



RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Summer

2nd SEASON

BY JENNA ANGELO

After taking a couple years off to dedicate time to her children and career, Summer is back for her second season as a Raiderette. Summer first joined the Raiderettes in 2015 and went on to win Rookie of the Year. "It was such a humbling experience knowing that my teammates voted for me to be awarded that title. I was very surprised and so honored," Summer said. Coming into this season, Summer was most excited to experience the energy of the Coliseum again. "I love performing and performing at the iconic Coliseum, in front of Raider Nation, is a feeling like no other," Summer said.

While being named Rookie of the Year is an honor, Summer is most proud of herself for earning her master's degree in health care administration. "I had my son while I was in the middle of my coursework and was still able to graduate with high honors," Summer explained. She has since secured a position as a Revenue Control Analyst for the county hospital.

Now that she has established a career for herself in the health care field, Summer can afford to shift some focus and energy back to performing. She has been dancing her whole life and it seems she wasn't ready to give it up completely. Perhaps one reason she decided to return to this team in particular is that she values tradition, and the Raiders are an organization rich in tradition. "Traditions generate memories, so keeping those traditions alive helps keep those memories alive. I cherish the memories I created with my family growing up, and I want to recreate that feeling with my boys," Summer said. In an attempt to build memories with her boys, Summer has learned a valuable lesson: "Traditions can be created, they don't have to be handed down," Summer explained. Summer and her family have started their own tradition of going to Great America's Winterfest around the holidays. "The park does such a great job with their decorations and entertainment, we get to enjoy a full night of holiday magic," Summer said. Summer and her family are particularly sentimental when it comes to this tradition because Great America is where she and her husband met!

Maybe everyone can take a page out of Summer's book in realizing that "traditions can be created." Change is coming with the new year and new memories are going to come with it, but that doesn't make the old memories any less special. Keep old traditions alive or create new ones. Either way it's all about spending time with the people you cherish.

