

RAIDERS GAMEDAY

RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME Helina

2nd SFASON

BY JENNA ANGELO

elina's endless energy and willingness to help her Raiderette sisters make her a valuable asset to the team. She first demonstrated she could be a team player when she was voted Rookie of the Year on her collegiate dance team. San Jose State Spartan Spectrum Dance Team went on to award Helina with Spartan of the Year during two of the next three seasons. Now in her second season with Football's Fabulous Females she continues to be a figure her teammates can count on, on and off the field. Whether her sisters need someone to practice choreography with, lend a listening ear, or just lighten the mood, Helina's got their back.

Helina is still heavily involved in her alma mater, San Jose State University. She serves as the assistant director for the dance team. Helina also works the front desk at a local gym and is on the visual merchandising team at LuLuLemon Athletica. After spending her day scurrying between shifts at her various jobs, she heads to Raiderette practice in the evening. "My role as a Raiderette goes beyond cheering on the players and engaging the fans on game days," Helina said. "We are brand ambassadors and we represent our organization and our community." Getting involved in the community and interacting with the fans is very important to Helina. She has made the most community and corporate appearances of anyone on the team this season and continues to make herself available whenever possible.

When she's not serving the community or working at one of her many jobs, Helina is crafting DIY projects. Helina enjoys everything from painting to calligraphy. She creates custom Disney ears and denim jackets for friends and family. With holiday gift-giving around the corner, Helina's projects will be in high demand. The extra work doesn't bother her though, especially this time of year. "I love everything about the holiday season," Helina said. Her fondest childhood memories are from her family's annual ski trip to Lake Tahoe. "We all live in different cities now, so the holiday season is the only time my mom, dad, sister, and I get to be under the same roof. This year my sister will get to come home to watch me cheer for the first time on Christmas Eve!" Helina exclaimed.

The only downside to the holiday season is the realization that the end of football season is in sight. "This year as a team we created so many more opportunities to get to know each other outside of practice," Helina reflected. "The extra time and effort we put into bonding brought us closer and it's made a huge impact in helping our relationships with one another grow so strong. This incredible sisterhood has been the most rewarding thing being a Raiderette has given me. When everything goes wrong in life, I know that my sisters will always have my back." And as she has proven, she will always have theirs.