

Winry Lynn #96

In the Trenches for Her

One Lineman’s Overview and Personal Connection to Women in Sports



Author Winry Lynn watches the action unfold during the May 5th matchup against the Golden State Storm.

Football has always been about more than winning to me. I get to watch my friends score their first touchdowns, rookies grow and earn their place through hard work, determination, and grit. It is life-changing in every way.

Many people are walking through life without realizing that women are gathering and pushing forward—fighting for what was once an impossible dream for some and has now become a reality for many.

Football is a unique sport. When you first start, it feels like drinking from a firehose, and that feeling returns time and time again despite the growth you've had as a player.

It takes time to learn, and by the time you gain the wisdom, your body has usually begun to betray you.

With that said, enjoy every moment—whether we are winning or losing, in the game or on the sideline. One day, this will all be over, and it will be the next generation's turn to step up. What we have left will be a handful of memories.

Take the good with the bad, and know that one day you will look back and be proud. Every time you show up for yourself, you create space for other women to do the same.

That is what creates change—within yourself and within society.

Every time I step on the field, I witness women finding their power. We are building equity for women in football.

Show up. Be big. Be bold. Be loud. Take up space.

In the future, we might just be a name in a database. Rather than seeing it that way, think of yourself as a brick—placing your brick in the wall to build the foundation of this organization and the future of women's sports.

Once women find this sport, they often have to fight to stay in it. They fight their own bodies, doubts, and insecurities. What's worse is when that resistance comes from inside the house—even within the team.

I had a teammate whose husband didn't like the confidence she gained from football and wanted her to quit. Another had her husband call her family to say she was "not behaving like a wife should." Others have been told by their own families that football isn't something a woman "should do" or that it's "too dangerous."

The reality is that just being a woman can be dangerous. And somehow, adding tackle football is the tipping point?

So I ask—is it really too dangerous or "unladylike"? Or are people uncomfortable with confident women? Is it women taking up space and no longer staying silent that disrupts the balance?

Every day we show up, we tip that scale. It's about more than football.

Don't let the world tell you that you don't belong here. Don't let your own thoughts deceive you. Don't let people tell you what your body should look like or how confident you're allowed to be in it. We all belong here.

This sport brings together women from all walks of life. That creates power. That creates change—and with it, pushback.

Your teammates fought their own battles to be here. They are first responders, teachers, medical professionals, and so much more. Then they show up and make this team happen.

We know what it took to be here. Fans show up for one game—hopefully more—but we showed up for months to make that game happen.

One day, the women on these fields will be paid football players with resources we never had, all because of the sacrifices we made and our decision to show up.

Leave a legacy that will outlive you. Don't give away your power. Give your energy to those who show up and do the work. The empowerment built on these fields can create cascading change.

Life is hard either way. Choose the hard that pays it forward.



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Ravens All-Pro Athletes

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Number 3 on the field, number one in advocacy

How one Ravens player is using her platform to support Southwest Washington Special Olympics

July marks the annual celebration of Disability Pride Month, a time to honor the achievements, experiences, and community of individuals with disabilities. This month, the Oregon Ravens are proudly shining the spotlight on one of their own: 2026 roster player **Chey Adkins (#3)**, who is making as much of an impact off the field as she does on it.

For the past four years, Adkins has dedicated her time and passion to the Southwest Washington Special Olympics.



Oregon Ravens' #3 Chey Adkins (center) celebrates post-game with her biggest supporters and fans.

Serving as a vital pillar of the organization, she wears many hats—volunteering as a Unified flag football player, and sharing her leadership as a coach for both softball and swimming.

For Adkins, the mission is deeply personal. Her daughter, Faith Conger, was born with disabilities and competes yearly in the Special Olympics, fueling a lifelong commitment to inclusion and empowerment.

"I've been an advocate for those with disabilities for 16 years," Adkins shared in a statement, reflecting on a journey that spans well over a decade of dedication.

Through her work with Unified Sports—which joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team—Adkins helps break down barriers and foster a community of true belonging. The Oregon Ravens celebrate Chey's incredible dedication to making sports an inclusive arena for everyone.



Oregon Ravens' Chey Adkins (left) and her daughter, Faith Conger, share a proud moment together after a Southwest Washington Special Olympics event

Get Involved

To learn more about the programs, volunteering opportunities, or how to support the organization Chey works with, visit specialolympicswashington.org

Beyond the Divide

Ravens Champion Unity, Shared Humanity, and Year-Round Community Impact

In a world that often feels fractured by headlines, political noise, and social friction, a powerful message is echoing from the heart of our community: **we are far stronger when we stand together.** Rather than allowing external forces—including political figures and divisive agendas that thrive on sowing racial tension and civil unrest—to pull us apart, the Oregon Ravens are calling for a unified front. When we allow ourselves to be divided by those who exploit our differences for their own gain, we lose our collective power.

True strength lies in refusing to play into the hands of division and instead choosing to fight a bigger, more unified battle for connection, mutual respect, and shared progress.

Embracing Our Shared Journeys

At some point in our lives, most of us have felt misunderstood, overlooked, or left out—whether because of our age, gender, race, identity, or abilities. In that sense, we all share the experience of being uniquely different, giving us a powerful, built-in capacity for empathy.



While it is easy for louder, more frustrated voices to dominate the conversation, the truth is that quiet kindness, honesty, and compassion are incredibly resilient. When we choose to heal together rather than carry forward old hurts, we create a supportive environment where everyone's unique story is honored. By focusing on this shared connection, we can build a community where kindness is the majority



Choosing the Solution Together

None of us are responsible for the hatred, racism, bigotry, or mistakes of those who came before us—none of us were there. So why do we take it out on one another today?

The path forward is remarkably simple: we must acknowledge that bad things happened in our history, and together vow to never let them happen again. Hating only perpetuates the cycle. When we strip away the noise, we are all human beings. We breathe the same air, laugh at the same joys, cry through the same sorrows, and bleed the same red. By focusing on this shared humanity, we can dismantle segregation and hate.

A Tapestry of Recognition

Part of being the solution is ensuring that every member of our diverse community feels seen, valued, and celebrated. True unity does not mean ignoring our unique backgrounds; it means honoring them as part of our collective strength.

Below is a guide to major national awareness months and holidays for the remaining year. We encourage everyone to learn, connect, and celebrate our shared journey throughout.

July- Disability Pride Month

Plus, a sweet bonus: National Ice Cream Month!

August- National Breastfeeding Month

September- Hispanic Heritage Month and Suicide Prevention Month

October- National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Global Diversity Awareness Month

November- National Native American Heritage Month and National Diabetes Month

December- Universal Human Rights Month

Editor's Note: At the author's request, this article has been published anonymously

Flock of Elite:

11 Oregon Ravens Named to WNFC All-Pro

FRISCO, Texas — The Women’s National Football Conference (WNFC) officially announced its highly anticipated 2026 All-Pro First and Second Teams, with the Oregon Ravens making a massive statement. A total of 11 Ravens players secured elite honors, proving the franchise's incredible roster depth, rigorous work ethic, and dominant presence across the league this season.

The announcement set the stage for a spectacular celebration of the sport's elite talent, culminating in the WNFC All-Pro Game at the Ford Center at The Star in Frisco, Texas.

Total Dominance: The Ravens’ All-Pro Roster

The Ravens made their mark across every single unit on the field, landing four powerhouse players on the coveted First-Team roster.

The high-powered offense is heavily represented by running back **Camille Wilson (#2)**, tight end **Chloe Porter (#84)**, offensive lineman **Katelyn Bailey (#63)**, and defensive lineman **Alexis Greer (#94)**. Oregon’s depth proved just as terrifying on the Second-Team roster, which features another seven elite standouts.

The defensive front line solidified its reputation as one of the most feared units in the country with defensive linemen **Ashley Watkins (#67)** and **Kassiah Moore (#78)** picking up All-Pro nods, alongside a relentless linebacker trio composed of **Whitney Gifford (#47)**, **Isabelle Bartter (#9)**, and **Jessica “Bow” Gerdes (#37)**. The secondary wrapped up the franchise's historic honors, with defensive back **Jacqueline Lopez (#1)** and safety **Andrea Jones (#85)** securing their spots among the league's elite.

Key Takeaway: The Ravens' defensive front line proved to be a feared unit in the country.

Catch the Action on Demand

The star-studded WNFC All-Pro Game took place on Sunday, June 21, at the world-class Ford Center at The Star—the prestigious practice facility of the Dallas Cowboys.

If you missed the action or want to rewatch the league's top athletes showcase their skills, the entire game remains available on demand. Stream the event directly via the Victory+ streaming service by visiting the official Victory+ WNFC Channel on any compatible smart device. Simply download the free app on your phone, tablet, or connected TV to enjoy premium, ad-supported coverage of women's professional tackle football completely free of charge.

A Legacy Left on the Field

Ravens Legends Announce Retirements

OREGON CITY, Oregon — It was an emotional evening at the June 27 team dinner as dominant offensive lineman Dr. Katelyn Bailey (#63) officially announced her retirement from football.

The announcement caps a stellar final season for Bailey, who earned **2026 WNFC Offensive Line Player of the Year** and First-Team All-Pro honors. Off the field, she served vital dual roles on the Ravens' medical staff. Holding degrees in Naturopathic and Classical Chinese Medicine alongside a Massage Therapist license, she leaves an irreplaceable legacy of athletic dominance and elite player care.



Oregon Ravens offensive lineman Dr. Katelyn Bailey (right) poses with her jersey after winning the 2026 WNFC Offensive Line Player of the Year honors. (Photo Credit: Jessica Shelby)



Years of experience and dedication gave linebacker Jessica “Bow” Gerdes (left) the elite skills needed to take on a Seattle Majestics player.

The evening also served as a special celebration for standout linebacker **Jessica “Bow” Gerdes (#37)**, who officially secured spot on the WNFC All-Pro Second Team. Gerdes’ national postseason recognition is the ultimate culmination of a dedicated, lifelong football journey defined by grit and perseverance.

Long before anchoring with the Ravens', Gerdes playing four hard-hitting years of high school football. Then spent years honing skills, competing for the Shockwave, the Fighting Fillies, and the Fighting Shockwave. This diverse gridiron background allowed Gerdes to bring invaluable veteran experience, deep football IQ, and an undeniable spark to Oregon’s relentless defensive unit this season.

Fresh Leadership

Oregon Ravens Announce Crucial Front Office Openings

During their annual awards banquet and team dinner on June 27, the Oregon Ravens announced ten new administrative openings to strengthen operations and player support ahead of the upcoming season.

The newly unveiled positions span across player development, logistics, and community relations. To elevate the franchise’s local impact, the team is seeking a **Community Engagement Officer**, a **Mentorship Program Director**, and an **Athlete Pipeline Relationship Manager** to cultivate grassroots talent.

Operationally, the Ravens are looking to fill vital logistical roles ahead of the next campaign. Openings include a **Travel Coordinator** to manage team transport, a **Merchandise Manager**, a **Vendor Management Officer**, and an **Event Coordinator** to oversee game-day execution. On the football operations side, the team is hiring an **Equipment Manager** alongside **Athlete On-boarding Support Personnel** to streamline the transition for incoming players.

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply immediately as the organization builds out the infrastructure necessary to pursue a championship run.

To Apply visit: Oregonravens.com

2026 Ravens Sponsors



To Our 2026 Sponsors and Partners:

As our 2026 season comes to a close, the Oregon Ravens want to extend our deepest appreciation to the incredible businesses and community leaders who stood behind us this year.

Because of your generous backing, our athletes took the field with the resources, safety equipment, and professional platform needed to compete at the highest level of the Women’s National Football Conference (WNFC). Together, we broke barriers, inspired the next generation, ran our way to the No. 1 rushing attack in the league, and secured a season sweep of our division rivals!

We are incredibly proud to have your names woven into the fabric of our history, and we look forward to keeping you close to the flock as we continue to build this legacy together.

With our highest regards and deepest appreciation,

The Players, Coaches, and Staff of the Oregon Ravens

Partner with the Flock
2027 Sponsorships Open

While the 2026 games have concluded, our momentum is just getting started. The Oregon Ravens front office is already hard at work building our next championship run and expanding our community footprint for the 2027 season.

Are you looking to elevate your brand, champion women's sports, and make a lasting impact in the Pacific Northwest? We invite you to join our journey. We offer highly visible, customizable partnership packages—including jersey placement, field-side banners, digital media campaigns, and game-day activations.

Ready to join the flock? Visit the official Oregon Ravens Website to learn more and connect with our partnership team today.

Visit: Oregonravens.com