



NORTH IOWA BULLS HOCKEY CLUB

100 S. Washington Ave., Suite 118 | Mason City, IA 50401 | 641-423-GOAL | NorthIowaBulls.com | @NorthIowaBulls

GAME 27 - DECEMBER 31, 2021 (7:05 P.M. at Riverside Arena – Austin, MN)



NORTH IOWA BULLS

14-10-1-2 (31 pts, .574)

3rd*, Central Division

Head Coach: Todd Sanden

Assistant Coaches: Mark Hicks, Nick Bruneteau

AUSTIN BRUINS

16-10-1-2 (35 pts, .603)

1st*, Central Division

Head Coach: Steve Howard

Assistant Coaches: Justin Fisher, Hampus Sjudahl



SCHEDULE

09/15	vs. MN Wilderness	W, 5-1
09/16	vs. Jamestown	L, 4-1
09/17	vs. Amarillo	W, 4-1
09/18	vs. Kenai River	W, 6-2
09/24	ABERDEEN	L, 3-2
09/25	ABERDEEN	W, 6-5
10/01	AUSTIN	SOL, 4-3
10/02	@ Austin	W, 4-2
10/08	@ Minot	W, 3-2
10/09	@ Minot	W, 6-3
10/15	MINOT	W, 3-2
10/16	MINOT	L, 6-1
10/22	@ Aberdeen	L, 5-2
10/23	@ Aberdeen	SOL, 5-4
11/05	BISMARCK	W, 6-4
11/06	BISMARCK	W, 6-3
11/12	@ Austin	SOW, 3-2
11/13	AUSTIN	W, 5-3
11/20	@ St Cloud	W, 7-4
11/26	@ Austin	L, 5-3
11/27	AUSTIN	L, 4-1
12/03	ST CLOUD	L, 4-2
12/04	@ St Cloud	OTL, 3-2
12/10	SPRINGFIELD	OTW, 4-3
12/11	SPRINGFIELD	L, 6-3
12/17	@ Bismarck	L, 5-3
12/18	@ Bismarck	L, 5-1
12/31	@ Austin	7:00pm
01/01	AUSTIN	7:30pm
01/07	ABERDEEN	7:30pm
01/08	ABERDEEN	7:30pm
01/14	@ Minot	7:35pm
01/15	@ Minot	8:05pm
01/21	@ Bismarck	7:15pm
01/22	@ Bismarck	7:15pm
01/27	ST CLOUD	7:30pm
01/28	@ Aberdeen	7:15pm
01/29	@ Aberdeen	7:15pm
02/04	AUSTIN	7:30pm
02/05	@ Austin	7:00pm
02/11	@ Aberdeen	7:15pm
02/12	@ Aberdeen	7:15pm
02/18	BISMARCK	7:30pm
02/19	BISMARCK	7:30pm
02/25	@ Springfield	7:05pm
02/26	@ Springfield	6:05pm
03/04	@ Bismarck	7:15pm
03/05	@ Bismarck	7:15pm
03/11	AUSTIN	7:30pm
03/12	@ Austin	7:00pm
03/18	ABERDEEN	7:30pm
03/19	ABERDEEN	7:30pm
03/25	MINOT	7:30pm
03/26	MINOT	7:30pm
03/30	ST. CLOUD	7:30pm
04/01	@ St Cloud	7:00pm
04/08	BISMARCK	7:30pm
04/09	BISMARCK	7:30pm
04/15	ST. CLOUD	7:30pm
04/16	@ St. Cloud	7:00pm

CENTRAL DIVISION STANDINGS

Austin	16-10-1-2	35 pts
Minot	17-12-1-0	35 pts
BULLS	14-10-1-2	31 PTS
Aberdeen	14-12-0-2	30 pts
St. Cloud	14-9-0-1	29 pts
Bismarck	9-17-1-1	20 pts

IN A NUTSHELL:

The Bulls look to right the ship coming out of the Christmas break and shake a stretch of seven losses in eight games.

ALL-TIME SERIES:

Tied, 3-2-1 (both teams have lost at home once in a shootout).

LAST TIME OUT:

North Iowa will do its best to put its pre-Christmas finale in the rearview mirror after taking a sweep at the hands of the Bismarck Bobcats, finishing with a 5-1 loss on Saturday, December 18. A big night on the power play made for a happy holiday for North Iowa's hosts, with the Bobcats finishing 3-for-7 on the man-advantage, their second three-goal night on the power play in as many weeks. Bismarck snatched the lead with 6:30 remaining in the period, picking up a power play goal from defenseman Michael Neumeier. He fired the puck into the upper half of the net at 8:09 of the second period for a 2-0 lead, and Owen Michaels found Ben Troumbly on the back door for a point-blank tap-in and a 3-0 lead with 8:19 on the clock. After killing off a 5-on-3 both Friday and Saturday, the Bobcats scored on both a 5-on-3 and the ensuing 5-on-4 with goals from Jake McLean and Eddie Shepler early in the third for the 5-0 advantage. With 13:08 remaining, **Michael Mesic** was able to score on the rebound to dent the Bobcats' lead and break up the shutout. Oskar Spinnars Nordin earned both wins on the weekend, notching 32 saves in the Saturday contest, while **Hunter Garvey** took the loss on 31 saves.

UPCOMING PROMOTIONS:

North Iowa returns to home ice on Saturday, January 1 against the Austin Bruins – the Bulls kick off the brand-new year with a Tie Dye Tilt, featuring tie-dyed hoodies for sale and ticket discounts for fans wearing tie-dye to the game. Domestic beers and Bud Light Retro Seltzers are also marked down to just \$3, and fans can open up the season's second half with a postgame party skate from 10 to 11 p.m.

LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR:

Halfway through their first season as Central Division rivals, the series between Austin and North Iowa is as close as one would have expected – both teams enter the weekend with 3-2-0-1 records against each other, with each team having earned a weekend sweep and a shootout victory on the other side's home ice. Furthermore, each team comes into the weekend with an identical 7-4-1-1 record in away contests, though North Iowa earned all four points available in their "away" games at the NAHL Showcase in September. The Bruins' only stumble in that event came as the "away" team, in overtime against the Minnesota Magicians.

I SWEAR I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE...:

This weekend's series marks the first matchup for a couple of current Bulls against their old mates, and tonight's game will be their first time in the visiting locker room at Riverside Arena after spending the first part of the season in the home digs. **Dylan Gajewski** makes his return to Riverside coming off of a torrid start as a Bull, becoming one of only two North Iowa players ever to score a goal in all of their first four North Iowa appearances. He notched the game-winner in his NAHL debut on September 15 against Wichita Falls, but never scored for the Bruins after the NAHL Showcase. The winner for the Bruins in that game was **Hudson Hodges**, who also is set to make his North Iowa debut in net – he has scored two wins against the Bulls, and nine total on the year. He made nine saves against Minot on December 18, earning the win in what turned out to be his finale for Austin.

IN THE ARMY NOW:

North Iowa has its latest NCAA Division I commitment, with defenseman and captain Sean Vlasich set to take his game to West Point next season. Vlasich announced his commitment on Thursday, becoming the Bulls' second player to make it to the United States Military Academy. However, he'll be the first former Bull to make it onto the Division I roster – defenseman Jaxon Jones is in his third season on West Point's ACHA Division II club roster after earning an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy in 2018.

WHO'S IN YOUR FIVE?:

While the gap between Austin's top three and the rest of the group is a sizable one, the battle for the top spot on the Bulls' scoring list is as spirited as ever. North Iowa has five players on the roster with 20 points or more, one of only seven NAHL teams making that claim coming out of the holiday break. Michael Mesic's goal at Bismarck put him back in a tie for the team scoring lead, while **Carter Rapalje's** 16 goals remains a top-five mark in the NAHL.

COVERAGE:

All 60 regular-season North Iowa Bulls games are streamed live at HockeyTV.com. Listen to the Bulls for free, home and away – click the "Listen Live" link at NorthIowaBulls.com, or go directly to the Bulls' audio homepage at mixlr.com/northiowabulls.



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Roster accurate as of December 30, 2021

FORWARDS (16)

#	NAME	SHOT	HT	WT	D.O.B.	HOMETOWN	LAST TEAM
7	Dylan Gajewski	Right	5'10"	165	07/16/01	Woodhaven, MI	Austin Bruins
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
16	Brett Morich	Right	6'1"	200	07/09/01	Phoenix, AZ	Jamestown Rebels
18	Jake LaRusso	Right	5'11"	180	03/16/02	Colts Neck, NJ	New Jersey Titans
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
22	Tyler Braccini	Left	5'11"	175	07/02/01	Minneapolis, MN	Minnesota Magicians
23	Sota Isogai	Left	5'11"	170	02/14/01	Nagano, Japan	Mason City Toros
24	Jack Champion	Left	6'0"	170	09/02/01	Crystal, MN	Mason City Toros
25	Carter Newpower	Left	6'2"	180	02/21/02	Cottage Grove, MN	Mason City Toros
26	Simone Dadie	Left	6'2"	198	09/18/03	Brunico, Italy	Okanagan Hockey Academy Europe U20
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 (8)

#	NAME	SHOT	HT	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
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
17	Andrew Stacey	Right	6'0"	180	01/14/03	Toledo, OH	Tri-State Spartans 18U
21	Casey Roepke	Left	6'0"	177	05/02/02	Erin, WI	Lincoln Stars
27	Sean Vlasich	Right	5'8"	175	04/20/01	Upper Saddle River, NJ	Amarillo Bulls
44	Jack Phelan	Right	6'4"	185	05/28/04	Hinsdale, IL	Chicago Mission 18U

GOALTENDERS (2)

#	NAME	HT	WT	D.O.B.	HOMETOWN	LAST TEAM
1	Hunter Garvey	6'1"	160	02/03/02	San Diego, CA	Amarillo Bulls
30	Hudson Hodges	6'2"	175	11/11/01	Moorhead, MN	Austin Bruins

PRONUNCIATIONS

SEAN VLASICH: VLASS-ick
CARTER RAPALJE: RAP-al-jay
JACK MESIC: MESS-ick
MICHAEL MESIC: MESS-ick
JAKE LaRUSSO: La-ROOS-oh
SOTA ISOGAI: SOH-ta EE-so-guy
TYLER BRACCINI: brass-EE-nee

CASEY ROEPKE: REP-kee
ANTHONY DOMINA: DOM-inna
SIMONE DADIE: SEE-mo-nay DAH-dee-ay
HUNTER BULGER: BULL-er
BRETT MORICH: MOR-ick
DYLAN GAJEWSKI: Guy-ESS-kee
JACK PHELAN: FAY-lan

TEAM STAFF

HEAD COACH/GM: Todd Sanden
ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH/GM: Mark Hicks
ASSISTANT COACH: Nick Bruneteau

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

BULLS GAME-BY-GAME (14-10-1-2)

