

KELLY GORBATENKO

Hi my name is Kelly Gor Butko I am a forward on the Wisconsin women's hockey team Yeah Something in high school that I did uh to stand off was mainly the biggest things I try to focus on were things I can control And those were you know my work ethic my passion my intensity and practice you know and trying to improve myself as much as I could Um yeah I I focused on a lot on improving on the ice Uh I did a lot of things at home I also did a lot of video uh that really helped me see the game from a different perspective and that was something a lot of people didn't really do So I was able to kind of see things I did well and things I didn't I also watched a lot of people from the Pros and see what they were really good at And that was kind of something that I really got a lot of use out of Some of my early mentors were obviously my my parents but I also had an older brother He's two years older He is the reason I started playing hockey He was obviously much better bigger stronger uh faster than I was And he had this quote And one of the advice he said was um when you go the extra mile it's never too crowded And that was something that I kind of that kind of really stuck with me and something that became kind of my mantra And so I would always put in the extra work where I could because um I you know he he trail blazed a lot for me And um you know if I wanted to be great I had to do things that others weren't weren't gonna do So that was something that that I used you know as motivation and that I would uh that I remembered and try to be as consistent as possible I think the hardest challenge in high school that I faced was not being complacent There were a lot of years where you know I was a top player and there weren't a lot of people pushing me at some practices but you know I went from chasing the pace car to being the pace car and that was something that I had to get comfortable with doing And but I would set what we used to call micro goals and I would so each practice I think I want to score 10 goals I want to win every single race I want to try this new move I'm working on and that would help keep me focused and progressing in my skill set That was really big and I found a lot of growth out of that I didn't wanna slow down the pace you know to my teammates pace but raise it so that they would also improve I think it was my attitude around my teammates was a big one but also the hard work that I put in you know whether we're winning by five or losing I wouldn't give up And the coaches noticed that that was one of the things that they said is that it doesn't matter the score I was consistent throughout the game I wouldn't get lazy I wouldn't

you know give up when it got tough I would you know be a positive teammate I would put in the work And that was something that they saw as unique and that was something that made me stay And uh my recruiting process what I saw in Wisconsin that really fit me was the academics are great here It was close to home but I knew I was gonna be challenged every day because some of the players I'm playing with are competing at the highest level for team USA and I knew that they were gonna push me and that was something that was really appealing to me Um you know somebody who may be pursuing you know d one sports and athletics the biggest thing is you have to be confident going into the recruiting process There's a lot of people that may doubt you that may not think you're you're good enough but you have to be confident in yourself and and not believe and not let that doubt seek into your mind If you if ad one scholarship is your goal you have to create a plan of attack You you have to work backwards If he wants a goal then you have to work backwards and find out what you're gonna do today to reach that goal You can't do ordinary things and expect unique results So if you really want it you have to match your actions with that passion Yeah I think something that my teams and I do to get the results and the success our team has is we compete with each other Yes we're teammates but in practice we're battling like we're playing against each other because you practice how you play and everybody wants to be the best in their sport So when we're competing we all it's a mutual um mutual game So that's something that we do But we're also cheering each other on when we're in the rate room You know somebody's left and everybody's cheering for him Everybody's rooting a mod So we all just want the best for each other and we're willing to push each other in that way so that we have the best team success possible after my first season of Karl Chak had some time to reflect and and then some things that I wish I knew back then was that nothing is going to be handed to you Uh you have to surround yourself with people that are better than you senior year You know I was at the top of my team and I didn't really have many people pushing me So I didn't think I had as much growth as I possibly could have but I had the most growth and I got it so much better when I was around people that were better than I was And I was able to learn from them and just pick their brain on what helped them become so successful It's a lot easier to to push yourself when you're chasing somebody versus running alone So I would wish I knew that you know to surround myself with people better than I am and kind of have that humility to realize that I'm not the best but I wanna get better Coming into a national championship team was it was

very motivating because in the summer we would see the national championship poster that was in the hallway Every time we'd walk to the rink I'd see it Then there were all these festivities in the off season and the first game they were doing the banner raising So to not be part of that was uh left some hunger in your belly for uh to get one of your own So that motivated the entire off season but also the support of the people that have won it they knew what it took and each day they would push us because we now have a target on our backs going into the season and everybody wants to to beat Wisconsin So it was definitely a challenge And then playing in the playoffs this year we had great leadership uh people that knew what we needed to do to win and they really helped lead us in the right direction and unfortunately fell one goal short of a national championship But we have that all have that experience that we can pass on to the next group And now we know what we need to do and what we did this year wasn't wasn't good enough So now it's again more motivation going into the off season Yeah the NIO opportunities have been great They have uh just started to kind of dip their toe into women's hockey They're a bit newer but a lot of people my teammates have experienced some NIO I've experienced some other NIO deals as well and it's just a great opportunity that we've been given You know we've worked hard to be as successful as we can and we've earned the right to be compensated on that part Um The only thing I focus on with nil is to not deter me from my goals I have set you know my priorities I want to be a really successful athlete and really successful academically And nil is kind of a byproduct's try to put my priorities in order And um yeah and spend my time that aligns with you know my values and my priorities But it's uh it's nice to be kind of compensated for your athletic achievements