

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: ONT Reign

Date: Dec 20, 2024 7:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The Reign are on the rise, and they will be bringing their fans down from Ontario. They have a 4-0-0-0 winning streak and have won 8 out of their last 10 games. They have one goal scorer in the tops of the AHL, and a few others who are close. They are coming off two wins against the top two teams in the Pacific Division. Their next games carrying into January will rotate against the Firebirds, Gulls, and Silver Knights. The NHL affiliate, Kings, are also doing well this season.

The Firebirds have shown signs of overall great play, but took a step back with a loss against the Barracuda on Wednesday. The two wins against the Wranglers have shown what they can do, but they are 3-4-1-2 in the last 10 games. Four of those games were against the Barracuda, which they lost all four. Staying out of the penalty box will be key as they are a strong team at even strength. The Christmas break is coming up and should allow for some injured players time to heal. After the break, they will be playing teams lower than them in the standings.

Head-to-Head – The Firebirds have won all 3 meetings against the Reign this season, which is a contrast to the Firebirds against the Barracuda. The Reign are coming on hot and they will be looking to continue their streak. The Firebirds will have to play like they did against the Wranglers to get a positive result. Tonight's game is the first in the home-and-home series. Both teams will play in Ontario tomorrow night before the Christmas break.

1st Period

An evenly played period. Both teams had power play opportunities, but neither team scored. The second half of the period was a little more interesting. The Reign failed to clear a puck, and a shot from the blue line hit the Reign goalie, a Firebird in front of the net shot again, and the other rebound found another Firebird on the left side who backhanded it into the net. Both teams raced to get pucks against the half wall, but there were situations where either team could get players to the right spot to receive pass for high grade scoring chances. That was until the puck was in the Reign offensive zone. With the puck pinned by both teams in the corner, one of the Reign players spotted an uncheck teammate sneaking to the faceoff dot. With a clean pass, the Reign player was able to score the tying goal.

2nd Period

Both teams created chances, but nothing got past the goalies. It was a penalty filled period. The Firebirds power play was more of an opportunity for the Reign. A couple turn overs lead to shorthanded break aways. There was a break away when the power play was over. The Firebirds goalie stood tall, which got the Firebirds fans chanting his name and the arena playing his custom song. The Firebirds got caught with 2 seconds left with a penalty that carries over to the next period.

3rd Period

The Reign scored within 48 seconds on the power play. Reign did a great job worked the puck around and found a cross seem pass that the Firebirds goalie going side to side couldn't get back. After that the Reign had a great forecheck. The Firebirds a few times in the attacking zone held on to the puck a little too long and didn't pass when it needed to pass. Firebirds couldn't get anything going. Two empty net goals finished off the game for Reign.

Post-Game

The Firebirds got off to another great start, but couldn't keep the momentum going. The Reign continue their winning streak, and are no tied with the Firebirds in the standings. Special-teams was where the game was won. Firebirds couldn't generate anything on the power play, and the Reign executed on theirs. Both teams play again tomorrow night in Ontario.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Reign	1	0	3		4
Firebirds	1	0	0		1

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026875>

Team Game Stats:

	Reign	Firebirds
Shots	30	33
PP	1 / 3	0 / 4
PIM	8	6
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
Reign	4	2
Firebirds	2	1

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Reign	8	11	7		26
Firebirds	14	9	11		34

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

Zone	Reign			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	8	1	0	16	3	0
Neutral	6	1	0	6	0	0
Defense	6	0	4	7	0	2

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