

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: SJ Barracuda

Date: Dec 12, 2024 7:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The affiliate of the San Jose Sharks, the Barracuda find themselves in 2nd place in the AHL Pacific Division. The Sharks are on a team rebuild, which includes the minor league affiliates. The Barracuda have a strong line that includes former Firebirds players and a pair of stingy Russian goalies.

The Firebirds lost one of their co-founders, [David Bonderman](#), who passed on Wednesday. David was a successful businessman who came back to Seattle to bring an NHL team to the city. The Firebirds remain in the top 4 in the Pacific Division.

Head-to-Head: Yes, the team summaries are short since both teams played two games over the weekend. The Barracuda won both games :1-0 on Saturday and 2-1 on Sunday. So far, the Barracuda have won all three meetings this year. Tonight's game will be the first in Coachella Valley, and it will be the 3rd meeting in a row this week. A Firebird fan could think that losing back-to-back games to the same opponent was bad result. The first meeting was a 5-1 win for the Barracuda. Considering callups, injuries, and playing on the road, one goal losses to a strong team shows how far the Firebirds as a team and the younger players have come in a couple of months. The Barracuda play in one of the smallest arenas in the league. Total attendance for the two weekend games was 5227. Firebirds fans bring that total and more every game. So between a venue in change and the idea that familiarity breeds contempt, tonight's game should be a spirited one.

1st Period

As expected, the period was testy as players expressing their well wishes to one another for the holiday season. There were two 4 on 4 for 2 minutes. The Firebirds controlled the offensive zone time. The Barracuda had some rushes up the ice, but other than a power play to end the period, no sustained pressure. The Firebirds had the best scoring chances including one off the iron, but neither team could find the back of the net.

2nd Period

The period of two halves and four power play goals. Firebirds got into penalty trouble. Barracuda got the first two power play goals a little too easy. The Firebirds clamped down a little better on defense, and even stopped a penalty shot awarded when a Barracuda got a breakaway up the ice. Later it was the Barracuda's turn to get into penalty trouble. With a 5 on 3, the Firebirds got their first goal with nice puck movement and blast from the left circle. The second Firebirds power play goal came on a puck win on the half boards pass across to the right circle and walk in shot from the slot. The Barracuda were not done with penalties and one will carry over to the 3rd period.

3rd Period

The ice tilted back to the Firebirds and with 6 minutes to go they scored a goal to take the lead. It was an even strength goal. With 2 minutes to go the Barracuda pulled the goalie and kept the puck in the attack zone. They eventually scored to tie the game.

OT and Shootout

Each team had their chances, but no score in the OT. In the shootout, the Barracuda scored two goals and the Firebirds scored 0.

Post-Game

What a difference a venue makes. Regardless of the loss, the Firebirds secured a point. They also showed they can play with a good team. The power play is starting to produce. They didn't get down and competed to get back into the game. They had the lead but could get the empty net goal to close out the game. Overall, not bad for a team with 7 rookies on the ice. The Barracuda will continue on their road trip and will see the Firebirds next week back here in Coachella Valley. The Firebirds have the top team in the Pacific Division, Calgary Wranglers, come in for games on Saturday and Sunday.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	SO	Total
Baracuda	0	2	1	0	1	4
Firebirds	0	2	1	0	0	3

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026826>

Team Game Stats:

	Barracuda	Firebirds
Shots	54	29
PP	2 / 5	2 / 4
PIM	14	16
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
Barracuda	8	3
Firebirds	2	3

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Barracuda	15	13	6	1	35
Firebirds	10	12	9	1	32

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

	Barracuda			Firebirds		
Zone	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	7	5	0	4	5	1
Neutral	7	1	1	9	1	0
Defense	11	0	3	9	0	3

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill