head: Laster year, the 8 regular season games were split between both teams. Reign 4-3-0-1 and Firebirds 4-2-2. Both teams played for the Pacific Division title game in the Calder Cup, which the Firebirds won a 3-0 sweep. With all the changes, this year's head-to-head will be an interesting one to watch as a cross town reverify builds up.

1st Period

Firebirds played their best period at home this season. With in the first minute, the Reign attempted a breakout of their D-Zone, but the Firebirds forecheck intercepted the puck. A pass was made to the Firebirds captain who was near the goal, and he backhanded the puck and it trickled into the goal. The Reign moved away from the traditional 1-3-1 to a full on forecheck, but the Firebirds were sharp on the puck. With clean breakouts and getting to the loose pucks, the Firebirds took most of the attack zone time. The Firebirds scored the second goal on a 2 on 1 break in the middle of the period. A failed first attempt in close to the goal turned into a wrap-around goal. The Reign were on a power play, the Firebirds made a few attempts along the boards to clear. On the final attempt, the Firebirds sprang a player for a break away shorthanded goal. Later in the period, the Reign was penalized, and the Firebirds had one of the best power plays that kept the puck in the attack zone for the full 2 minutes. Several creative shots, but no goals. The Reign took one more penalty with 13 seconds remaining so the Firebirds will be on the power play to start the second.

2nd Period

Nothing got going on the Firebirds power play, but the Firebirds played strong on the puck, took the body, and got to the right spots on the breakout for most of the period. It was the Reign who got a goal on failed clear by the Firebirds with 5:30 left in the period. The Reign started to find their legs in the period, but the Firebirds kept pressing and got the 4th goal on a break with a pass from behind the goal line that landing in front and out of reach of the goal tender and was punched in. Tempers flared a few times in the period.

3rd Period

Reign continued to find their form and got their 2nd goal on a rush. Firebirds push back. Again, on the power play, the Firebirds show solid power puck control and had several creative shots on goal. It was an even contest through most of the period. Play got physical on goalie stoppages; one of which led to a 4 on 4 with 6 minutes left. Within the first minute of the 4 on 4, the Reign pulled their goalie to press the attack. Compared to the game at the Gulls the week prior, the Firebirds did a better job of getting the

puck out of the zone even if it was for an icing. The Reign goaltender stayed off the ice when the penalties ended. Eventually after several attempts, the Firebirds got the empty net goal to end the threat.

Post Game

The Reign won the face off battle, but the Firebirds were quick to get on the puck. Both teams played physical and a rivalry is clearly building. The Firebirds played their best game of the season. The whole team played like they have been playing together for a while. The Firebirds hit the road for the next two weeks. The Firebirds had a great road record last year so the next two weeks will be interesting.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Reign	0	1	1		2
Firebirds	3	1	1		5

Team Game Stats:

	Reign	Firebirds
Shots	30	40
PP	0 / 4	0 / 5
PIM	19	15
SH	0	1

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026546>

Face offs Win:

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

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Reign	11	14	10		34
Firebirds	9	8	5		22

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

Zone	Reign			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	8	2	0	6	2	0
Neutral	10	1	1	4	1	2
Defense	6	1	5	6	0	1

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill