



RAIDERS GAMEDAY

RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Angel

8th SEASON

BY JENNA ANGELO

Angel auditioned for the Raiderettes almost immediately after graduating high school and went on to cheer for five consecutive seasons before retiring in 2012. After four years of watching the games from the stands as a season ticket member, she decided to attempt a comeback. Now, two years since, with almost eight full seasons of experience under her sash, she's now Captain of Line Four.

What keeps her returning to the Raiderettes season after season? First and foremost, her love for performing. As a kid, Angel favored basketball to cheerleading and dreamt of being a WNBA star. It wasn't until high school she started to take cheering more seriously. Angel's passion and abilities showed through during her second season with the team when she won "Dancer of the Year."

"It was such a huge honor to be recognized by my coaches for that special award. I was not studio trained, but I absolutely love to perform, and I just consider it such a huge accomplishment," Angel said.

In addition to performing, Angel lists the opportunity to travel far and wide as another highlight of her experience. Japan, Malaysia, Austria, Hawaii, Mexico City and London - just to name a few destinations. Last season, her team voted her "Raiderette of the Year" and Angel travelled to Orlando, Fla., to represent the Raiderettes at the Pro Bowl. Although Angel cherishes the whole experience, she claims that the most rewarding part was bonding with her Pro Bowl teammates and creating new, long-lasting friendships.

Long-lasting friendships, sisterhood, and her appreciation for the Raiders' unique fan base continue to pull Angel back in each new season. "What separates Raider Nation from any other fan base is their constant support and loyalty," Angel said. The fans show support win, lose, or tie, of course, but she explains how that passion extends beyond the team on the field, "When one Raider fan meets another there's an automatic bond." Between being a season ticket member, a Raiderette, and coming from a family of die-hard Raider fans, Angel has had the opportunity to experience the undying support of the Raider Nation from all angles. Just take a walk through the parking lots before the game, pop into any tailgate and you'll see Angel's theory proved true - Raider games are truly a family affair.

"I had no clue what I was getting myself in to [when I first auditioned] but I was so ready for the challenge. I've met some of my best friends, traveled the world, I learned class and poise - these are the experiences that have shaped me into the woman I am today, and I am so grateful for this journey," Angel said.

