

DISCOVER



Home Schedule

For details on game promotions, please visit www.BullsHockey.net

- Sat., Oct. 29 vs. Knoxville
- Fri., Nov. 4 vs. Huntsville
- Thurs. Nov. 10 vs. Fayetteville
- Fri. Nov. 11 vs. Knoxville
- Fri. Nov. 18 vs. Evansville
- Sat. Nov. 19 vs. Evansville
- Fri. Dec. 2 vs. Macon
- Fri. Dec. 9 vs. Pensacola
- Fri. Dec. 16 vs. Fayetteville
- Sat. Dec. 17 vs. Fayetteville
- Thurs. Jan. 5 vs. Evansville
- Sat. Jan. 7 vs. Pensacola
- Fri. Jan. 13 vs. Evansville
- Mon. Jan. 16 vs. Huntsville
- Fri. Jan. 27 vs. Quad City
- Sat. Jan. 28 vs. Quad City
- Thurs. Feb. 9 vs. Peoria
- Sat. Feb. 11 vs. Vermillion County
- Mon. Feb. 20 vs. Pensacola
- Fri. Feb. 24 vs. Pensacola
- Sat. Feb. 25 vs. Pensacola
- Fri. March 3 vs. Roanoke
- Fri. March 10 vs. Macon
- Sat. March 11 vs. Macon
- Fri. March 17 vs. Evansville
- Fri. March 24 vs. Huntsville
- Thurs. March 30 vs. Huntsville
- Sat. April 8 vs. Pensacola

RAGING BULLS

Birmingham Bulls to Open Sixth Season in Pelham

The Birmingham Bulls are set to open their 2022-2023 home schedule on October 29, 2022, at the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena. The team's sixth season in Pelham will feature 28 home games, all with exciting promotions for fans.

"Opening night is a 'red out'. The first 2,000 fans will receive a red t-shirt. It should be a great game. We're playing the Knoxville Ice Bears, which is a growing rivalry," said David Koonce, Vice President of Communications for the Bulls.

In a recent win-win situation for both the team and the City of Pelham, an agreement was reached that will keep the team in Pelham for the next five years. "So much effort went into building a fan base right here in Pelham. Last year was the best year for revenue and the fan experience. The City has been so good to us. Mayor (Gary) Waters is always at the games in his Bulls jersey," stated Koonce.

Hopes are high for a great season, even though Koonce explained what is a fact of life in minor league hockey. "When a good player comes in, the phone starts ringing and the player is moving up. We lose five or six guys a year to the next level, but we're also bringing up guys from the league below us. Every year we basically start fresh. We also sign a lot of players right out of college." The Birmingham Bulls are part of the Southern Professional Hockey League, which is an independent league. This means they are not affiliated with an NHL team. Koonce believes this is a positive for the players. "We want Birmingham to be the place where we send

(Story continues next page)



players up to the next level. It's the message we want to send to the hockey world: come here and move up." Koonce contrasted independent minor league hockey with minor league baseball. In his opinion, the difference between the minor leagues in baseball and hockey is the focus on winning, and especially, winning championships. "A minor league baseball team is not as concerned about winning games and championships. Because they're affiliated with a particular major league team, it's all about player development. The Bulls want to win games, and win championships. The attitude is 'Win the championship and get called up later.' It makes it fun for the fans because the players are after it to win it."



The fans are at the center of the sport. Koonce said it's fine if you don't know much about hockey. He guarantees the price of the ticket will be worth it for an evening of fun. "What we've done is build an experience. It's all about family fun and fast-paced play. It's fun for kids and fun for you and your buddies. We start in the fall and go through April. People love our promotions, including Paw Patrol night, Hawaiian Shirt night, and several times each year when we offer specialty jerseys."

The Birmingham Bulls have roots that go back to 1976 when the team played in downtown Birmingham. In 2017, local sports promoter Art Clarkson revived the team and brought it to Pelham.



Homecoming on the Hill

Homecoming activities at Pelham High School are scheduled for the week of October 24 -28, 2022. This year's theme is "Made in America", and the festivities include an entire week of dress-up days for all Pelham City School students, the annual Panther Prowl Parade and Community Pep Rally, a dance, and of course, the football game.

This year's homecoming game is on October 27, which is a Thursday night. The Panthers will take on Spain Park, and the game has been designated as a "white out". The Panther Prowl Parade and Community Pep Rally, which is sponsored by the Pelham City Schools Foundation, will be held on Wednesday, October 26. The parade begins at Pelham High School, and rolls down Bearden Road to the City Park, beginning at 5:30 pm. The Community Pep Rally begins at 6:30 pm at the youth football field at Pelham City Park. A homecoming dance for Pelham High School students is slated for Friday, October 28 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at American Village.

To see the complete schedule for the [Panther Prowl Parade and Community Pep Rally](#), [click here](#). For a schedule of [dress-up days and activities](#), [please follow this link](#).