

GAME 8 - OCTOBER 2, 2021 (7:00 P.M. at Riverside Arena – Austin, MN)

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NORTH IOWA BULLS

4-2-0-1 (9 pts, .643) 2nd, Central Division Head Coach: Todd Sanden Assistant Coaches: Kevin Murdock, Mark Hicks

AUSTIN BRUINS

5-1-1-0 (11 pts, .786) 1st, Central Division Head Coach: Steve Howard Assistant Coaches: Justin Fisher, Hampus Sjodahl



IN A NUTSHELL:

North lowa writes a new chapter in its budding rivalry with the Austin Bruins, after some fireworks in Friday's game.

ALL-TIME SERIES:

LAST TIME OUT:

The Bulls and Bruins opened a brand-new NAHL rivalry in Mason City on Friday night, with all the spark that was expected - it was a fiery encounter, with a few skirmishes in a 4-3 shootout win for Austin. North lowa had to tie the game on three separate occasions, as well as contend with one of the top power play units in the NAHL - Austin grabbed the lead just 6:05 into the contest as Marian Haborak scored down the slot 26 seconds into the night's opening power play, but the Bulls answered back on a goal from Chris Carroll with 5:49 remaining in the period. Nick Catalano scored a go-ahead marker on a power play with 7:57 left in the second period, but Hunter Bulger tied the game back up midway through the third, right off of the final media timeout of the game. Carson Riddle snatched the lead back for the Bruins with 8:26 to go, but Sean Vlasich's goal from the left point with 43 seconds to go hit the reset button on the game once more. A fifth-round shootout goal from Gavin Morrissey finally decided the game, giving the Bruins the early advantage in this new brouhaha. Hunter Garvey made 34 saves in his first appearance for North Iowa, while Hudson Hodges earned his fifth win of the year on 27 saves for Austin. The Bruins came up big on special teams, going 2-for-3 on the power play and holding the Bulls scoreless in four chances.

UPCOMING PROMOTIONS:

North Iowa returns home on Friday and Saturday, October 15 and 16 for "Fall Into Hockey" weekend, featuring a pumpkin gutting contest and a pumpkin ring toss at the Friday home game and a fall treats baking contest in Saturday's game against the Minot Minotauros.

SPRINGSTEEN, MADONNA, WAY BEFORE NIRVANA:

This matchup marks the first time since the late winter of 1985 that junior hockey teams from Mason City and Austin have squared off at Riverside Arena - the North Iowa Huskies and Austin Mavericks were briefly in the United States Hockey League together, with the Huskies opening play in 1983 and the Mavericks moving to Rochester to become the Grizzlies during the '85 offseason. The two cities nearly had an NAHL encounter in 2010, but their respective teams turned out to be just ships passing in the night - the Austin Bruins opened up shop that summer, but the North Iowa Outlaws were already on their way to La Crosse, Wisconsin as the Coulee Region Chill.

MESICS MATCH MICHIGAN MIGRATIONS:

Before the end of September, the North Iowa Bulls already have their first two NCAA Division I commitments as an NAHL club, and the last names on both are identical - 2004-born forward Michael Mesic announced his commitment to Northern Michigan University on Monday, while 2002-born blueliner Jack Mesic made his commitment to Ferris State on Wednesday. The younger Mesic is off to a hot start in his first season as a Bull, with seven points over his first six games, while the elder Mesic has two goals over his first six appearances, playing his third year in the Bulls organization. North Iowa is no stranger to collegiate kudos, with 110 players making it to NCAA rosters after making a stop in Mason City during the team's decade in the NA3HL.

THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

North Iowa has found itself in a series of battles to the final horn as Central Division play gets underway - Friday's 4-3 loss to the Bruins was the third straight one-goal game for North Iowa, after going to the brink in both games against the Aberdeen Wings the previous week. It's the first stretch of three straight one-goal games for the Bulls since their February 26-28 battles against Granite City (both of which went to shootouts) and 6-5 loss at New Ulm. The previous game for North Iowa - a 4-3 loss to Alexandria the previous weekend - was also decided by a single goal.

POWER PLANT:

The Austin Bruins have enjoyed a red-hot start to the season on special teams, and continued their torrid run on the power play last week against the Minot Minotauros - Austin went 2-for-6 against the Minotauros on Saturday, scoring twice on Owen Joseph's unsportsmanlike conduct major in a 3-2 loss. The Bruins went 2-for-3 on the power play the previous night, including Marian Haborak's game-winner with 4:30 left. Austin has scored at least two power play goals in every contest so far, and the Bruins' 44.8-percent mark ranks second in the NAHL behind only the Amarillo Wranglers at 50 percent.

