

# Moeller Set For Senior Season In Goal For Bucks

BY REESE MCILTRIT

rsports@yankton.net

Yankton's Luke Moeller is the starting goalie for the Bucks hockey team. He has been a part of Yankton's hockey team for 10 years, starting when he moved to the area a decade ago.

He was inspired to play hockey after watching the 1981 hockey movie *Miracle on Ice*, which tells the story of the 1980 U.S. men's Olympic hockey team. He was also drawn to the sport because he grew up watching hockey.

Moeller and his teammates started playing together at a young age, and they have grown very close over the years.

"I've been playing with these kids literally since we were in elementary school. Growing up with them has been one of the most crazy things I can explain. I mean, seeing them grow and change as people is insane," Moeller said.

Yankton's hockey team is a tight-knit group, and their experience playing together for so long has helped the team work together both on and off the ice.

"It's awesome. I love these guys, and they've been here for me the last 10 years, and I wouldn't want to trade them for anyone else," Moeller said.

Moeller is a dual-sport athlete at Yankton High School, participating in hockey and tennis. He discussed the skills that translate between the two sports, allowing him to succeed both in the rink and on the tennis court.

"As a goalie, my hand-eye coordination is really good, I would say. And for doubles playing at the net, those balls are coming really fast... It's just like me trying to make a save [in hockey]," Moeller said.

Moeller was inspired to become a goalie because he enjoys playing an active role in action-packed games.

"I could never sit on the bench and just watch the game, I always want to be part of



P&D FILE PHOTO

Yankton goalie Luke Moeller stops a shot during a home game in the 2024-25 season. Moeller is a senior for the Bucks this season.

it and play, so being a goalie, you're always involved in the play, no matter where it is," Moeller said. "You have to be paying attention because, I mean, in a split second, they'll be coming your way... so, I think it was just that, I needed my full attention. The whole game, just, caught my attention right away."

Being a goalie comes with not only physical challenges, but mental challenges, too. Moeller described how building on his past experiences allows him to keep calm under

pressure.

"I've just been playing in so many games throughout my life, and more high-pressure games that I don't feel like a lot of people have under their belt, so I think I just got used to all the pressure, and now it's just like not a big deal anymore," Moeller said.

As a senior, Moeller knows that his time on the ice will end soon, but he is looking forward to playing with his lifelong teammates one last time. He has grown very close

with his teammates, and especially those graduating alongside him in his senior class.

"I wouldn't want to graduate with any other group of kids... knowing that I've been able to play with like 15 different kids for the last 10 years just blows my mind," Moeller said. "And all the memories I've made with them throughout the years are going to stay with me forever, I'm sure."

In his senior season, he has big aspirations for the Bucks at the state tournament.

"Definitely a goal for me is [to place] top three, if not [win the] state championship. And then, my goal for the rest of the season is hopefully to win the rest of our home games this year. We have two extra home games this year with the addition of the Aberdeen series coming down to Yankton, so I'll be really excited to hopefully sneak in two more wins at home this year," Moeller said.

Moeller is looking forward to playing in front of home crowds this year, including the added home games. He enjoys the loud energy from students and spectators and hopes Yankton will bring a big crowd to the state tournament.

"I'm excited for our home games. This year, we're really expecting to get people in the building to come watch. That's always a great feeling, to have everyone cheering for you in those really close games," Moeller said. "And then I'm really looking forward to the state tournament in Sioux Falls this year. [It's] a lot closer, so hopefully we can get more people from Yankton to come and support."

He hopes to end his season on a high note at the state tournament alongside his teammates. Until then, he's focused on having a great senior year.

"It's going to be an awful feeling when I step on the ice with them for the last time, but I know tears are going to be coming, so I kind of dread that day, but we'll get there when we get there," Moeller said.

## NEBRASKA GIRLS' WRESTLING

### Cedar Catholic

**COACH:** Justin Bartling  
**ASSISTANT:** John Freeman  
**VITALS:** Class B, District B-3  
**RETURNING:** Morgan Kuchta (Jr.), Evie Freeman (So., State 3rd Place)  
**NEWCOMERS:** Ashlynn Dailey (Fr.)

### Creighton

**COACH:** Daryl LaDeaux  
**ASSISTANT:** Nolan Ohlrich  
**VITALS:** Class B  
**LAST SEASON:** The Bulldogs scored five points at state.  
**RETURNING:** Anna Beed (Jr., 125/130), Hanna Macke (So., 120/125), Lilian Stange (So., 140/145, State Qualifier), Ellison LaDeaux (So., 115/120, State Qualifier)

### Crofton-Bloomfield

**COACH:** Trevor Wiebelhaus  
**ASSISTANTS:** Ethan Poppe, Reece McFarland  
**VITALS:** District B-3  
**LAST SEASON:** Crofton-Bloomfield tied for fifth in Class B.  
**ROSTER:** Pamela Dennis (Sr., 115), Linkin Rahn (Sr., 190), Elizabeth DeRoos (Jr., 170, State Qualifier), Lorelie Duffy (So., 120, State Qualifier), Bethany Arens (So., 135, State 4th Place), Rylie Doerr (So., 155), Bella Hetzel (Fr., 110), Maddie Nelson (Fr.), Charlie McGargill (Fr.), Eliza Pena (Fr.), Shaun Anderson (Fr.), Raegin Rahn (Fr., 235)

### Laurel-Concord-Coleridge

**COACH:** Chad Koch  
**ASSISTANTS:** Melissa Graham, Travis Wright, Colin Hough

**VITALS:** District B-1  
**NEWCOMERS:** Daryl Garcia-Perez (Sr.),

Justice Olson (Jr.), Grace Galvin (So.), Ava Christiansen (So.), Tae Settje (So.)

"Let Us Make You Look Good!"

WWW.JJBENJI.COM

**JJ BENJI**

SCREEN PRINT & EMBROIDERY

201 Pine St. Yankton, SD 57078  
 jeff@jjbenji.com  
 PH (605)260-0920  
 Jeff's Cell: (605)661-6351

**=GERSTNER=**

Oil Co.

PETROLEUM FUELS AND  
LUBRICANTS DISTRIBUTOR

**E. Hwy. 50, Yankton • 605-665-5568**