

ANNIKA HUTSLER

Alpine Ski, Track, Field · Retired Marine · Right Below Knee Amputation



SIS

Sisters in Sports Foundation

BIOGRAPHY

As a retired marine, Annika Hutsler underwent a right leg below knee amputation after a tumor was discovered in the soft tissue of her foot. Feeling a sense of loss surrounding goals, purpose, and community, Hutsler discovered the world of adaptive sports and soon after ended up competing at the 2019 DoD Warrior Games at only 8 weeks post amputation and took home 2 silver medals.

With a goal of competing in the Paralympic Games, Hutsler says that the toughest part of being an athlete with a disability is trying to justify herself as well as trying to push through pain and injury just to prove everyone wrong. Hutsler would tell her younger self “Roll with the punches - sometimes it seems hard, but I promise you will always find a way through it.” She did not know this would become her mantra later in life.

Sisters in Sports has helped Hutsler feel like she belongs in a community of kindness, inclusion, and mentorship. Through SIS, Hutsler wants to show other female athletes that the climate of sports does not have to be toxic or an environment where girls put each other down to make themselves feel better. Through SIS, Hutsler feels as if she is surrounded by an entire community of warm and welcoming ladies who simply want you to succeed at whatever level you choose.

Fun Fact

Despite my presence in 19 different sports, I did zero growing up. I went to a performing arts high school that did not offer PE or any sports so I was not even exposed to sports until I lost my leg.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Competed at the 2019 DoD Warrior Games at 8 weeks post amputation and took home 2 silver medals.
- Competed at the 2023 Invictus Games for Team USA in 4 sports and took home 8 medals.
- 2021 Dew Tour Snowboard Women’s Category 3rd place
- Several track and field competitions and medals.

Hobbies

I play video games, crochet, read, play board games, and edit videos.