

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: HSK Silver Knights

Date: Jan 7, 2026 6:30PM PST

Pre-Game

Don't let the record fool you, the Silver Knights are team to watch out for. A team that finished last placed in the Pacific with over a 1000 penalty minutes last season is now in the hunt for a playoff spot this season. They also have the fewest penalty minutes this season in the AHL to date. Goaltending has been by committee, but Carl Lindbom and rookie Jesper Vikman have settled into the net minder rotation. Although players are not showing up in the AHL league leaders, there are some standouts. Veteran Tanner Laczynski leads the team in score and points. His PMPPG shows he is a major contributor to each game. Rookie Ben Hemmerling is taking full advantage of his first full season. The NHL Golden Knights have not dominated the NHL of previous seasons. All three California teams have given the Golden Knights a run for their money. Regardless, the Golden Knights have slowly come back to the top of the NHL Pacific Division. Due to some injuries, they have had to make several roster-moves with the AHL Silver Knights. The Silver Knights have played through the chaos to stay competitive.

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
28	Tanner Laczynski	F	29	11	18	29	19	1.000	1.655
46	Jonas Røndbjerg	F	30	10	10	20	13	0.667	1.100
51	Lukas Cormier	D	23	5	15	20	6	0.870	1.130
63	* Ben Hemmerling	F	27	8	8	16	17	0.593	1.222
59	* Jackson Hallum	F	29	5	11	16	10	0.552	0.897
77	Kai Uchacz	F	29	4	12	16	-8	0.552	0.276
84	Jeremy Davies	D	30	4	11	15	0	0.500	0.500
36	Raphael Lavoie	F	14	6	8	14	0	1.000	1.000
52	Dylan Coghlan	D	27	5	9	14	5	0.519	0.704
12	Jakub Brabenec	F	29	4	9	13	-1	0.448	0.414
42	x Braeden Bowman	F	12	7	5	12	1	1.000	1.083
75	Mitch McLain	F	29	6	5	11	-5	0.379	0.207
37	* Tuomas Uronen	F	27	7	3	10	2	0.370	0.444
25	Matyas Sapovaliv	F	30	4	5	9	-1	0.300	0.267
24	* Trevor Connelly	F	11	3	4	7	-1	0.636	0.545
88	x Jaycob Megna	D	23	2	4	6	6	0.261	0.522
50	Joe Fleming	F	24	2	4	6	-12	0.250	-0.250
8	* Mathieu Cataford	F	26	1	5	6	-8	0.231	-0.077
74	* Viliam Kmec	D	24	0	6	6	-2	0.250	0.167
78	Lucas Johansen	D	24	2	3	5	-4	0.208	0.042

44	Christoffer Sedoff	D	22	0	3	3	6	0.136	0.409
89	Riley McKay	F	14	1	0	1	-6	0.071	-0.357
39	*x Cameron Whitehead	G	5	0	1	1	0	0.200	0.200
32	* Jesper Vikman	G	11	0	1	1	0	0.091	0.091
79	x Carter Hart	G	3	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
41	Brandon Hickey	D	7	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
30	Carl Lindbom	G	11	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	79	107	186	20
Defense	18	53	71	17

*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 roaster, injured, or called up.*

The Firebirds have hit a rough patch. They are still in the playoff mix, but are playing .500 after 10 games. Jani Nymans' return has opened up the power play possibilities, but it takes more than 1 player to get back to a consistent points streak. Two players, Ben Meyers and Jacob Melansons, are with the Kraken, and they are thriving. Since they have been on the 4th line with Ryan Winterton, the Kraken have gone on a 10 game points streak to get them back into the hunt for top team in the Pacific. Regardless of the missing teammates, the Firebirds still have some offensive power. They are coming off a two-game road trip where they won in San Diego, but on the next night lost to the Reign, which brings up an interesting stat. The Firebirds are 2-6-1-0 for the 2nd game on back-to-back nights. They are 1-2-1-0 when playing the same team on back-to-back nights, and 1-4-0-0 when playing a different team for the 2nd game on back-to-back nights. In 4 opportunities, the Firebirds have split games (4-4-0-0) against teams they play back-to-back with days in between games. Tonight's game will start the 5th opportunity as they will play the Silver Knights again on Saturday.

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
57	Jagger Firkus	F	31	14	18	32	8	1.032	1.290
96	Logan Morrison	F	31	16	12	28	7	0.903	1.129
43	* Tyson Jugnauth	D	31	4	20	24	1	0.774	0.806
78	Oscar Fisker Mølgaard	F	29	6	12	18	-5	0.621	0.448
10	J.R. Avon	F	21	6	9	15	3	0.714	0.857
63	x Jacob Melanson	F	23	7	7	14	5	0.609	0.826
39	x Ben Meyers	F	11	9	4	13	2	1.182	1.364
15	John Hayden	F	26	8	5	13	-3	0.500	0.385
67	Mitchell Stephens	F	28	6	7	13	-8	0.464	0.179
24	Ty Nelson	D	26	3	9	12	-4	0.462	0.308
12	Eduard Šalé	F	18	4	7	11	-2	0.611	0.500

