

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: COL Eagles

Date: Nov 20, 2024 7:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The Eagles come to Coachella Valley for the first time this year. They won their last game against Ontario breaking a two-game skid. With a record of 7-6-0, they sit 4th in the Pacific Division behind the Firebirds.

The Firebirds are on a 5-game winning streak. With a record of 8-5-0, they sit in 3rd place in the Pacific Division and have a record tie with San Jose who is in 2nd place by goal differential. The Firebirds took two road games from Abbotsford to finished off a long stretch of travel (8 out of 9 games on the road). Their schedule will have more home games over the next 8 weeks. There have been some call ups to the Kraken, but this has not affected play. The veterans showed up big on the score sheet in the back-to-back games in Abbotsford. The overall play continues to improve except the power play, which finally broke through with a game winning goal on Saturday.

Head-to-head: The Eagles gave the Firebirds a run for their money with a 3-1-0-0 record to Firebirds 1-2-1-0 last season. The two teams have only played 4 games against each other in each of the previous two seasons. This will be the first season of 8 games between the two teams. The first two games in Colorado resulted in a split. The Eagles took the first game with a dominate 5-0 performance as the Firebirds were without several veteran players. The tables turned in the second game with the Firebirds getting some of the players back won 3-2. Like the last home game against Ontario, the key to success has been the Firebirds fan base. With a Wednesday match up, the Firebird fans will be out in force and provide the energy for close contest.

1st Period

The Eagles came out flying, pun intended. The Eagles goal came after an icing and on the faceoff, a quick shot from the top of the circle found the way to the back of the net. The next 10 minutes it was all Eagles as they won the puck battles and tape to tape passes were crisp. They were able to find players sneaking past the Firebirds defense. The Firebirds got the only power play in the period and that started to get them going. Both teams has a few dust ups after the whistle so tempers will be something to watch in the next 40 minutes.

2nd Period

Firebirds shook off the rust and came out with some jump. Firebirds got a breakaway goal with a pass to the blue line and a break in. The teams played evenly, but the Firebirds got into some penalty trouble 3 times in the period. They were able frustrate the Eagles power play and didn't let them really set up or sustain any zone control. Another breakaway by the Firebirds resulting in a penalty shot, but the penalty shot was missed. The Firebirds second goal came on a forecheck. With the puck behind the net, a pass to an area was picked up and fired into the net blocker side of the Eagles goalie.

3rd Period

Eagles tied the game when the Firebirds couldn't get the puck out of the zone. The play for the rest of the period was back and forth. Firebirds picked up on the Eagles attempting break aways. Both teams hit the iron in the period, but nothing else.

Overtime

Eagles won the puck and took control of the overtime period. 3 minutes in the Eagles were on a 4 on 3 power play, which the Firebirds stopped. The Firebirds had several chances to win the game in the last seconds, but couldn't put the puck home.

Shootout

The shootout went 6 rounds. Firebirds got the first two goals, but the Eagles got the next 3 to win the game.

Post-Game

The sing-along song in the third period was "I will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor. The only question was which team would survive. The Firebirds looked better after the first frame, but the Eagles like years past were persistent. Firebirds were not sharp on defense and hesitated with the puck was not helpful. The Eagles put two forecheckers behind the net to get the puck, and the Firebirds were trapped at times. Firebirds didn't give up and had multiple chances to win the game. In the end, the Eagles came in and snagged 2 points to tie the Firebirds in points in the standings.

| | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | OT | SO | Total |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|----|-------|
| Eagles | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Firebirds | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026697>

Team Game Stats:

| | Eagles | Firebirds |
|--------------|--------|-----------|
| Shots | 34 | 31 |
| PP | 0 / 4 | 0 / 3 |
| PIM | 11 | 13 |
| SH | 0 | 0 |

Unofficial stats:

The following are unofficial statistics. The AHL doesn't show faceoff wins, icing, or Offsides on the score sheet. I am tracking this on my own so there is a margin of error.

| | Icing | Offside |
|-----------|-------|---------|
| Eagles | 1 | 5 |
| Firebirds | 7 | 2 |

| Faceoff Wins | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | OT | Total |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|-------|
| Eagles | 14 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 30 |
| Firebirds | 7 | 13 | 11 | 0 | 31 |

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

| Zone | Eagles | | | Firebirds | | |
|---------|--------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| | ES | PP | PK | ES | PP | PK |
| Attack | 5 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Neutral | 10 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| Defense | 6 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 2 |

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill