

Katsura

2ND YEAR

By Bailey Black

Pursuing a dream takes courage, tenacity, and commitment. Raiderette Katsura not only possesses each of these qualities, she also has the grit needed to turn her dream into a reality. Over 5,000 miles separates Katsura from her hometown of Yokohama, Japan. Growing up as a dancer, she has always been passionate about her desire to cheer in the United States. So much so, that she left her native country to become a Raiderette. The iconic Silver & Black uniform captivated Katsura. As she learned more about Football's Fabulous Females and their rich history dating back to 1961, she set her sights on one day strutting on the field in those glamorous white boots and classic silver vest and sash.

Throughout her time in the United States, Katsura has made countless memories as her teammates set aside time to introduce American traditions. Las Vegas has provided the perfect location to explore new cuisines, shows, holidays and more! As she learns about various new cultures, she teaches us all about the beauty of Japanese customs. Growing up she was taught the value of working hard and remaining grateful for everything, big or small. This lifestyle is evident in the way she navigates and tackles each day. Though at times challenged by the English language, she remains eager to learn and practice. She can often be found in The Studio working on choreography while sporting head-to-toe Raiders' gear.

When asked why she chose the Raiders organization, Katsura speaks on the international fan base and reaching beyond borders. "I have felt such a fun and warm welcome by this organization," said Katsura. "I was looking for a match that best fits my style and I felt my passion to perform was best fit with the Raiders organization... I have failed many times in my life, but I have learned to never give up. I always do my best because I want to encourage other people so that we can succeed and learn as a team."

Outside of dancing, Katsura enjoys traveling. She has explored the beauty that lies within Europe, South America, North America, and Asia, with her favorite destination so far being southern Italy. Katsura never shies away from a new adventure and brings her zest for life everywhere she goes. Few may know this, but Katsura also excels at baton and flag twirling. She is full of hidden talents and shares the best stories with her friends and students. For work, she teaches children's dance classes. While teaching them the art of dance, she often encourages each student to be themselves. "Don't be afraid of being yourself, always remember that you are absolutely unique and so is everyone else," says Katsura. This piece of advice is wisdom she wished she had as a child, so in turn, she passes it on to those she meets.

Katsura is a teammate and sister to all. Her warm smile, charisma, and joy uplift the team and make her a stand-out on and off the field. As she dances on game days, she is reminded of her roots as there is often a Japanese flag flying high with her name on it. Raiderette Katsura truly embodies the Commitment to Excellence, and we are beyond proud to have her on our team.

