

# RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

# Nicole

2ND YEAR

**By Bailey Black**

The colors of the American flag mean many things to different people. For those in the military, the Red, White, and Blue represent sacrifice, challenge, and strength. Today and every day, we are beyond grateful for the work our military does. We stand together beaming with pride as we Salute to Service.

As Raiderette Nicole stands silently in her shimmering vest listening to the National Anthem each game, she is reminded of her husband. He currently serves our country as a pilot in the United States Air Force. Their love story began in Japan where he was deployed, and she was performing at Tokyo Disneyland when they met for the first time. As time progressed, they realized no amount of distance or differing time zones could keep them apart. When they got married, they continued to support each other's hopes and dreams. Currently, the two navigate the difficulties of long distance so that Nicole can cheer on the Silver and Black, while her husband actively serves our country.

Nicole grew up dancing in her hometown of Melbourne, Australia. She began ballet, tap and jazz classes at six-years old. Her talent and passion for dance were quickly recognized as she was awarded a full scholarship to the Victorian College of the Arts which then lead her to the Australia Conservatoire of Ballet. After years of training professionally, she was selected to cheer for the country's National Basketball League and National Rugby League. Since then, she has danced across the world. From Disneyland Tokyo to the seas with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, and now Las Vegas, the Entertainment Capital of the World. Nicole is no stranger to performing for large crowds.

Raider Nation has proved to be one of Nicole's favorite audience. The roar of the fans accompanied with the buzz of game days is an experience like no other. The energy is palpable on the field and one that Nicole finds riveting. Her heart and zest for life brings a charismatic charm to the Raiderettes. She is often the first to make someone smile whether it be through words of kindness or a quippy remark that you can't help but laugh at.

She often reflects on her accomplishments and remains proud of her commitment to education. Nicole earned her Bachelor of Health Sciences degree from La Trobe University and furthered her education by obtaining a Masters of Podiatry. Within the last year, she committed to studying and going through the process of becoming an official U.S. citizen. As of July, she is proud to say she has achieved that goal. For Nicole, the American flag has become one that represents love, dreams, and opportunity. Her intelligence and life experiences combine to make every conversation with her one that is truly captivating.

In her free time, she enjoys crafting and exploring the great outdoors. Her ability to rhinestone and sew is one of her hidden talents, she even made her own wedding dress! Nicole never shies away from a hike, she adores being surrounded by nature and getting to do so with her husband and their gorgeous dog, Jethro.

Nicole has become an integral part of our team and we are so blessed to call her a Raiderette. This game, as she struts onto the field in her sparkling camouflage vest, she does so thrilled to honor those who serve in our military.



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