

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: ABB Canucks

Date: May 3, 2025 6:00PM PST

Calder Cup Round 2 Game 2 – Canucks lead 1-0

Pre-Game

In game 1, the Canucks had a little luck with some self-inflicted wounds by the Firebirds and a non-call. The Canucks did have opportunities, but the Firebirds shut them down in the final 2 periods. The Firebirds shot themselves in the foot in the first period to give up 2 of the 3 goals; otherwise, their play was excellent. History has shown that the Firebirds can take a punch and bounce back the next game to deliver a win. This is a new younger team. Will the Canucks go home with a 2-game lead, or will the Firebirds build their character and make it a best of 3 series?

Here are the Canucks playoff stats:

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
79	Sammy Blais	LW	4	3	1	4	-1	1.000	0.750
94	Linus Karlsson	RW	4	2	2	4	-1	1.000	0.750
13	Arshdeep Bains	LW	4	0	4	4	0	1.000	1.000
84	Tristen Nielsen	LW	4	2	1	3	-1	0.750	0.500
34	Phillip Di Giuseppe	LW	4	1	2	3	0	0.750	0.750
63	Max Sasson	C	4	1	2	3	0	0.750	0.750
55	Guillaume Brisebois	D	4	1	1	2	-1	0.500	0.250
4	Jett Woo	D	4	1	1	2	3	0.500	1.250
21	Chase Wouters	C	4	1	1	2	0	0.500	0.500
39	* Ty Mueller	C	4	0	2	2	1	0.500	0.750
54	Aatu Rätty	C	4	0	2	2	1	0.500	0.750
18	Danila Klimovich	RW	4	1	0	1	1	0.250	0.500
83	Nate Smith	C	2	0	1	1	1	0.500	1.000
59	* Kirill Kudryavtsev	D	3	0	1	1	2	0.333	1.000
90	* Victor Mancini	D	4	0	1	1	-2	0.250	-0.250
23	* Jonathan Lekkerimäki	RW	2	0	0	0	-2	0.000	-1.000
86	Christian Wolanin	D	2	0	0	0	-1	0.000	-0.500
48	Cole McWard	D	3	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
41	Akito Hirose	D	4	0	0	0	3	0.000	0.750
15	Jujhar Khaira	C	4	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

31	Artūrs Šilovs	G	4	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
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Totals by forwards and defense:

Canucks	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	11	18	29	-1
Defense	2	4	6	4

*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.*

Here are the Firebirds playoff stats:

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
67	Mitchell Stephens	F	2	3	0	3	2	1.500	2.500
15	John Hayden	F	3	2	0	2	1	0.667	1.000
11	Brandon Biro	F	3	1	1	2	2	0.667	1.333
27	Ryan Winterton	F	1	1	0	1	0	1.000	1.000
20	Ryan Jones	D	1	0	1	1	-1	1.000	0.000
16	Nikolas Brouillard	D	3	0	1	1	1	0.333	0.667
57	* Jagger Firkus	F	3	0	1	1	1	0.333	0.667
88	* David Goyette	F	3	0	1	1	0	0.333	0.333
63	Jacob Melanson	F	3	0	1	1	-1	0.333	0.000
39	Ben Meyers	F	3	0	1	1	0	0.333	0.333
96	Logan Morrison	F	3	0	1	1	-1	0.333	0.000
33	* Jani Nyman	F	3	0	1	1	-2	0.333	-0.333
36	Ville Ottavainen	D	3	0	1	1	2	0.333	1.000
90	Nathan Villeneuve	F	3	0	1	1	1	0.333	0.667
21	Ian McKinnon	F	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
62	Tucker Robertson	F	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
12	* Eduard Šalé	F	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
8	Cale Fleury	D	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
10	Luke Henman	F	3	0	0	0	1	0.000	0.333
35	* Nikke Kokko	G	3	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
58	Max Lajoie	D	3	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
24	* Ty Nelson	D	3	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
23	Gustav Olofsson	D	3	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

Totals by forwards and defense:

FireBirds	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	7	8	15	4
Defense	0	3	3	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.*

Pre-Game: While teams were warming up, a couple players from each team met at the red line to exchange pleasantries. Some chirping, a push, slaps with the sticks all in view of the AHL officials. It ended without further buildup to a full-on *Slapshot* movie experience.

1st Period

The expression of wellbeing came early in the first. Ian McKinnon and Jujhar Khaira dropped the gloves. A minutes later, the Canucks were called for an icing. Firebirds won the faceoff, and then Gustov Olofsson got the party started with a slap shot that got past Artūrs Šilovs. The Firebirds kept the pressure on. A pass around the O-zone from Logan Morrison back to the point. Waiting was Ty Nelson who fired a slapshot past Artūrs Šilovs. The fans in the Arena erupted and you could feel the wave of positive home ice energy. There were a couple of penalties. The Firebirds had a great power play puck movement, opportunities, and puck recovery, but no goals. Jani Nyman and Max Sasson made it 4 on 4, which open up the ice. After the penalties were over, Max Lajoie finished the scoring in the period with another point shot past Artūrs Šilovs.

2nd Period

The Canucks switched to Nikita Tolopilo in goal, and the change looked to give them a little motivate. Closing in on the 3-minute mark, Phillip Di Giusepp snuck shot past Nikke Kokko. Kokko seemed to have stopped it but it squirted threw. A minute later Nate Smith got a wrap-around goal to pull the Canucks within one. Canucks had better of the play this period, but the Firebirds held their own. The Firebirds worked the final few minutes in the O-zone and hit the cross bar at one point.

3rd Period

It was looking like the Firebirds were going to hold the fort, but 6 minutes in, the Canucks tied the game with Jujhar Khaira getting the tally. Jujhar was not done, at 13 minutes, he got another goal, and the Canucks take the lead. The Firebirds were not going to let this one slip away. Ben Meyers tied the game with scramble in front of the net with 4 minutes and change to play. Game heading to overtime.

1st Overtime

Only one over time! On a rush up ice, Nikita Tolopilo had the puck behind the net. Luke Henman came in with a strong forecheck, and Nikita was a little lost. Luke stripped the puck, and pass it over to Jacob Melanson coming in on the other side of the net. Jacob swept it in to a wide-open goal at 4:45.

Post-Game

The hockey universe has balanced the scales. Nikke misplayed a puck in the previous game. Nikita returns the favor. Series tied at 1 – 1. Credit the Firebirds faithful as many in the crowd stayed to the end to create the positive energy needed for the win. Canucks road win streak comes to an end. The series is now a best of 3. All three games will be in Abbotsford. The Firebirds played well on the road.

In the post-game interview, the Gustav Olofsson and Max Lajoie did say the little greetings during warmups helped motivate the team. The on-ice officials inserted themselves into the game. They wouldn't drop the puck on the face off. They kept kicking players out of the faceoff circle. There was a false penalty call in the 3rd period that could have gone badly for the Firebirds as Nikke was about to go off for the extra attacker. The ref appeared to apologies for his mistake.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	Total
Canucks	0	2	2	0	4
Firebirds	3	0	1	1	5

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1027710>
Video highlights can be seen on the Firebirds' YouTube channel: [Firebirds - YouTube](#)

Team Game Stats:

	Canucks	Firebirds
Shots	30	31
PP	0 / 2	0 / 1
PIM	11	13
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	Total
Canucks	2	0	3	1	6
Firebirds	2	3	1	0	6

Offsides	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	Total
Canucks	1	1	0	0	2
Firebirds	1	0	0	1	2

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	Total
Canucks	14	9	6	4	33
Firebirds	11	7	9	0	27

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

Zone	Canucks			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	6	2	4	4	0	0
Neutral	9	0	0	11	0	0
Defense	11	0	1	11	1	0

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