

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: ONT Reign

Date: Oct 2, 2025 6:00PM PST

Pre-Game

Open Night 2026! Firebirds season 5 begins tonight! The Firebirds return to the ice with most of last year's roster, and they have signed a number of their 2024 draft picks from juniors to get their first professional experience. The last move came yesterday as the Firebirds traded David Goyette to the Flyers for forward Deven Kaplan. John Hayden is the new captain of the Firebirds along with 4 assistant captains: Mitchell Stephens, Logan Morrison, Gustav Olofsson, and Ty Nelson.

Last year's Pacific Champions, the Ontario Reign, make their way down the I-10 to get some redemption from being bounced out of last year's playoffs by the Firebirds. Tonight's game is the first game of a Home-and-Home series. The Firebirds last season went 19-5 when playing the same team on back-to-back nights.

Head-to-Head:

Last year, the Reign went 5-1-2-0 against the Firebirds, but the Firebirds took the best of 5 playoff series 3 games to 2.

1st Period

The Reign got on the board first with the help of a fluke bounce of the stick. Kokko went to lay the puck behind the net, but the puck bounced in front of the net. Martin Chromiak was able to score an empty net goal. 12 seconds later, the Firebirds even the score with a nice rush up the ice. J.R. Avon received short pass from Oscar Fisker Mølgaard to tap the puck into the net. After killing off a penalty, the second Firebirds goal came from Eduard Sale on a nice pass from Jani Nyman while crashing the net. John Hayden capped off the period with a power play goal to give the Firebirds a 3-1 lead.

2nd Period

The emotion that was expected showed up in this period. Hard hits and a fight raised the temperature a bit. The Reign got a goal in the first 2 minutes to cut into the lead, but 38 seconds later, Jani Nyman got a goal from down the slot. The Firebirds don't make things easy back-to-back penalty allowed the Reign to get their 3rd goal on a 5 on 3 power play. The Firebirds got the 2-goal lead back with a power play goal from Jani Nyman. The Reign got a late goal as Francesco Pinelli was able to tip the puck past Kokko with 35 seconds to go in the period.

3rd Period

The period turned into a pond hockey game with both teams getting shots up and down the ice. Reign scored the game tying goal with 5 minutes left. The Firebirds jump on the attack, but couldn't get the next goal.

Overtime

Reign won the face off and controlled the puck. On a defensive break down, Jared Wright was able to skate in with speed and fire the puck past Kokko to give the Reign a 6 to 5 victory.

Post-Game

There was a lot of good and bad for both teams, but it is game one. There is some rust expected, but the Firebirds had a better showing in this home opener then last year. Both teams drive up the I-10 tomorrow to lay in Ontario.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	OT	Total
Reign	1	3	1	1	6
Firebirds	3	2	0	0	5

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1029074>
Video highlights can be seen on the Firebirds' YouTube channel: [Firebirds - YouTube](#)