



PREGAME BULL-ET POINTS
LOS ANGELES LAKERS (16-8) @ CHICAGO BULLS (14-10)
REGULAR SEASON GAME 25, HOME GAME 13
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2006 – 7:30 PM CT
UNITED CENTER
COMCAST SPORTSNET / WCKG 105.9 FM



Chicago improved to 11-1 in its last 12 games with a 106-104 win at Atlanta on Saturday. The Bulls came back from an 87-75 deficit in the fourth quarter, tying it at 93 on two free throws by Ben Wallace with 35.1 seconds left to send the game into overtime. Kirk Hinrich and Andrés Nocioni led the Bulls with 24 each.



Kobe Bryant had 45 points to go with 10 assists and eight rebounds Sunday, but Washington's Gilbert Arenas had 60 as the Lakers lost 147-141 in overtime. The Lakers were down by as many as 17 in the fourth before falling in the extra session.



The Lakers lead this all-time series 77-53, including a 34-28 advantage over the Bulls in Chicago. The Bulls and Lakers have split the last 10 meetings (5-5), with three of Chicago's wins coming at United Center. The Bulls lost their first meeting this season at L.A. (72-83) after shooting a season-worst 33.8 from the field and scoring a season low in points. That loss also came during Chicago's six-game losing skid.



The Bulls are by far the Eastern Conference's hottest team of late, having have won 11 of their last 12 games overall, including a four-game winning streak. Chicago has also been victorious in 10 of their last 11 at the United Center and is 9-2 at home this season, including a perfect 8-0 versus the East.



The Bulls are happily home for the Holidays after spending much of November on their annual extended west coast road-trip. Since the 1999-2000 season, the trip has been tough on the Bulls, who have posted a 5-47 mark on the trip, including a string of 37-straight losses. This season marks only the third time in team history that the Bulls played just four home games through their first 15 contests (also in 1988-89 and 1974-75). Now that they are home for the Holidays, the Bulls will play 12 of their 17 December games at the United Center, including a franchise-record eight-game homestand (12/02 – 12/15).



The city of Chicago is known as the "Windy City" but perhaps it should be changed to the "Winning City" with all three major sports teams currently holding a record above .500 as of today. The NBA Bulls are 14-10, the NFL Bears are 12-2 and the NHL Blackhawks are 14-13, marking the first year since 1995 that all three Chicago franchises have been over .500 on Dec. 19 (Bulls were 20-2, Bears were 8-7 and Hawks were 13-12-7). Looking at all U.S. cities that host a franchise from the three leagues, Chicago is one of three (Dallas & Denver) that have all three teams over the .500 mark.



Following up on last season, the Bulls remain one of the hottest tickets in the NBA and have sold out each of their first 12 home games this season. Chicago is averaging an NBA second-best 22,020 per home game at the United Center. In 2005-06, the Bulls averaged 21,188 fans, good for 2nd in the NBA. Chicago was one of three franchises (Dallas & Detroit) to average 20,000+ per home game last season.

The numbers don't lie. Here is a breakdown of Chicago's averages in its 14 wins versus in its 10 losses.

	PPG	FG%	3FG%	FT%	RPG	APG	SPG	BPG
IN WINS (14)	105.7	.477	.399	.731	45.8	24.5	8.57	5.93
IN LOSSES (10)	92.8	.436	.362	.698	38.3	19.3	7.60	3.60