

## GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: ABB Canucks

Date: Jan 29, 2025 7:00PM PST

### Pre-Game

The Canucks are 8-game winning streak that has propelled them into the Pacific 2 through 6 playoff bunch. Tonight's game is the 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the 5-game road trip. They are led by veterans Nils Åman, Aatu Rätty, and Nate Smith as well as a pair of rookies, Jonathan Lekkerimäki and Ty Mueller. Nikita Tolopilo has been the number 1 net minder. They will be without Linus Karlsson who was called up to Vancouver. 8 wins means some players are getting hot. Linus Karlsson is a 4-game goal streak, and defenseman, Erik Brännström, is on a 7-game assist streak. Similar to the Firebirds Daniel Sprong, Erik Brännström was waived by Vancouver and was assigned to Abbotsford. Their streak has gone through several teams in the Pacific: Silver Knights, Reign, Barracuda, and the Roadrunners. Here are the Canucks' offense numbers going into the game (See notes):

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
88	Nils Åman	C	29	7	19	26	5	0.897	1.069
54	Aatu Rätty	C	23	8	15	23	2	1.000	1.087
23	* Jonathan Lekkerimäki	RW	24	14	7	21	-6	0.875	0.625
39	* Ty Mueller	C	36	7	14	21	6	0.583	0.750
94	x Linus Karlsson	RW	17	12	6	18	6	1.059	1.412
83	Nate Smith	C	36	6	12	18	-1	0.500	0.472
13	Arshdeep Bains	LW	23	3	15	18	-2	0.783	0.696
59	* Kirill Kudryavtsev	D	33	2	16	18	7	0.545	0.758
18	Danila Klimovich	RW	34	13	4	17	-2	0.500	0.441
84	Tristen Nielsen	LW	34	7	8	15	-8	0.441	0.206
21	Chase Wouters	C	39	5	10	15	0	0.385	0.385
14	John Stevens	C	37	4	11	15	7	0.405	0.595
86	Christian Wolanin	D	25	3	12	15	-3	0.600	0.480
48	Cole McWard	D	36	3	12	15	5	0.417	0.556
79	Sammy Blais	LW	18	6	7	13	-1	0.722	0.667
25	*x Elias Pettersson	D	36	1	12	13	8	0.361	0.583
4	Jett Woo	D	36	2	10	12	7	0.333	0.528
26	Erik Brännström	D	7	1	10	11	10	1.571	3.000
17	Dino Kambeitz	RW	31	7	2	9	4	0.290	0.419
63	x Max Sasson	C	16	4	5	9	-4	0.563	0.313
61	Ty Glover	LW	24	4	3	7	4	0.292	0.458
51	Mark Friedman	D	20	1	5	6	4	0.300	0.500

90	Cooper Walker	C	16	2	3	5	0	0.313	0.313
56	Carsen Twarynski	LW	20	2	3	5	-4	0.250	0.050
41	Akito Hirose	D	9	1	2	3	-4	0.333	-0.111
29	x Ben Berard	LW	1	1	0	1	1	1.000	2.000
55	Guillaume Brisebois	D	25	1	0	1	-7	0.040	-0.240
5	x Layton Ahac	D	4	0	0	0	-1	0.000	-0.250
34	x Phillip Di Giuseppe	LW	4	0	0	0	-1	0.000	-0.250
85	*x Ty Young	G	5	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
30	Jifí Patera	G	7	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
58	* Christian Felton	D	9	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.111
31	Artūrs Šilovs	G	9	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
60	Nikita Tolopilo	G	20	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

**Note:** The scoring data comes from The AHL Daily and team websites. PPG = Points / games played. PMPPG = (Points + (+/-))/games played. PPMPPG is intended to include the defensive number to a player's full contribution per game. \* Rookie. X – Player Not on roster, injured, or called up.

The Firebirds find themselves on a 3-game losing streak. The results from the past week have not been their best. They play with intensity, but they are running into teams that are matching their game. The Firebirds are still in the mix for a playoff spot amongst the Pacific 2 through 6 playoff bunch. A win tonight would get them back on the right track. Ben Meyers leads the team in points, Jani Nyman in goals, and Cale Fleury continues to be the defensive standout. Here are the Firebirds' offense numbers going into the game (See notes):

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
39	Ben Meyers	C	34	11	16	27	-6	0.794	0.618
33	* Jani Nyman	F	41	16	9	25	-3	0.610	0.537
29	* Lleyton Roed	F	41	11	13	24	13	0.585	0.902
96	Logan Morrison	F	42	10	14	24	9	0.571	0.786
27	Ryan Winterton	F	33	12	11	23	8	0.697	0.939
11	Brandon Biro	C	32	5	18	23	-3	0.719	0.625
57	* Jagger Firkus	F	41	8	14	22	5	0.537	0.659
58	Max Lajoie	D	41	3	18	21	-3	0.512	0.439
15	John Hayden	F	30	7	12	19	-1	0.633	0.600
16	Nikolas Brouillard	D	39	3	16	19	0	0.487	0.487
8	Cale Fleury	D	28	6	10	16	14	0.571	1.071
24	* Ty Nelson	D	42	3	13	16	4	0.381	0.476
12	* Eduard Sale	F	29	5	10	15	6	0.517	0.724
17	Max McCormick	F	19	7	6	13	-4	0.684	0.474
10	Luke Henman	F	35	4	7	11	-1	0.314	0.286
23	Gustav Olofsson	D	32	2	9	11	-2	0.344	0.281

