

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: CGY Wranglers

Date: Dec 15, 2024 3:00PM PST

Pre-Game

Head-to-Head: Skipping team summaries as both teams played the night before. The Firebirds learned the lessons from the first meeting and better overall game play in all aspects of their game. The Wranglers got a lot of shots on goals because of the power play, but the Firebirds stood tall either stopping pucks or blocking shots. Winning the faceoffs to control the game flow was something different from the Firebirds. Also important is the physical play was better from the Firebirds. The Wranglers have a veteran line up, and they have a little more speed on their skates. We will see if the Wranglers take a different approach or will the Firebirds youth movement can continue command pace this afternoon.

1st Period

Less than 24 hours later and both teams are playing at a fast pace as the night before. Both teams had chances, but it was the Firebirds to get the only goal in the period. With less than 2 minutes, the Firebirds had a rush up the ice, a shot from the left circle, a rebound, and a Firebird put the rebound home to take the early lead. The Firebirds won the faceoff battles and eventually had more shots on goal.

2nd Period

A back-and-forth period with both teams scoring 2 goals each. Wrangler's goal, a Firebirds' goal, a Wrangler's goal, and finally a Firebirds' get a goal at the end of a power play. Pace was fast and the fans are enjoying the action. The 3rd period should be entertaining.

3rd Period

The Firebirds had one of the best offensive zone times this year, which lasted a few minutes with some great shot opportunities. The Wranglers had some chances with a power play, a penalty shot, and a player advantage with the goaltender pulled, but they couldn't get the puck past the defense or the Firebirds goalie. With a little more 30 seconds left, the Firebirds got an empty net goal to finish the game and get the two points.

Post-Game

A good weekend for the Firebirds who won both games against the leading team in the AHL. These were the best two games the Firebirds have played this season. Per coach Laxdal's postgame comments, the young players who once scored a lot of goals in juniors are now being asked to check and block shots and it is paying off. The real test is when San Jose comes into play on Wednesday. Will the Firebirds be able to keep the style of play going? The Wranglers finish their California trip in Ontario on Wednesday.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	Total
Wranglers	0	2	0		2
Firebirds	1	2	1		4

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026851>

Team Game Stats:

	Wranglers	Firebirds
Shots	33	29
PP	0 / 1	0 / 2
PIM	4	2
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
Wranglers	7	1
Firebirds	3	1

Faceoff Wins	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Wranglers	5	12	8	25
Firebirds	13	7	8	28

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

	Wranglers			Firebirds		
Zone	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	7	1	0	7	1	0
Neutral	8	0	0	5	0	0
Defense	8	0	1	13	1	1

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill