

## GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: ONT Reign

Date: Nov 10, 2024 3:00PM PST

### Pre-Game

The Firebirds come home for one game after completing the longest road trip of the year. They split the six games on the road by winning the second game on two back-to-back nights and the last game against the Reign on Friday. The road trip was made a little challenging with call-ups of two veterans to the Kraken who have had a few injuries to start the season. A 3<sup>rd</sup> veteran was called up while both the Kraken and the Firebirds were in Colorado. Kraken to take on the Avalanche and the Firebirds took on the Eagles. All three veteran came back to play the second night against the Eagles. The call-ups allowed the younger Firebirds to get game time. As the saying goes, you don't learn anything by winning, and the 3 losses exposed a few shortcomings to be cleaned up. With the veterans back, the forecheck and clogging the neutral zone was improved, opponents were not going unmarked in the defensive zone, and there were more grade A scoring chances. Win or lose, the Firebirds playing structure looks confident and tape to tape passes are clean. Much better than the start of the previous season.

Before playing the Firebirds on Friday, the Reign had a three-game winning streak in which they scored 20 goals. The last two games they scored 8 goals in each game. They currently sit 2 points back of the Firebirds in the standings.

Head-to-head: Boths teams are playing at .500 to start the season. The Firebirds have won the first two games against the Reign to start the season. The Friday game was a close affair that went back and forth like a pond hockey game. The Firebirds had several shots that hit the iron to which the score would have been tilted in their favor early. They also missed big rebounds off the Reign goal tender. The Reign took advantage of a mistake to get their first goal, and the second goal came about as a injured Friebird struggled to get off the ice. The Reign took a lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period only to see the Firebirds get two goals in the second half of the period. With a day of rest, we will see if we get the same close action. With a late Sunday afternoon game, a strong attendance in Acrisure® Arena could tilt the energy to the Firebirds.

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

A tale of two halves of a period. The Firebirds took the best of the play with several odd man rushes up the ice. A shot from the half wall just above the circle hit the goal tender and left a rebound for a Firebird to backhand into the net. After the 10-minute mark, the Firebirds were assessed with a 4-minute penalty for high sticking. The Reign scored their first goal in the last 2 minutes of the 4-minute power play. The Reign started to take over the rest of the period and 4- minutes after their first goal, the Reign got the second goal on rush up the ice with a shot from the top of the slot.

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

The ice tilted to the Firebirds to start the period. Several odd man rushes, and on one rush the Firebirds scored the tying goal on a beautiful individual effort with a snipe from the top of the circle. Reign couldn't find their footing in the period, but they did have some chances although low percentage shots. A persistent forecheck prevented the Reign from clearing the zone. The Firebirds intercepted the puck one once side of the ice and found a player alone in the face off dot on the other side of the ice. The Reign goalie had no change to get over in time and it was for an easy goal. The game opened up the last 4 minutes with chances to score for either team.

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

The Reign poured on the speed which created several grade A opportunities. One sequence had the Firebirds goalie sprawled on the ice to make the save of the game. On a penalty kill the Firebirds almost got a shorthanded goal. After pulling the goalie, the Reign had several opportunities to tie the game with 3 shots of the iron. The Firebirds could only get the puck out the zone, but eventually they got the open net goal to close the game.

### Post-Game

Both teams picked up where they left off on Friday. The Firebirds had a better defensive game and the Firebirds goalie played his best game of the year so far. The Firebirds did a better job keeping track of attacking players. There were brief moments where the Reign players found open ice, but the puck never found its way to them; otherwise, the game could have gone very differently. The Firebirds were leading the league in shots on goal. These last few games the shots on goal were down, but the quality of the shots and opportunities created have improved. The Firebirds are now over .500 and moved up the standings with the win. They hit the road again to play Abbotsford next weekend. The Reign have one more game at home before hitting the road for four games.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	OT	Total
Reign	2	0	0		2
Firebirds	1	2	1		4

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026648>

### Team Game Stats:

	Reign	Firebirds
Shots	39	27
PP	1 / 3	0 / 3
PIM	6	6
SH	0	0

### 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 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Total
Reign	12	7	9	28
Firebirds	13	11	9	33

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

Zone	Reign			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	6	4	0	11	1	0
Neutral	7	0	0	13	0	0
Defense	8	0	3	8	0	0

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill