

C/DB ASHLEA KLAM #32



Hometown: Austin, Texas
Residence: West Palm Beach, Fla.
Age: 19
Height: 5-10
Year on U.S. National Team: 2nd

ON SCHOLARSHIP

Women's flag football is a scholarship sport at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic (NAIA) level of college athletics and Klam, who is entering her sophomore year, is a scholarship student-athlete at Keiser University in West Palm Beach, Fla., majoring in sports management.

"If I was able to tell my seven-year-old self that I am going to play college flag football on a scholarship, my little self, even my parents when I was that age, would not believe me at all. It means everything to me," said Klam. "I hope to see even more growth in this game as more states offer flag football at a sanctioned level. To see people take this sport seriously at the high school and college levels would mean so much to me and many other girls."

Klam was a key contributor to the Seahawks squad that advanced to the NAIA Flag Football National Championship Game in May 2024. On the season, Klam recorded 79 receptions for 1,116 yards and 27 touchdowns. In March 2024, Klam earned a Sun Conference Flag Football Offensive Player of the Week award after totaling 20 catches for 243 yards and five touchdowns in three games at the Reinhardt Invitational.



"HOLLYWOOD"

Klam's first job was as a child actor, earning her the nickname "Hollywood."

She began acting lessons with Adrian R'Mante's CGTV in Los Angeles in 2013 and booked her first feature film – "Jack's Apocalypse" – in 2015. As an actor, she appeared in multiple commercials and TV series, including National Geographic's "The Long Road Home."

GET ON BOARD

At 19, Klam is the youngest member of USA Football's Board of Directors. As part of the Board, Klam provides an athlete's voice to USA Football's efforts to lead, strengthen and grow the game through coach certification and education, and setting standards for youth, high school and adult amateur players.

She is one of five USA Football U.S. National Team players or alumni on the board, joining Amber Clark, Eric Holliday, Darcy Leslie and Elizabeth Okey.

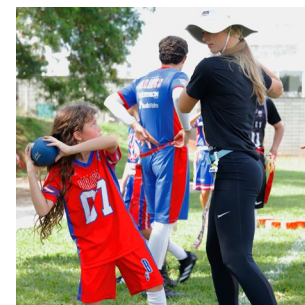
Other members of the board include Chairman General Peter W. Chiarelli (U.S. Army; Retired), Carl Allegretti (Arbor Investments), Dr. Gerard Gioia (Children's National Hospital), Mike Golic, (NFL Legend and DraftKings Network), Mark Murphy (Green Bay Packers), Dr. Allen Sills (National Football League) and Pete Ward (Indianapolis Colts).



FURY(OUS)

Prior to attending Keiser, Klam was part of the all-girls Texas Fury flag football program based in her hometown of Austin, Texas. When she first became interested in flag football, there weren't many opportunities for girls her age to learn the sport and compete on organized teams. That's when her father, Jason, and mother, Amber, stepped in and created the Texas Fury program from the ground up, building a pathway for Ashlea and other girls to compete at a high level.

"I started playing co-ed flag football when I was around seven years old," Klam said. "At the time there were very few girls who played. The local league was mostly boys. I was playing baseball and basketball at the time, and I wanted to start playing flag because I enjoyed watching my older brother play it. I really loved the sport. When I was nine years old, I was asked to join a select co-ed team called the Steelers where I was the only girl. I had a blast playing with the team because the boys treated me as one of them. I played with them for two seasons and then my parents started Texas Fury, and I played for them until I went to college."



Since its inception, the all-girls Texas Fury flag football program has experienced significant growth, expanding from one six-girl team in its first season until now when 90 girls attended a league camp and 60 attend team tryouts. The program fielded six teams in 2024.

"I have made the most impactful connections through flag football, I have learned life-skills through flag football, and watching younger girls want to play this sport is the greatest gift I get from flag football," Klam said. "I would do anything to make sure that younger girls know flag football is for them, and that's why I'm so passionate when I play and when I advocate for flag."

GLOBE TROTTING

In February 2024, Klam served as an American Football Sports Envoy with the U.S. Department of State, traveling to São Paulo, Brazil to engage the country's youth from underserved communities, kick-off Super Bowl LVIII week and celebrate the bicentennial of U.S.-Brazil diplomatic relations.

Sports Envoys are elite American athletes and coaches who travel overseas to engage youth and are an integral part of the United States' vast diplomatic efforts to promote peace through sport. Through sports diplomacy, the United States taps into a universal passion for sports to support broader U.S. foreign policy goals and expand access to education, economic opportunity, and societal inclusion.

Klam traveled to Brazil with NFL Legend Brennan Scarlett – who played eight seasons (2016-22) in the NFL with the Houston Texans and Miami Dolphins. Their activities and experiences in Brazil were part of a broader collaboration between the Department and the NFL, announced in 2022, to engage youth worldwide. Later this year, São Paulo will host the first-ever NFL regular season football game to be played in South America.

In addition to her work with the State Department, Klam also got to experience Brazilian culture, enjoying local restaurants and attending "Carnaval" in São Paulo. Carnaval is the most popular holiday in Brazil.

"Brazil was the most beautiful place," said Klam. "The people, the culture and their passion amazed me. Even if we didn't speak the same language, football was our language, and we learned so much from each other. Being able to represent USA Football and teach all of the Brazilian athletes was one of the best experiences of my life. I can't wait to go back!"

