

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: CGY Wranglers

Date: April 22, 2025 7:00PM PST

Calder Cup Round 1 Game 1

Pre-Game

The Wranglers had a roller coaster ride of a season. They were leading the Pacific for a good stretch until after the holidays. The Flames were making a playoff push and call ups created inconsistency. Rory Kerins, Martin Frk, Dryden Hunt, and William Strömngren provided the firepower. Devin Cooley has been the main goaltender. The issue with the Wranglers is the defensive mindset. Of all the teams in the Calder Cup finals, they are last in goals against with 239. This issue shows up in the statistics as the forwards have a +/- of -40, which means they are either not blocking shots or just not strong on defense. The regular season is one thing, but the playoffs are a whole new season. We will see if the style changes.

Regular season stats:

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
6	Rory Kerins	C	63	33	28	61	7	0.968	1.079
29	Martin Frk	RW	67	27	33	60	-7	0.896	0.791
15	Dryden Hunt	LW	49	16	33	49	8	1.000	1.163
11	William Strömngren	LW	70	14	35	49	-12	0.700	0.529
45	Sam Morton	C	70	20	25	45	-14	0.643	0.443
4	Jeremie Poirier	D	71	5	37	42	-9	0.592	0.465
19	Clark Bishop	C	66	19	19	38	3	0.576	0.621
5	* Hunter Brzustewicz	D	70	5	27	32	-9	0.457	0.329
48	Jonathan Aspirot	D	65	5	24	29	-5	0.446	0.369
8	Ilya Solovyov	D	59	6	22	28	8	0.475	0.610
43	x Adam Klapka	RW	33	14	12	26	-1	0.788	0.758
17	Lucas Ciona	LW	68	8	14	22	-3	0.324	0.279
42	* Sam Honzek	LW	52	8	13	21	3	0.404	0.462
37	Yan Kuznetsov	D	72	6	15	21	21	0.292	0.583
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
14	Ty Tullio	RW	43	3	12	15	-5	0.349	0.233
25	* David Silye	C	55	6	8	14	-6	0.255	0.145
18	* Parker Bell	LW	61	7	5	12	-10	0.197	0.033
10	* Brett Davis	LW	23	3	2	5	-3	0.217	0.087
22	Tyson Barrie	D	11	2	3	5	-5	0.455	0.000
26	Jarred Tinordi	D	30	1	4	5	5	0.167	0.333

3	Artem Grushnikov	D	61	1	4	5	-10	0.082	-0.082
14	x Ilya Nikolaev	C	9	0	4	4	-3	0.444	0.111
16	* Carter Wilkie	C	9	2	1	3	3	0.333	0.667
20	Alex Gallant	LW	39	0	3	3	-10	0.077	-0.179
27	x Matt Coronato	RW	2	2	0	2	2	1.000	2.000
44	* Carter King	C	2	1	1	2	0	1.000	1.000
33	*x Kyler Kupka	LW	12	0	2	2	-3	0.167	-0.083
33	* Simon Mack	D	2	0	1	1	3	0.500	2.000
38	* Kaden Bohlsen	RW	4	0	1	1	0	0.250	0.250
28	* Trevor Janicke	RW	15	0	1	1	1	0.067	0.133
40	* Walteri Ignatjew	G	28	0	1	1	0	0.036	0.036
1	Devin Cooley	G	46	0	1	1	0	0.022	0.022
46	*x Deni Goure	C	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
41	*x Jaden Lipinski	C	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
39	* Charles Martin	D	4	0	0	0	-1	0.000	-0.250
31	Connor Murphy	G	4	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
36	* Connor Mylymok	LW	8	0	0	0	-2	0.000	-0.250
2	* Joni Jurmo	D	17	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	197	276	473	-40
Defense	31	137	168	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 made the playoffs for the 3rd year in a row of their existence. This time with a younger team, and the young players have stood out. Jani Nyman was the leading goal scorer on the team. Ty Nelson was a leader on defense with a +/- 17. Jagger Firkus and Lleyton Roed brought the offence when needed. Finally, Nikke Kokko was solid surprise in net. The veterans Meyers, Morrison, Brouillard, Lajoie, and Winterton, Biro, Harden, and Fleury put up good numbers. Late call ups to the Kraken and injuries stalled a top 3 push in the standings, but with almost everyone back, the team should have a solid core to make another long run.

Regular season stats:

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
39	Ben Meyers	F	57	23	28	51	-2	0.895	0.860
33	* Jani Nyman	F	58	28	16	44	3	0.759	0.810
96	Logan Morrison	F	72	14	28	42	8	0.583	0.694

16	Nikolas Brouillard	D	69	7	31	38	3	0.551	0.594
58	Max Lajoie	D	70	4	34	38	13	0.543	0.729
27	Ryan Winterton	F	56	18	19	37	11	0.661	0.857
57	* Jagger Firkus	F	69	15	21	36	8	0.522	0.638
11	Brandon Biro	F	56	6	28	34	-2	0.607	0.571
24	* Ty Nelson	D	72	6	26	32	17	0.444	0.681
15	John Hayden	F	44	11	16	27	-2	0.614	0.568
29	* Lleyton Roed	F	56	13	13	26	8	0.464	0.607
8	Cale Fleury	D	39	7	19	26	10	0.667	0.923
91	x Daniel Sprong (total)	F	19	11	14	25	0	1.316	1.316
12	* Eduard Šalé	F	51	6	15	21	6	0.412	0.529
88	* David Goyette	F	54	6	12	18	5	0.333	0.426
23	Gustav Olofsson	D	51	3	14	17	-6	0.333	0.216
10	Luke Henman	F	59	6	10	16	-3	0.271	0.220
36	Ville Ottavainen	D	68	3	12	15	7	0.221	0.324
63	Jacob Melanson	F	42	8	5	13	-3	0.310	0.238
17	Max McCormick	F	19	7	6	13	-4	0.684	0.474
67	Mitchell Stephens	F	35	6	7	13	-2	0.371	0.314
21	Ian McKinnon	F	53	6	5	11	0	0.208	0.208
62	Tucker Robertson	F	38	4	5	9	-5	0.237	0.105
20	Ryan Jones	D	41	0	7	7	-2	0.171	0.122
52	x Tye Kartye	F	3	2	2	4	1	1.333	1.667
50	x Charlie Wright	D	21	0	4	4	-3	0.190	0.048
78	*x Oscar Fisker Mølgaard	F	7	2	1	3	-1	0.429	0.286
70	Andrei Loshko	F	1	2	0	2	1	2.000	3.000
68	Justin Janicke	F	1	0	1	1	1	1.000	2.000
90	Nathan Villeneuve	F	5	0	1	1	2	0.200	0.600
52	* Jakub Fibigr	D	1	0	0	0	-1	0.000	-1.000
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
74	Carson Rehkopf	F	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
28	x Cade Borhardt	F	5	0	0	0	-3	0.000	-0.600
40	Victor Östman	G	5	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
31	x Philipp Grubauer	G	7	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
30	Aleš Stezka	G	26	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
35	* Nikke Kokko	G	33	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	194	253	447	27
Defense	30	147	177	38

*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: The Firebirds took the season series 6-2-0-0. In the last two season playoff runs, the Firebirds have a 6-3-0-0 record to Wranglers 3-3-3-0. These were two years with different rosters so past performance means nothing. The Firebirds have an edge with home ice advantage for all three games of the best of 3 series. In a short series, anything can happen. The team that comes out with jump and competitiveness is going to win the series.

1st Period

Both teams came out with some jump. The Wranglers had an early push, but the Firebirds took over the period. It didn't take long for the Firebirds to cash in. On the rush, John Hayden got a nice pass combination from Jani Nyman and Logan Morrison to score the first goal at 3:39. The goal added more pep in the step for the Firebirds. Four minutes later, a pass around the boards by Ben Meyers came to Jagger Firkus. Jagger and everyone in the arena heard Brandon Biro tapping his stick for the puck in the slot. Jagger made the pass and Brandon hit the top corner over the glove side of Walteri Ignatjew. Both teams exchanged chances and power play opportunities during the rest of the period, but no further scoring.

2nd Period

The period got a little testy as both teams were trying to get underneath each other's skin. A couple power plays that didn't result in any goals. 14 minutes in Nikolas Brouillard shot the puck towards the net which created a bit of a scramble. Jacob Melanson tap the puck over to Mitchell Stephens who picked up the puck and put home the 3rd Firebirds goal.

3rd Period

The Wranglers owned the period. Firebirds couldn't get any consistent O-zone time. They played on their heels looking to protect the lead, and they let the Wranglers come at them. Wranglers picked away and the Firebirds lead with goals at 6:51 and 14:53. With 7 seconds and Ignatjew pulled for the extra attacker, the Wrangler tied the game.

OT1:

A back-and-forth overtime. The Firebirds got a power play and a Wranglers fumble the puck in their own end, but they couldn't close out the game.

OT2:

This over time was a track meet as both teams started to tire out. Firebirds got the most shots on goal and look to be a little fresher. Both the Wranglers media and the Firebirds media are in agony on each opportunity to score. The game is going to triple overtime.

OT3:

Finally! The Firebirds got the winning goal within first 2 minutes of the triple overtime. Ville Ottavainen got the puck from Nikolas Brouillard. Ville shot the puck towards the net were Mitchell Stephens chipped in the puck past Ignatjew. The Firebirds celebrated as they pulled out a big one.

Post-Game

And this was the first game of the Calder Cup Playoffs! The rest of the teams start play tomorrow, which is today as I am writing this report. A very big win for a very young team. Credit to the Wranglers who didn't give up down 3 to storm back and tie the game. The power play was lacking for both teams. The Firebirds started some creative spark on the power play in the overtime sessions, but couldn't get anything through. Credit the Firebirds training staff for conditioning the young team. They looked like the fresher team in the end. Game 2 is on Saturday.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	OT2	OT3	Total
Wranglers	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Firebirds	2	1	0	0	0	1	4

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1027696>

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

Team Game Stats:

	Wranglers	Firebirds
Shots	39	50
PP	0 / 3	0 / 7
PIM	22	14
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	OT	OT2	OT3	Total
Wranglers	0	0	1	2	3	0	6
Firebirds	3	1	3	1	3	0	11

Offsides	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	OT2	OT3	Total
Wranglers	3	1	1	1	0	0	6
Firebirds	2	1	1	1	1	0	6

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	OT2	OT3	Total
Wranglers	8	11	10	7	6	1	43
Firebirds	12	9	9	9	9	3	51

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	4	0	8	10	0
Neutral	9	0	3	14	2	1
Defense	13	0	3	14	1	1

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill