

RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Kristina

5TH YEAR CO-CAPTAIN

By Bailey Black

The Raiderettes iconic silver and black uniform is known by many but worn by few. An even smaller group of women get to share this sisterhood with their mom. Growing up, Kristina was often caught gazing at her mom's shimmering Raiderette pom-poms. The stories she would tell of her time on the team in 1980 captivated Kristina and sparked a dream.

In 2017 Kristina followed in her mom's footsteps and auditioned to be one of Football's Fabulous Females. "I grew up dancing... ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop," explains Kristina. "I never danced on a competitive level but always enjoyed the performing aspect and auditioned for my high school and college dance teams. I didn't make either team, but through those experiences, I had the courage to audition for the Raiderettes without the fear of failure holding me back." Each no Kristina received in the past made hearing her audition number #120 called as a member of the 2017 Raiderettes team so much more special.

Throughout her five seasons with the Raiders, Kristina has mastered the art of juggling a busy schedule. In between game days, appearances, volunteering, and practices – she can be found showing houses and managing properties. After graduating from the University of Arizona, Kristina earned her real estate agent license. She believes that every detail matters and creates a welcoming atmosphere wherever she goes. It's this kind nature and compassion that makes her the perfect dog mom to Ollie. Her Cavapoo lives a life of bike rides, play dates on the beach, squeaky toys, and mud baths. She never shies away from sharing photos of Ollie and beams with pride as he prances around in his Raiders dog hoodie. Together, they bring smiles to those on even their toughest days.

Kristina is the epitome of what it means to be a Raiderette. As a leader on the team, she acts as everyone's cheerleader, fiercest ally, and genuine friend. Her radiant personality and ability to connect with others sets her apart, making her a role model on and off the field. As she's grown into the woman she is today, she does so to honor Ali.

Not a day goes by that Kristina doesn't think about her baby sister Ali who died of suicide. Kristina has made mental health advocacy a top priority in her life and hopes to inspire change. She encourages everyone to check in on their people and ask others how they really are. "If you are someone who is struggling, please know that you are brave, strong and so many people want to help you," says Kristina. "It may be hard to speak up about your pain, but it's not meant to be carried alone."



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