

HONORARY RAIDERETTE

HONORARY RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Marissa

By Bailey Black

Raider Nation please join us as we cheer for our Honorary Raiderette, Marissa! As an 11-year-old girl who loves all things that sparkle, she has been anxiously awaiting the day she gets to meet the Las Vegas Raiderettes.

At 4-years old Marissa began competitive cheerleading. The moment she began cheering, dancing, and tumbling her family quickly realized there was no going back. The adrenaline she felt when performing was all consuming and made the busy competition schedule completely worth the work. For years she has talked about one day cheering professionally and today, we are thrilled to introduce her to the Raiderettes.

Marissa exudes strength far beyond her years. After an accident at cheer practice, she began experiencing persistent migraines. Her mom and biggest advocate, Tonia, fought for more answers in hopes of helping ease her daughter's pain. After multiple tests, Marissa was diagnosed with an incredibly rare medical condition, Gorham Stout Disease, which causes gradual bone loss.

Upon receiving this diagnosis, numerous life adjustments had to be made

to ensure her safety, including no longer competitively cheerleading. Though she can no longer tumble, nothing could stop her from cheering. Marissa is currently on a Pop Warner team for the National Youth Sports of Nevada. She practices weekly in her hometown of Pahrump.

Outside of cheering she loves anything fashion-related, especially all things pink! Makeup has quickly become one of Marissa's passions and similar to the Raiderettes, Marissa believes you can never have too much glitter. From a young age her parents have raised her as a fan of the Silver & Black. Today's Raiderette Experience is a dream come true for this cheer-loving young lady.

Marissa, we are so inspired by you and your zest for life. Your outgoing personality and bubbly attitude fit right in with Football's Fabulous Females and we are beyond grateful to have met you. It is our greatest hope that today's experience inspires you to keep dancing and dreaming. You now have 30 older sisters cheering you on every step of the way. Welcome to the Raiderette sisterhood!

