

GAME REPORT

Home: ONT Reign vs. Away: CV Firebirds

Date: May 1, 2026 – 7:00PM PST

Calder Cup Round 2 Game 2 – Firebirds lead series 1-0

Pre-Game

The 1st round bye didn't help the Reign in game 1 as the Firebirds won 3-0. The Reign were a little rusty and slower as the Firebirds outshot them 33-23. Nikke Kokko got the shutout behind some stifling puck eating defense. A complete turnaround from the 7-0 loss to the Reign back in April 1st. The Reign had their chances by hitting the cross bar and post a few times, but the puck luck went to the visitors. For Kokko it was his 4th shutout in the AHL. He got one in the playoffs last season and 2 in the regular season this year. In the 3rd period, the Reign's Andre Lee and Cole Guttman made sure to make a statement for the tonight's game. With rust hopefully shaken off, expect the Reign to come ready in tonight's game 2.

1st Period

The Reign didn't disappoint as they came out flying. The post and cross bar prevented them from scoring first. Nearing the 8-minute mark, it was the Firebirds to get the first goal. Lleyton Roed got a puck in the paint and stuffed it past Copley. After the goal, the Firebirds found their stride and made a push to get the next goal. Nearing the end of the period, the Reign recovered and tie the game with a scramble Infront of Kokko. Logan Brown flipped it into the net over a sprawling Kokko.

2nd Period

The first 15 minutes of the period was like a couple of prize fighters make jabs and blows. The Reign found some O-zone time. They moved the puck around the zone and kept the Firebirds off balance. Eventually the Firebirds defense broke. Gleen Gawdin snuck into the paint to redirect a pass from Agnus Booth behind Kokko. The chippy play continued between both teams resulting in a 4 on 4 to finish the period.

3rd Period

The first two periods were very competitive. The possibility that the game could go either way ended 17 seconds into the 3rd period. Andre Lee won the puck in the corner and pass to the middle of the ice to an oncoming Cole Guttman who in one fell swoop fired the puck low that got past Kokko. The Firebirds looked to have gotten a break with an interference penalty called the Reign. What looked like an opportunity to get the goal back turned into the final blow. The Reign slowly created a 2 on 1 with the Firebirds slowly getting back on the play. Jack Hugh and Francesco Pinelli saw the opportunity and Francesco cashed in to make it 4-1. The Firebirds tried to push back, but an empty net goal late in the period was the final tally.

Post-Game

The Reign got back on the right track, and the series that started off as the best of 5 is now the best of 3. The Firebirds came out flat in the 3rd period, and it was the opening 3-minutes that decided the game. Like Game 1, the Firebirds outshot the Reign. A little difference in the game is that most of the shots were on the perimeter and didn't create rebounds or chaos needs to manufacture a goal. The Firebirds had 5 power play opportunities that they didn't cash in on. The last power play looked flat it was as if the

Firebirds couldn't figure out the Reign defense. A goal in any of those power plays could have made a difference. The Reign didn't get a single power play in the game. The Reign penalty kill was the difference. The series head to Coachella Valley for the next two games. We will see if the Firebirds can make the adjustments and end the series at home, or the Reign just keeps the freight train rolling.

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

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1029026>

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

Team Game Stats:

	Firebirds	Reign
Shots	35	24
PP	0 / 5	0 / 0
PIM	2	12
SH	0	1

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
Firebirds	3	2	0		5
Reign	1	2	1		4

Offsides	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Firebirds	3	2	1		6
Reign	0	1	1		2

Faceoff Wins	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
Firebirds	13	12	12		37
Reign	8	11	6		24

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

Zone	Firebirds			Reign		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	10	5	0	6	0	1
Neutral	10	2	0	7	0	0
Defense	10	0	0	6	0	4

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