

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: ONT Reign

Date: Jan 23, 2026 7:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The Reign have been hot over the past couple months. They are 7-3-0-0 in the last 10 games. They briefly were in first place in the Pacific, but are now in 2nd place tied in points with 1st place Eagles. Tonight is the last game of a 6-game road trip. Their top 5-point leaders are AHL veterans. The veteran depth is important for the Kings who are competing for a playoff spot in the NHL. The Reign are anchored in net by veteran Phoenix Copley and back up Erik Portillo. Erik should be a primary as he is one of the top goalies in the AHL. Outside of Portillo, there are no individual players in AHL stat rankings. Their key to their success is staying out of the penalty box and having a strong penalty kill when someone does get into the sin bin.

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
59	Nikita Alexandrov	F	38	9	24	33	-13	0.868	0.526
8	Martin Chromiak	F	39	15	16	31	3	0.795	0.872
21	Glenn Gawdin	F	39	6	24	30	-3	0.769	0.692
26	Andre Lee	F	32	15	12	27	6	0.844	1.031
81	Cole Guttman	F	35	12	15	27	2	0.771	0.829
17	* Kenny Connors	F	39	9	15	24	13	0.615	0.949
34	x Taylor Ward	F	32	12	9	21	1	0.656	0.688
71	Francesco Pinelli	F	32	5	12	17	6	0.531	0.719
78	* Jared Wright	F	39	9	7	16	17	0.410	0.846
58	Samuel Bolduc	D	38	5	10	15	5	0.395	0.526
86	Aatu Jämsen	F	36	7	7	14	-4	0.389	0.278
27	Joe Hicketts	D	36	3	11	14	-10	0.389	0.111
14	x Akil Thomas	F	19	4	9	13	-5	0.684	0.421
13	* Koehn Ziemmer	F	29	3	9	12	6	0.414	0.621
47	* Jack Hughes	F	33	2	9	11	0	0.333	0.333
7	Kyle Burroughs	D	18	1	6	7	8	0.389	0.833
19	* Kirill Kirsanov	D	36	4	2	6	4	0.167	0.278
24	Angus Booth	D	29	1	5	6	4	0.207	0.345
12	* Tim Rego	D	7	2	2	4	2	0.571	0.857
55	Jakub Dvořák	D	30	2	2	4	4	0.133	0.267
10	* Otto Salin	D	27	2	0	2	-2	0.074	0.000
46	* Kenta Isogai	F	15	1	1	2	-3	0.133	-0.067
37	Jacob Doty	F	19	1	1	2	-6	0.105	-0.211
22	Kaleb Lawrence	F	6	0	2	2	1	0.333	0.500

45	Jack Millar	D	13	0	2	2	2	0.154	0.308
72	x Keaton Mastrodonato	F	1	0	1	1	-1	1.000	0.000
1	Erik Portillo	G	13	0	1	1	0	0.077	0.077
33	*x Mattias Sholl	G	1	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
91	Logan Brown	F	3	0	0	0	-2	0.000	-0.667
49	x Isaiah Saville	G	8	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
29	Pheonix Copley	G	19	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	110	173	283	18
Defense	20	41	61	17

	AHL Rank	Stat
Road Record	5	12-8-0-0
PP	12	20.3
PK	10	82.9
Penalty Minutes per game	26	11.51
SOGF	7	.417
SOGA	14	.214

*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 are living up to their name as they are on fire as of late. They are on a 6-game winning streak. They have not trailed in the last 12 regulation periods, which is tied with another stretch from earlier this season. The change is in the defense. The Firebirds are doing a better job of get sticks in lanes, clearing pucks out of the dangerous areas, taking away passing angles, clearing out or marking opponents attempting to screen their goalie, and most important better handling of the puck in the defensive zone. It doesn't hurt to get off to fast starts to forced their opponents to chase the game. Tonight, they will be without Jacob Melanson as he has been recalled to the Kraken for the injured Ben Meyers.

No.	PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PPG	PMPPG
57	Jagger Firkus	F	38	14	23	37	9	0.974	1.211
96	Logan Morrison	F	38	20	16	36	11	0.947	1.237
43	* Tyson Jugnauth	D	38	6	23	29	2	0.763	0.816
78	* Oscar Fisker Mølgaard	F	35	7	14	21	-3	0.600	0.514
15	John Hayden	F	33	10	6	16	1	0.485	0.515
63	Jacob Melanson	F	26	7	9	16	7	0.615	0.885
10	J.R. Avon	F	21	6	9	15	3	0.714	0.857
24	Ty Nelson	D	33	4	11	15	2	0.455	0.515

67	Mitchell Stephens	F	35	6	8	14	-6	0.400	0.229
29	Lleyton Roed	F	31	3	11	14	8	0.452	0.710
39	x Ben Meyers	F	11	9	4	13	2	1.182	1.364
12	Eduard Šalé	F	25	5	8	13	-1	0.520	0.480
16	* Carson Rehkopf	F	36	8	4	12	-4	0.333	0.222
23	Gustav Olofsson	D	15	1	11	12	6	0.800	1.200
36	Ville Ottavainen	D	32	1	10	11	9	0.344	0.625
33	Jani Nyman	F	10	7	2	9	2	0.900	1.100
4	* Caden Price	D	37	2	7	9	4	0.243	0.351
88	David Goyette	F	38	2	7	9	1	0.237	0.263
47	* Kaden Hammell	D	26	4	4	8	14	0.308	0.846
21	Ian McKinnon	F	31	4	4	8	2	0.258	0.323
72	* Andrei Loshko	F	29	2	5	7	2	0.241	0.310
68	Jakov Novak	F	14	2	4	6	1	0.429	0.500
2	* Lukas Dragicevic	D	26	1	5	6	-4	0.231	0.077
7	x Zach Uens	D	3	0	2	2	2	0.667	1.333
35	Nikke Kokko	G	23	0	2	2	0	0.087	0.087
40	* Victor Östman	G	17	0	1	1	0	0.059	0.059
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
45	Jack LaFontaine	G	2	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
50	x Charlie Wright	D	20	0	0	0	-3	0.000	-0.150

Totals by forwards and defense:

	G	A	PTS	+/-
Forwards	112	134	246	33
Defense	19	76	95	32

	AHL Rank	Stat
Home Record	8	11-6-2-0
PP	13	20.3
PK	24	78.8
Penalty Minutes per game	6	14.74
SOGF	9	.385
SOGA	9	.154

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 teams met for the first time a few weeks ago. The Reign slipped by with a 3-2 win. Historically, both teams play equally, and that will be important as the last 5 games head-to-head will be played in the last two months of the season. The Firebirds need to stay out of the penalty box and continue the same winning strategy they have been using during this winning streak. The Reign are going to have the same line up as a couple weeks ago. Expect the Reign to try to draw some penalties to get an advantage. The teams are separated by 4-point in the standings, and as cross-town rivals, expect a physical close game.

1st Period

The Firebirds had the first push, but the Reign trapped the Firebirds in the defensive zone. After an icing and failure to get the puck out of the zone, Nikita Alexandrov made pass behind the goal that a Firebirds defender missed. Glenn Gawdin got it in the slot and sniped it home for the first goal. After bending and not breaking, the Firebirds turn to trap the Reign. On a pass to no one, Eduard Sale got the puck in the middle of the ice and fired it home from inside the left circle to tie the game.

2nd Period

The Firebirds owned the period as the ice tilted their way. They outshot the Reign 13 to 2. The only thing they didn't do was score.

3rd Period

The ice remained tilted to the west. Not sure if the recent earthquakes had anything to do with it. The Reign had control, and Cole Guttman scored at the 2:35 mark. The Firebirds had to take chances and push forward when they had opportunities. With 3.5 minutes left, the Firebirds pulled the goalie, and it paid off. John Hayden scored in the paint on a nice pass from Logan Morrison. The Firebirds had a few more chances to take the lead.

OT

The Reign won the face off, but the Firebirds were able to steel the puck. Mitchell Stephens made a power move to the net, but couldn't put it home. The Reign then went on a 2 on 1, and Nikita Alexandrov put the puck home to win the game.

Post-Game

Another 1 goal win for the Reign. A hard-fought game on both sides. The young Firebirds with some players out with injury or recalled to the Kraken did well to get a point against a top team in the league. Firebirds only had coincidental penalties so they never gave the Reign a chance on the power play. The Reign play the Eagles tomorrow night in clash of the top teams in the Pacific division. The Firebirds get some rest and will play the Eagles next Wednesday.

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

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1028385>

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

Team Game Stats:

	Reign	Firebirds
Shots	17	34
PP	0 / 0	0 / 2
PIM	16	22
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	1st	2nd	3rd	OT	Total
Reign	1	1		0	2
Firebirds	2	0	4	0	6

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

Faceoff Wins	1st	2nd	3rd	OT	Total
Reign	7	8	12	1	28
Firebirds	15	9	10	0	34

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

	Reign			Firebirds		
Zone	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	10	0	0	18	2	0
Neutral	10	0	0	7	0	0
Defense	8	0	0	7	0	0

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill

Interesting Firebirds stats this year to date:

- 5 games in row (15 periods) that the team never trailed in regulation.
- 2 different Firebirds had a hat-trick on back-to-back nights: Jagger Firkus (vs. BAK 11/15/25) and Jacob Melanson (vs ABB 11/16/25)
- Carson Rehkopf got a hat trick (vs JS 1.21.26)
- Two goalies have an assist in the season – first time since inaugural 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).
- Goalie shutouts:

- Nikke Kokko got his first regular season shutout. (vs. Gulls 5–0 11/28/2025).
- Victor Östman got his second regular season shutout (vs. Gulls 4-0 1/17/2026)
- Jack LaFontaine got a shutout (vs Canucks 3-0 1/18/26)
- Victor Östman and Jack LaFontaine got shutouts on back-to-back nights. A first in Firebirds history.
- 12 game-streak where the Firebirds have scored 3 goals in a game (Started vs Col 11/5/25 – 12/6/25).
- 4-6-1-0 in the 2nd game on back-to-back nights.
- 5-5-0-0 when playing a team back-to-back with day(s) off in-between.
- 148 minutes and 58 seconds in a row without letting the other team score a goal. (Tex 2/14/26, SD 1/17/26, ABB 1/18/26, SJ 1/21/26). This is a new franchise record.