

RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Karly

2nd SEASON

BY JENNA ANGELO

Football season moves fast — especially for a rookie Raiderette. Everything is new and exciting and they're just trying to absorb every part of the experience. Now in her second season, Karly is embracing the familiarity. She is more comfortable in her role as an ambassador to the organization and looks forward to being a resource for this season's rookies. "It's a different type of energy," she explained, an energy derived from the confidence of a veteran.

Karly grew up primarily in San Jose, CA., however both her parents were born and raised in Jamaica. Karly has spent many summers and holidays on the island country in the Caribbean Sea. While she credits her Jamaican roots for her values of culture and tradition, her favorite tradition isn't Jamaican at all. "Thanksgiving is not a Jamaican tradition, yet every year my parents hold a community Thanksgiving," Karly said, "[we] open our doors to others in the community who want to join us for Thanksgiving dinner. We have had as many as 60 people in our home every Thanksgiving for the last eight years." Karly pays frequent visits to her family's home land and stays involved with the local Jamaican community by volunteering with the Jamaican Association of Northern California.

When she can't be with her family abroad, Karly has found a family in the Raiders. She describes members of Raider Nation as similar to her own relatives: family-oriented, strong community members, passionate, and welcoming. "No matter where you go, if you meet another Raider fan they are immediately excited and welcoming," she said.

Karly lived in London for a summer before she started college, interning at a fashion public relations company. While the idea of moving across the pond at such a young age may intimidate most, Karly embraced the opportunity. She came back to the states to pursue higher education at Santa Clara University and quickly developed an interest in business. "I enjoyed the challenges in my accounting classes," she explained. Karly graduated with a degree in accounting and accepted a position at a Big 4 accounting firm right out of college. She became one of eight staff auditors in the United States selected for the National Assurance Researcher rotation and was off to work in New York City. "I had never even visited New York previously and I moved there by myself to work," Karly said. "Both those experiences [moving to London and New York] taught me to always be open to new opportunities no matter where they take you," Karly said.

Karly has since settled in San Francisco and enjoys running through Golden Gate Park and taking long walks to explore the city's different neighborhoods. Karly has become familiar with her city in the same way she has become familiar with her role on the team. The energy Karly feels coming into her second season comes from everything she gained as a rookie: she knows what to expect this time around, she has a deeper appreciation of the team's traditions, and she knows that an entire season's worth of exhilarating experiences lie ahead.

