

## GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: SD Gulls

Date: Nov 22, 2024 7:00PM PST

### Pre-Game

The Gulls find themselves near the bottom of the Pacific Division. They are coming off a 4 -3 loss to Calgary. A game which they led 3 -2 after the 1<sup>st</sup> period with 2 shorthanded goals.

The Firebirds are coming off a tough shootout loss to the Colorado, but they have 6 game points streak coming into tonight's game. The shootout loss was a tough one as they came out flat and the Colorado forecheck was persistent throughout the game. They fought through the troubles to almost win the game several times, which is a credit to their depth and growing as a team. They sit in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Pacific.

Head-to-head: The Firebirds won the first meeting of the year in San Deigo. The Firebirds had a 6-1 lead going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, but the Gulls fought back. Two goals in the first 10 minutes and scored two late goals with their goalie pulled to come within 1. The Firebirds struggled to get the puck out of the zone and missed the empty net when they had a chance. Expect the Firebirds to have a lot more jump to start the game and have a better performance than against the Eagles.

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

The Firebirds came out with more energy. The opening faceoff say the two faceoff players get in little shoving match. The Firebirds had better zone time, but it was the Gulls who got the better looks at shots on goal with rushes up the ice. The first goal surprise and handcuffed the Firebirds goalie. The second goal later in the period was an odd number rush that was a little too easy of a goal.

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

A better period for the Firebirds. At first the Firebirds were trying to force shots instead making a move open ice and get a higher percentage shot. Eventually, the Firebirds began to slow the game done to make the moves and late in the period got a goal on a win from the half boards and perfect pass to a player in the slot who hit home for a goal. After that goal, Firebirds began to be more like themselves and started getting more shots on goal and better opportunities. The Gulls had their moments, but they began to chase the puck in the period.

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

The Gulls couldn't stop the tide. The Firebirds continued what they started in the last period and tool over the game. Within the first minute, the Firebirds were on a power play and cashed in to tie the game. Unfortunately, aggressive play gave the Gulls a 4-minute power play, but the Firebirds penalty kill stood strong. The Firebirds continue to pepper the Gulls goalie. The Firebirds were assessed another penalty with 2:48 left in the game. The Gulls continued to struggle with getting the power play setup and was assessed a penalty with a 1:10 left in the game. On the ensuing 4 on 4, and eventual power play the Firebirds continued to press the issue, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> period ended with a 2 to 2.

### Over Time

The Firebirds started with a power play in over time. Winning the face off in over time, they pressed the attack and just after the penalty expired, the Firebirds won the game with a breakdown by the Gulls

### Post-Game

The Firebirds showed character coming back from a 2-goal deficit. The Firebirds grew as the game went on. They moved to areas to create better scoring chances and it paid off. The Gulls are a young team as well and almost stole a game. The Firebirds jump to sole possession of 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Pacific Division, and they are on a 7-game point streak. The Firebirds travel for back-to-back night games in Tuscan on Tuesday and Wednesday before coming home to play three games at home.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	OT	Total
<b>Gulls</b>	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Firebirds</b>	0	1	1	1	3

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026704>

### Team Game Stats:

	Gulls	Firebirds
<b>Shots</b>	20	40
<b>PP</b>	0 / 4	1 / 2
<b>PIM</b>	4	8
<b>SH</b>	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
Gulls	7	1
Firebirds	2	2

Faceoff Wins	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Total
Gulls	12	8	9	0	29
Firebirds	7	13	11	1	32

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

Zone	Gulls			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
<b>Attack</b>	7	3	0	16	2	0
<b>Neutral</b>	6	0	0	6	0	0
<b>Defense</b>	11	0	2	5	0	3

ES – Even Strength, PP – Power Play, PK – Penalty Kill