91	Daniel Sprong	F	8	4	5	9	-1	1.125	1.000
36	Ville Ottavainen	D	38	2	7	9	13	0.237	0.579
67	x Mitchell Stephens	F	18	4	4	8	-1	0.444	0.389
21	Ian McKinnon	F	36	3	4	7	-1	0.194	0.167
63	Jacob Melanson	F	14	4	2	6	5	0.429	0.786
88	* David Goyette	F	28	1	4	5	-6	0.179	-0.036
20	Ryan Jones	D	25	0	5	5	0	0.200	0.200
62	Tucker Robertson	F	22	2	2	4	-7	0.182	-0.136
28	x Cade Borchart	F	1	0	0	0	-2	0.000	-2.000
2	x Jake McLaughlin	D	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
45	x Jack LaFontaine	G	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
50	Charlie Wright	D	6	0	0	0	-3	0.000	-0.500
35	* Nikke Kokko	G	17	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
30	Ales Stezka	G	24	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

*Note: The scoring data comes from The AHL Daily and team websites. PPG = Points / games played. PMPPG = (Points + (+/-))/games played. PPMPG is intended to include the defensive number to a player's full contribution per game. \* Rookie. X – Player Not on roster, injured, or called up.*

Head-to-Head: The first 2 games of the 4-game series were played in Abbotsford, which the Firebirds won both games. The first was a decisive 4-1 victory, but the second game saw the Canucks come back from a 3-1 deficit to tie the game in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period. The Firebirds won the game on a powerplay with 36 seconds left in the game. Those games were back in November. Two and half months later, team chemistry and identity have taken root for both teams. With the Canucks coming in hot, we will see if the Firebirds can regain momentum going into the All-Star break.

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

An entertaining, spirited period with long stretches between stoppage. Both teams had opportunities but no scoring in the period. The Canucks had two power plays, but the Firebirds were able to kill them with a little luck.

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

Another entertaining period with scoring. Firebirds scored first on the power play. Great puck movement allowed Jagger Firkus to find the back of the net. Two minutes later, the Canucks won a faceoff in the attack zone and Erik Brännström point shot flew past Nikke Kokko to tie the game. Firebirds had chance to take the lead on their next power play, but the Canucks killed off the power play. The Canucks made a rush up the ice, and a missed player marking by the Firebirds allowed Canucks' Ty Mueller and easy pass to Danila Klimovich who skated in uncontested to take the lead.

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

The Firebirds came out flying. They scored 4 goals within the first 5 minutes of the period. Nikolas Brouillard started the scoring with a rush up the ice with Jani Nyman and Ryan Winterton providing the assists. The Canucks then got into penalty trouble on back-to-back slashing penalties. The Firebirds cashed in on the first penalty when Ben Meyers found the back of the net. During the play there was another

slashing penalty. Within 40 seconds, Daniel Sprong converted on the power play. A minute and change later, Jacob Melanson got a nice breakaway to score the fourth goal of the period. The Canucks continue to play hard, but the game was on cruise control for the rest of the period.

### Post-Game

For the Canucks, all good things come to an end. Their 8-game winning streak comes to an end. Canucks played fast and hard, but the Firebirds seem to be their kryptonite. The Canucks head home to play two gains the Wranglers before the All-Star break. The Firebirds had the youngest line up on the ice as some veterans were scratched from the game. The Firebirds power play was the best I have seen all season. The power play was much more creative with decoys and all players moving to empty spaces to create shots. Better play, effective power play, and more goals to get a winning result is a nice cure for the rough patch the Firebirds were going through. The Firebirds head to Texas for two games against the Stars before the All-Star break.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Total
Canucks	0	2	0		2
Firebirds	0	1	4		5

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1027113>

### Team Game Stats:

	Canucks	Firebirds
Shots	30	29
PP	0 / 4	3 / 7
PIM	16	10
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	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Total
Canucks	0	0	0		0
Firebirds	0	1	3		4

Offsides	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Total
Canucks	1	0	0		1
Firebirds	0	0	0		0

Faceoff Wins	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Total
Canucks	7	5	10		22
Firebirds	4	10	9		23

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

Zone	Canucks			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	7	7	0	7	2	0
Neutral	4	0	1	8	1	0
Defense	1	0	2	3	1	1

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill