



RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Jonni 6th SEASON
BY JENNA ANGELO

After taking a five-year break, Jonni is back for her sixth season as a Raiderette. She admits her “extreme excitement” toward returning as one of Football’s Fabulous Females this season. “Just because you’ve been on the team before does not mean you automatically make it back,” Jonni explained. Jonni was voted ‘Rookie of the Year’ in her first season as a Raiderette and over the course of her previous five seasons, she held the title of both Captain and Co-Captain. Even for someone as experienced as herself, auditions are stressful, and a spot is never guaranteed. “I really wanted to be on the field again and am proud to say I worked extremely hard to get these boots back!” Jonni said. While Jonni recognizes that a lot has changed in her absence, she notes that many of the same traditions are still intact from when she first joined the Raiderette roster in 2008. The familiarity is reassuring and speaks to the values of the team and organization at large.

Jonni claims she always wanted to be a performer. At four years old she begged her mother to put her in dance and growing up she was constantly putting on shows for friends and family — even forcing her cousins to be backup dancers. “Major productions were held in the living room at family gatherings,” she joked, “and now I get to perform in front of 60,000 people!” Throughout the years Jonni has trained in every style of dance. Her favorite style is Jazz, which she describes as faster, sassier ballet. “Dance is what I’m most committed to. It’s my passion and has been for over 20 years. Nothing makes me feel more like myself than when I’m dancing,” Jonni said. Jonni has created a life where she can live out her passion every day in multiple avenues. Aside from being a Raiderette, she teaches competitive dance to children and teens and is the Head Coach of the UC Berkeley dance team. As a dance teacher she has won various awards, such as ‘Most Creative,’ ‘Most Entertaining,’ and several ‘Best Choreography’ awards.

It’s clear that one thing hasn’t changed over the years — Jonni’s passion for, not only dancing, but dancing for the Raiders. She values the diversity and the enthusiasm of everyone involved with the organization. “Everyone has their own story about why they’re here,” she explained. “[...] seeing me in my Raiderette uniform may be the closest a fan gets to this organization, so I always make sure to give my best ‘Just Win Baby’ attitude!”

