



RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Kristina 2nd YEAR

BY JENNA ANGELO

Kristina is in her second year as a Raiderette and is known by her teammates for her fun, positive personality. Kristina was born and raised in the Bay Area and graduated high school from St. Ignatius College Prep in San Francisco. She continued her education at University of Arizona where she studied Communications and Psychology. Shortly after graduation, Kristina was offered a job across the country in New York City where she fell in love with city life.

After a tragic passing in the family, Kristina felt the immediate need to be closer to loved ones. Grief stricken and struggling to adjust, Kristina had no idea what her next steps should be. "My life came to a halt and I had no direction after leaving New York," Kristina said. Dance had always been a hobby, but not something Kristina ever thought about pursuing professionally until her mother suggested it. Kristina's mom was a Raiderette in 1980 and knew how joining the sisterhood could benefit her. "Making the team last season was truly a life changing experience that brought back some joy to my family and me," Kristina explained, "I will never forget the moment I told my mom I made the team- or seeing my dad in the stands at the preseason game [...] it was the first time, in a long time, I had seen their faces light up with happiness."

Kristina has since found her direction. "As a Raiderette, I've learned what it means to be part of something bigger than myself," she explained. Whether it's through cheering, community service or her work as a fitness instructor, Kristina has committed herself to helping people see the brighter side of life; "Our world is so used to negativity in the news, I try my best to remind people of all the good that is still around- including within themselves," Kristina said. Constantly lending out encouragement and support can be draining, but Kristina draws inspiration from listening to motivational speakers. In her down time Kristina can be found cuddled up with her two dogs, snacking on popcorn and M&M's, watching TED Talks online. "Before, I would be hesitant to admit that I listen to [motivational speeches], but I truly find them uplifting. It makes me want to embody the same self-confidence and determination. So much benefit can come from standing in front of a room full of people and sharing the most vulnerable parts of your life story," Kristina explained.

In addition to her role as a Raiderette, Kristina is a licensed real estate agent and teaches various workout classes. "I hope to further my real estate career in the Bay Area, continue to explore new areas of fitness, and help people be the best versions of themselves," Kristina said. While she still visits New York City any chance she gets, Kristina is undeniably happy to be where she is now. Kristina had no idea that when she moved back to the Bay Area she would join the Raider Nation family and begin to build bonds with 31 new sisters, "I have a whole second family to lean on now and that means the world to me."