COVERAGE:

All Bulls games, home and away, are streamed live at HockeyTV.com, Listen to the Bulls for free at home, and on selected road trips - click the "Listen Live" link at NorthIowaBulls.com, or go directly to the Bulls' audio homepage at mixIr.com/northiowabulls.





SCHEDULE

L. 4-1 W 4-1

09/15 vs. MN Wilderness W, 5-1

09/16 vs. Jamestown

09/17 vs Amarillo

STANDINGS

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Bulls trail. 0-0-1.



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Roster accurate as of September 29, 2021

FORWARDS (14)

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#	NAME	SHOT	НТ	WT	D.O.B.	HOMETOWN	LAST TEAM
9	Carter Rapalje	Right	5′9″	170	8/10/01	Burlington, VT	Amarillo Bulls
11	Logan Dombrowsky	Right	6'3″	200	11/02/02	Stevens Point, WI	Amarillo Bulls
12	Max Scott	Left	5'11"	185	10/11/02	San Jose, CA	Amarillo Bulls
14	Justin Mexico	Left	5′9″	165	12/03/03	Madison Heights, MI	Maine Nordiques AAA
18	Anthony Galante	Left	5'11"	165	04/18/02	Morganville, NJ	Maine Nordiques AAA
19	Michael Mesic	Left	5'11"	165	08/15/04	Plymouth, MI	Honeybaked U16 AAA
20	Hunter Bulger	Right	5′8″	170	08/05/02	St Louis, MO	St. Louis Blues AAA
21	Luka Sukovic	Right	6'3″	195	11/03/03	Lincolnshire, IL	Odessa Jackalopes
22	Charlie Tuggey	Right	5'10"	165	01/04/03	Shaker Heights, OH	Gilmour Academy
24	Ryan Coughlin	Right	6'0"	180	02/09/01	Charlotte, NC	Amarillo Bulls
26	Simone Dadie	Left	6'2"	198	09/18/03	Brunico, Italy	Okanagan Hockey Academy Europe U20
28	Chris Carroll	Left	5'11"	180	05/04/01	Islip, NY	Amarillo Bulls
29	Byron Hartley	Right	6'0"	185	05/09/02	Philadelphia, NY	Philadelphia Little Flyers 18U
37	Anthony Domina	Right	6′4″	205	11/24/03	Severna Park, MD	Northern Cyclones

DEFENSEMEN (9)

#	NAME	SHOT	НТ	WT	D.O.B.	HOMETOWN	LAST TEAM
2	Greg Japchen	Left	6'3"	195	12/17/01	Doylestown, PA	Amarillo Bulls
6	Joey Potter	Right	5'11"	185	05/09/02	Pittsburgh, PA	Twin City Thunder
7	Nick Liotino	Left	5'11"	180	09/25/02	Commerce Township, MI	Compuware 18U AAA
8	Joe Sweeney	Right	6'1"	175	04/21/03	San Jose, CA	Chippewa Steel
10	Jack Mesic	Right	5'11"	185	10/18/02	Plymouth, MI	Amarillo Bulls
15	Jack Boxer	Left	6'3"	190	01/30/02	Colorado Springs, CO	Amarillo Bulls
17	Andrew Stacey	Right	6′0″	180	01/14/03	Toledo, OH	Tri-State Spartans 18U
23	Luke Helgeson	Left	5'11"	190	11/30/04	Anchorage, AK	Cleveland Barons 16U
27	Sean Vlasich	Right	5′8″	175	04/20/01	Upper Saddle River, NJ	Amarillo Bulls

GOALTENDERS (3)

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#	NAME	НТ	WT	D.O.B.	HOMETOWN	LAST TEAM
1	Hunter Garvey	6'1"	160	02/03/02	San Diego, CA	Amarillo Bulls
30	Cullen DeYoung	6′0″	165	04/03/02	Canton, MI	Amarillo Bulls
31	Carsen Stokes	5'10"	170	02/13/02	Prior Lake, MN	North Iowa Bulls

NICK LIOTINO: leo-TEE-no CARTER RAPALJE: RAP-al-jay JACK MESIC: MESS-ick MICHAEL MESIC: MESS-ick ANTHONY DOMINA: DOM-inna