29	Lleyton Roed	F	24	3	7	10	7	0.417	0.708
16	* Carson Rehkopf	F	29	5	3	8	-7	0.276	0.034
47	* Kaden Hammell	D	24	4	4	8	14	0.333	0.917
36	Ville Ottavainen	D	25	0	8	8	6	0.320	0.560
88	David Goyette	F	31	2	5	7	-3	0.226	0.129
72	* Andrei Loshko	F	24	2	4	6	0	0.250	0.250
2	* Lukas Dragicevic	D	21	1	5	6	-7	0.286	-0.048
4	* Caden Price	D	30	0	6	6	2	0.200	0.267
21	Ian McKinnon	F	25	2	3	5	1	0.200	0.240
23	Gustav Olofsson	D	8	1	4	5	-1	0.625	0.500
68	Jakov Novak	F	13	1	3	4	1	0.308	0.385
33	Jani Nyman	F	3	1	1	2	-5	0.667	-1.000
7	x Zach Uens	D	3	0	2	2	2	0.667	1.333
35	Nikke Kokko	G	21	0	2	2	0	0.095	0.095
40	* Victor Östman	G	13	0	1	1	0	0.077	0.077
9	x Justin Janicke	F	1	0	0	0	-1	0.000	-1.000
34	x Jackson Berezowski	C	2	0	0	0	-1	0.000	-0.500
50	x Charlie Wright	D	20	0	0	0	-3	0.000	-0.150

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	92	107	199	0
Defense	13	61	74	9

*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 roaster, injured, or called up.*

Head-to-Head

The first meeting was in December at Henderson. The Silver Knights were the victors. The game was close, but 2 empty net goals made the game look a little more lop sided. The Silver Knights hadn't played in a week where the Firebirds were coming off win against the Canucks the night before. Per the back-to-back stat checking, the Firebirds don't do well in the 2nd game on back-to-back nights. The loss to the Silver Knights was one of those losses. This week both teams will play each other twice, but with days in between. The Silver Knights will play the Reign the night before the second meeting. The Firebirds will have days off in between. Even though they finished in last place, the Silver Knights were the Firebird's Achillies-heal last season. The Silver Knights heavy forecheck caused problems for the Firebirds. Both teams need the points to stay in the playoff hunt. We will see if the Firebirds can break away from their back-to-back records or will the Silver Knights continue to be a thorn in their side.

1st Period

No surprise, the Silver Knights scored the first two goals of the game. The first came on a power play. Ben Hemmerling was standing at the top of the crease and got a pass from Tanner Laczynski. Ben tipped the puck past Nikkie Kokko for the first goal. The second goal came off the face off. The time Ben Hemmerling retrieved the puck skated below the goal line and passed to Tanner Laczynski in the slot. Tanner sniped it home. Firebirds had their chances and sustained o-zone time, but couldn't get anything past Carl Lindom.

2nd Period

The Firebirds played stronger period. They won the majority of the faceoffs 14 to 3 as well as the shots on goal. Unfortunately, it was the Silver Knights getting who got the lone goal in the period. After a sustained attack by the Firebirds, the Silver Knights got a rush up the ice. Jonas Rondbjerg shot the puck from near the goal line to sneak it past Kokko. Penalties started to pile on. Ian McKinnon got 27 penalty minutes for starting a fight. That is 2 game misconducts, 5 for fighting, and 2 minutes for instigating.

3rd Period

The Silver Knights ended and thought of a Firebird come back in their 4th goal 46 seconds into the period. The Firebirds got on a goal on a power play. Jagger Firkus pass down low across the ice to Logan Morrison who put it home to end the shutout. A few minutes later, the Firebirds got back-to-back penalties, which led to Tanner Laczynski getting his 2nd goal in the game.

Post-Game

Silver Knights came in and took over the game. They played physical and took advantage of the opportunities. Tanner Laczynski played outstanding with 2 goals and 3 assists. His PPG is now 1.13 and PMPPG is now 1.87. The Firebirds delivered a poor effort. The Firebirds only saving grace is that they were 65% face off circle. They had the best period in the face off category at home with 82%. The flip side they had 63 penalty minutes, which was the most in a single game in their history. Both teams will meet again on Saturday.

	1st	2nd	3rd		Total
Silver Knights	2	1	2		5
Firebirds	0	0	1		1

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1028284>

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

Team Game Stats:

	Silver Knights	Firebirds
Shots	31	39
PP	2 / 8	1 / 3
PIM	23	63
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
Silver Knights	1	3	1		5
Firebirds	2	0	0		2

Offsides	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Silver Knights	0	2	0		2
Firebirds	0	0	0		0

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Silver Knights	7	3	9		19
Firebirds	9	14	12		35

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

Zone	Silver Knights			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	5	2	0	7	3	1
Neutral	2	1	0	8	0	4
Defense	8	0	1	5	1	6

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill

Interesting Firebirds stats so far:

- 4 games in row (12 periods) that the team never trailed in regulation.
- 2 different Firebirds got a hat-trick on back-to-back nights: Jagger Firkus (vs. BAK 11/15/25) and Jacob Melanson (vs ABB 11/16/25)
- Two goalies have an assist in the season. Kokko has 2 assists.
- The line of J.R., Avon, Logan Morrison, and Jagger Firkus scored at least one goal 9 games in a row (11/7/25-11/28/25).
- Nikke Kokko got his first regular season shutout. (vs. Gulls 5 – 0 11/28/25).
- 12 games streak where the Firebirds have scored 3 goals in a game (Started vs Col 11/5/25 – 12/6/25).