Date	Opponent	Result	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' 1 st NAHL goal (10:01, 1 st); 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: 1 st 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: 100 th 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' 1 st NAHL home goal (1 st , 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 3 rd per.); AUS: 2-3 PP, 4-4 PK
Oct 2	@ Austin	W 4-2	Carter Rapalje (2)	Hunter Garvey (1-0-0-1, 27/29)	Niko Goich (1-1-0-0, 25/29)	5-2-0-1	1 st NI/Austin games since 1985; NI: 5-5 PK (AUS: 1 st game w 0 PPG this yr)
Oct 8	@ Minot	W 3-2	Max Scott (1)	Hunter Garvey (2-0-0-1, 32/34)	Carter Clifton (2-3-1-0, 9/12)	6-2-0-1	MNT backup Zach Sandy: 18-for-18; Scott: 1 st goal as NI Bull (18:51, 1 st)
Oct 9	@ Minot	W 6-3	Carter Rapalje (3)	Hunter Garvey (3-0-0-1, 45/48)	Zach Sandy (0-3-0-0, 9/11)	7-2-0-1	Garvey: most saves by NI G since 2019; NI outshot 48-28 (1 st /2 nd per: 37-9)
Oct 15	Minot	W 3-2	Logan Dombrowsky (2)	Hunter Garvey (4-0-0-1, 30/32)	Zach Sandy (0-4-0-0, 35/38)	8-2-0-1	Byron Hartley, Justin Mexico score 1 st per goals for NI :35 apart (5:02, 5:37)
Oct 16	Minot	L 6-1	Zack Simon	Hunter Garvey (4-1-0-1, 32/38)	Zach Sandy (1-4-0-0, 32/33)	8-3-0-1	Minot scores three in opening 4:23; Dadie PPG breaks 31 PP skid for Bulls
Oct 22	@ Aberdeen	L 5-2	Patrick O'Connell	Hunter Garvey (4-2-0-1, 27/32)	Dominik Wasik (2-1-0-0, 36/38)	8-4-0-1	Wings: 3 straight goals in 1 st period, 2 goals :16 apart in 2 nd ; Max Scott: 2 G
Oct 23	@ Aberdeen	SOL 5-4	Cade Nielson (SO)	Hunter Garvey (4-2-0-2, 12/12)	Dominik Wasik (3-1-0-0, 40/44)	8-4-0-2	Carsen Stokes: 25/29 in 1 st start since 9/25; Carter Rapalje: 2 tying goals
Nov 5	Bismarck	W 6-4	Max Scott (2)	Hunter Garvey (5-2-0-2, 31/35)	Erik Forss (3-6-1-0, 34/40)	9-4-0-2	Carter Rapalje: 4 goals (Bulls' 1 st NAHL hat trick, first home goals w NI)
Nov 6	Bismarck	W 6-3	Michael Mesic (2)	Hunter Garvey (6-2-0-2, 20/23)	Aksel Reid (0-3-0-0, 10/14)	10-4-0-2	11 Bulls tally at least one point; NI: 4 unanswered goals to end game
Nov 12	@ Austin	SOW 3-2	Justin Mexico (SO)	Hunter Garvey (7-2-0-2, 33/35)	Klayton Knapp (2-0-0-1, 23/25)	11-4-0-2	Mexico: 1 st -period goal, SO goal; NI: 7-8 PK, 3-3 PP; Shots: AUS 35, NI 26
Nov 13	Austin	W 5-3	Byron Hartley (1)	Hunter Garvey (8-2-0-2, 31/34)	Hudson Hodges (7-4-1-0, 17/21)	12-4-0-2	Hartley, Carter Rapalje: 2 G each (Hartley: 1 st multi-goal junior game)
Nov 20	@ St. Cloud	W 7-4	Carter Rapalje (4)	Hunter Garvey (9-2-0-2, 38/42)	Tomas Bolo (5-3-0-0, 12/15)	13-4-0-2	E. Dahlmeir (STC): 17/21; S. Vlasich: 4 A (1 st Bull w/ 4 asst since 1/3/20)
Nov 26	@ Austin	L 5-3	Michal Jasenec	Hunter Garvey (9-3-0-2, 17/22)	Hudson Hodges (8-5-1-0, 20/23)	13-5-0-2	Bulls lead 3x (never more than one-goal lead); Jasenec: 2 goals, 2 assists
Nov 27	Austin	L 4-1	Braidan Simmons-Fischer	Hunter Garvey (9-4-0-2, 24/28)	Klayton Knapp (3-1-0-1, 27/28)	13-6-0-2	Carson Riddle (AUS): 2 goals; Carter Rapalje: only Bulls goal (:22, 3 rd per.)
Dec 3	St. Cloud	L 4-2	Nik Hong	Carsen Stokes (2-1-0-0, 29/33)	Tomas Bolo (6-3-0-0, 21/23)	13-7-0-2	D. Gajewski: goal in Bulls debut (A. Stacey, C. Roepke: 1 st pts w NI (asst.))
Dec 4	@ St. Cloud	OTL 3-2	Ryan O'Neill	Hunter Garvey (9-4-1-2, 49/52)	Tomas Bolo (7-3-0-0, 23/25)	13-7-1-2	Dylan Gajewski: 2 G (both go-ahead goals); Sota Isogai: 1 st 2 NAHL assists
Dec 10	Springfield	OTW 4-3	Dylan Gajewski (2)	Hunter Garvey (10-4-1-2, 21/24)	Aksel Reid (1-4-1-0, 27/31)	14-7-1-2	Gajewski: hat trick (t-fastest to 6 G in NI history); Hagen Moe (SPR): 2 G
Dec 11	Springfield	L 6-3	Carson Jones	Hunter Garvey (10-5-1-2, 20/25)	Ethan Roberts (14-5-0-1, 24/27)	14-8-1-2	Bulls: 2-for-9 PP, 6-for-6 PK (weekend: 9/9); Aksel Reid: 1/1 in net (9:58)
Dec 17	@ Bismarck	L 5-3	Adam Pietila	Hunter Garvey (10-6-1-2, 26/30)	O. Spinnars Nordin (1-1-0-1, 26/29)	14-9-1-2	Tyler Braccini: 1 st NI goal (2 nd per., Campion: 1 st NAHL pt); Pietila: 2 goals
Dec 18	@ Bismarck	L 5-1	Michael Neumeier	Hunter Garvey (10-7-1-2, 31/36)	O. Spinnars Nordin (2-1-0-1, 32/33)	14-10-1-2	BIS: 3-7 power play (NI: 0-4); M. Mesic: G (3 rd straight game vs BIS w goal)
Dec 31	@ Austin						
Jan 1	Austin						
Jan 7	Aberdeen						
Jan 8	Aberdeen						
Jan 14	@ Minot						
Jan 15	@ Minot						
Jan 21	@ Bismarck						
Jan 22	@ Bismarck						
Jan 27	St. Cloud						
Jan 28	@ Aberdeen						
Jan 29	@ Aberdeen						
Feb 4	Austin						
Feb 5	@ Austin						
Feb 11	@ Aberdeen						
Feb 12	@ Aberdeen						
Feb 18	Bismarck						
Feb 19	Bismarck						
Feb 25	@ Springfield						
Feb 26	@ Springfield						
Mar 4	@ Bismarck						
Mar 5	@ Bismarck						
Mar 11	Austin						
Mar 12	@ Austin						
Mar 18	Aberdeen						
Mar 19	Aberdeen						
Mar 25	Minot						
Mar 26	Minot						
Mar 30	St. Cloud						
Apr 1	@ St. Cloud						
Apr 8	Bismarck						
Apr 9	Bismarck						
Apr 15	St. Cloud						
Apr 16	@ St. Cloud						