PRONUNCIATIONS

ANTHONY GALANTE: gal-AHN-tay LUKA SUKOVIC: SOO-coe-vich SIMONE DADIE: SEE-mo-nay DAH-dee-ay SEAN VLASICH: VLASS-ick

HEAD COACH/GM: Todd Sanden ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH/GM: Kevin Murdock ASSISTANT COACH: Mark Hicks

TEAM STAFF

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER: Kathee Corsello ATHLETIC TRAINER: Austin Kessler BROADCASTING/MEDIA RELATIONS: Austin Draude

BULLS GAME-BY-GAME (4-2-0-1)

Date	Opponent	Re	sult	GWG	Bulls Goaltender	Opp. Goaltender	Record	Highlights
Sep 15	vs. MN Wilderness	w	5-1	Michael Mesic (1)	Carsen Stokes (1-0-0-0, 23/24)	Jacob Zacharewicz (0-1-0-0, 26/31)	1-0-0-0	Dombrowsky: Bulls' 1st NAHL goal (10:01, 1st); Mesic/Coughlin/Scott: 3 pts
Sep 16	vs. Jamestown	L	4-1	Owen West	Jackson Baker (0-1-0-0, 27/31)	Nolan Suggs (1-0-0-0, 33/34)	1-1-0-0	Baker: 1st junior start; NI: 6-for-6 on penalty kill; West: goal, 2 assists
Sep 17	vs. Amarillo	w	4-1	Logan Dombrowsky (1)	Cullen DeYoung (1-0-0-0, 33/34)	Max Gutjahr (1-1-0-0, 27/31)	2-1-0-0	North Iowa: 3-for-5 on power play; Dombrowsky: 2 goals, assist
Sep 18	vs. Kenai River	w	6-2	Carter Rapalje (1)	Cullen DeYoung (2-0-0-0, 28/30)	Bryant Marks (0-3-0-0, 23/28)	3-1-0-0	Rapalje, Greg Japchen: 2 G each; Ryan Coughlin: 100th junior game
Sep 24	Aberdeen	L	3-2	Devon Carlstrom	Cullen DeYoung (2-1-0-0, 23/26)	Kyle Kozma (2-1-0-0, 33/35)	3-2-0-0	Chris Carroll: Bulls' 1st NAHL home goal (1st, 0:49); combined: 12-12 PK
Sep 25	Aberdeen	W	6-5	Hunter Bulger (1)	Carsen Stokes (2-0-0-0, 25/30)	Kyle Kozma (2-2-0-0, 22/25)	4-2-0-0	ABD comes back from down 3-0 for 4-3 lead (NI: 6-4 lead at 4:15 of 3^{rd} per)
Oct 1	Austin	SOL	4-3	Gavin Morrissey (SO)	Hunter Garvey (0-0-0-1, 34/37)	Hudson Hodges (4-1-1-0, 27/30)	4-2-0-1	Bulls tie game 3x (Vlasich: GTG w :43 left in 3rd per.); AUS: 2-3 PP, 4-4 PK
Oct 2	@ Austin							
Oct 8	@ Minot							
Oct 9	@ Minot							
Oct 15								
Oct 16								
	@ Aberdeen@ Aberdeen							
Nov 5	Bismarck							
Nov 6	Bismarck							
	@ Austin							
Nov 13								
	@ St. Cloud							
	@ Austin							
Nov 27	Austin							
Dec 3	St. Cloud							
Dec 4	@ St. Cloud							
Dec 10	Springfield							
	Springfield							
	@ Bismarck							
	@ Bismarck							
	@ Austin							
Jan 1	Austin							
Jan 7	Aberdeen							
Jan 8 Jan 14	Aberdeen @ Minot							
	@ Minot							
	@ Bismarck							
	@ Bismarckj							
	St. Cloud							
	@ Aberdeen							
Jan 29	@ Aberdeen							
Feb 4	Austin							
Feb 5	@ Austin							
Feb 11	@ Aberdeen							
	@ Aberdeen							
	Bismarck							
	Bismarck							
	@ Springfield							
	@ Springfield@ Bismarck							
	@ Bismarck							
Mar 11	-							
	@ Austin							
	Aberdeen							
Mar 19	Aberdeen							
Mar 25	Minot							
Mar 26	Minot							
Mar 30	St. Cloud							
Apr 1	@ St. Cloud							
Apr 8	Bismarck							
Apr 9	Bismarck							
	St. Cloud							
Apr 16	(a) St Cloud							

- Apr 16 @ St. Cloud