

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: ONT Reign

Date: May 5, 2026 – 7:00PM PST

Calder Cup Round 2 Game 3 – Series tied 1-1

Pre-Game

The Reign shook off the rust to tie up the series, but game 2 was a little closer than one would think. The Firebirds won the faceoff battle, more shots on goal, and didn't have to go on the penalty kill, but 0-5 on the power play didn't help. If Firebirds didn't take the foot off the peddle in the first 3-minutes of the 3rd period, the game could have gone either way. The Reign defense and Copley didn't give up rebounds was the difference. Expect the Firebirds to make adjustments and take advantage of home ice to get the series lead back. The Reign just need to repeat the effort of game 2.

1st Period

A fun back and forth period. Some hard checking and a little pond hockey kept the crowd excited throughout the period. Both teams had chances to score, but the Firebirds got the first goal of the game on a 2 on 1 break. Jagger Firkus to Jani Nyman, and Jani put the puck past Portillo.

2nd Period

No scoring in the period, but the same action. Firebirds had the grade A opportunities to get a goal. The Reign are struggling to get into the O-zone as the Firebirds are holding the line.

3rd Period

The Reign made another 3rd period come back. Both teams didn't have the same energy as the first two periods. The Reign were able to pounce. 6 minutes into the period, Aatu Jämsen was in the right place on a scramble to tie the game at 1. The Firebirds started to press and were caught being too far forward, which led to the second goal a minute later. Joe Hicketts fired the puck into the zone and what looked like a line change, but Logan Brown kept coming. The Firebirds' defense was slow to react. Logan got the puck off the back boards and walked in on Kokko to beat him high stick side. The Reign had a late penalty allow the Firebirds to have a 6 on 4, but they couldn't get the equalizer.

Post-Game

If you are a fan of hockey this was a great game to watch. Reign came in and got the job done. They were patient and wore down the Firebirds. The Firebirds took the wrong approach after giving up the first goal. Pressing to take the lead back cost them the game. Game 4 on Thursday in Coachella Valley.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	Total
Reign	0	0	2		2
Firebirds	1	0	0		1

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1029027>

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

Team Game Stats:

	Reign	Firebirds
Shots	24	28
PP	0 / 0	0 / 2
PIM	4	0
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
Reign	0	0	4		4
Firebirds	0	3	1		4

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

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Reign	5	9	11		25
Firebirds	10	7	7		24

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

Zone	Reign			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	7	0	0	8	0	0
Neutral	5	0	0	7	0	0
Defense	11	0	2	9	0	0

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