

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: CGY Wranglers

Date: Feb 22, 2025 6:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The Wranglers have been fighting for the top spot in the Pacific and AHL all season. They have slipped a little in the past month and half. They are on a 0-2-2-1 streak with a record of 3-3-3-1 in the last 10 games. They are now tied in the Pacific with the Reign. Their NHL affiliate, the Calgary Flames, are fighting for a playoff spot. The Flames have suffered some injuries on both forwards and defense, and they have recalled a few players from the Wranglers to fill the gaps. Martin Frk and Dryden Hunt lead the team in scoring and they are both in the top 20 in the AHL in points. It appears they are weak on special teams. Currently 18 in penalty kill and 31st in giving up shorthanded goals. They are great at home, but playing .500 on the road.

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPGG
29	Martin Frk	RW	45	20	24	44	-3	0.978	0.911
15	Dryden Hunt	LW	43	12	31	43	7	1.000	1.163
6	Rory Kerins	C	40	22	17	39	11	0.975	1.250
11	William Strömberg	LW	47	12	26	38	-4	0.809	0.723
19	Clark Bishop	C	43	16	18	34	8	0.791	0.977
45	Sam Morton	C	48	13	19	32	-7	0.667	0.521
4	Jeremie Poirier	D	48	4	22	26	-6	0.542	0.417
43	Adam Klapka	RW	31	13	12	25	1	0.806	0.839
8	x Ilya Solovyov	D	43	6	15	21	16	0.488	0.860
48	Jonathan Aspirot	D	42	4	17	21	4	0.500	0.595
34	x Walker Duehr	RW	20	11	8	19	5	0.950	1.200
22	x Jakob Pelletier	LW	20	3	16	19	7	0.950	1.300
5	* Hunter Brzustewicz	D	48	3	16	19	-4	0.396	0.313
42	* Sam Honzek	LW	38	7	11	18	6	0.474	0.632
17	Lucas Ciona	LW	45	6	10	16	5	0.356	0.467
37	x Yan Kuznetsov	D	49	3	11	14	22	0.286	0.735
25	* David Silye	C	45	6	7	13	-5	0.289	0.178
18	* Parker Bell	LW	40	4	5	9	-3	0.225	0.150
26	Jarred Tinordi	D	30	1	4	5	5	0.167	0.333
3	Artem Grushnikov	D	41	1	4	5	0	0.122	0.122
14	x Ilya Nikolaev	C	9	0	4	4	-3	0.444	0.111
14	x Tyson Barrie	D	2	1	2	3	0	1.500	1.500
27	x Matt Coronato	RW	2	2	0	2	2	1.000	2.000

10	* Brett Davis	LW	11	0	2	2	-1	0.182	0.091
40	* Walteri Ignatjew	G	16	0	1	1	0	0.063	0.063
20	Alex Gallant	LW	24	0	1	1	-7	0.042	-0.250
46	*x Deni Goure	C	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
39	*x Charles Martin	D	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
41	*x Jaden Lipinski	C	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
31	x Connor Murphy	G	4	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
36	*x Connor Mylymok	LW	5	0	0	0	-1	0.000	-0.200
28	* Trevor Janicke	RW	8	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.125
2	* Joni Jurmo	D	10	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.100
1	Devin Cooley	G	32	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	147	211	358	19
Defense	23	91	114	38

	AHL Rank	Stat
Road Record	#19	11-10-1-1
PP	#5	21.8 PCT
PK	#18	81.8 PCT
Penalty Minutes per game	#8	11.29 AVG
SHGF	#8	7
SHGA	#31	12

*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 look to be shaking off the cobwebs of the AHL All-Star break. They won against a veteran line of the Roadrunners on Wednesday. The Kraken are not pushing for a playoff spot, but the Kraken are looking to be sellers before the March 7th deadline. We will see what impacts the Firebirds in the coming weeks. The goalie lineup has changed. Aleš Stezka is going to be the backup for the Kraken, but he will probably be back to the Firebirds when the schedule permits. Rookie Nikke Kokko and Philipp Grubauer will have the goal tending duties for the foreseeable future. Grubauer is a Stanley Cup champion with the Washington Capitals and had 30 game win season with the Colorado Avalanche. More veteran leadership for a young team is a good thing. There are many standouts on the team based on the numbers, but each game brings a new hero each night. The Firebirds are on a 2-game winning streak and 6-4-0-0 in the last 10 games. They are currently 4th on the Pacific and 3-points out of first place. The Firebirds are playing well at home and have the fewest penalty minutes per game in the AHL.

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
39	Ben Meyers	C	42	17	20	37	-5	0.881	0.762
33	* Jani Nyman	F	49	22	14	36	1	0.735	0.755
96	Logan Morrison	F	50	10	19	29	5	0.580	0.680
58	Max Lajoie	D	49	3	25	28	3	0.571	0.633
27	Ryan Winterton	F	39	12	15	27	7	0.692	0.872
29	* Lleyton Roed	F	49	12	13	25	9	0.510	0.694
57	* Jagger Firkus	F	49	10	15	25	5	0.510	0.612
11	Brandon Biro	C	36	5	20	25	-2	0.694	0.639
16	Nikolas Brouillard	D	47	5	19	24	0	0.511	0.511
15	John Hayden	F	37	7	15	22	0	0.595	0.595
24	* Ty Nelson	D	50	5	16	21	10	0.420	0.620
91	Daniel Sprong	F	15	7	11	18	-1	1.200	1.133
8	Cale Fleury	D	32	6	12	18	10	0.563	0.875
12	* Eduard Šalé	F	35	5	12	17	7	0.486	0.686
10	Luke Henman	F	41	6	9	15	2	0.366	0.415
23	Gustav Olofsson	D	39	2	13	15	-6	0.385	0.231
17	Max McCormick	F	19	7	6	13	-4	0.684	0.474
36	Ville Ottavainen	D	46	2	8	10	11	0.217	0.457
63	Jacob Melanson	F	22	6	2	8	3	0.364	0.500
67	x Mitchell Stephens	F	18	4	4	8	-1	0.444	0.389
21	Ian McKinnon	F	40	4	4	8	-1	0.200	0.175
62	Tucker Robertson	F	26	3	2	5	-6	0.192	-0.038
88	* David Goyette	F	32	1	4	5	-5	0.156	0.000
20	Ryan Jones	D	27	0	5	5	0	0.185	0.185
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
31	Philipp Grubauer	G	4	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
50	x Charlie Wright	D	9	0	0	0	-3	0.000	-0.333
35	* Nikke Kokko	G	20	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
30	x Aleš Stezka	G	25	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	138	185	323	12
Defense	23	98	121	25

	AHL Rank	Stat
Home Record	#8	14-8-0-4
PP	#9	19.4 PCT
PK	#6	84.6 PCT
Penalty Minutes per game	#1	10.10 AVG
SHGF	#18	5
SHGA	#4	2

*Note: The scoring data comes from The AHL Daily and team websites. PPG = Points / games played. PMPPG = (Points + (+/-))/games played. PMPPG 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: Tonight's game will be the 4th game in the season series and last game in Coachella Valley. The next 4 games will be played in Calgary. The Firebirds lead the season series with a 2-1-0-0 record. The Firebirds swept the Wranglers on back-to-back nights back in December. With the Flame recalls, the Firebirds need to take advantage of the situation to get 2 points and move closer to the top spot in the Pacific. The Wranglers are looking to stop the winless streak so we could easily see a jump in their step.

1st Period

The pace and intensity of the game started on the first puck drop. One player for each team dropped the gloves for an early tussle. Wranglers got on the board 50 seconds later on a rush. Of course, Martin Frk, the Wranglers top scorer, got the goal. Wranglers had the early momentum, but as the period went on the Firebirds began to take some control back. The Firebirds got on a power play just past the half way mark in the period. John Hayden tied the game by tipping in a blue line shot from Max Lajoie. As the period continued. Both teams exchanged chances, but neither team could convert.

2nd Period

Both teams in the first 10 minutes played back and forth hockey. There was an exchange of power play opportunities. No goals, but the Firebirds had chances to get a shorthanded goal as Calgary has given up the 2nd most shorthanded goals in the AHL. The penalty killed propelled the Firebirds forward. At almost 15 minutes in, the Firebirds' Lleyton Roed sent fluttering shot on goal that found it's way into the net. The almost full capacity crowd went crazy. The arena was still buzzing when the Wranglers got called on penalty with two minutes remaining in the period. The Firebirds had several great chances, but as time was running out John Hayden tip in another shot from Ty Nelson. What stood out in the period was that Wranglers only got 2 shots on goal.

3rd Period

The Firebirds took control of the period and again the Wranglers only got 2 shots on goal in the period. Just past the 10-minute mark, the Daniel Sprong had a rush up the ice and made a cross-ice diagonal pass back to Ben Meyers who tallied the 4th goal for the Firebirds. The Wranglers attempted a push, but the game was over.

Post-Game

The Firebirds played another full 60 minutes of hockey. They played with their heads up and did all the little things to get the win: block shots, little passes in the tight spaces, and long tape-to-tape to get into the zone. The penalty kill was perfect, and the power plan is getting results. For the Wranglers, their big lead in the Pacific is gone. The Wranglers, Reign, and Eagles are tied with 63 points atop the Pacific. The Firebirds are 1 point behind at 62. Both teams take the ice tomorrow. The Wranglers are off to play the Reign and the Fire birds welcome in the Barracuda.

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

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1027256>

Video highlights can be seen on the Firebirds' YouTube channel: [Firebirds - YouTube](#)

Team Game Stats:

	Wranglers	Firebirds
Shots	13	33
PP	0 / 3	2 / 4
PIM	20	18
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 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Wranglers	0	0	0		0
Firebirds	4	6	0		10

Offsides	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Wranglers	2	2	2		6
Firebirds	0	0	0		0

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Wranglers	11	8	9		28
Firebirds	14	13	5		32

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

Zone	Wranglers			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	11	1	0	4	4	0
Neutral	9	0	0	9	0	0
Defense	3	1	3	13	0	2

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill