

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: COL Eagles

Date: Oct 18, 2025 6:00PM PST

Pre-Game

After the open night loss, the Firebirds had a long week to fix the areas that were visibly lacking in their first game. Handling the other team's forecheck must have been a top priority. Now the real test begins with a home game tonight, a road game in Bakersfield tomorrow, and 3 more road games in San Jose and Calgary this week.

In the NHL, the Kraken have started off getting 6 points in their first 4 games of the season. They are showing a competitive edge that was missing from last year. Injuries didn't help last year. Unfortunately, we got the first Kraken injury and call up from the Firebirds. Freddy Gaudreau has been put on injured reserved for 4 to 6 weeks so the Firebirds will be without John Hayden. John had an excellent pre-season with the Kraken, and it is no surprise that he will spending most of this year wearing a Kraken sweater when the opportunity arises. In the ECHL, the Kansas City Mavericks won their first game of the season last night over Rapid City Rush, 3-2.

The Eagles won the Pacific division last year, and they start their season 2-0 with two wins against the Calgary Wranglers last weekend. Tonight, they start a 3-game road trip in Southern California. The Eagles have multiple player returning for this season. Rookie goalie, Isak Posch, started both games last weekend as Tent Minor has been called up to the Avalanche this season.

Head-to-Head:

The Eagles have had the better of the Firebirds the last 3 seasons with a 10-5-1-0 record. The Eagles were 5-3-0-0 to the Firebirds 3-4-0-1 last year. The Eagles have the veteran experience so the Firebirds will have to play smart and take advantage of scoring opportunities.

1st Period

The Firebirds controlled the period, and they had the better of the scoring chances. Eagles tried a few home run passes, but the Firebirds sniffed and snuffed these out. Eagles also applied a forecheck that the Firebirds were able to break free by be patient and bringing a forward back. No bad turn overs. For the first time this season, the Eagles didn't score in the first period. The Firebirds are still looking for their first goal.

2nd Period

The first 7 minutes played like the first period. The Firebirds almost go a shorthanded goal on a breakaway, but Posch stood tall in net. Eagles got on the board first when Kokko went for a puck away from the crease and didn't coral it. With only a defenseman in the net, Danil Gushchin was able to put the puck in the net. A minute later, Jason Polin snuck down the back side and with a cross-ice pass from Alex Gagne, Jason didn't miss the net. Coach Laxdal took a time out to settle the Firebirds. Two minutes later Gustav Olofsson activated on defense and took a pass from Jacob Melanson to the net to get the

first goal of the season for the Firebirds. Eagles generated a few more chances, but the Firebirds were able to keep the score where it is.

3rd Period

The 2nd period ended with a little spirited action. As a result, both teams got a 2-minute roughing minor to start the period with 4 on 4. Firebirds had their chances, but the Eagles were able to score the empty net goal with Kokko pulled for the 6th attacker to end the game.

Post-Game

The Eagles came away with a win, but it was a close game. Eagles didn't dominate the play as the Firebirds showed more energy and better structure. The lapse in the 2nd period is what cost the Firebirds a point or two, but coach Laxdal was pleased with the effort. The practiced this week are paying off. The Firebirds are off to Bakersfield for a game with the Condors tomorrow. The Eagles drive over to Ontario to take on the Reign tomorrow.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Eagles	0	2	1		3
Firebirds	0	1	0		1

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1027817>

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

Team Game Stats:

	Eagles	Firebirds
Shots	26	20
PP	0	0
PIM	8	6
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
Eagles	3	2	2		7
Firebirds	3	2	3		8

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

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Eagles	11	8	8		27
Firebirds	7	10	5		22

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

	Eagles			Firebirds		
Zone	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	8	0	1	3	0	0
Neutral	6	0	0	8	0	0
Defense	10	0	2	10	1	0

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill