

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: SJ Barracuda

Date: Feb 23, 2025 3:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The Barracuda are in the middle of the Pacific. The Barracuda have a mix of veterans and rookies in their lineup. Former Firebird Andrew Poturalski leads the AHL in points. Collin Graf has been the standout rookie. Their top two Russian goalies have done well this season with Yaroslav Askarov in the top 15 in the league. San Jose Sharks have the worst record in the NHL as they are in a middle of a rebuild. San Jose has moved players up and down the AHL affiliate as injuries have hit the Sharks, which has affected the Barracuda play. The Barracuda have been playing .500 as of the past 10 games.

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
22	Andrew Poturalski	F	45	20	30	50	2	1.111	1.156
42	* Luca Cagnoni	D	47	13	23	36	-6	0.766	0.638
56	Ethan Cardwell	F	41	7	27	34	9	0.829	1.049
51	*x Collin Graf	F	35	8	24	32	8	0.914	1.143
17	Thomas Bordeleau	F	40	11	16	27	-6	0.675	0.525
18	* Filip Bystedt	F	43	9	17	26	4	0.605	0.698
77	Pavol Regenda (total)	LW	49	6	17	23	-14	0.469	0.184
75	Danil Gushchin	F	33	14	8	22	-6	0.667	0.485
83	* Donovan Houle	F	47	10	8	18	0	0.383	0.383
52	Tristen Robins	F	37	7	11	18	-11	0.486	0.189
49	Scott Sabourin	F	45	6	10	16	-7	0.356	0.200
36	Lucas Carlsson	D	35	8	8	16	0	0.457	0.457
59	Jimmy Schuldt	D	49	4	12	16	16	0.327	0.653
76	Anthony Vincent	F	47	8	7	15	9	0.319	0.511
16	Colin White	C	26	7	8	15	-5	0.577	0.385
90	x Justin Bailey	F	33	7	7	14	-6	0.424	0.242
67	* Lucas Vanroboys	F	46	8	3	11	11	0.239	0.478
70	Brandon Coe	F	25	3	6	9	4	0.360	0.520
26	x Jack Thompson	D	19	2	7	9	-3	0.474	0.316
79	Ethan Frisch	D	46	2	7	9	2	0.196	0.239
94	Joey Keane	D	31	1	8	9	-2	0.290	0.226
85	x Shakir Mukhamadullin	D	21	0	9	9	-6	0.429	0.143
61	* Jake Furlong	D	43	1	6	7	-6	0.163	0.023
14	*x Kasper Halttunen	F	6	2	2	4	0	0.667	0.667

86	* Braden Hache	D	9	0	3	3	7	0.333	1.111
35	Gabriel Carriere	G	7	0	2	2	0	0.286	0.286
90	Rem Pitlick	F	3	0	2	2	0	0.667	0.667
30	Yaroslav Askarov	G	19	0	1	1	0	0.053	0.053
57	*x Luke Grainger	F	7	1	0	1	-1	0.143	0.000
58	* Mitchell Russell	F	8	1	0	1	1	0.125	0.250
77	x Valteri Pulli	D	2	0	1	1	3	0.500	2.000
41	x Vitek Vanecek	G	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
32	Aaron Dell	G	4	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
31	Georgi Romanov	G	20	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	135	203	338	-8
Defense	31	84	115	5

*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.*

The Firebirds find themselves 1 point out of the top spot in the Pacific. They are on a 3-game winning streak, and have won 7 of their last 10 games. Their overall play has been the best all season. They are getting contributions from everyone in the lineup. Rookie goalie Nikke Kokko is just outside the top 10 in GAA in the AHL. Rookie Jani Nyman leads all rookies in goals scored. The veterans are also playing well. John Hayden got a couple goals last night. Daniel Sprong continues to put up a point in every game he has played. Ben Meyers continues to lead the team in points. Ville Ottavainen leads the team in +/- . The power play has gone from worst in the AHL a few months ago to #8 while the penalty kill is a solid 4th in the AHL.

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
39	Ben Meyers	C	43	18	20	38	-4	0.884	0.791
33	* Jani Nyman	F	50	22	14	36	2	0.720	0.760
58	Max Lajoie	D	50	3	27	30	3	0.600	0.660
96	Logan Morrison	F	51	10	19	29	4	0.569	0.647
27	Ryan Winterton	F	40	12	15	27	6	0.675	0.825
29	* Lleyton Roed	F	50	13	13	26	10	0.520	0.720
57	* Jagger Firkus	F	49	10	15	25	5	0.510	0.612
11	Brandon Biro	C	37	5	20	25	-1	0.676	0.649
16	Nikolas Brouillard	D	48	5	20	25	1	0.521	0.542
15	John Hayden	F	38	9	15	24	0	0.632	0.632
24	* Ty Nelson	D	51	5	18	23	9	0.451	0.627

91	Daniel Sprong	F	16	7	12	19	-1	1.188	1.125
8	x 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	40	2	13	15	-5	0.375	0.250
17	Max McCormick	F	19	7	6	13	-4	0.684	0.474
36	Ville Ottavainen	D	47	2	8	10	11	0.213	0.447
63	Jacob Melanson	F	23	6	2	8	4	0.348	0.522
67	x Mitchell Stephens	F	18	4	4	8	-1	0.444	0.389
21	Ian McKinnon	F	41	4	4	8	-1	0.195	0.171
20	Ryan Jones	D	28	0	6	6	1	0.214	0.250
62	Tucker Robertson	F	27	3	2	5	-6	0.185	-0.037
88	* David Goyette	F	33	1	4	5	-5	0.152	0.000
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	Charlie Wright	D	9	0	0	0	-3	0.000	-0.333
35	* Nikke Kokko	G	21	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	142	186	328	15
Defense	23	104	127	27

*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: Last year the Firebirds were 7-1-0-0 against the Barracuda. This year the script has flipped as the Barracuda has a 6-0-0-0 record against the Firebirds. The Firebirds have had two shootout losses to the Barracuda Former Firebird Andrew Poturalski has been a main contributor to the Barracuda success. Both teams have a similar record with the Firebirds 5 points ahead in the standings. On paper, the Firebirds look to be the better team, but the results have not shown up. With a win, the Firebirds will take the lead in the Pacific for a couple hours, until the result of the Wranglers v Reign game. If the Barracuda win, they will move closer to an already packed Pacific. Both teams played last night. With the Firebirds playing a full 60minutes as of late, tonight's contents should be intense.

1st Period

Game started with a fast pace. Firebirds got on the scoreboard in the first 48 seconds. A strong forecheck caught the Barracuda confused in their D-zone. Jani Nyman snuck behind a defenseman next to the net to pick off the puck and put it in the goal in one swipe. 5 minutes later, the Firebirds established a good O-zone control. The puck came back to the point, where Gustav Olofsson took seeing-eye shot from the blueline that found its way past Aaron Dell. Firebirds continue to intercept pucks and frustrate the Barracuda for the next 10 minutes. Barracuda couldn't get any O-zone time, but the Barracuda were not going to be stopped. On a rush up the ice, Danil Gushchin was able to sneak a puck past 3 Firebirds into the net. The Firebirds continued their strong defense by allowing on 5 shots on goal.

2nd Period

The Firebirds continued the pressure. As soon as the Barracuda get the puck in the O-zone, the Firebirds intercept the puck and with in one pass they are out of the zone and into the attacking zone. Near the 8-minute mark, Edward Sale made a behind the back pass from the corner to the net. John Hayden tipped the puck over to Jagger Firkus who put into the net. 7 minutes later, Ben Meyers got the 4th goal for the Firebirds with a nifty walk-in to tip the puck past Dell. In one of the few moments the Barracuda got O-zone time, Andrew Poturalski got on the board by sneak a shot past Philipp Grubauer on the glove side.

3rd Period

Firebirds continued to play with hustle. Barracuda continue to struggle to get O-Zone time. Firebirds continued to get the puck out of the O-Zone and go on the attack. Each team had opportunities to score. It wasn't until the final minutes that things got interesting. Barracuda pulled the goalie, and Colin White hit a blueline shot to make it a 1 goal difference. Firebirds finally won a face-off, worked the puck out of the zone, and Logan Morrison put the puck into the empty net.

Post-Game

Barracuda continue a downward trend. Andrew Poturalski continues to score goals to stay atop of the AHL. They head home to take on the Condors on Wednesday. The Firebirds finally got a win against the Barracuda. Their style of play was the best all season as players are buying into the systems. They never let the Barracuda get O-zone time. It was another team win as the Firebirds had different players get on the score sheet. With the Reign shootout win over the Wranglers, the Firebirds remain one point out of first and tied with the Reign for second place in the Pacific. The Firebirds hit the road for 4 games over the next 2 weeks.

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

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1027270>

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

Team Game Stats:

	Barracuda	Firebirds
Shots	29	31
PP	0 / 1	0 / 3
PIM	6	4
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	1st	2nd	3rd		Total
Barracuda	1	0	1		2
Firebirds	1	0	2		3

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

Faceoff Wins	1st	2nd	3rd		Total
Barracuda	7	4	11		22
Firebirds	6	9	9		24

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

	Barracuda			Firebirds		
Zone	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	7	1	0	4	3	1
Neutral	7	1	0	9	0	0
Defense	5	0	1	6	0	1

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