

## GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: COL Eagles

Date: Dec 31, 2024 5:00PM PST

### Pre-Game

The Eagles are on hot streak with a 5-0-0-1 record coming into tonight's game against the Firebirds. They started their current 5 game road trip with back-to-back games against the Roadrunners. They won both games with the second ending in a shootout victory. They have risen to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the packed Pacific Division. Tonight will be their 3 game on the road trip.

The Firebirds have had a youthful line up the past month. Injuries to veteran players and callups to the NHL have allowed the rookie players to learn their craft in live games. The team has had to draw from the ECHL affiliate to fill the line up. They secured 3 points in the last 2 games, but they have fallen to 6th in the Pacific Division. The good news is they are only 3 points from second place and should have some key players coming off injury.

Head-to-Head – The first game of the season was a shutout victory for the Eagles, but the Firebirds won the second game the following night. The last meeting in CV ended in a shootout win for the Eagles. Outside the first game, the last two games have been one goal wins for each team. Tonight is a New Years Eve game. Both teams will be looking to end the year with a win.



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

The Firebirds came out stronger than the last game, and they had the better chances in the period. It was the Eagles late in the period getting the first tally of the game. The Eagles got the puck deep with a couple shots the Firebird goalie couldn't coral. The puck squirted the blue line were the Eagles defenseman wound-up and got the slap shot to hit the back of the net. The Firebirds will start the next period with one minute left in a power play.

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

The Eagles fell asleep on the penalty kill. The Firebirds walked in, a little back pass, and they tied the game at 1 – 1 within the first 30 seconds. Firebirds kept up the attack. 6 minutes later a Firebird wrapped around the net to find the teammate he passed on the other side of the net unmarked and ready to slap the puck home. A beautiful pass across the crease and the puck was put home. The Eagles began to turn the play around with two power plays. The Firebirds were caught with too many men on the ice for the second time in the game, and the other was a slashing penalty. Both Eagle power plays were attempting to use speed to enter the zone, but each time the Firebirds stood tall and attacked the player entering the zone with numbers. Firebirds were able to kill both penalties.

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

The first 15 minutes belonged to the Firebirds. They continued to play with some pep. Marking defensive assignments, rubbing out players, and stealing pucks. Most important the Firebirds got two spectacular goals and several great chances. The Eagles didn't give up and the last 5 minutes they took over the game to get at least one back. They pulled the goal tender to get a 6 on 5. The Firebirds scored an empty net goal, but it was called off to because of a penalty. As usual, the game finished with the Firebirds on a 6 on 4 penalty kill.

### Post-Game

With the Firebirds Captain back, the Firebirds played a solid 60 minutes. The Firebirds had better hustle than the previous games, and it kept the Eagles grounded throughout the game. Firebirds had some spectacular score chances that didn't go in. Having a full house of fans these past two games have made the Acrisure Arena really hopping with energy. The Eagles' winning streak comes to an end, but they are off to San Jose this weekend to complete their road trip. The Firebirds need to take the same approach to Ontario as they played the Reign on Saturday night and then turn around and play San Diego on Sunday.

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

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026933>

**Team Game Stats:**

	<b>Eagles</b>	<b>Firebirds</b>
<b>Shots</b>	24	22
<b>PP</b>	0 / 6	1 / 2
<b>PIM</b>	6	14
<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.

	<b>Icing</b>	<b>Offside</b>
Eagles	1	6
Firebirds	1	1

<b>Faceoff Wins</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Eagles	7	7	9	25
Firebirds	10	7	5	22

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

	<b>Eagles</b>			<b>Firebirds</b>		
<b>Zone</b>	<b>ES</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>ES</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>PK</b>
<b>Attack</b>	6	4	0	3	1	0
<b>Neutral</b>	6	1	1	6	0	0
<b>Defense</b>	6	0	1	5	0	7

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill