

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: SJ Barracuda

Date: Dec 18, 2024 7:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The Barracuda had nice streak of 3 wins against the Firebirds that moved them up the standings, but they ran into two teams in the Gulls and the Reign that were hungry for wins themselves. The two losses this weekend, kept them from getting closer to Calgary. They will finish up their 5-game road trip with another go against the Firebirds and the off to Bakersfield for the first of a home-and-home series against the Condors.

The Firebirds have won 5 of 6 points from the last three games. The two game sweep of the Wranglers was the best all-around performance this season. The real test begins with the Barracuda coming back to town and then a home-and-home series with the Reign this weekend.

Head-to-head: The Barracuda are the big winners so far this year with a 4-0-0-0 record against the Firebirds. The Firebirds are 0-3-0-1 against the Barracuda, which is much different record than the first two seasons of their existence. With the two wins over the Wranglers, we will see if the Firebirds can continue the solid play and turn things around against the Barracuda tonight.

1st Period

Firebirds got off to strong start with even strength goal with 40 seconds of the period. The Firebirds continued to have the offensive zone time, winning puck battle and faces offs. There was a flagrant foul that should have been a major penalty on the Barracuda, but the officials on ice didn't call it. Penalty trouble stuck, the Barracuda got a power play goal on a nifty deek and shot from the right faceoff dot. The puck appeared to have hit the post and out, but an official review confirmed the goal. The Barracuda got a boast and started to take over the battle. Another Firebirds penalty was defended better, and the period ended 1-1.

2nd Period

The Barracuda own the first 15 minutes of the period with several power play opportunities. Failure to rubbing players out is something the Firebirds need to work on. The Barracuda return the favor with a couple penalties late in the period, and the Firebirds capitalized to get a goal back off a rebound in front of the net. The Firebirds began to wake up and press the attack. 3rd period should be exciting.

3rd Period

Barracuda own the whole period with power plays. The Firebirds couldn't stay out of the penalty box. Firebirds had a break away for a shorthanded goal, but the Barracuda goalie snuffed it out to keep the lead at 1. Barracuda got another power play goal and eventually an empty net goal to finished off the game.

Post-Game

Credit the Barracuda and a former Firebird who played really well to win the first 5 games of the season against the Firebirds. The Firebirds started off solid, and it looked like the weekend games were going to carry over. They won the face off battles for the 3rd game in a row, but they need to be more discipline and stay out of the penalty box. Both teams have a quick turn around with games on Friday and Saturday.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Total
Barracuda	1	2	2	5
Firebirds	1	1	0	2

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026864>

Team Game Stats:

	Barracuda	Firebirds
Shots	21	30
PP	3 / 7	1 / 4
PIM	10	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	2	2
Firebirds	2	2

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Total
Barracuda	7	9	9	25
Firebirds	8	13	8	29

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

Zone	Barracuda			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	3	8	0	3	4	0
Neutral	9	1	0	11	0	1
Defense	2	1	1	6	0	4

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill