

DB/QB

ALTERNATE

# BRIANNA HERNANDEZ-SILVA

#16



**Hometown:** Las Vegas, Nev.  
**Residence:** West Palm Beach, Fla.  
**Age:** 25  
**Height:** 5-5  
**Year on U.S. National Team:** 1st  
**Pronunciation:**  
BRIANNA Hernandez-Silva  
(Bree-ANNA)



## THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER NO. 16

Hernandez-Silva's star in flag football has continuously risen since her time at Bonanza High School in Las Vegas, Nev. She was a three-time All-Star early in her career and was the Female Athlete of the Year of her class as a senior.

Hernandez-Silva was a Second Team All-State selection for the *Las Vegas Journal-Review* in 2017 following a season in which she threw for 1,733 yards and 22 touchdowns and ran for 2,671 yards and 26 touchdowns. She also received First Team All-Sunset Region honors.

Hernandez-Silva's No. 16 jersey is special to her, but it's also a piece of Bonanza High School history. Following her groundbreaking prep career, the school decided to retire Hernandez-Silva's jersey.

"It means the world to me that I was blessed with an opportunity to leave a legacy with my hometown and the high school that gave me my roots," said Hernandez-Silva. "I think leaving a legacy at Bonanza High School shows girls there that the sky is the limit if you are willing to dedicate yourself to reaching your potential."



## TAKING HER TALENTS TO COLLEGE

Hernandez-Silva started her college athletics career at the College of Southern Nevada, but not for flag football. She played varsity volleyball and softball for Bonanza, choosing to pursue the latter in college. Hernandez-Silva spent two seasons at the College of Southern Nevada.

After two years, she enrolled at Kansas Wesleyan University for flag football. Hernandez-Silva was the 2022 and 2023 Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) Offensive Player of the Year. In 2022, she was the Co-KCAC Player of the Year, a First Team All-KCAC selection at quarterback and a Second Team All-KCAC selection at safety.

In 2023, Hernandez-Silva passed for 2,235 yards, 40 touchdowns and seven interceptions. She also rushed for 739 yards and 12 touchdowns while earning Second Team All-KCAC honors at quarterback.

## THE POWER OF SPORT

When asked if she could start any career or business outside of sports, Hernandez-Silva found a unique way to incorporate sports into her answer.

"I would own a business that helped children with disabilities find their love and passion for sports so they had a place to stay active and also feel included," said Hernandez-Silva. "My goal would be to have professional athletes, national players, college athletes and even semi-pro athletes give back to younger children and show them how exciting the love of sport can truly be."

## FINISHING STRONG

Hernandez-Silva elected to finish her college career at Keiser University in 2024, where she teamed up with fellow U.S. National Team members Kennedy Foster, Ashlea Klam and Brenna Ramirez. Hernandez-Silva was a First Team All-Sun Conference selection at running back as Keiser went on a run to the NAIA National Championship Game.

"Playing against and with U.S. National Team athletes at Keiser has changed my game tremendously," Hernandez-Silva said. "I knew that Keiser had respected athletes. When making my decision, it was easy to understand that iron sharpens iron. They say that if you want to be the best you have to train with the best, and Keiser gave me that opportunity. Every day was filled with competition, and every girl made the girl next to them that much better."

Transferring to Keiser meant Hernandez-Silva would see significantly less time at quarterback than in high school or at Kansas Wesleyan, but she took the position change in stride.

"I knew I was a versatile player and could adapt to any position they needed me at," she explained. "It was also exciting to get to play a different position that helped contribute to such a high powered offense this year. In the end, switching positions allowed me to sharpen other skill sets that I had as well as showcase my versatility as an elite flag football player."

In the 2024 NAIA National Championship Game, Hernandez-Silva scored Keiser's first points with 1:54 remaining in the second quarter on a catch and run touchdown. She finished the season with 96 receptions for 826 yards and 14 touchdowns as Keiser finished as a runner-up to Ottawa University (Kan.).



## A BOOMING GAME

"Since I started playing flag football, the sport has grown drastically," Hernandez-Silva said. "When I started my freshman year of high school, there were no club teams or popular leagues to join to sharpen your skills as a flag football player. It was also just the second year that the program had been sanctioned in the state of Nevada."

Flag football, which is a sanctioned high school varsity sport for girls in 11 states, is exploding in popularity. Per USA Football research, the number of girls ages 6-12 playing flag football has increased 222% in the past decade. During the same time, there was a 44% increase in girls ages 6-17 playing the sport. Roughly 20 states are running pilot programs, with states like Ohio and Pennsylvania well-positioned to sanction the sport in the next few years.

Hernandez-Silva is happy to see the sport taking off and providing more opportunities for girls and women to reach their full potential in football.

"Now, there are travel teams for young high school girls like the Apex Predators in Nevada and leagues that offer more opportunities for young girls to not only play year around but also build their skills outside of their high school seasons," said Hernandez-Silva. "These new opportunities have helped grow the game and given girls as young as five years old the exposure and opportunities flag football has to offer female athletes. While clubs and leagues have been around for a long time in states like Florida and New York or New Jersey, they are now starting to make waves in other states like Nevada, which is exciting for the future of women's flag football."