

## **GAME REPORT**

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: Henderson Silver Knights

Date: Dec 3, 2024 7:00PM PST

### **Pre-Game**

The Silver Knights are on a 6-game losing streak. The NHL's Vegas Golden Knights are on top of their division as they have been the last few seasons, but their AHL affiliate is at the bottom of the Pacific Division and the bottom of the AHL. There have been several callups this season making for some inconsistency in the lineup. They also have the most penalty minutes (316) in the AHL to date. Keeping the puck out of the net has been an issue with the worst goal differential in the league.

The Firebirds are on a 10-game points streak, but have lost the last two games in overtime and shootout. They have also had a few callups to the NHL Kraken, but the talent pool is strong. They continue to build the competitive character. The last game is the proof. Any team could have folded giving up a goal with 1 minute 25 left in the game, but they fought back to tie the game under 30 seconds left. A skills competition can be anyone's game, but securing the point against an evenly matched competitor was a plus.

Head-to-head: This is the first of 8 games this season between these two teams. Firebirds took last year's season series 5 to 3. Considering how the Silver Knights are playing, the game could be a trap game or a goal feast for the Firebirds. We will see what happens when the puck drops.

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

The Firebirds came out as the better team to start the first 10 minutes, and they had a power play that looked good but no results. A little complacency allowed the Silver Knights to create high score possibilities. The Silver Knights first goal was on passes down low. The second goal came 6 minutes later with the Silver Knights getting an outnumber attack and a snipe from the faceoff circle. The puck went in and out so fast it wasn't clear it hit the iron. The idea that this is a trap game started to look prophetic. A fight ensued a few minutes later to get the teams fired up. As previous games the Firebirds pressed the attack, and cross ice pass down low resulted in goal to cut into the lead.

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

The Silver Knights have the most penalty minutes in the league, but the Firebirds are catching up after this period. After surviving two penalty kills, The Firebirds got the game tying goal on a beautiful rush up the last and cashing the net. The Silver Knights got their 3<sup>rd</sup> goal on a break in, but the refs waved it off as the puck looked to be knocked in via a high stick. After a lengthy review, the refs changed the call to a goal. The Firebirds went on a power play soon after, but missed a golden opportunity with a pass across the crease. Instead, the puck went the point and the power play was over. With less than 2 minutes left, the Firebirds were called for their 3<sup>rd</sup> penalty, and when the puck got in the corner, it was freed up and a Silver Knight player who practically walked uncontested to the goal to get the 4<sup>th</sup> goal of the game.

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

Firebirds did come out with some pep in the period and got a goal to cut the Silver Knights lead to 1, which setup the rest of the period to see if the Firebirds can come all the way back. This gave the Firebirds more momentum, and the Silver Knights look to be on their heels. It appeared the Firebirds tied the game with a nifty cross ice pass and goal, but the ref waved it off because of a Firebird touch the goalie at some point in the play. On review, the call didn't look good. Regardless, the Firebirds kept pressing, and with a 6 on 4 power play and the goalie pulled, the Silver Knights were not going to be denied a win.

### Post-Game

The chosen sing along song for the 3<sup>rd</sup> period was "All I want for Christmas" by Miriah Carey. The Firebirds gave the Silver Knights an early Christmas present with a gift win. Lack of energy was showing on the ice. The Firebirds had plenty of shots on goal, and a few bounces that didn't go their way. The Silver Knights played a little more physical to get the win. The Firebirds points streak comes to an end. The next game is against Texas on Thursday. Texas won their game tonight against Ontario. Hopefully, a quick turnaround will be good for the Firebirds.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	OT	Total
<b>Silver Knights</b>	2	2	0		4
<b>Firebirds</b>	1	1	1		3

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026772>

### Team Game Stats:

	Silver Knights	Firebirds
<b>Shots</b>	21	38
<b>PP</b>	1 / 3	0 / 4
<b>PIM</b>	13	11
<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
Silver Knights	4	2
Firebirds	7	2

Faceoff Wins	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Total
Silver Knights	7	12	8	27
Firebirds	9	7	15	31

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

Zone	Silver Knights			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	2	1	0	4	7	0
Neutral	9	0	0	11	0	0
Defense	12	0	3	6	1	2

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