

# RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Nicola

3<sup>rd</sup> SEASON

BY JENNA ANGELO

“Over time I’ve learned that I’m good with people and making them happy,” Third-year veteran Raiderette Nicola said. None of her teammates would argue. Nicola’s teammates can count on her for spunk and energy at any time of the day or night. “My motto is: be kind to everyone because you never know what someone is going through,” Nicola said.

Nicola’s natural ability to put others first and make them smile directly relates to her success as a premium service manager for the Oakland A’s. She manages multiple premium hospitality spaces and 150 suites at the Oakland Coliseum for a minimum of 80 home games per season. Based on her professional success, one would assume Nicola studied hospitality or sports management in college. Surprisingly, she attended University of California, Santa Barbra and graduated with a double bachelor’s, with honors, in history and dance. Her current goal is to continue to grow in her position, perhaps go back to school to get her MBA, and ultimately become a leader in the sports industry.

When Nicola graduated from UCSB, it wasn’t just a proud moment for her, it was an accomplishment that her entire family took pride in. “I’m a first generation American and my parents didn’t have the opportunity to go to a four-year college,” Nicola explained. Nicola’s mother came to America from a small town in Italy when she was in grade school and her father came over after high school from Manchester, England. “If anyone has ever seen My Big Fat Greek Wedding, this is how my parents describe their first meeting between the families,” Nicola said. “Now it’s like a big party where everyone yells over each other.”

While many of the Raiderettes list traveling to London among their most memorable experiences, it holds a different weight for Nicola. “To see where [my dad] is from, experience the culture, the food, and visit some of the historical sites – it was amazing,” Nicola said. She even got to connect with some family during her last trip across the pond. Despite her family being from different parts of the world, Nicola’s favorite meal is an American staple - hamburger and fries. “My grandpa from Italy loved the classic American dish,” Nicola explained, “It was something he and I always shared.”

Whether it’s at practice, in the locker room, or out grabbing a burger, Nicola can always be found laughing or making others laugh. While her endless positive energy is a welcome addition to any room, what her teammates appreciate most is that despite balancing two professional sports schedules, Nicola always shows up for her sisters. The only thing outshining her bubbly personality is her generous, supportive nature and personal commitment to the friendships she’s made during her time with Football’s Fabulous Females.

